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## Information Seminar: Impact Assessment tools to support Consultation and Informed Decision-Making

Venue: Economic Research Forum (ERF), 21 Al-Sad Al-Aaly St. Dokki, Giza

March 28<sup>th</sup> 09:00 – 13:00

### 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

The **Information Seminar- IA (impact assessment) Tools to Support Consultation** and informed decision making is a day-long event gathering policy makers, public sector regulators, applied researchers, private sector business representatives and international cooperation partners to:

- **Raise the awareness of participants on available methodologies, tools and initiatives** that are used in the EU and in Egypt to support business environment reforms and to inform, in a comprehensive way, the elaboration / revision of policies and regulations serving socio-economic development goals.
- **Trigger a dialogue, based on shared knowledge and experience, on the relevance of reactivating these tools** to assist decision makers in defining policy options agreeable to stakeholders.
- **Discuss concrete mechanisms integrating IA tools and techniques** and the role of the public and private stakeholders to promote public consultation allowing to prioritize and fasten the reform pace.

What benefits can participants expect?

- Be informed of **tools and methodologies** that foster the production of policies and regulations improving the business environment, and notably the EU instruments
- Be informed of the **assets that are already available in Egypt** and on which stakeholders could capitalize onto accelerate regulatory reform
- Participate to the elaboration of a practical **roadmap for MSME-related reforms**.

### 2. Why the need for an Information Seminar?

The past 10 years has seen much progress worldwide and in the region in recognizing the critical importance of policy and regulatory reform to provide a conducive business environment to grow private enterprise.

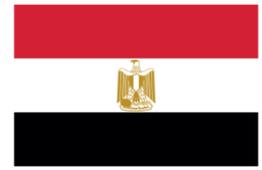
Egypt has the potential to catch up with the fast-reforming regional comparators to attract investment and grow jobs in an inclusive and competitive economic environment.

The seminar would provide an opportunity to reflect on lessons learnt from previous initiatives such as ERRADA to drive reform of Egypt's business environment.

The seminar would also consider how knowledge and systematic use of impact assessment and stakeholder consultation tools can contribute to the success of SDS 2030.



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The elaboration of the National Strategy for MSMEs and Entrepreneurship (2018-2023) and the establishment of the MSME Development Agency provides an opportunity to deploy recognized tools for impact assessment and techniques for consultation that can provide coherence for interventions that need support by all stakeholders.

### 3. AUSPICES, PARTICIPANTS AND TENTATIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE EVENT

#### 3.1 Auspices of the roundtable

The event will be placed under the auspices of the European Union, with support from the International Labor Organization (ILO and Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the Economic Research Forum (ERF) and FEMISE - the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences.

#### 3.2 Participants

The event is expected to gather 40+ participants interested in MSME-related reform issues; participants will come from public bodies, private sector, civil society, universities, research institutes and cooperation partners and are expected to contribute in their individual capacities.

#### 3.3 Agenda

##### Opening 09:00 – 09:30

ERF Welcome	Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim, Cairo University and ERF Fellow
EU Delegation	M. Ibrahim Laafia, Head of Cooperation
Global Affairs Canada	Ms. Eman Omran, Co-chair M/SME Donor Partners Group
ILO	Ms. Nashwa Belal, Chief Technical Adviser 10 mins)

##### SESSION 1 - 09:30 – 10:45 - EURO-MED APPROACH (moderated by C. Malherbe – MiSMESIS TL)

##### ❖ Lesson from the Euro-Med SME Policy Index (Patricia Augier – FEMISE)

- Think Small First – SME Policy Index
- Regional comparisons
- Existing mechanisms (priority identification, dialogue, consensus building)
- Lessons learnt

##### ❖ SME Test & REFIT Program (Denis Gallagher – MiSMESIS / Serverine Deboos, ILO - Geneva)

- Background within Europe on ex-ante and ex-post approach to regulatory reform
- Mainstreaming SMEs in regulations in the making: the SME Test
- Streamlining existing regulations: the REFIT programme

##### ❖ Discussion Q&A - Patricia Augier, Tarek Tawfik, Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim

*Convenience Break*



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**SESSION 2 – 11:00 – 13:00 THE EGYPTIAN APPROACH (moderated H. Kamal - MSMEDA)**

❖ **Consultation & Legislative Drafting (Judge Maged Sobhy, Ministry of Justice)**

- Legislative Policy Makers vs Legislative Drafting Professional → challenge of rapid specialization and changes in human and economic activities
- “Internal Consensus” and the role of the Consultation Process in Legislative Drafting
- Is the Promulgation of Law the Optimal Choice? -> “Statement of Objectives and Justifications”
- Legal Promulgation & Legislative Authorization stages TOO LATE for Consultations with Stakeholders -> focus on “Statement of Objectives and Justifications”

❖ **Lessons Gained in the Euro-Med & MENA -2004-2019 (Sherif Fawzi, consultant)**

- Origin, background and ambitions of IA in MENA.
- Good IA practices common in region.
- Consultation norms: Is a Working Group method the best to prioritize?
- Lessons gained for new era of policy, legal and regulatory reform in Egypt and the Arab World.

❖ **Working with ERRADA- Successes & Assets (Amira Shoukry, senior adviser SEED / Tarek Hamza, Exec. Dir. ERRADA)**

- Partnership with OECD/SIGMA and SEED
- E-Registry and database at ERRADA
- Inventory of 110+ laws and regulations identified as impacting MSMEs
- Consultation norms: Is a Working Group method the best to prioritize?

**Discussion Q&A – Tarek Tawfik, Judge Maged Sobhy, Dr. Hala Abou -Ali, Tarek Shash**

**SESSION 3 –APPLYING TOOLS AND CAPITALIZING ON WHAT EXISTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF SMEs**

❖ **Aligning stakeholders to accelerate and deepen SME-related reform (moderated by T. Shash, Head of the Planning and International Cooperation Sector, MSMEDA)**

- The MSMEDA strategy and role as convener for Impact Assessment
- The establishment of a– Policy & Regulatory Function (PRF) at MSMEDA
- Identifying Top Priority Pilots topics and crafting a roadmap to deliver efficiently.

**Discussion Q&A**

❖ **Closing Statements - Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim, Cairo University and ERF Fellow**

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