

WUSME

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



PREFACE

The year 2017 has been marked by natural disasters, geopolitical tensions, and deep political divisions in many countries. However, the world economy in general terms ended on a high note, with GDP continuing to accelerate over much of the world in the broadest cyclical upswing since the start of the decade. Roughly two-thirds of the world's population reached faster growth, but still about a quarter of emerging market and developing economies have seen their per capita income decline.

The OECD Council at Ministerial Level Paris, 7-8 June 2017 stated: *"The contribution of SMEs to innovation dynamics has increased in recent decades, as income growth, more niched market demand and changing technologies have enabled SMEs to strengthen their comparative advantages and reduced the structural disadvantages stemming from resource constraints and limited ability to reap economies of scale."*

WUSME, the WORLD UNION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
in Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC since 2013

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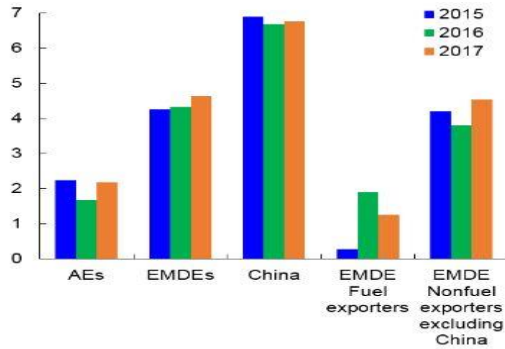


On an upswing

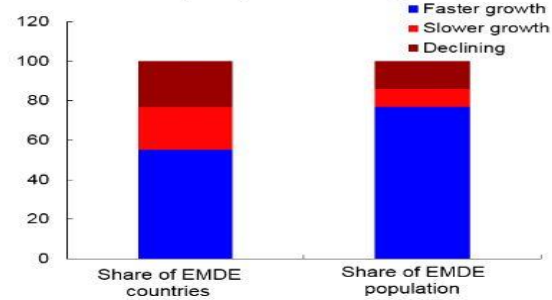
Faster growth is reaching roughly two-thirds of the world's population...

...still, about a quarter of emerging market and developing economies have seen their per capita incomes decline.

(real GDP growth across country groups, percent)



(share of EMDE countries and populations growing faster or slower than AEs in per capita terms, 2017, percent)



Source: IMF staff calculations.

Note: Bars denote PPP (purchasing power parity) GDP weighted averages. In the right-hand-side chart, the blue portion of the bars show the share of EMDE countries where per capita real GDP growth is higher than in advanced economies. The red portions show the share of EMDE countries where per capita real GDP growth is slower than in advanced economies, with the darker red portion showing the share of countries where per capita real GDP is declining. AEs = advanced economies; EMDEs = emerging market and developing economies.



INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY FUND

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MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT

Dr. Gian Franco Terenzi

With reference to the reports presented, it is clear how WUSME is on the road to responding to the various situations that arise in support of SMEs with presences and projects whose effectiveness has already found a specific interest in the various representatives that WUSME has appointed. This policy tends to stimulate and raise awareness of the specific interest that SMEs find in our proposals.

A farsighted project that is giving satisfactory results and that will have a strong impact on the action that is proposed for next year.

These actions can't miss the knowledge of ECOSOC that will be able to evaluate the true support that WUSME is sowing in the global context.

MESSAGE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Prof. Dr. Norbert W. Knoll von Dornhoff

AN INNOVATIVE STAIRCASE TO SUCCESS

WUSME's General Meeting of 2016 adopted in the framework of the Agenda 2016 to 2021 the approach to offer assistance to Government Agencies, Chambers of Commerce and Financial Institutions for the developing a long-term strategic reform of institutions that constrain SMEs and Crafts doing business. The Agenda, therefore, served as the main guideline for WUSME's activities in the year 2017. Recognizing the vital role of women entrepreneurs, WUSME's Office Bearers took the need to work in the reinforcement of the skills of women in the various fields of business training and financing of SMEs.

Main obstacles for SMEs in less developed countries still are:

1. Access to Electricity,

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2. Access to Finance,
3. Political Instability,
4. Practices of the Informal Sector,
5. Corruption, Crime, and disorder,
6. Tax Administration and Tax Rates,
7. Access to Land,
8. Custom and Trade Regulations.

WUSME continued during the Report period to carefully monitor the development of National Institutions and recommended measures to reduce constraints for SMEs doing business.

Outlook: We have reasons to be optimistic. Governments are making SMEs development a priority, and technology is providing effective new tools that are bringing down the costs of reaching small customers. WUSME's "Staircase to Success" will lay the foundation for an environment where SMEs and Crafts can grow to their full potential for creating jobs, particularly for women and younger people in less developed economies, reducing poverty, protecting the environment and improving living standards.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. 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 2017 shall comprise the Period of Report from 01/01/2017 and end on 31/12/2017.

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2. Structure and contents of the Report

The „WUSME ACTION PLAN – ROAD MAP” served as the guideline for the first Annual Report containing the actions and measures undertaken in the first year of WUSME's existence.

The WUSME AGENDA 2016 to 2021 defined additional action priorities, particularly for better access of SMEs and Crafts to new financial sources.

The amended Road Map and the AGENDA will form the basic structure for the ANNUAL REPORT 2017.

II. WUSME ACTION PLAN AND AGENDA 2016 – 2021

AGENDA 2016-2021 THE STAIRCASE TO SUCCESS The New Approach to Sustainable Economic and Social Development of SMEs and Crafts in a Globalized World

THE APPROACH The WUSME Workshop on Innovative SMEs Financing held in the framework of the 4th General Assembly on 16th and 17th April in San Marino recommended the following (here summarized) General Approach for the WUSME AGENDA 2021: “The Delegates agreed that a “Holistic Approach” will be needed to enable Smaller Companies to fully reap the benefits of a more diversified financial offer.

BETTER ACCESS TO FINANCE Though all delegations emphasized the importance of better access to finance for SMEs, they all the same expressed their doubts that standing alone even a wider range of financial instruments would be not enough to achieve in the long run economic growth and sufficient employment. Micro Loans without bankable securities should have priority.

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REFORMS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND REMOVING OF DEVELOPMENT OBSTACLES Since more than 10 years Governments and entrepreneurs can find out and compare in which Countries it is easy to do business and where it is rather difficult. Institutions 1. Starting a Business; 2. Dealing with Construction Permits; 3. Getting Electricity; 4. Registering Property; 5. Getting Credit; 6. Protecting Minority Investors; 7. Paying Taxes; 8. Enforcing Contracts; 9. Trading across Border; 10. Resolving Insolvency. Top business environment obstacles SMEs are facing- These are: 1. Electricity; 2. Access to Finance; 3. Political Instability; 4. Practices of the Informal Sector; 5. Corruption, Crime and disorder; 6. Tax Administration and Tax Rates; 7. Access to Land; 8. Custom and Trade Regulations.

WUSME's Ambassadors and Representatives will in future carefully monitor the development of National Institutions and recommend measures to reduce constraints for SMEs doing business.

SMEs DEVELOPMENT BY EDUCATIONS AND TRAINING The purpose of the Permanent Commission for SMEs Development is to support the WUSME's mission by establishing a framework to develop and deliver strategic resources for SMEs and CRAFTS.

OUTLOOK WUSME's AGENDA 2016 to 2021 shall be a "Staircase to Success" to lay the foundation for an environment where SMEs and Crafts can grow to their full potential for creating jobs, particularly for women and younger people in less developed economies, reducing poverty, protect the environment and improving living standards.

1. Foundations for SMEs and Crafts Development

WUSME recommend on national and international level that Civil Society Organizations safeguarding the rights, interests and competitiveness of Smaller Enterprises shall start with the registration of a Foundation for SMEs

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and Crafts Development–SMEDFOUND. Such a Foundation shall be a legal entity. Members shall be SME supporting Organizations whose members are paying VAT. A SMEDFOUND shall have three main DESKS: I. FINANCE SUPPORT DESK II. BUSINESS SERVICE DESK III. INTERNATIONAL LIAISON DESK More DESKS could be created if seen fit.

2. New Business Opportunities for SMEs

During the report period, WUSME identified new emerging markets for SMEs and Crafts, such as “Green Technologies” e.g. Cleaning techniques, waste to energy, organic fertilizers, protection of the environment and informed our members accordingly. Examples for new Business Opportunities are, to mention some: AUTOMOTIVE Auto Repair & Maintenance Services, BUSINESS SERVICES Advertising/Marketing Services, CHILDREN'S BUSINESSES Personalized Children's Products, FOOD Delivery Services, HEALTHCARE SERVICES.

3. Enlargement of WUSME's International Network

Meeting of the Board Special Committee

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO, October 9th, 2017

On Monday, October 9th 2017, the Board Special Committee held its third meeting in the WUSME Headquarters of San Marino. All the members of the Committee, responsible for the operational management of the Association, were present: Gian Franco Terenzi, Giorgio Battistini, Leo Gatti, Loretta Menicucci and Biagio Riccio. The agenda of the meeting covered a wide range of issues, among which the establishment of a WUSME representative office in Rome (Italy) and the appointment of the new WUSME Ambassadors.

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WUSME Ambassadors' function is to represent and promote the Association in the reference area, in accordance with the Articles, under the coordination of the WUSME Vice Presidents and in cooperation with the International Headquarters of San Marino.

Among their tasks also the identification, collection and convey of proposals, projects and initiatives of interest for SMEs and of relevance for WUSME.

1. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

MAIN BENEFITS OF JOINING WUSME HAVE BEEN BETTER IDENTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

- **TO BECOME PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL AND QUALIFIED NETWORK OF SMEs AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS WORLDWIDE**

WUSME Members are enabled to pursue qualified contacts and establish profitable relationships helpful to develop and expand their action, also through the participation in events organized or promoted by WUSME and its partners, such as national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, training programs, etc.

- **TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AND BE SUPPORTED IN THE RELATED IMPLEMENTATION**

WUSME Members are facilitated in entering into cooperation agreements with other Members in more than 80 countries worldwide and linking to national and international organizations, academic institutions, research centers and similar bodies specifically competent in SMEs. In addition, WUSME Members have the opportunity to approach the United

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Nations System, by virtue of its Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations,
and identify opportunities of cooperation.

• **TO ENTER AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PLATFORM**

WUSME Members have access to an international business platform designed to facilitate the matching of supply and demand and combination of opportunities and conditions for an effective implementation of projects, programs and investments of different size, scope and value, which can relate to the private sector, SMEs in particular, as well as the public sector, with actions to be developed in the several fields considered strategic for the economy.

• **TO BE ASSISTED IN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AND ENTREPRENEURIAL PROJECTS**

WUSME Members may receive support in their start-up phase, expansion of existing business, development of skills and capabilities, identification of potential partners and contact with international experts.

• **TO BENEFIT FROM A WIDE RANGE OF SPECIFIC ADVANTAGES**

Through the several and cross-cutting activities implemented and promoted by the Organization, WUSME Members.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN BETTER DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

Organizations, joining WUSME as Affiliated Members, have the opportunity to identify and convey factual opportunities to participate in projects, programs, bids and tenders highlighted from the WUSME international network.

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Affiliated Organizations have the opportunity to be introduced to National and International SMEs Organizations, as well as to United Nations Organizations, European Union and other International Associations in Asia, Africa and Latin America which WUSME is in contact with. Affiliated Organizations may enter into Cooperation Agreements with WUSME, wherein customized modalities of future operations are agreed to reach mutual benefits. Some specific benefits reserved to affiliated Organizations are:

1. to access the WUSME information services

Affiliated Organizations may receive regular information on opportunities available in different economies of the world, such as “best practices”, new business opportunities, access to the United Nations Global market and competitive advantages for exports and business partnerships;

2. to contribute to the written statement to United Nations Organizations

Affiliated Organizations may contribute to written statements of WUSME to UN ECOSOC and other UN Organizations, e.g. UNIDO, UNESCO, OECD etc. aiming at the safeguarding of the rights, interests and competitiveness of SMEs and Crafts.

3. to assist enterprises in starting international business partnerships through the network of WUSME

WUSME is in contact with the world and enjoys privileged international relations in many countries, where the Union has the potential to encourage entrepreneurship cooperation agreements.

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As a consequence, affiliated Organizations may offer assistance to entrepreneurs and startups in entering into business partnerships, joint ventures, clusters etc. in different countries across the world.

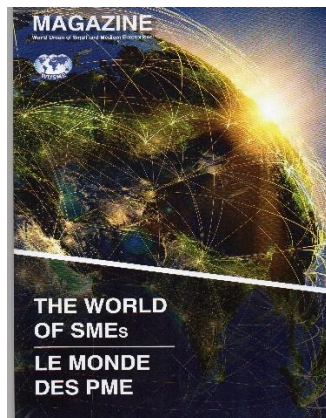
2. INFORMATION, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SERVICES

1. WUSME NEWSLETTERS

24 newsletters were sent;

2. WUSME MAGAZINE

The special edition of the 2016 Conference in the English- French languages was published in 2017.



3. QUARTERLY MAGAZINE “THINK SME”

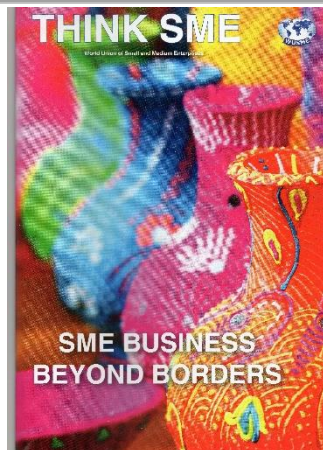
two issues were released for the last two quarters of the year;

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4. WUSME WEBSITE

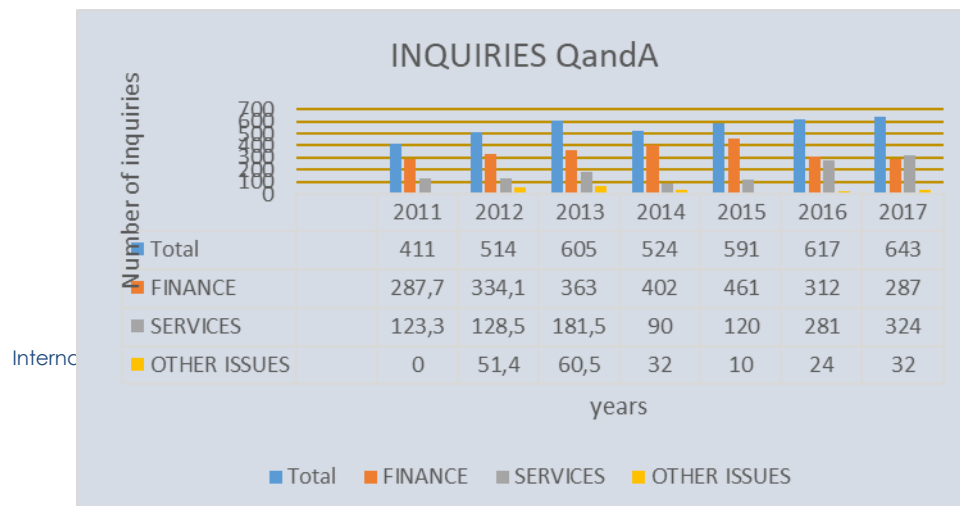
Many improvements have increased its usability, e.g. the insertion of a "special" section used to promote the events underway and the development of the Gallery up to the development of the page relating to the Ambassadors.

5. SOCIAL MEDIA

WUSME is present on various social channels: Facebook, Twitter, Google + and Instagram.

6. INQUIRIES

Questions and Answers, Services





During the period of this Report inquiries on services have slightly increased, and mainly referred to export businesses, new projects and search of business partners.

As the sources of information have been mentioned: the WUSME web site, information and articles published via Internet, the Facebook, Google and Twitter.

7. Other PUBLICATIONS related to WUSME

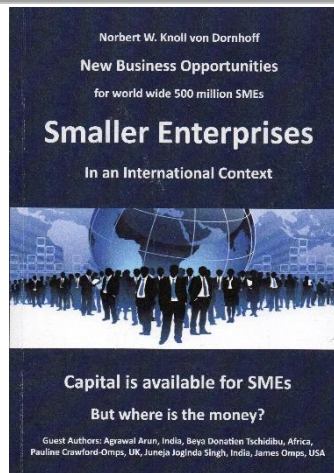
BOOK "SMALLER ENTERPRISES" authored by Norbert W. Knoll von Dornhoff and published by DRAUMSYN PUBLISHERS, Iceland in November 2017

The publication, written by WUSME Secretary General Norbert W. Knoll von Dornhoff, has received the contribution of many WUSME office bearers such as President Gian Franco Terenzi and others, James Omps, USA, Pauline Crawford-Omps, UK, Joginder Singh Juneja, India, Arun Agrawal, India and Donatien Tschidibu Beya, Africa.

Consistent with the spirit of dissemination and quality of the information distinguishing WUSME, "SMALLER ENTERPRISES" is a book containing useful for SMEs.

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PARTNERSHIP AND/OR CONSULTATIVE STATUS AT UN ORGANIZATIONS

WUSME statement at UN

Commission on Population and Development published WUSME statement

21th February 2017 - Now it's official. The statement made by WUSME (in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC of the United Nations from 2013) has been approved as official document for consideration of the 50th Session at the 20th Commission on Population and Development, to be held from 3 to 7 April 2017 at

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the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York and it will focus on the theme “Changing population age structures and sustainable development”.

Co-author of the document is Mr. Norbert W. Knoll von DORNHOFF (in the photo), WUSME General Secretary, led by President Gian Franco Terenzi and other WUSME Members of Board and Standing Commissions. The complete statement of WUSME entitled “The Role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in a population age structure changes”, has been published on the official website of the United Nations in the Agenda section point 3 General Debate and can be viewed entirely in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish version by clicking the following link:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2017/>

UN International Day of Rural Women and World Food Day

October 17th, 2017 – Debrecen (HUNGARY) – On the occasion of the UN International Day of Rural Women and World Food Day, established in 2007 by the United Nations General Assembly, Margit Batthyany-Schmidt, President and Co-Founder of the Union of Hungarian Women (UHW) and Member of the WUSME Board of Directors, attended the conference organized by the same UHW in Debrecen, Hungary, on 16th and 17th October, 2017.

Quadrennial Report of WUSME to UN ECOSOC for 2013-2016

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO – July 5th, 2017 – WUSME recently presented its Quadrennial Report to the UN ECOSOC for the period 2013-2016. As provided by the ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, NGOs in general or special consultative

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status with the Council, must submit to the Committee on NGOs, every 4 years, a brief report of their activities, specifically on the contributions that they have given to the work of the United Nations.

The document is a brief report on the activities carried out by WUSME in the period under review, with particular reference to the support given to the work of the United Nations. The report, prepared by the HQ, in collaboration with Secretary General Norbert W. Knoll-von Dornhoff, contains a brief introduction of the Association, the description of purposes and goals, the indication of significant changes occurred during the period, the contribution to the work of the United Nations, the participation in United Nations initiatives, the cooperation with United Nations bodies and initiatives taken in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

WUSME AT COP24: TO BE RECOGNIZED AS NGO OFFICIAL PARTNER

December 14th, 2017 – The 23rd United Nations World Climate Change Conference (COP23) was held in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017, under the presidency of the Fiji Islands, among the most vulnerable nations in the world with respect to changes climate.

WUSME presented the Written Statement for the 56th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD56)

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO - November 21th, 2017 – WUSME (in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC of the United Nations from 2013) has submitted the Written Statement for the fifty-sixth Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD56) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 29th January to 7th February, 2018. The priority

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theme for the 2018 policy cycle is “Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all”.

Co-author of the document on the theme “Institutional reforms and encouragement of private initiatives: the key strategy for the eradication of poverty”, is Mr. Norbert W. Knoll von Dornhoff, WUSME General Secretary, led by President Gian Franco Terenzi and Members of the Board of Directors and Staff Members of the Headquarters.

WUSME’s new Commitment on Engagement for the UN Global Compact

November 6th, 2017 – WUSME submitted its new Commitment on Engagement for the period April 2015 – September 2017, as requested by the United Nations Global Compact, of which the Union is Partner Organization since 2012. Full version of the report available at the following link:

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/participation/report/cop/create-and-submit/detail/385101>

WUSME consultations with UNIDO continued

VIENNA - In his visit to UNIDO Headquarters at the United Nations Office in Vienna on 2nd and 3rd August 2017, WUSME General Secretary Norbert W. Knoll-Dornhoff discussed with leading UNIDO Officers possibilities of future cooperation, and conveyed to them the new WUSME MAGAZINE.

The UNIDO Officers sincerely appreciated that a report on the 2nd UNIDO FORUM has been published therein.

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UNIDO aims to boost the development of a competitive private sector and contribute to poverty reduction by building sustainable linkages between small-size enterprises, their larger scale business partners and support institutions.

Bonn – COP 23, the United Nations Climate Change Conference: WUSME position paper

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO - July 18th, 2017 - WUSME has prepared a report titled "Impacts of Climate Change on the Global Economy, particularly on Small and Medium Enterprises", for his participation at the COP 23, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, scheduled in Bonn in Germany, November 6th through 17th, 2017.

WUSME has summarized its basic position on the macroeconomic impacts of climate change and particularly on the consequences for the economic and social development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in an international context. "On the occasion of its participation in COP 23 –it reads in WUSME Position Paper-, the Organization wishes to introduce itself as a bridge between SMEs and institutions as organizations committed to link these two worlds and facilitate their mutual dialogue and understanding. With particular reference to COP 23, WUSME intends to enhance a better awareness that SMEs can give a significant contribution to climate change resilience, by actively implementing policies, directives and guidelines provided by the institutions, as well as developing new business opportunities that may open across the sectors in the protection of the environment".

WUSME at the UNIDO Conference in Hungary focuses on tackling social exclusion

BUDAPEST – WUSME participated, on June 1th and 2th, 2017, in the Conference co-organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Ministry for National Economy of Hungary with focus on

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tackling social exclusion. The event was attended by representatives from the government, private sector, social enterprises, academia, civil society and international organizations were present at the event. The main themes discussed during the two days of work: social innovation and social and solidarity economy (SSE). In addition, attention has been drawn to their potential for reducing social exclusion of disadvantaged groups from the real economy. "The role of Small and Medium Enterprises and Social business – explained Michele Orzan, who represented the Organization at the UNIDO Conference – were defined as crucial in a balanced, solid, sustainable and inclusive growth of the economy".

CSW61 in New York: “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”

YORK, April 14th, 2017 - “Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work”. This is the main theme of the 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, one of the most influential gatherings on gender worldwide, which was held in city of New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. Present as WUSME delegates Margit Batthyány-Schmidt, WUSME Member of the Board, and Mónika Alíz Mészáros, Keynote Speaker at the 2016 WUSME Workshop on SME Financing.

COP22 in Marrakech: the appeal of the Employers’ Organizations, the intervention of WUSME and the proclamation of the participants

Upon conclusion of the COP 22 conference held in Marrakech on November 2016, the organizers' committee gave the floor to the NGOs and other Organizations present. Mohamed El Ouahdoudi, WUSME Ambassador in Morocco, highlighted the role of SMEs in the innovation process and in sectors of the green economy, expressing concern for their absence as interlocutors at

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the COP, and proposing that, on occasion of COP 23 in Bonn, WUSME, formally recognized by the UN Economic and Social Council, convey the proposals of these small and medium-sized enterprises from around the world, which the Organization represents at different levels.

3. WUSME's ACTIVITIES YEAR 2017

WUSME delegation met Indian Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises in New Delhi

NEW DELHI – November 24th, 2017 – A WUSME delegation composed of General Secretary, Prof. Dr. Norbert W. Knoll von Dornhoff and Dr. Maria Valeria Pasquini, General Coordinator, met in New Delhi, India, from 19th to 22nd November 2017, Indian Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises, H.E. Shri Giriraj Singh, President of the Indian SME FORUM (ISF) Mr. Vinod Kumar, and ISF General Secretary Mrs. Sushma Morthania. Purpose of the Meetings: Preparing the International SME CONVENTION – BUSINESS BEYOND BORDERS to be held in April 2018 in New Delhi, India.

WUSME at the European North Africa Convention in Bordeaux

On December 15th and 16th, 2017 WUSME attended the 15th edition of the North Africa European Convention, an annual event focusing on the theme "A new dynamic for deep relationships". The Convention, held at the Palace of the Stock Exchange of Bordeaux with the support of the Municipality, the ICC New Aquitaine Regional Council and several working groups, was attended by over 160 companies and institutions representing France, Germany, Algeria,

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Morocco and Tunisia. Being held in France since 2002, the Convention, a dynamic platform for economic exchanges, has been transferred since 2016 to Bordeaux, the Capital of the New Region of Aquitaine, precisely to strengthen the new axis of decentralized cooperation in support of enterprises. Mr. Mohamed El Ouahdoudi, WUSME Ambassador in Morocco (*in the picture*), was present as representative of the Organization.

WUSME at the “Algeria National Day Reception 2017”

BUDAPEST – November 6th, 2017 – On occasion of the Algeria National Day Reception of the Embassy in Budapest on 6th November 2017, WUSME General Secretary Norbert Knoll von Dornhoff met H.E. Ambassador Abdelkader Dehendi and his wife for a conversation about the situation of SMEs and Crafts in Algeria.

“The Algerian government makes further efforts to create a meaningful and comprehensive policy to improve the country’s business environment, which is still not enough conducive to the private sector. Cooperative SME development programs need the assistance of International SME supporting Organizations like WUSME, and our Government sincerely welcomes any support and advice”, said the Ambassador.

He invited WUSME to continue the conversation with him in the nearer future.

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WUSME Senator Ivano Spallanzani has received the title of honor “Stella al Merito Sociale 2017”

MILAN (ITALY) – October 23th, 2017 – On the occasion of the 9th International Social Commitments Awards held in Milan (Italy) on October 23th, 2017, WUSME Senator Ivano Spallanzani has received the title of honor “Stella al Merito Sociale 2017”, an acknowledgment given by the Italian Organization “Cultura e Solidarietà” to those who stand out for their particular dedication in the field of solidarity and culture and offer a daily contribution to the economic and social development of the territory.

For almost thirty years, Ivano Spallanzani, currently President of “Banca di Sassari”, devoted himself to the development and protection of Italian Crafts, also as National President of “Confartigianato Italia” (Italian National Crafts Association) for three consecutive terms in the 1990s. Today his support continues through his commitment in WUSME.

WUSME at the celebration of the Punjab spirit

New Delhi – August, 14th, 2017 – On August 14th, 2017 on the eve of the 71nd Independence Day of India, WUSME Vice President Dr. J..S. Juneja took part in the New Delhi celebration of the Punjab spirit. This special event was chaired by former Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, author of “Jewels of Punjab – Leading Global Punjabi Personalities”, a publication tracing the “journey of life” of 100 eminent Punjabi personalities, very influential in their respective fields of specialization.

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WUSME President Gian Franco Terenzi was honoured with the “Magnolia Award” in Shanghai

SHANGHAI – September 6th, 2017 – WUSME President Gian Franco Terenzi was honoured with the prestigious recognition “Magnolia Award” last 6 September 2017 in Shanghai.

The Magnolia award was set up by the Shanghai Municipal in 1989 to recognize the contribution of outstanding international friends to Shanghai's development and international exchange, that today it's the most populous city in the world.

WUSME met Fly Vision of UAE and Hungary

September 14th, 2017 – WUSME is always aware of the importance of new technologies. The real challenge for the future for Small and Medium Enterprises is to be able to seize the opportunities offered by Industry 4.0, or the new way to produce by leveraging the tools offered by technology to get more and more competitive on the world market and get many benefits ranging from economic savings to improved production processes.

To this end, WUSME General Secretary Norbert W. Knoll von Dornhoff met with a delegation of Fly Vision on 14th September 2017.

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Forum of WUSME in Angola: “Sustaining the growth of SMEs for a strengthened economy”

July 27th, 2017 – “Sustaining the growth of SMEs for a strengthened economy” is the theme of the first Forum organized by WUSME in Angola. The initiative was held in the framework of the International Luanda Fair, organized by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Angola, upon initiative of Ms. Conceição Vaz Pedro, WUSME Ambassador in Angola, who visited WUSME HQ of San Marino in May to meet WUSME President Gian Franco Terenzi.

Cooperation between French and Sub-saharian SMEs: the support of WUSME and its partners

August 1th, 2017 – On 27th June, 2017, in Paris, the Agency for independent Enterprises foreign development, organized a meeting to promote the creation of new partnerships between micro and medium-sized enterprises in Sub-Saharan Africa and France.

The Agency was founded in 2016 by Robert Holtz and Michel Fossaert with the support of WUSME. For this reason, ADE INTERNATIONAL has the function to represent the World Union of SMEs in France. The meeting involved six African countries: Senegal, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Guinea, Gabon and Madagascar. Approximately a hundred SMEs had the opportunity to identify and discuss new business opportunities around the four main themes: training, agriculture, building construction and new technologies.

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WUSME President Gian Franco Terenzi participated in the “One Belt One Road Forum for International Cooperation”

On invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China and thanks to the deep friendship relationships established over the years, WUSME President Gian Franco Terenzi participated in the “One Belt One Road Forum for International Cooperation”. An international event held in Beijing on May 14th and 15th, 2017 useful for China to officially present, to the international community, the extraordinary project “Belt & Road” launched for the modern reconstruction of the ancient land and sea routes of the Silk Road to improve connections and cooperation between the countries in Eurasia.

WUSME delegation received by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry

May 22th, 2017 – In his welcome statement the Vice President of the Chamber, Mr. Ayman Abdullah Mohd Al Hasani, informed that the assistance of SMEs to establish international business partnerships has high priority. Closer cooperation with organization like WUSME are most welcome. General Secretary, Norbert Knoll von Dornhoff, emphasized in his answer that WUSME's services for member companies comprise, among others, access to representatives in more than 70 Countries and to the United Nations Global Market.

Women making a major difference in the world – WEF 17

NEW DELHI – Dr Pauline Crawford-Omps, Chairperson of the Permanent Commission for Social Issues and Women Entrepreneurs at WUSME, and a major proponent of empowering women alongside men, was an invited VIP guest in New Delhi, May 8th through 13th. She was called to celebrate and speak at the

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WOMEN'S ECONOMIC FORUM, now in its third year. Over 2000 delegates, 500 sessions, and 150 countries represented, this is an event for the world at large to take notice.

President Gian Franco Terenzi meets WUSME Ambassador in Angola Conceição

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO, May 5th, 2017 – In Africa, the presence of the WUSME has been strengthened through the appointment of nine WUSME Ambassadors with specific reference areas. Among the countries also Angola, in Central Africa, represented by the WUSME Ambassador Ms. Conceição Vaz Pedro. In recent years Angola has been the African country with the highest economic growth driven mainly by oil extraction. In addition, Angola according to the latest data, is diversifying the economy to offer new development opportunities and to foster national and foreign investments (in-depth article: <https://nationalaccordnewspaper.com/angola-steady-growth-prospects-follow-liberalization-diversification/>).

WUSME President Gian Franco Terenzi visited Life Science Professional Service Platform in Shanghai

CHINA (Shanghai), April 11th, 2017 – WUSME President Gian Franco Terenzi together with WUSME Vice President for China Ms. Rongyong Yang visited Life Science Professional Service Platform in Shanghai on April 11th, 2017. At the meeting participated Mr. Liu Jian (Standing Committee member of CCP China, Shanghai, Jinshan district, and Deputy President of Jinshan), Ms. Lijun Sun (Board of Director of Fine Chemical Park of Shanghai) and Mr. Xinyu Liu (President of Fine Chemical Park). Mr. Liu Jian expressed their warmly welcome WUSME delegation, and introduced the "13th Five Years Plan", Life Science technology development and the SME's development in Jinshan.

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WUSME awarded during the 10th Assembly of CASME Council of Directors

SHENZHEN (CHINA), December 21 th, 2016 – Small and medium enterprises are the backbone of the global economy. For this reason, they must be protected and supported in their development. A concept remarked by WUSME President Gian Franco Terenzi in several occasions and highlighted as well in the video-message broadcasted during the 10th Assembly of the Council of Directors of CASME, the Chinese Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (an Organization directed by the Commission for the Reform and China Development of China), held on December 21, 2016 in Shenzhen. The participation of WUSME in the Assembly of CASME was also significant for the presence of WUSME's Honorary President, Zhuo Yan Lin, and the consignment of a special award, handed by the outgoing President and Mayor of Shenzhen, Li Zhibin, for the contribution of WUSME to the growth, progress and development of global SMEs.

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