

WUSME

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises

*In Special Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC since 2013
and with UNIDO since 2020*

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

submitted by the General Secretary, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Norbert W. Knoll von
Dornhoff with the assistance of WUSME's Staff Members

web: www.wusme.org

WUSME, the WORLD UNION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

in Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC since 2013 and UNIDO since 2020

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PREFACE

The economic situation of SMEs during the COVID pandemic 2021

A Summary

The OECD Outlook for 2021 came to the conclusion: "Restrictions to mobility, trade and activities taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic triggered the most severe global recession in the post-war period. All firms and sectors were, directly or indirectly, affected, but small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were hit particularly hard."

The OECD lowered its global growth outlook in 2021 to 5.6% from 5.7% and kept it unchanged at **4.5%** for 2022, although the report was compiled before the variant emerged. The Paris-based group cited key risks to the global economy from surging inflation, supply chain bottlenecks and interest rate increases.

The United Nations General Assembly designated 27 June as Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (A/RES/71/279) in order to raise awareness of the contribution that small businesses make to sustainable, inclusive and resilient economic growth and, shared prosperity and decent work for all. Micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) account for 90% of businesses, 60-70% of employment, and 50% of GDP worldwide. On MSME Day 2021, almost 18 months after the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, most countries were still be grappling with the pandemic and its severe health and socio-economic impacts, including lockdowns and the need to support those who have lost their jobs and livelihoods. In many parts of the world, the pandemic recovery efforts are being presented as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to "rebuild better", particularly by prioritizing sustainability, resilience and inclusiveness.

SOURCES:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/10/inflation-plague-developed-nations-harmonised-consumer-price-index/#:~:text=In%20September%202021%2C%20the%20Harmonised%20Consumer%20Price%20Index,example%2C%20it%20remained%20below%20the%20European%20Union%20figure>
<https://www.oecd.org/publications/oecd-sme-and-entrepreneurship-outlook-2021-97a5bbfe-en.htm>
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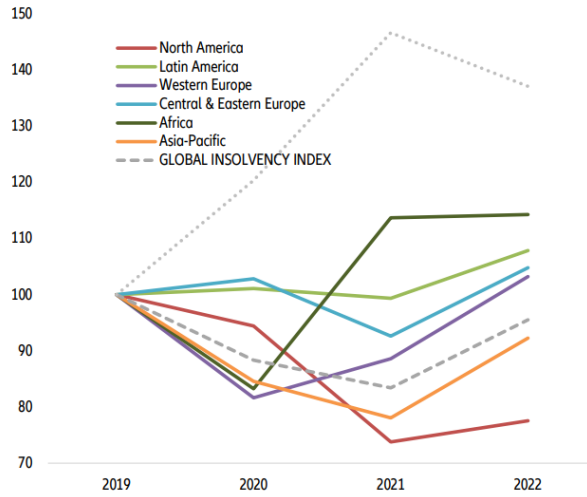
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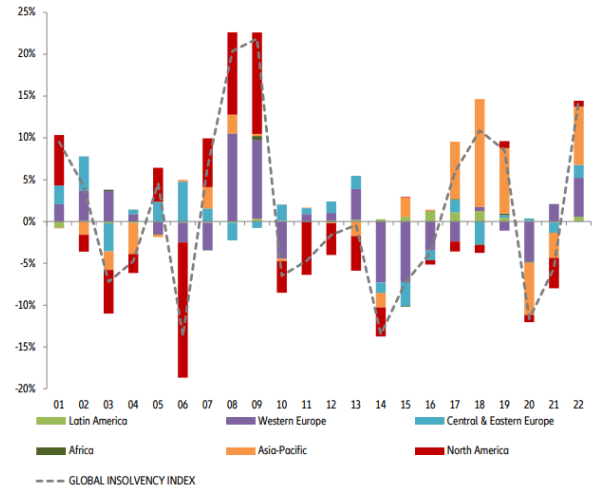


Figure 1: Euler Hermes Global Insolvency Index and regional indices, yearly level, base 100 in 2019



Sources: Euler Hermes, Allianz Research

Figure 2: Euler Hermes insolvency indices by region – contribution to the yearly change in Global Insolvency Index



Sources: Euler Hermes, Allianz Research

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MESSAGE OF WUSME PRESIDENT

Mrs. Barbara Terenzi

WUSME ON THE ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

A Summary

During 2021, the Association conducted an internal reorganization process, despite the difficult situation that continues to persist today due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the Organization has been committed to strengthening its relationships and ability to interact with the International Organizations with which it is officially recognized, including UNIDO and UNFCCC - COP, taking advantage of various opportunities to participate and intervene in various events for the most part held in virtual mode.

In this regard, the participation in the 50th Anniversary of Official Relations between San Marino and China, the meeting of the Industrial Council and General Conference of UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), COP26 (United Nations Conference on Climate Change), the 36th session of UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law), the Austrian World Climate Summit, the WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM and the GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE organized by UNCTAD (United Nations Commission on Trade and Commerce) are particularly noteworthy.

In addition to this, several institutional moments took place during the year, such as meetings of the Board of Directors, the General Meeting and a General Institutional Reunion which gathered the network of WUSME Representatives around the world to share insights on opportunities for cooperation and development.

During the year, we didn't miss the opportunity to examine, in greater detail, paths of development launched before.

For 2022, the Association plans to continue strengthening its presence and visibility in the international context and interact with international institutions and complementary SMEs

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organizations, actively participating in the proposed initiatives, hoping for a normalization of health and war events in the global scenario.

Given the increase in digitization, plans are to improve and make greater use of the digital presence, website and other media in which the Organization is present.

The Organization plans to carry out a more in-depth evaluation of projects or programs to be carried out in collaboration with Institutions and International Organizations that operate in support of businesses and crafts, such as UNIDO, in order to intensify the contribution as an operational partner of initiatives. specific in support of SMEs.



MESSAGE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Prof. Dr. Norbert W. Knoll von Dornhoff

URGENTLY NEEDED: CRISES PREPAREDNESS FOR SMEs

Covid Pandemic kills SMEs and Crafts: + 15% more insolvencies predicted for 2022

In Europe and the USA, thanks to state subsidies, insolvencies have remained at the level before the COVID pandemic. Nevertheless, SMEs were more at risk than the big companies. However, experts are of the opinion that after the end of the state rescue packages, insolvencies will also increase again in the OECD countries if the pandemic persists.

A recent Study of Euler Hermes (global leader in [trade credit insurance](#)) on worldwide Covid Pandemic caused insolvencies of Enterprises came to the following conclusions:

Regarding the increase in insolvencies worldwide, the trade credit insurer analyses: *" +15% is a clear sign of a trend reversal. But if we look at the pre-Covid level, the number of bankruptcies is still -4% lower."*

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Euler Hermes expects the number of insolvencies in Africa to be well above pre-crisis levels. This is also likely to be the case for Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America in 2022: *"Latin America, with many emerging markets, will be hit hard if the FED raises interest rates. Their revenues are often in local currency but their debts are often in US dollars,"* concludes Euler Hermes.

As General Secretary of WUSME, I think this Organization should convince Governments and International Organizations of the urgent need to implement the following approach:

That approach is based on 3 pillars:

1. Re-distribution of a small part of the VAT (and/or comparable taxes), future Currency/Finance Transaction Taxes ("Tobin Tax") to „National Foundations for SMEs and Crafts Financing- NFSF", to be managed by Representatives of Entrepreneurs instead of Government Official and Bankers, however controlled by Government authorities.
2. Registration of an AGENCY as an „International Foundation for SMEs and Crafts Financing" - Public Corporation on a statutory basis.
3. A FEE ORDER for defined Services of SMEs and Crafts supporting Organizations on a Non-Profit-Basis.

PERIOD UNDER REPORT

According to the Articles of Association the fiscal year of WUSME ends with the 31st December of each year The WUSME ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEARS 2021 shall comprise the Period of Report from 01/01/2021 and end on 31/12/2021.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS OF THE REPORT

The WUSME AGENDA 2016 to 2021 defined additional action priorities, particularly for better access of SMEs and Crafts to new financial sources, and the support for WUSME members doing business beyond the borders and looking for business partners worldwide.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2021

WUSME INSTITUTIONAL MESSAGE OF WUSME PRESIDENT BARBARA TRENZI TO THE UN CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE 2021 COP26 IN GLASGOW

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO – October 29th, 2021 – WUSME attended virtually the UN conference on climate change, organized by the British Government in partnership with Italy in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November.

In her institutional message, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi stated:

“As President of the World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises and as Barbara Terenzi, I am persuaded that climate change is, in current time, the greatest challenge facing humanity.

The transition to a sustainable economy, meant as environmental, social and economic sustainability closely linked to each other, is necessary for human survival.

This year as well, as in the past, the WUSME Association will participate in the COP activities as Organization in Special Consultative Status with the UN-ECOSOC since 2013 and by virtue of its recognition as Observer by the UNFCCC, obtained in 2018.

Following the effects of COVID-19, the WUSME Association is particularly concerned about the impact of the energy transition on the activities of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts internationally and could actively contribute in helping SMEs to achieve climate neutrality.

The WUSME Association is to act as link between Institutions and SMEs in the various countries of the world, to encourage greater communication and sharing of guidelines.

The WUSME Association continues carrying on its commitment to raise awareness among Institutions so that SMEs are supported, at the different stages necessary for the energy transition, and so that aid is guaranteed through the possibility of accessing immediate funding with a simplified bureaucracy. “

UNCITRAL UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL TRADING LAW - WORKING GROUP 4 TO 8 OCT 21

WUSME's Statement

Access to credit for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)

Summary:

An appeal to the UNCITRAL delegations

“We appeal to the distinguished Delegations of the UNCITRAL States to work with their governments to ensure that the UNCITRAL recommendations for actions are as soon as possible been implemented in practical measures. It is in the very interest of every country that the MSME supporting organizations can work efficiently and that the financial prerequisites are in place.”

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MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION'S BODIES

MEETING OF THE WUSME BOARD OF DIRECTORS

14 JANUARY 14 2021

A meeting of the WUSME Board of Directors was held on Thursday, January 14th, 2021 in the Headquarters of San Marino and by videoconference.

The meeting was the occasion to review the activities carried out by the Association in 2020 and discuss plan of actions for 2021.

In particular, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi informed Board Members of the initiatives under progress and activities proposed for current year, in support of Small and Medium Enterprises and their efforts to face and overcome uncertain and critical scenario determined by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEETING OF THE WUSME BOARD OF DIRECTORS

17 JUNE 2021

A meeting of the WUSME Board of Directors was held Thursday, June 17th, 2021 in the Headquarters of San Marino and by videoconference.

The meeting was opportunity to review the main activities carried out by the association in 2020 year through the presentation of the Annual Report, in particular, the acquisition of the Consultative Status with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) granted to WUSME last November.

Finally, during the meeting, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi updated the Board on the initiatives under progress and projects in support of the Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts planned for the next months.

THE GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

29 JUNE 2021

A General Meeting of WUSME has been held on Wednesday, June 29th, 2021, in-presence in San Marino and by videoconference. The meeting was attended by WUSME members and representatives from different parts of the world. In addition to, the General Assembly was opportunity to fulfill formal obligations for the Organization and review the main activities implemented by the WUSME in year 2020 by means of a brief presentation of the related annual report. At the end of the meeting, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi informed the attendees on the initiatives that Association is scheduled to participate in the coming months and the projects promoted by WUSME in support of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts.

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MEETING OF THE WUSME BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12 SEPTEMBER 2021

A meeting of the WUSME Board of Directors was held on 12 September 2021 in the Headquarters of San Marino and by videoconference.

The meeting was opportunity to review the main activities carried out by the association in the previous months, consider the applications for renewed Association's Bodies and examine possible dates for related General Meeting, proceed with the Appointment of new WUSME Ambassadors.

INSTITUTIONAL MEETING OF WUSME

16 SEPTEMBER 2021

An Institutional Meeting of WUSME has been virtually held on Thursday September 16th 2021.

The event has been opportunity to bring together WUSME representatives from all over the world to share perspectives for action and collaboration in the future. WUSME Board and Commissions Members, Senators, Ambassadors and other Key Office Bearers attended the meeting to share insights on opportunities of cooperation and development for the Organization.

INFORMATION, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SERVICES

Below is a summary of the communication activity:

1. In 2021 approximately 24 newsletters were sent;
2. The website (www.wusme.org), has been constantly updated with WUSME news and news on small and medium-sized businesses and crafts around the world;
3. WUSME is present on various social channels:

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn page. As for the Facebook page, since its activation, it is followed by 11.493 people. The "Like" on the page are 11.429 (February 8th, 2022).

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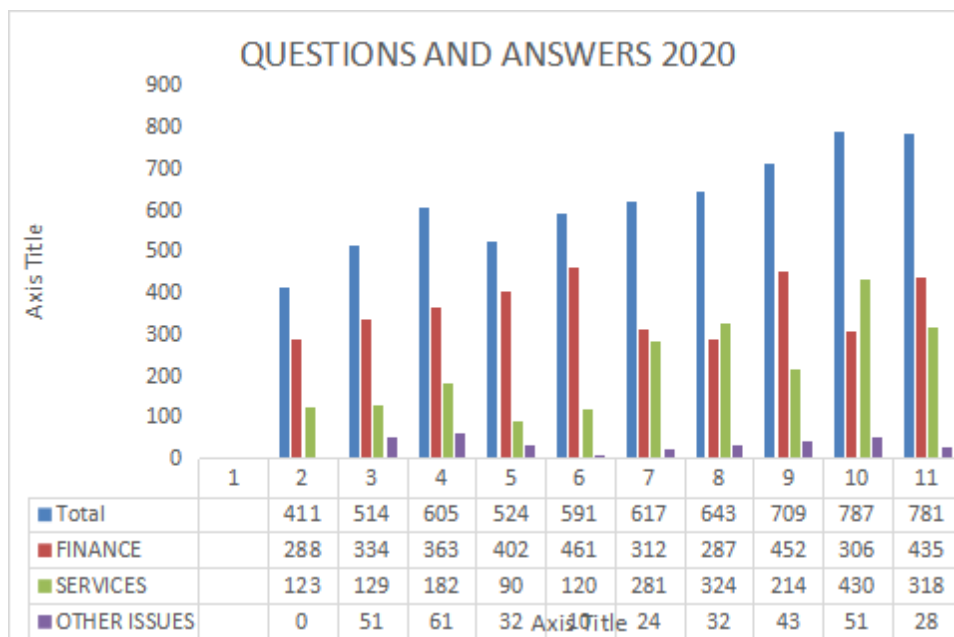
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INQUIRIES

During the period of this Report, the General Secretary of WUSME received many inquiries on access to finance. Such inquiries have significantly increased, and mainly referred to businesses during the COVID pandemic. As the sources of information have been mentioned: the WUSME web site, information and articles published via Internet, the Facebook, Google and Twitter.

For the year 2021 are statistics available only for inquiries regarding FINANCE in the amount of approx. 500 inquiries.



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WUSME's ACTIVITIES IN YEAR 2021

WUSME, MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR

FEBRUARY 2021

MADAGASCAR – Last February 2021, as part of a mission carried out in Madagascar to explore investment opportunities, WUSME Ambassador and Special Representative and Africa SMB Forum President, Dr. Dogad Dogoui, met the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Crafts, Ms. Lantsoa Rakotomalala, and the Mayor of the city of Antananarivo, capital and biggest city in Madagascar, Mr. Naina Andriantsitohaina.

Meeting was occasion to discuss issues of common interest and, in particular, opportunities for cooperation and development of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts, also with relation to the activities carried out by WUSME.

WUSME AT THE UNIDO ITPO ITALY EVENT: OPPORTUNITIES IN IRAQ

3 MARCH 2021

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO – On March 3th, 2021, WUSME took part in the virtual event held to present the activities of UNIDO ITPO Italy as part of the project "Investment Promotion for Iraq – Phase II"., WUSME President Barbara Terenzi attended the meeting online from the Headquarters in San Marino.

The initiative was aimed at presenting the goal of the project, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and implemented by UNIDO: the promotion of commercial and investment opportunities in Iraq and support to the Iraqi private sector through the development of international partnerships, in order to contribute to the creation of job opportunities and acceleration of sustainable economic growth in the country.

Small and Medium Enterprises could, therefore, represent in this context a favorable opportunity to develop and relaunch the regional and international economy, especially in the current crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Consistent with its mission and by virtue of its Consultative Status with UNIDO recently acquired, WUSME is committed to offer its support to the growth and cooperation of SMEs, through its collaboration in partnerships aimed at implementing SME related projects.

WUSME AT THE WEBINAR: "THE FATE OF MSMES DURING THE PANDEMIC" - INDONESIA

23 MARCH 2021

WUSME took part in the Webinar entitled "The fate of MSMEs during the Pandemic" in Indonesia held on March 23th, 2021 and organized by Desapedia and TV Desa.

Ms. Nukila Evanty, WUSME Member of the Permanent Commission on Social Issues and Women Entrepreneurship, attended the virtual event on behalf of the Union of Small and

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Medium Enterprises and Crafts. The objectives with which the Webinar took place were two. The first is to build a network between the parties, both from the Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises themselves, government stakeholders, the private sector who are jointly working to build the resilience and sustainability of MSMEs according to their respective capacities. While the second, to formulate the urgency to strengthening MSMEs in pandemic conditions.

Among the speakers, Ms. Nukila Evanty indicated some forms of intervention useful for assisting MSME affected by the pandemic through the adoption of appropriate, fast and accurate policies. A first action is to offer credit assistance on a large scale, through a mechanism providing convenience and credit easing by conventional banking institutions to fintech and financial technology.

The second action consists in implementing a special assistance program to open up new markets for MSMEs, also referring to the experiences of other countries facing cases similar to Indonesia.

During the event, the speakers highlighted how MSMEs have a very important role in Indonesia as a means of reducing poverty and balancing the level of the economy. At the same time, the natural disasters to which the country is frequently subject and non-natural disasters such as the Covid-19 pandemic, have an immediate impact on the workers and owners of MSME: damage to the workplace, loss of resources, raw materials, cessation of production and consequences related to long-term job losses. While after some time, the MSME sector runs into obstacles to continue its activity and the worst result will concern the economic conditions and social instability of the country.

Consistent with its mission, WUSME offers its support and constant commitment to the development and cooperation of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts, engine of the economy, and sector that is suffering most from the crisis caused by Covid pandemic.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OFFICIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SAN MARINO AND CHINA: TRIBUTE EVENT TO THE MEMORY OF DR. GIAN FRANCO TRENZI

6 MAY 2021

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO – May 6th, 2021 – As part of the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the Official Relations between the Republic of San Marino and the People's Republic of China (1971-2021) scheduled from May 6th to July 15th, 2021, Ms. Barbara Terenzi, WUSME President, participated in the tribute event to the memory of Dr. Gian Franco Terenzi "Under the same sky" held at the Kursaal Congress Center in San Marino.

During her speech, Barbara Terenzi presented the Association founded in 2010, highlighting the remarkable commitment made over the years by her father, in support and promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts.

In the framework of the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary, WUSME President met H.E. Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Italy, Mr. Li Junhua, on a visit to San Marino for the occasion.

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MEETING BETWEEN WUSME PRESIDENT BARBARA TRENZI AND WUSME SENATOR IVANO SPALLANZANI

24 JUNE 2021

On June 24th, 2021, in the Head Office of San Marino, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi met WUSME Senator Ivano Spallanzani, former National President of "Confartigianato Italia" (Italian National Crafts Association) and former Vice President in Federexport Italia, the Italian federation which brings together export consortia. The meeting covered different topics, among which risks and challenges for Small and Medium Enterprises during the COVID pandemic era, as well as opportunities available, for example in the internationalization process. In the present scenario, increasingly interconnected and globalized, engaging in international trade still represents a favorable process for Small and Medium Enterprises to undertake to get out of the crisis.

WUSME PRESIDENT BARBARA TRENZI: "WE ARE JOINING MR. SCHWARZENEGGER'S CLIMATE ACTION"

1ST JULY 2021

The Austrian World Climate Summit, organized by R20 Regions of Climate Action, is taking place in Vienna today. WUSME President Barbara Terenzi joins Arnold Schwarzenegger's Climate Action. "We are joining Mr. Schwarzenegger's Climate Action, seeking closer cooperation –WUSME President said in video message-. Our commitment is to highlight the contribution of Small and Medium Enterprises to climate neutrality".

WUSME AT THE AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT -AWS 21

Cooperation offered to the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative

1ST JULY 2021

VIENNA – July 1th, 2021 – On behalf of WUSME, General Secretary Norbert W. Knoll von Dornhoff attended the AWS 21 and had the opportunity to hand over a Letter of WUSME President Barbara Terenzi addressed to Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger to one of the main managers of AWS 21 and the Climate Initiative, Ms. Magdalena Petrovich, who promised to forward the letter to Mr. Schwarzenegger and to Mr. Conyers Davis, Global Director USC Schwarzenegger Institute. WUSME's focus is to on the empirical experience of enterprises in their transition to climate neutrality and the potential contribution they could provide in fighting climate change. Closer Cooperation with the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative would certainly help this concern receive the international recognition it deserves.

MEETING BETWEEN WUSME PRESIDENT BARBARA TRENZI AND H.E. THE AMBASSADOR OF ALGERIA IN ROME, MR. AHMED BOUTACHE

6 JULY 2021

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO – On July 6th, 2021, in the Head Office of San Marino, WUSME

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President Barbara Terenzi met H.E. the Ambassador of Algeria in Rome, Mr. Ahmed Boutache. During the meeting, the Ambassador highlighted how the Covid-19 pandemic has further worsened the problems linked to unemployment and limited economic growth in Algeria, especially among women and youth. A situation that has further fueled illegal migration from Africa to the Mediterranean and that Algeria is committed to stem through specific programs to boost Start-ups and Micro Enterprises. An area in which a collaboration between WUSME and Algeria would certainly be beneficial in the private as well as in the public sector, as emerged from the discussion.

A purpose shared by WUSME President Barbara Terenzi H.E. the Ambassador Ahmed Boutache, confirming the common will to a fruitful cooperation, identifying opportunities for economic and commercial cooperation and investment in strategic sectors and building a path together in support of SMEs in Algeria.

WUSME AT THE UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING 2021

12 JULY 2021

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO – July, 12th 2021 – WUSME President, Mrs. Barbara Terenzi, participated virtually on Interprefy in the UNIDO IDB meeting.

As WUSME is in Consultative Status at UNIDO since 2020, our organization directly liaises with UNIDO General Director, H.E. Li Yong, and UNIDO officers in charge of SMEs-related matters and cooperation with NGOs. Special meetings with UNIDO officers will take place in the course of this year.

MEETING BETWEEN WUSME PRESIDENT BARBARA TERENZI AND WUSME GENERAL SECRETARY NORBERT W. KNOLL-DORNHOF

6 SEPTEMBER 2021

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO – September 6th, 2021 – On September 6th, 2021, in the Head Office of San Marino, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi met WUSME General Secretary Norbert W. Knoll-Dornhoff. During the meeting, were discussed the action priorities for this and the next year.

Among other issues, the participation of WUSME in the UN Climate Conference COP26 in Glasgow, the assistance of Smaller Enterprises to recover from the COVID Pandemic and access to financing innovative projects aiming at reaching Climate Neutrality and contributing to the SDGs, the Sustainable Development Goals.

WUSME AT THE 36TH SESSION OF THE UNCITRAL IN VIENNA

4-8 OCTOBER 2021

VIENNA – October 12th, 2021 – WUSME attended the 36th session of the UNCITRAL Working Group (the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) on enhancing access of MSME to credit, which took place in Vienna from 4 to 8 October 2021.

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Delegate of the Organization to the event, Mr. Michel Fossaert, WUSME Member of the Board, who spoke during the proceedings, reporting considerations expressed in the Statement submitted by WUSME and put on record by the Working Group.

Mr. Fossaert focused on some issues in particular, such as loans and guarantees, strengthening the resilience and liquidity of companies and financing to support the energy transition of SMEs.

WUSME PARTNER ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM BY UNCTAD 20-21 OCTOBER 2021

WUSME was Partner Organization of the World Investment Forum (WIF) organized by UNCTAD on 20-21 October 2021. WIF the pre-eminent global platform for investment and development.

In particular, WUSME actively contributed to the proceedings of the Conference designating Speakers for the sessions on SUSTAINABLE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES and FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES.

In the first session, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi took the floor to convey an institutional message at the opening, followed by Ms. Sushma Morthania, Member of the Permanent Commission on Women Entrepreneurship, delegated by WUSME Vice President J.S. Juneja, and by WUSME Special Representative Mr. Dogad Dogoui. as Panelists, bringing cases respectively from Asia and Africa. In the second session, Mr. Vinod Kumar, Member of the WUSME Board, intervened on the related topic.

INSTITUTIONAL MESSAGE OF WUSME PRESIDENT TO COP26, THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE 29 OCTOBER 2021

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO – October 29th, 2021 – WUSME will attend, under the permitted conditions, the COP26, the UN conference on climate change, organized by the British Government in partnership with Italy in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November.

In her institutional message, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi stated:

“As President of the World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises and as Barbara Terenzi, I am persuaded that climate change is, in current time, the greatest challenge facing humanity.

The transition to a sustainable economy, meant as environmental, social and economic sustainability closely linked to each other, is necessary for human survival.

This year as well, as in the past, the WUSME Association will participate in the COP activities as Organization in Special Consultative Status with the UN-ECOSOC since 2013 and by virtue of its recognition as Observer by the UNFCCC, obtained in 2018.

Following the effects of COVID-19, the WUSME Association is particularly concerned about

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the impact of the energy transition on the activities of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts internationally and could actively contribute in helping SMEs to achieve climate neutrality.

The WUSME Association is to act as link between Institutions and SMEs in the various countries of the world, to encourage greater communication and sharing of guidelines.

The WUSME Association continues carrying on its commitment to raise awareness among Institutions so that SMEs are supported, at the different stages necessary for the energy transition, and so that aid is guaranteed through the possibility of accessing immediate funding with a simplified bureaucracy. “

WUSME AT THE IBERO-AMERICAN FORUM ON GUARANTEE SYSTEMS AND CREDIT FOR MSMEs 27-28 OCTOBER 2021

WUSME attended the virtual event the Ibero American Forum of Guarantee Systems and credit for MSMEs held on 27 and 28 October 2021 in Mexico. Representing the Association on the occasion was Mr. Alessandro Bozzo, WUSME Ambassador in Chile and Head of FOGAPE, the Chilean Guarantee System for SMEs, who moderated the panel with experts from various countries, such as Mexico, Honduras and Colombia. The speakers represented the guarantee systems to cover the credit risk for small and medium-sized enterprises in the agri-food sector of their countries. The focus was on new technological and collaborative projects to facilitate access to credit for SMEs. The Chilean Guarantee System for SMEs, FOGAPE, is not concentrated only in one economic sector (agro-industrial) like the three systems presented. This new project is a good way to reduce risk and knowledge of MSMEs to the benefit of the entire value chain, including manufacturers, buyers, industrial, financial and other institutions, and MSMEs themselves.

WUSME ATTENDING AT COP26 31 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER 2021

WUSME attended COP26, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, which took place this year under the presidency of the United Kingdom in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021. World leaders met there to discuss the issues of climate change and the need to adopt common policies aimed at environmental sustainability.

WUSME President Barbara Terenzi, Vice President India Dr. Joginder Singh Juneja and Board Member Michel Fossaert were members of the delegation attending virtually the Conference.

At the end of the two weeks, the States present at the climate conference adopted the “Glasgow Pact” to accelerate the fight against climate change (zero emissions globally by 2050 and aim to limit the increase in temperatures to 1,5°C) and thus outline the basis for its future.

WUSME aims at encouraging small and medium enterprises to fight against global warming and help them identify useful solutions for a successful climate transition and

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adaptation, through training, technological innovation and adoption of good practices. SMEs can significantly contribute to climate change resilience by implementing the policies, directives and guidelines provided by institutions, as well as developing new business opportunities in the context of a sustainable, innovative and decarbonised global economy.

WUSME AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO

29 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER 2021

By virtue of its Consultative Status with UNIDO, WUSME has been invited to attend the 19th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO held from November 29 to December 3 in Vienna in-person and virtually. WUSME President Barbara Terenzi and Secretary General Norbert Knoll virtually attended the proceedings and followed, in particular, the UNIDO Forum On Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development to develop ideas for future cooperation with UNIDO.

As stated in its presentation, the General Conference of UNIDO “takes place at a critical juncture following the Secretary-General’s call for a “Decade of Action” and in light of the prolonged economic recovery in store for countries all over the world. Now more than ever, UNIDO must capitalize on its rich expertise, importance and recognized role in the international development arena. By bringing into stronger focus the practical aspects of the implementation of its mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development UNIDO supports countries get back on track to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). Within the ongoing and fast-developing parameters of the COVID-19 pandemic, GC.19 will guarantee sound legislative proceedings and maximum Member State participation while safeguarding the health and safety of all participants. Please find information about the Conference’s side-events below.

WUSME AT “GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE: POST COVID-19 RESURGENCE OF MSMEs AND COMPETITION POLICY

1-3 DECEMBER 2021

WUSME took part, as Partner Organization, in the “Dialogue on Global Policy: Post COVID-19 Resurgence of MSMEs and Competition Policy” organized by UNCTAD, in association with UNESCAP, CEPAL e ESCWA, from 1 to 3 December 2021.

The 3 DAY event focused on the following interlinked topics: Impact of competition policy in the digitalization of MSMEs in the wake of COVID-19; Access to finance, Government support in times of COVID-19; Interagency coordination between MSME agencies and competition authorities.

At the session scheduled on December 2nd on “Access to finance, Government support in times of COVID-19”, WUSME Ambassador in Chile Alessandro Bozzo spoke remotely on behalf of the Organization. During his intervention, he highlighted the challenges Micro,

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Small and Medium-sized Enterprises are facing in the Latin America and specifically in Chile and recorded the significant increase in SMEs guarantee funds and schemes to facilitate access to credit. On occasion of his participation in the UNCTAD “GLOBAL PUBLIC DIALOGUE” on December 1st to address digitalization of MSMEs, Mr. Vinod Kumar, President of India SME Forum and Board Member of WUSME, recalled how WUSME, as World SMEs Organization, has been looking at digitalization as very important factor for MSME recovery and rebuilding.

WUSME’S MISSION IN NIGER TO MEET GOVERNEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

6-10 DECEMBER 2021

Mr. Dogad Dogoui, Ambassador and Special Representative of WUSME, carried out from December 6 to 10, 2021 a mission to Niamey (Niger) to present the organization to the government and employers' institutions of the country. Mr. Dogoui was notably received in audience by the High Representative of the Head of State, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Posts and Information and Communication Technologies.

WUSME VP DR. JUNEJA SPEAKED AT THE MSME INDIA BUSINESS CONVENTION 2021 ON “INNOVATION: KEY TO SUCCESS FOR SMES”.

18 DECEMBER 2021

Dr. J S Juneja, Vice President WUSME and Chairman di Global Projects & Services, has been invited to speak at the “MSME India Business Convention 2021” held on 18th December, 2021 in virtual mode. Dr. Juneja intervened as Keynote Speaker in a Special Session on “Innovation: Key to Success for SMEs”. He focused on the importance of Innovation for Creativity and Innovation by MSMEs. *“In this connection – he said – Innovation is the lifeline for MSMEs to grow and prosper by providing creative products and services generating much needed employment for the millions.”* He specifically mentioned WUSME's participation by the WUSME President, Ms. Barbara Terenzi and Vice President, Dr. J S Juneja at the COP26 Conference on Climate Change and the active role played by WUSME for the ultimate benefit of MSME at the various fora at the International level. He also brought the attention to the book on “Innovation: Key to success for enterprises” he has written, edited and compiled, covering various facets of innovation including special elaboration on Social Innovation.

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