



International Network for SMEs



in Brief

Institution working under the Auspices of



The Association

The International Network for Small and Medium Enterprises – INSME is a legally recognized and not-for-profit Association open to international membership established in 2004 under the aegis of the Italian Ministry of Economic Development and working under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – OECD. With the aim to bridge the innovation and knowledge gap for Small and Medium Enterprises, the Network acts as a facilitator to stimulate and facilitate public-private partnership and promote the exchange of good practices among key innovation players worldwide. Acting as a knowledge-based network INSME deals with innovation-related topics including: entrepreneurship, start-ups, new technology-based firms, EU and international support programs, SMEs innovation financing, venture capital, business model innovation, etc.

INSME is an initiative promoted within the OECD Bologna Process on SMEs, a series of international initiatives carried out to take forward the political recommendations adopted during the OECD Ministerial Conference on SMEs and Globalization held in Bologna, Italy, in June 2000.

The Members

The Association gathers innovation and technology transfer stakeholders including governmental bodies, international organizations, NGOs, business support organizations, chambers of commerce, universities and research centres, actors both from public and private sectors worldwide. As of May 2017, INSME can count on the support of 77 Members from 37 different countries of which 13 governmental bodies, 19 International Organisations, 6 International NGOs and representatives of 39 networks and intermediaries.

Four important entities support the Network with the status of Sustaining Members: the Small Enterprises Development Agency – SEDA from South Africa, the Global Coalition for Efficient Logistics – GCEL, a Switzerland-based company, the LUISS Business School, a private business school and university, based in Italy and SRM – Economic Research Center related with Intesa Sanpaolo Banking Group based in Italy.

Tailor-made Services

INSME is a platform for marketing, partnering and matchmaking opportunities for INSME members to:

- launch joint cross border innovation initiatives;
- foster participation in international call for tenders and call for proposals;
- assist members to better reach their institutional goals;
- promote the matchmaking between demand and supply of knowledge and technical expertise among members in the innovation field, leveraging on the human capital and several skills of the different organizations involved in the INSME community;
- open new business opportunities connecting innovation stakeholders across the globe;
- enhance the visibility and networking capacity of members in different regions.

These objectives can be achieved through diverse tools:

1. **INSME Annual Meetings.** The Association's major event gathering Members and innovation stakeholders worldwide in a dense programme of initiatives including workshops and an International Conference to discuss emerging trends, share ideas and put the basis for potential business partnerships.
2. **INSMEAcademy.** A webinar-based training programme addressing relevant topics such as Creativity, Innovation, Strategic Partnerships, Entrepreneurial Spirit. Since March 2013 the INSMEAcademy gathered 2150+ participants from 100+ different countries worldwide who benefitted from the expertise of qualified experts.
3. **Capacity Building Initiatives.** An initiative kicked-off in June 2015 offering on-demand tailor-made Training Programs. Through a customized training structure and teaching methodologies, the training initiative enables INSME Members to enhance skills and knowledge in a wide range of topics and sectors. The pioneer initiative on "*The Italian Entrepreneurial Model*" was organized for the National Entrepreneurial Institute of Saudi Arabia (*INSME Member*) from the 8th to the 12th of June 2015 in Rome, Italy.
4. **International Trainings.** Training courses covering current innovation-related trends, mainly held during INSME Annual Meetings. The latest International Trainings focused on:
 - *"Design Thinking for Innovation in Practice - an Effective Toolkit to Manage Competitiveness"*
 - *"Frugal Innovation in the Context of Social Entrepreneurship"*
 - *"Key-resources for profitable growth: how to strategically access and co-develop economic assets for the benefit of SMEs"*
5. **INSMEnews.** The monthly newsletter is released both in English and Spanish and reaches 19.000+ innovation stakeholders worldwide. The newsletter offers up-to-date information on initiatives, current innovation trends, funding opportunities and events regarding innovation and technology transfer.
6. **INSMEblog.** A virtual window to share and discuss ideas, hints, and your vision on innovation.
7. **INSME Alerts.** Customized e-mail alerts to INSME Members covering selected thematic and geographic priorities.
8. **SMEs Expert portfolio.** INSME's pool of executive-level experts to provide trainings and participate in international project initiatives and calls.
9. **Scouting of business and funding opportunities,** experts and partners for international collaborations and project development.
10. **Analysis and diffusion of good practices,** policies, methodologies, programmes and projects.

INSME Annual Meetings

13th INSME Annual Meeting – *“Improving Productivity in SMEs and Their Role in Global Value Chains”*

15th – 17th of May 2017 – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

12th INSME Annual Meeting – *“Enabling Smart SMEs as Key to Success”*

12th – 14th of April 2016 – Doha, Qatar

11th INSME Annual Meeting – *“Technology and Innovation for Inclusive Growth”*

26th – 28th of May 2015 – Cape Town, South Africa

10th INSME Annual Meeting – *“Investing in Innovation: Building a Sustainable Knowledge-based Economy”*

18th – 20th of March 2014 – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

9th INSME Annual Meeting – *“The Governance of Innovation: building an Innovative Eco-System for SMEs”*

21st – 24th of May 2013 – Izmir, Turkey

8th INSME Annual Meeting – *“Sustainable Growth with Innovation: Building Competitive SME Networks”*

22nd – 24th of May 2012 – Daejeon, Republic of Korea

7th INSME Annual Meeting – *“Competitiveness, Culture, and Cross-Border Co-operation Assisting SMEs to Grow, Innovate and Reach International Markets”*

21st – 24th of May 2011 – Helsinki, Finland

6th INSME Annual Meeting – *“SME Innovation: Boosting Development and Growth in Times of Changes”*

10th – 13th of May 2010 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

5th INSME Annual Meeting – *“Building a Knowledge based eco-system for SMEs: Finance, Innovation, Technology and Networking”*

20th – 23rd of April 2009 – Dubai, United Arab Emirates

4th INSME Annual Meeting – *“Encouraging SME Innovation and Growth: Increasing Capital Access”*

2nd – 4th of July 2008 – Guangzhou, China

3rd INSME Annual Meeting – *“Reinvigorating our Global Partnership for Innovation”*

13th of July 2007 – Rome, Italy

2nd INSME Annual Meeting – *“Boosting Innovation by Bridging the Knowledge Gap: A Developer-User Approach”*

24th – 26th of April 2006 – Montevideo, Uruguay

1st INSME Annual Meeting – *“International Cooperation to Seize Innovation Opportunities for SMEs”*

13th – 15th of April 2005 – Barcelona, Spain

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INSME Sustaining Members

