

The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, in collaboration with the Economic Research Forum and the Middle East Institute, invite you to a conference titled:

The Role of MSMEs in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in MENA The Lebanon Case Study

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Time: 9:30 – 17:00 (Beirut Time)

Place: In person and Online, [Gefinor Rotana Hotel, Hamra, Clemenceau Street](#) or via Zoom (the corresponding link will be shared upon confirmation of virtual attendance)

[Register here](#)

Language: English and Arabic (with simultaneous interpretation)

In 2019, Lebanon entered into one of the worst economic and financial crises in modern history, leading to the near collapse of public services. The energy and power sector were among the most severely impacted, affecting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in particular. As the cost of diesel-powered private generators skyrocketed, many enterprises resorted to solar energy. Despite the severity of the crisis, it provided an opportunity for some businesses to adapt, grow, and even thrive, most prominently renewable energy suppliers and agrifood businesses.

The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS), in collaboration with the Economic Research Forum (ERF) and the Middle East Institute (MEI), and with the support of the International Development Research Center (IDRC), embarked on a project that seeks to deepen our understanding of the energy challenges and opportunities facing MSMEs in six MENA countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Sudan) as they attempt to transition to a low-carbon economy.

In this conference, LCPS will present its yearlong case study of the state of the energy transition at the level of MSMEs in Lebanon. The case study is based on data collected between October 2023 and July 2024, reflecting the MSME landscape and stakeholder perspectives at that time. The information presented, as well as the proposed recommendations, do not fully reflect the impact of recent conflict-related destruction and displacement.

Invited speakers will examine ways the public sector, donors, and international organizations can support MSMEs in the context of the energy transition. Other issues that will be discussed include the macro-economic reforms necessary to encourage the adoption of renewable energy by the private sector and how Lebanon can scale up support for distributed clean energy and energy-efficient solutions.

We look forward to your participation and contribution to this timely conference.

Click here to access the [case study](#) and [policy brief](#).

AGENDA

Time	Session
9:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome and Opening Remarks Makram Ouais Executive Director, LCPS Ibrahim Elbadawi Managing Director, ERF Khalid Ghozlani Senior Program Officer, IDRC
10:15 – 11:15	Session 1: Project Overview and Lebanese Case Study Presentation This session provides an overview of the regional project and the Lebanon case study findings. Panelists Marc Ayoub Energy Policy Specialist, PhD Researcher, University of Galway Ahmad Diab Energy and Development Specialist Moderator Rasha Akel Researcher, LCPS Q&A
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: Defining the Public Sector's Role in Supporting MSMEs in the Context of the Energy Transition and Pressing Climate Risks Building on the forecasted impact of climate change by international institutions, this session explores the policies public institutions are developing to address the needs of MSMEs, and to tackle pressing climate risks, as well as the measures for the adoption of sustainable energy technologies. Panelists Pierre El Khoury Senior Energy Advisor, LCEC Secretary, Lebanon Committee of the World Energy Council (WEC)

Chantal Akl

Director General, Ministry of Industry

Gloria Abou Zeid

Director General of Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture

Zena Harakeh

Acting Head of Foreign Trade Department, Ministry of Economy and Trade

Hala Mounajjed

Head of Service of Environmental Technology, Ministry of Environment

Moderator

Adnan Melki

National Coordinator for Global Environment Forum, Small Grants Programme, United Nations

Q&A

13:00 – 13:15

Coffee Break

13:15 – 14:30

Session 3: Enhancing MSME Capacities in the Context of the Energy Transition: Macro-economic Reforms and the Role of the Donor Community

The session will focus on macro-economic reforms that can enhance MSME growth and build their capacities in the context of the energy transition. These include reform of the banking sector, challenges of the informal economy, and the priorities of the international community.

Panelists

Stefano Panighetti

Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon

Frederico Lima

IMF Resident Representative for Lebanon

Jad Zgheib

National Programme Manager, Advice for Small Businesses, EBRD

Kawthar Dara

Senior Economist, UNDP

Moderator

Carol Ayat

Energy Finance Specialist, CFA

Q&A

14:30 – 15:30

Lunch Break

15:30 – 16:45

Session 4: Scaling Up Support for Distributed Clean Energy and Energy-Efficient Solutions

This session will address ways to empower local governments and clean energy technology providers, including distributed generation solutions, supporting clean energy enterprises, and boosting the enabling environment.

Panelists

Rabih Osta

Vice President, Pheonix Group

Tony Ayoub

Head of Municipality, Kfarmishki

Hashem Mohamad Hashem

Head of Municipality, Baaloul

Elia Ghorra

Former Manager of Domaine de Taanayel.aec, arcenciel

Moderator

Leila Dagher

Assistant to the President for Public Policy- Associate Professor of Economics, LAU

Q&A

16:45

Closing Remarks

Makram Ouais

Executive Director, LCPS
