

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Research Conference**

**Financing Women-led SMEs (WSMEs)**

**23-24 October 2023, EBRD London**

**Submission deadline: 31 July 2023**

You are invited to submit a paper to the Research Conference on Financing Women-led SMEs in developing economies, co-organized by EBRD, CEPR, and the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative ([We-Fi](#)). The conference aims to promote new research and evidence on gender, entrepreneurship, access to finance and the “missing middle”. It will also provide a platform for academics, practitioners and policy makers to network and discuss how to bring research findings to the design and implementation of projects. Academic paper sessions will be accompanied by policy-oriented sessions aimed at determining specific evidence gaps on selected focus topics. The conference will catalyse efforts to generate new evidence, and determine key objectives and milestones going forward. Papers are invited on the following (non-exhaustive) list of topics:

- Access to credit for women-led SMEs (WSMEs)
- Blended finance, digital finance, and FinTech
- Growth and job creation at WSMEs
- Business training and bundled services
- Sex-disaggregated data
- Gender norms and entrepreneurship
- Institutional barriers to women’s entrepreneurship
- Gender specific investment climate reforms
- WSME’s and finance in conflict zones, natural disasters

For additional information on the topics of interest, see the [We-Fi research agenda](#).

The symposium will feature a **Keynote Address by Prof. Dean Karlan**, Professor of Economics and Finance, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University and Chief Economist, USAID.

Accommodation expenses will be covered for speakers and discussants. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with CEPR’s expense [guidelines](#).

**To submit a paper** (full papers only), please send an email to Lucie Newman at [newmanl@ebrd.com](mailto:newmanl@ebrd.com). The conference will be held at the EBRD, 5 Bank St, London, E14 4BG, United Kingdom. The conference programme starts at 9am on 23 October, 2023, and ends at 5pm on 24 October. An invitation-only conference dinner will be held on 23 October.

**ORGANISING AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

Michelle J. Brock (EBRD, CEPR)

Ralph De Haas (EBRD, CEPR, KU Leuven)

Andreas Madestam (Stockholm University)

Simon Quinn (Imperial College London, CEPR)

Felicia Siegrist (We-Fi)

Cagatay Bircan (EBRD, UCL)

Miriam Bruhn (World Bank)

Gabriel Ulysees (UCL, CEPR)

Lakshmi Naaraayanan (London Business School)

Farid Tadros (We-Fi)

Selim Gulesci (TCD, CEPR)

Diego Ubfal (World Bank)