



# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE SOUTH

## EU cooperation on socio-economic development

May 2019



*“The EU-Mediterranean partnership is built around inclusive growth and job creation. It is essential to give the younger generation a chance to provide for their future. Therefore we need a vibrant business environment with the right conditions for individual entrepreneurs to prosper and to turn ideas into jobs.”*

**Johannes Hahn** - Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

### Objectives of EU support to the private sector in the South



Support governments to remove administrative and legal barriers to entrepreneurship



Incentivise innovation and technological modernisation (including in the digital economy)



Provide training to match available skills with the needs of businesses



Promote greener, sustainable and social business models



Create better access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups



Stimulate trade and investment opportunities within the region and beyond

€10.8 billion allocated for the region via the **European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)**

30-60% of funding goes to economic cooperation

#### EU External Investment Plan

€4.5 billion EU support leveraging €44 billion of investment in EU Neighbourhood countries and Africa

**The EU is the first economic partner in trade and investments in the Southern Neighbourhood**

#### EU Initiative for Financial Inclusion

Providing finance for 200.000 enterprises in the region

#### Horizon 2020, EU Research and Innovation programme

€763.9 million allocated to the South with 1500 participants and 1200 projects

#### Trade

EU trade agreements with 8 countries



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*An idea like mine is not only a very good business (commercially and economically) but can also bring a lot on the social aspect. I think this can motivate and inspire people to go ahead with their small business ideas.*

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**Mohamed Kilouli**

Student and owner of the first mobile coffee shop in Morocco  
Beneficiary of the EU-funded Agence Maroc PME



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*My father used to tell me and my sisters that following our dreams is more important than adhering to the limiting social rules for women. Thanks to the microcredit loan I received, I was able to buy more merchandise and double my income. We bought new appliances for our house and put our children in better schools.*

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**Nisreen Kaabneh**

Owner of a supermarket in Jordan  
Beneficiary of the EU-funded 'Promoting Financial Inclusion Programme'



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*Our brand – NK – is giving plastic bags a second life. So far, NK has diverted almost 4,000 discarded plastic bags from ending up in landfills and nature.*

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**Nour Kays**

Eco-designer in Lebanon  
Beneficiary of the EU-funded 'Switchmed Programme'