

## THE SECOND OECD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

HOME

Calendar of Events in  
Istanbul

The role of SMEs and  
Entrepreneurship

The OECD's SME  
Activities

The Bologna Charter on  
SME Policies

The OECD Bologna  
Process

The 2nd OECD Ministerial  
on SMEs

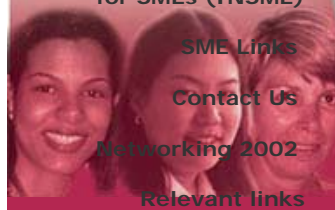
The International  
Network  
for SMEs (INSME)

SME Links

Contact Us

Networking 2002

Relevant links



## Women's Entrepreneurship



print

Women's entrepreneurship is developing in the OECD member countries and around the world. In some countries, women-owned businesses are increasing at a very rapid pace in terms of both numbers and turnover. Women entrepreneurs constitute a growing share of SME owners, with higher than average start-up rates in several OECD member and non-member countries/economies. In an era of global economic integration, this significant economic and social development is of growing interest to policy makers worldwide.

Eliminating obstacles to the creation and development of firms by women and creating a level playing field for women business owners is vital for a thriving entrepreneurial sector and important for national growth strategies. Women business owners are creating new niches for entrepreneurial activity and have the potential to become key players in the new, knowledge-based economy. However, they must adapt to profound changes in the way small enterprises do business, both locally and at the global level.

The OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, in co-operation with other OECD committees, organised a conference on ***Women Entrepreneurs in SMEs: Realising the Benefits of Globalisation and the Knowledge-Based Economy***, on 29-30 November 2000. ([Click Here for Publication](#)). This international conference aimed at finding ways to help women-owned SMEs seize the opportunities offered by globalisation, ICTs, changes in firm organisation, the increasing importance of the service sector, and other current developments. It was a follow-up to the first OECD Conference on Women Entrepreneurs in SMEs:

A Major Force in Innovation and Job Creation, held in April 1997, which highlighted their contribution to innovation and job creation.

The following key recommendations on women entrepreneurs in SMEs are one of the outcomes of the November 2000 Conference:

- ▶ Fostering awareness and a positive image of entrepreneurship among women
- ▶ Improving the conditions for women's entrepreneurship
- ▶ Encouraging entrepreneurship through education and fostering entrepreneurial networks
- ▶ Improving knowledge and statistics about women's entrepreneurship
- ▶ Disseminating financial information and information on international trade opportunities
- ▶ Ensuring equitable treatment in finance and improving women's asset position

▶ [Fostering public-private partnerships to globalise women-owned enterprises](#)

### **Networking 2002**

The theme of Networking 2002 was " The keys for Successful Women Entrepreneurs: The strength of networks, a lever for progress". The event was staged in the wake of the 19th session of the OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, which took place in Paris on 9 - 10 December 2002. A publication covering this 2nd conference organized by Association Dirigeantes with the OECD patronage is available by cliquing [here](#).

### **Relevant links**

- ▶ [Project Tsunami](#)
- ▶ [Association Dirigeantes](#)
- ▶ [World Bank / Female Entrepreneurship](#)