



CENTER for MEDITERRANEAN
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مركز التكامل المتوسطي

Host Municipalities Learning Network Webinar Series
Local Economic Development in Host Communities
Enhancing Refugee-led businesses and Private Sector Engagement
September 19th, 2019

CONTEXT

Strengthening capacities of local stakeholders to mobilize the private sector for job creation and business development is a key focus for host municipalities. During virtual and face-to-face exchanges, municipal staff and elected representatives who are members of the CMI-managed Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN) emphasized their strong interest in engaging with the private sector and building their capacities in enabling the development of refugee-owned businesses and employment. To facilitate this, the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) periodically organizes technical webinars to exchange on practical aspects and examples of refugee employment and private sector engagement in host communities.

Building on discussions held during the 2nd edition of the [Capacity Building Workshop on Strategic Planning for LED in host communities](#) (Amman, Jordan, June 30 – July 4, 2019), this webinar will focus on refugee-led businesses and their role in the local host economies. It will discuss the benefits of refugee-led private sector activities, barriers to entrepreneurship faced by displaced populations and solutions to overcome those barriers.

The Webinar is organized by CMI with support from Building Markets, a nonprofit organization that works on connecting local entrepreneurs to domestic, regional and global supply chains and supporting the growth of refugee-led businesses. Building Markets provides a broad spectrum of services, for example market assessments, identification of businesses with high growth and investment potential as well as providing training and advisory services to increase competitiveness and commercial knowledge.

Since June 2016 the [Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network](#) supports host local governments with evidence-based knowledge and Capacity Building to improve their response capacity to forced displacement. The Network have benefitted from face-to-face workshops and webinars on priority themes, as well as online discussions in the ad-hoc Collaboration4Development (C4D) online collaborative platform.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this meeting is to build the capacities of local government representatives by offering a discussion on private sector engagement. The Webinar will connect participants to experts currently engaged in strengthening employment opportunities for forcibly displaced by fostering entrepreneurship. It will also showcase examples of local stakeholders who are including refugee entrepreneurship in their Local Economic Development (LED) strategies.

This Webinar will specifically aim to:

- Offer a technical presentation on current status of refugee employability and private sector engagement;



- Initiate a discussion on practical ways to strengthen and sustain refugee entrepreneurship and refugee-owned businesses development at the local level;
- Reconnect HMLN members and answer their learning requests in follow up to the 2nd Capacity Building Workshop (Amman, Jordan, June 30 – July 4)

PARTICIPATION IN THE WEBINAR

This webinar targets HMLN members, CMI partners and experts. It will consist of a virtual exchange allowing participants to interact by connecting directly from their computer or smartphone with internet connection. Arabic-English simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

AGENDA

Please note that timings refer to GMT+02. See the table below for further information.

15.00 – 15.15	Welcome Remarks and Introduction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Janette Uhlmann, Senior Program Officer, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)
15.15 – 16.00	Why Engage with the Private Sector in Host Communities?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yara Asad, Project Manager, Building Markets
16.00 – 16.45	Q&A and open discussion, welcoming Existing Experiences from HMLN members
16.45 – 17.00	Wrap up and conclusions

LOCAL STARTING TIMES

LOCATION	LOCAL STARTING TIME	VC ROOM (IF ANY)
MARSEILLE	15.00	Marseille (WB) (1) Marseille (WB) (2)
BEIRUT	16.00	n/a
AMMAN	16.00	n/a
JERUSALEM	16.00	
ISTANBUL	16.00	n/a
BAGHDAD	16.00	n/a
ADDIS ABABA	16.00	n/a
KAMPALA	16.00	n/a
NAIROBI	16.00	n/a
KABUL	17.30	n/a
WASHINGTON D.C.	09.00	n/a