

European Migrant Entrepreneurship Network (EMEN): Crossing borders for financial and business development services

Summary

The project focuses on sharing approaches and lessons learnt across and between public administrations, business development support and financial organisations, social enterprises, non-profit organisations, educational institutions and other public and private organisations supporting migrant entrepreneurship at all levels: cities, regions and countries. These practices, together with the Good Practices in Promoting and Supporting Migrant Entrepreneurship benchmarking tool (2016), will be the starting point for the modelling of entrepreneurship support schemes for migrants. The aim is to **develop, share and promote support schemes** not only for individual migrant entrepreneurs but also for social and inclusive enterprises benefitting migrants. Ultimately the knowledge gained will be of use for those developing and promoting support schemes for migrant entrepreneurs, leading to a more inclusive society. Based on the concept of a supportive ecosystem described below, we will bring together relevant players at European, national and regional levels to form transnational networks, which will work together on the basis of existing evidence of what is effective to achieve better impact. These are conceived as being Communities of Practice, within which practitioners can share their knowledge and experience and learn from each other. The main learning tool used for this will be structured peer review among participating individuals and organisations, followed by the dissemination of the resulting learning to a wider circle of stakeholders and organisations. The network as a whole will operate through **three Communities of Practice (CoPs)**, each addressing a key component of a comprehensive ecosystem to support migrant entrepreneurship. The network's services will be delivered through a dedicated website, publications, an infoline and in the case of peer reviews through personal dialogue, coaching and mentoring.

⇒ AEIDL is the coordinator of the 3 CoPs.

The three CoP are:

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| ▪ Coaching & Mentoring | ➡ | Social Impact (Berlin) |
| ▪ Access to Finance | ➡ | THUAS – FINE (The Hague) |
| ▪ Professionalisation & Diversity Management | ➡ | UNITEE (Brussels) |

Target group

Immediate target group:

- migrant entrepreneurship support schemes and organisations
- financial institutions supporting migrant entrepreneurs (including microfinance and ethical banks)
- public authorities, especially at city and regional levels
- mainstream business support organisations (notably chambers of commerce)
- professional business advisers such as small business consultants, accountants and lawyers
- advocacy and service NGOs serving migrants
- researchers (and students) in this field

Final target group:

- actual and potential migrant entrepreneurs

Duration: 36 months

Partners

Number	Name	Link to activity reports	Short name	Country
1 (Coordinator)	European Association for Information on Local Development asbl	http://aeidl.eu/en/who-are-we/annual-reports.html	AEIDL	BE
2	Diesis Coop	http://www.diesis.coop/index.php/what/european-projects	Diesis	BE
3	Social Impact gGmbH	http://socialimpact.eu/EN/portfolio	SI	DE
4	Stichting Hoger Beroepsonderwijs Haaglanden en Rijnstreek - Research Unit Financial Inclusion and New Entrepreneurship (FINE)	https://www.dehaagsehogeschool.nl/onderzoek/lectoraten/financial-inclusion-and-new-entrepreneurship	THUAS - FINE	NL
5	UNITEE aisbl	http://www.unitee.eu/publications/activity-report	UNITEE	BE
6	CECOP-CICOPA Europe	http://www.cecop.coop/Past-Projects	CECOP-CICOPA	BE
7	European Trade Union Confederation	https://www.etuc.org/documents	ETUC	BE
8	Kentro Merimnas Oikogeinias Kai Paidiou	http://www.kmop.gr/index.php/our-projects/international	KMOP	EL
9	Réseau Européen des Villes et Régions de l'Economie Sociale aisbl	http://www.revesnetwork.eu/wp/?page_id=444	KMOP	BE
10	Association des Agences de la Démocratie locale (ALDA)	http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/publications.php	AADL	FR
11	Association Européenne des Agences de Développement	http://www.eurada.org/	Eurada	BE
12	Eurochambres - association	http://www.eurochambres	Eurochambre	BE

Organisational structure

The project will be managed at **three levels**:

1. Work package and Community of Practice management:

Each Work Package will be managed by the relevant lead partner. Within Work Package 2, each of the 3 Communities of Practice will be managed day-to-day by the relevant lead partner. The lead partners will report to AEIDL which will monitor and chase progress against the work plan, and report to EASME.

2. Steering Committee:

AEIDL and the other partners will meet quarterly, physically and/or by web conference, to form the Steering Committee, which will supervise the execution of the project's operational activities and will ensure contract compliance. It will consist of one representative from each of the 12 partner organisations.

Its specific objectives will be:

- To provide a framework for managing the consortium-wide and partner-level administrative, technical, financial, quality, risk, legal/IPR and ethical issues related to the project - in adherence with H2020 requirements (compliance);
- To be the guardian of the consortium's agreement, and governance principles;
- To support the consortium's integrity and coherence;
- To support cooperation between the governing bodies of the consortium;
- To ensure the implementation of an efficient environment for internal communication and teamwork

3. Advisory board:

The project will set up an Advisory Board, that is a valued group of half a dozen stakeholder experts who will be consulted by the EMEN consortium throughout the project on **an ad hoc/needs basis**. They will provide technical, ethical and legal guidance, input and feedback on the roadmap, advise on links with relevant interest groups within EMEN's universe, and propose and encourage the potential interactions of the project with other projects, initiatives and activities. This structure will ensure effective and efficient execution of the project to the highest standard.

It will also meet physically annually, attached to the project's annual event.

To constitute the advisory board, relevant organisations, such as EU-level NGOs advocating migrant integration, service organisations and academics in the field, will be contacted in the first 3 months of the project, and additional members will be recruited during later phases.