

50 YEARS OF

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**Improving Services
for MSMEs Growth**

#RegionalNetworks #MSMEGrowth #Entrepreneurship #BusinessDevelopment #MSMECapacityBuilding

**Financial System
Development**

Financial System Development

ICON-INSTITUTE Consulting Group is one of the leading development consulting companies based in Germany. Founded in 1975 we offer innovative solutions and services to our clients and partners in the fields of Statistics & Evaluation, Economic Development & Employment Promotion, Education & Social Development, and Agriculture & Rural Development.

Since the early 80s, when ICON supported the emerging SME sector and banking reforms in South East Europe, our work has continually evolved. Today, our focus in finance sector development is to foster **inclusive and sustainable financial systems** by expanding access to finance, strengthening regulation and supervision, and supporting responsible, future-ready financial services. We facilitate access to finance for small businesses, strengthen financial institutions, and promote financial literacy and inclusion, particularly for women and underserved groups.

Micro and SME Finance and Banking Supervision together form the foundation of a well-functioning and inclusive financial system. Micro and SME Finance focuses on expanding access to financial services for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises by strengthening the capabilities of financial service providers, enhancing risk management, and developing tailored financial products. Banking Supervision complements this by ensuring that regulators—such as central banks, ministries and supervisory authorities—maintain robust policies, regulatory frameworks and oversight mechanisms that promote stability, consumer protection and sustainable sector development. Together, these two areas help to create a financial ecosystem that is both accessible and secure, enabling economic growth as well as entrepreneurship and long-term resilience.

Through these interventions, ICON contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly **SDG 5** (Gender Equality), **SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth), **SDG 9** (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and **SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities) — fostering inclusive growth and resilient financial systems worldwide.



Our Services

Our work covers the entire range of financial sector operations. We assist microfinance institutions, credit unions, commercial banks, and NGOs in upgrading or downscaling their operations and establishing specialised micro or SME finance units. We also provide refinancing and advisory services to apex institutions, development and commercial banks.

Our services portfolio comprises the delivery of technical advisory, project management including EU framework contracts and large expert pools as well as implementing capacity-building initiatives in the following fields:

Micro and SME Finance



- Access to Finance for (M)SMEs
- Financing mechanisms and Fund Management
- Financial Institutions Development, incl. Portfolio Management and Insurance
- Financial Literacy
- Sustainable Resource Mobilisation
- Women's Financial Inclusion
- Green and Climate Finance
- Digital Finance

Financial Sector Supervision



- Financial sector policies and regulatory frameworks
- Advisory to Central Banks
- Economic modelling
- Environmentally responsible financial management
- Restructuring the internal management, Training, Management Information System (MIS)
- Regulatory framework safeguarding customers rights and taxonomy policies
- Risk Management

Selection of recent references

- Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Mexico, Namibia, Peru, Rwanda, Zambia: Good Financial Governance - Green Public Financial Management, BMZ/GIZ
- Cameroon: Good Financial Governance in the Health Sector, EU
- Cameroon: Modernisation of Public Finances, BMZ/GIZ
- Cameroon: Support the Modernisation of the Public Finances. Development of the Integrated Strategy of Computerised Public Finance Management, EU
- Dominican Republic: Capacity Building in the Financial Sector, EU/ EIB
- Egypt: Promotion of Access to Financial Services for Small and Medium Enterprises, BMZ/GIZ
- Germany: Development of Training Modules for the Climate Finance Readiness Training (ClIFIT), BMZ/GIZ
- Germany: Good Financial Governance, BMZ/GIZ
- Ghana: Support to the Private and Financial Sector, BMZ/GIZ
- Ghana, South Africa: Sustainable Financing Concept for Competence Centres in Africa, KfW
- Honduras: Strengthening of the Financial Sector for MSMEs, KfW
- India: Development and adoption of modules for climate risk, adaptation and blended finance training package, BMZ/GIZ
- Iraq: Strengthening Public Finances and Financial Markets, BMZ/GIZ
- Myanmar: Banking and Financial Sector Development, BMZ/GIZ
- North Macedonia: Preparation of Technical Specifications for Projects in the Areas of PFM, EU
- Palestine: Credit Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises, BMZ/GIZ
- Tunisia: Financing of MSMEs for the Promotion of Employment II, KfW
- Ukraine: SME Credit Line, EU
- Ukraine: Support to SMEs in the Rural Sector , EU
- Ukraine: Twinning Project on Risk-Based Supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions, EU
- Yemen: Access to Microfinance, BMZ/ GIZ
- Zambia: Promotion of Agricultural Finance for Agribased Enterprises, EU
- Worldwide: Good Financial Governance GIZ/BMZ



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