SME COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK

2018

# Business Ecosystems for the Digital Age



International Trade Centre

TRADE IMPACT FOR GOOD

#### © International Trade Centre 2018

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

Street address: ITC

54-56, rue de Montbrillant 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Postal address: ITC

Palais des Nations

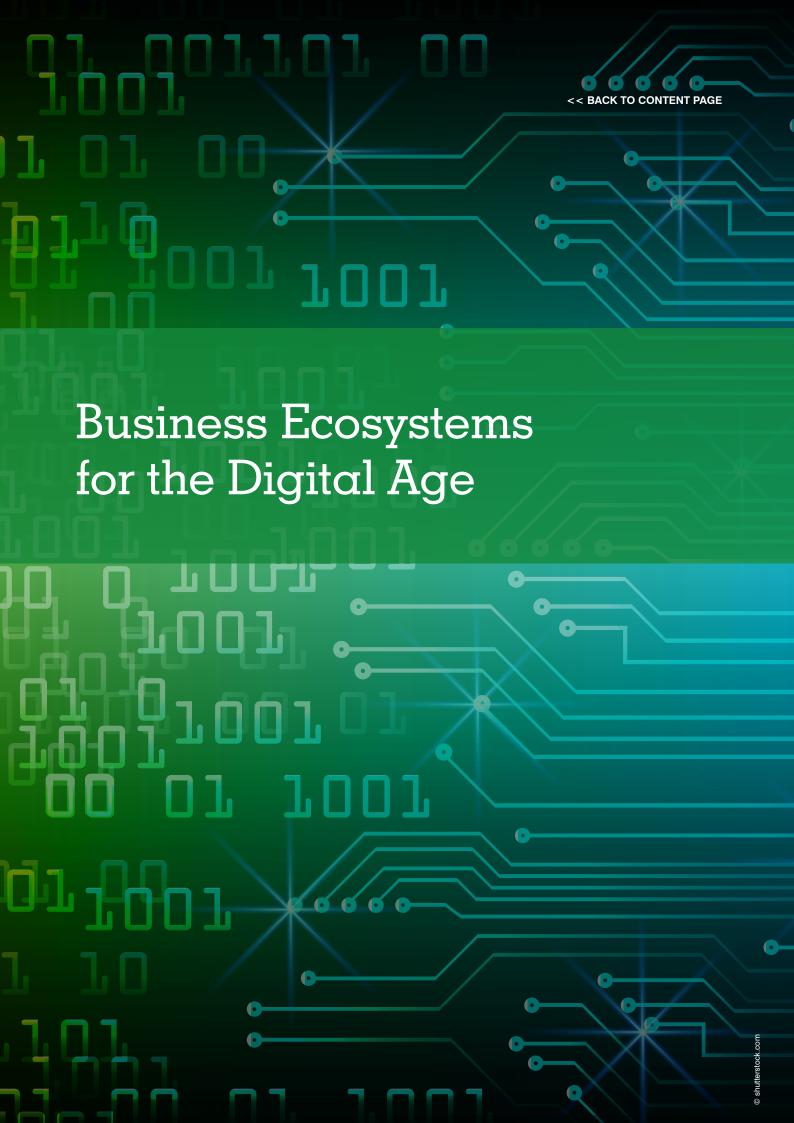
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

**Telephone:** +41-22 730 0111

**Fax:** +41-22 733 4439

E-mail: itcreg@intracen.org

Internet: <a href="http://www.intracen.org">http://www.intracen.org</a>



Digitalization and the rise of the platform economy are rapidly changing the way in which firms do business. A strong business ecosystem is necessary to manage this change. This year's SME Competitiveness Outlook tells how to build it.

The report combines data analysis, academic insights, thought leader views and case studies to guide policymakers, businesses, and trade and investment support institutions in designing the business ecosystem that is necessary for small businesses to embrace and benefit from industry 4.0.

This year's edition includes 50 country profiles on SME competitiveness, with a focus on strengths and weaknesses in the business ecosystem.

Publisher: International Trade Centre (ITC)

Title: SME Competitiveness Outlook 2018: Business Ecosystems for the Digital Age

Publication date and place: Geneva, September 2018

Page count: 216

Language: English (Executive Summaries are available separately in French and Spanish)

ISBN: 978-92-9137-455-7 eISBN: 978-92-1-047423-8

UN Sales Number: E.18.III.T.1

ITC Document Number: P36.E/DMD/CEES/18-IX

**Citation:** International Trade Centre (2018). SME Competitiveness Outlook 2018: Business Ecosystems for the Digital Age. ITC, Geneva.

For more information on the SME Competitiveness Outlook, see http://www.intracen.org/SMEOutlook/

For more information on the SME Competitiveness Survey, see: http://www.intracen.org/SMEBenchmarking/

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Trade Centre concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without prior permission in writing from the International Trade Centre.

Digital image on the cover: © Shutterstock

© International Trade Centre (ITC), www.intracen.org

ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

## Contents

Acronyms Foreword Executive Summary Acknowledgements	IXVIX		
		CHAPTER 1: The business ecosystem in transition	2
		Digital platforms on the rise	
		Impact on small businesses	
Implications for the business ecosystem	4		
Ecosystem 4.0 in remote areas: Utopia or reality?			
Questions addressed in this report			
CHAPTER 2: The digital platform revolution			
Types of platforms	](		
Business-to-business or business-to-consumer	](		
Marketplace or inventory based	11		
Wide-ranging exchanges	11		
Free or fee based	11		
Growing markets, scope and communities	11		
Markets: Value and connectivity	11		
Scope: From matchmaking to aggregated services	12		
Communities: Blurring lines between consumers and producers	12		
Three critical areas for SME competitiveness	12		
Information: The currency of the digital world	13		
Finance: New ICT-enabled tools	15		
Logistics: En route to digitalization			
What does the platform revolution mean for SMEs?	28		
CHAPTER 3: Foundations for SME success in a 4.0 world	31		
Promoting trade and investment			
What trade and investment promotion organizations do			
What worked in the past?			
What is changing?			
Skilling to thrive			
Who pays the bill?			
Which skills to transmit?			
What worked in the past?			
Adjusting to the future of work			
Monitoring quality, ensuring trust			
High stakes			
Quality infrastructure that works			
Wanted: Standards for emerging technologies	47		

CHAPTER 4: Local infrastructure: Shortening the last mile	54
Last mile hurdle for developing country SMEs	54
Transport infrastructure: Physical connectivity for SMEs	56
Gaps and needs across countries	56
Gaps within countries: Last mile challenge	57
Closing the last mile mobility gap: Technology and funding	58
ICT infrastructure: Digital connectivity for SMEs	60
Gaps and needs across countries	
Rural-urban digital connectivity gap	
Closing the last mile digital access gap: Technology and funding	
Moving ahead: Creating value in coordination	74
CHAPTER 5: Embracing change for business ecosystem 4.0	75
Cautious revolutionaries needed	75
Trade promotion, skills and quality	76
Trade and investment promotion organizations: Make big data work for small firms	76
Vocational education and training providers: Anticipate, act, adjust	
Quality assurance bodies: Build trust in the digital era	
Finance and infrastructure for tomorrow	
Improving ICT-based finance	
Infrastructure for business ecosystem 4.0	
CHAPTER 6: Country profiles and strategic snapshots	
Edition 2018: What's new?	
Readers' guide to country profiles	
INDEX OF COUNTRY PROFILES	89
Argentina	90
Armenia	92
Belize	94
Benin	96
Bolivia	98
Bosnia and Herzegovina	100
Botswana	102
Bulgaria	104
Burundi	106
Cabo Verde	108
Cameroon	110
Chad	112
Croatia	114
Dominican Republic	
El Salvador	118

#### << BACK TO CONTENT PAGE

Ethiopia	120
Gabon	122
Gambia	124
Georgia	126
Ghana	128
Guatemala	130
Honduras	132
Hungary	134
Indonesia	136
Kenya	138
Lao People's Democratic Republic	140
Lesotho	142
Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of	144
Mali	146
Mauritania	148
Mongolia	150
Montenegro	152
Morocco	154
Mozambique	156
Myanmar	158
Nicaragua	160
Nigeria	162
Pakistan	164
Panama	166
Philippines	168
Romania	170
Sierra Leone	172
Sri Lanka	174
Suriname	176
Tajikistan	
Timor-Leste	180
Uganda	182
Venezuela	184
Zambia	186
Zimbabwe	188
OGED TECHNICAL ANNEX	191
OTES AND REFERENCES	201

## Thought leaders



6

**Gabriela Michetti** Growing MSMEs, a path to national development



24

Roya Mahboob Interview with the first female tech CEO in Afghanistan



42

Awa Sinyan Faal
Despite challenging export
environment, SME agribusiness
in the Gambia plans growth



50

**Guy Ryder** Skills bolster SME competitiveness



Christophe Lecourtier
To boost SME competitiveness,

### Case studies



18

Promoting SME competitiveness in Saint Lucia: Wider access to better market information



26

Promoting SME competitiveness in Rwanda: Integrating ICT into logistics services



40

Promoting SME competitiveness in the Gambia: Developing sectors and skills



52
Promoting SME
competitiveness in
Indonesia and Kenya:
Efficient certification key to
export success



Promoting SME competitiveness in Morocco: Infrastructure

# 预览已结束, 完整报告链接和二维码如下:





