

EUROMED Invest project finishes after four years promoting business development

After 4 years of activities, the EUROMED Invest project presented its achievements in a final conference held in Brussels, highlighting the role of the private sector in the economic development of the Euro Med region.

Underlining the business partnerships and opportunities promoted by the project, **Arnaldo Abruzzini**, CEO of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“This initiative has been able to create a network of people on both sides of the Mediterranean that are able to speak the same language. As businesses communities, we are now responsible to spread these results and for a wider dissemination of the economic culture. There is not development if there is not a business development”*.

The event included the participation of **Johannes Hahn**, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations. In his intervention, Commissioner Hahn explained the role of SMEs in the economic development in the region, emphasizing that they bring more intensive trade cooperation and more trade opportunities. He also highlighted the role and involvement of the European Union in the economic development of the region, bringing opportunities to facilitate trade, investment and private sector cooperation beyond borders.

The event, called “Four Years boosting Business in the Euro-Mediterranean region”, was held in the European Economic and Social Committee’s headquarters in Brussels with the presence of representatives of European institutions and the business community.

As part of the conference, the participants reviewed the main results of the project and exchanged views on the next steps to promote growth, internationalisation of SMEs and inclusive economic development in the Euro Med countries.

Background information

EUROMED Invest has been implemented in the last 4 years (2013-2017), with a € 5 million budget, 80% of which was financed by the European Union. Its goal has been to boost private business and investment within the Euro Med area to contribute to an inclusive economic development of the region. The specific objective of the project was to empower Euro Med business and investment networks to implement targeted strategies supporting the creation and the international development of SMEs to boost private business and investment within the area.

The project has been implemented in the South Mediterranean countries of the European Neighbourhood instrument by EUROCHAMBRES and the other partners of the MedAlliance consortium. More information at: www.euromedinvest.eu .

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