



Seizing new opportunities

Supporting newcomer entrepreneurship beyond the crisis

PRESS RELEASE

There are 33,305 non-UE individual entrepreneurs (79% male and 21% female) in the Milan metropolitan area. In particular, 10 main countries of origin for foreign entrepreneurs are: Egypt (Milan hosts the largest number of Egyptian-owned enterprises in Italy), China, Morocco, Bangladesh, Albania, Senegal, Perù, Pakistan, Ecuador, Tunisia. With reference to the distribution by sector of economic activity, non-EU entrepreneurs are mainly concentrated in Commerce (33.9%) and Construction (25.5%), while the other sectors reach percentages of less than 10%: Business Services (9.9%), Tourism (9.1%), Manufacturing (5.9%).

Due to the impact of COVID-19, 85% of foreign entrepreneurs had to suspend their activities during the most acute phases of the pandemic and 90% had a more or less substantial reduction in personal income. They gained some benefit from government emergency support, but express the need for further (especially financial) support. None of them had to go out of business and they express a certain confidence level in their ability to recover.

Priorities for action that emerged at the national level concern: the increase of support for financial inclusion of migrant/refugee entrepreneurs, referring to both access to credit and financial education; the need of targeted training, accompaniment and coaching devoted to migrant/refugee entrepreneurs in the development of digital skills and business digitalization; the increase of integration and mutual coordination between support organizations, firstly through more systematic relay processes between different but interdependent services; the development of multi-stakeholder “ecosystems”; the strengthening of direct interaction with political decision-makers to further foster their awareness and contribution regarding challenges currently addressed by the support system.

The New Entrepreneurship Support (NES) project is an exciting initiative, funded by JPMorgan Chase Foundation, which brings together incubators, accelerators and other support services dedicated to assisting refugee and migrant-run businesses in France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the UK.

Seizing new opportunities consists of three seminars, that will explore crucial themes for the support of newcomer entrepreneurs, help them to overcome the crisis period and give participants the opportunity to tap into experiences from across Europe and learn about innovative models. All the seminars will be on-line, from 12.00 to 13.30 CET, participation is open to the public upon registration at the indicated links:

Outreach to migrant and refugee-run businesses in a changing policy environment

Thursday, March 18th 2021, 12.00-13.30 CET

[click here to register](#)

Business support for the post-covid recovery period

Tuesday, March 23th 2021, 12.00-13.30 CET

[click here to register](#)

Seminar 3: New opportunities in the post-covid recovery period

Thursday, March 25th 2021, 12.00-13.30 CET

[click here to register](#)

Contacts and information:

ISMU economiaelavoro@ismu.org

MPG Alexander Wolffhardt awolffhardt@migpolgroup.com

Lucia Colonna Lcolonna@migpolgroup.com