

R20AWS Breakout Session

Sustainable Infrastructure & Blended Finance: Opportunities and constraints for mid-size projects at the sub-national level.

Date/ Time: May 29th / 09:30 – 12:00

Location: Austrian Chamber of Commerce, Wiedner Hauptstraße 63, Saal 2

Background & Objectives

We know that to keep pace with population growth, migration and urbanization trends in a way that mitigates climate risks, improves living standards and delivers long-term sustainable growth, an increase in sustainable infrastructure investment is needed. This need is particularly high at the city, state and regional levels, where mid-size projects offer an unprecedented opportunity to maximize development impact. And yet, financing for such projects remains limited.

This breakout session will bring together high-level participants from a broad range of stakeholder groups and foster discussions on the current opportunities and constraints surrounding the financing of mid-size sustainable infrastructure projects at the sub-national and city level. In particular, participants will explore topics such as the investment opportunity and impact potential of mid-size sustainable infrastructure, the current barriers to investment and the practical solutions to accelerate results.

The session will also mark the beginning of a research process, which over the coming months will deep dive into the covered topics, and around which participants will be solicited for their expertise. The research will culminate in the publication of findings and recommendations at the UNSG Climate Summit and 2020 World Economic Forum.

Program

09:00 Registration

09:30 Opening:
Prof. Christian Schwarzenegger, University of Zurich

9:40 Keynote address:
Yannick Glemarec, CEO, The Green Climate Fund

09:55 Discussion: Qualifying and quantifying the untapped market and its potential impact
This panel will explore the magnitude of the investment potential for small/mid-size infrastructure projects at the sub-national level and the SDG impact potential of such projects

- Eszter Mogyorósy, Climate Finance Manager, ICLEI
- Marion Verles, CEO, Gold Standard

- Emilio Cattaneo, Executive Director, The Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund
- Karen Wilson, Social Impact Investment, OECD

10:25 Discussion: How can blended finance vehicles help access finance for small/mid-size infrastructure?

This panel examine how blended finance can help accelerate the financing of project development and implementation

- Maria Teresa Zappia, Chief Investment Officer, BlueOrchard Finance
- Paulus Geradets, Team Leader EIP, European Commission
- Philip Moss, Head of SDIP and Blended Finance, WEF
- Weixi Gong, Chief, Investment Promotion Division and Coordinator, Investment and Technology Promotion Offices Network, UNIDO

10:55 Coffee Break

11:15 Discussion: What needs to be done to unlock public and private funding for large scale replication?

This panel will explore and assess the different institutional, technical, and financial obstacles met in blended finances.

- Frannie Léautier, COO, Trade & Development Bank
- Matthew Jordan-Tank, Director Sustainable Infrastructure Policy & P. Preparation, EBRD
- Dana Barsky, COO Impact Advisory and Finance Department, Credit Suisse
- Kern Alexander, Professor of Law & Finance, University of Zurich

11:45 Wrap up and conclusion

- Prof Stefano Battiston, University of Zurich

12:00 Networking Lunch