

**Press Release – 10 July 2019**

---

**To Unlock the Potential of Microcredit  
in France and in Europe,  
The Whitepaper of the Paris financial centre**

---

**Paris – In partnership with ADIE (Association pour le Droit à l’Initiative Économique) and the European Microfinance Network, Paris EUROPLACE publishes today a White Paper on microcredit: “Unlocking the potential of microcredit for a more inclusive and dynamic Europe”.**

**This publication carried out work to take stock of the current situation and desirable developments in the field of microcredit, microinsurance and financial inclusion and to initiate discussions with a view to unlocking their potential in France and in Europe.**

The constant development of self-employment, with the support of microcredit, makes it possible to transform people in precarious situations into wealth creators, reduce poverty and social divisions, while preparing the new economy and contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development objectives.

The Whitepaper aims to make known:

- the growing importance in the European Union of self-employment and micro-enterprises in employment and integration since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- the development of microcredit, which has proved its effectiveness in the European Union in different forms adapted to the context of each Member State;
- the need to improve the legislative and regulatory framework for microfinance and entrepreneurship in as harmonised a way as possible at European level;
- the need to strengthen the means and methods of refinancing through public resources in line with social objectives and impacts.

The Whitepaper presents 7 avenues for reflection, based on the proposals by the European Microfinance Network:

1. All EU Member States should adopt a common definition of microfinance and microcredit
2. All EU Member States should converge towards a harmonised regulation of microfinance, following European best practices
3. The EU and EU Member States should strengthen the regulatory framework for entrepreneurship and self-employment
4. The EU institutions should strengthen and diversify the financial support mechanisms for microfinance institutions
5. Managing Authorities for the implementation of the European Social Fund should invest more in the development of microfinance business development services

6. The EU institutions should support the construction of a European platform for microfinance and social entrepreneurship
7. Banks and microfinance institutions should engage in stronger partnerships across Europe

The Whitepaper presents in addition 5 areas for improvement and development more specific to France:

1. The development in Europe of a "solidarity employee savings funds", inspired by the French experience, should be promoted
2. The necessary clarifications should be made to develop debt funds for microfinance institutions in France
3. Support should be developed and professionalized: the trial of platforms should be transformed
4. The development of Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) in the microfinance sector should be encouraged
5. Awareness of the tax benefits attached to skill-based sponsorship should be increased

*The White Paper on Microcredit is available on Paris EUROPLACE website in the resources' section*

---

*About Paris EUROPLACE:*

*Paris EUROPLACE is the organisation in charge of developing and promoting the Paris Financial Marketplace and the French financial industry internationally. It brings together all financial industry stakeholders; its 400+ members include issuers, investors, banks and financial intermediaries, insurance companies, attorneys and accountants, consulting firms, etc. The association is chaired by Augustin de Romanet, Chairman and CEO of Groupe ADP.*

**[www.paris-europlace.com](http://www.paris-europlace.com)**

**LinkedIn:** Paris EUROPLACE

**Twitter:** @europlace

---

**Press contact:**

Paris EUROPLACE

Arnaud de BRESSON

Tel: +33 1 70 98 06 30

E-mail: [bresson@paris-europlace.com](mailto:bresson@paris-europlace.com)