



**Republic of Lebanon**  
Office of the Prime Minister

---

# Business Environment & Innovation

Lebanese SME Forum

July 11, 2017

---

# Why Focus on SMEs and Entrepreneurship?

---

- Globally, SMEs and Entrepreneurs are key drivers for the creation of economic value, innovation, job creation, and prosperity
- In Lebanon, 90% of enterprises are categorized as SMEs (MOET definition : under 100 employees and LBP 25bn turnover)
- By further enabling the ecosystem:
  - We are promoting growth, creating jobs and reducing poverty
  - We are enhancing the quality of our economy by diversifying productive economic sectors and creating competition
  - We are encouraging Lebanese to stay, build and export rather than immigrate



# Lebanon has come a long way in developing its entrepreneurial ecosystem...

---

- Lebanon has all the right ingredients at its disposal: highly educated and ambitious entrepreneurs, an open economy, unparalleled financial expertise with a strong liquid banking sector, and a successful and loyal Diaspora
- The establishment of Kafalat, the iSME project, the CMA, the BSE and the SME Unit at MoET, BDD, ect...
- Ingenuity of BDL's 331 initiative in addition to their subsidized loans
- An active entrepreneurial private sector and its provision of incubators and accelerators
- A growing number of Investment funds
- Brilliant Lebanese start-ups who are topping the list of successful start-ups regionally with multiple success stories such as cleartag, diwani, and chahiya...



# ... ranking second in the Arab world in terms of investments in tech startups...

	Number of Deals				Ranking			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016
UAE	33	57	66	78	1	1 ---	1 ---	1 ---
Lebanon	11	21	31	37	5	5 ---	3 ↑	2 ↑
KSA	19	24	21	30	4	4 ---	4 ---	3 ↑
Egypt	30	32	13	26	2	3 ↓	6 ↓	4 ↑
Jordan	25	39	33	21	3	2 ↑	2 ---	5 ↓
Palestine	5	13	14	7	7	6 ↑	5 ↑	6 ↓
Tunisia	2	11	9	7	9	7 ↑	7 ---	7 ---
Bahrain	6	3	4	6	6	9 ↓	9 ---	8 ↑
Morocco	5	4	6	5	8	8 ---	8 ---	9 ↓
Syria	1	1	0	1	11	11 ---	12 ↓	10 ↑
Algeria	2	2	1	0	10	10 ---	11 ↓	11 ---
Kuwait	0	1	3	0	14	12 ↑	10 ↑	11 ↓
Oman	1	0	0	0	12	13 ↓	13 ---	11 ↑
Qatar	1	0	0	0	13	14 ↓	14 ---	11 ↑

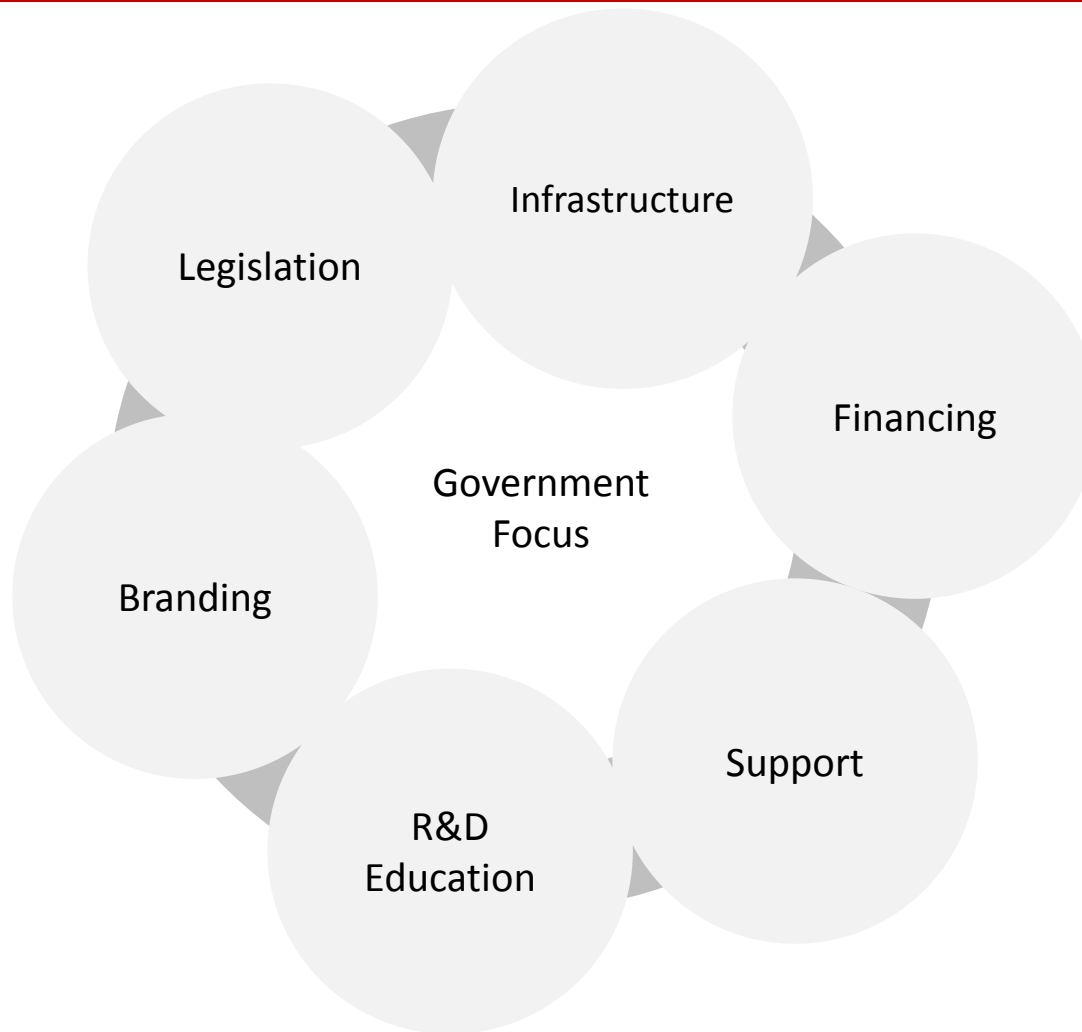
	Value of Deals in Million				Ranking			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016
UAE	\$35	\$118	\$160	\$799	2	2 ---	1 ↑	1 ---
Lebanon	\$7	\$26	\$30	\$56	5	4 ↑	2 ↑	2 ---
Jordan	\$31	\$13	\$22	\$15	3	5 ↓	3 ↑	3 ---
Morocco	\$4	\$1	\$3	\$15	6	8 ↓	7 ↑	4 ↑
Egypt	\$77	\$155	\$7	\$12	1	1 ---	5 ↓	5 ---
Tunisia	\$0.10	\$2	\$1	\$8	11	7 ↑	10 ↓	6 ↑
Palestine	\$2	\$4	\$6	\$7	7	6 ↑	6 ---	7 ↓
KSA	\$31	\$57	\$14	\$5	4	3 ↑	4 ↓	8 ↓
Bahrain	\$0.40	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$1	12	10 ↑	11 ↓	9 ↑
Syria	\$0.05	\$0.01	\$0	\$0.05	9	12 ↓	12 ---	10 ↑
Algeria	\$2.40	\$1.20	\$2.50	\$0	8	9 ↓	8 ↑	11 ↓
Qatar	\$0.20	\$0	\$0	\$0	13	14 ↓	14 ---	11 ↑
Oman	\$0.01	\$0	\$0	\$0	10	13 ↓	13 ---	11 ↑
Kuwait	\$0	\$0.20	\$2	\$0	14	11 ↑	9 ↑	11 ↓

Source: arabnet

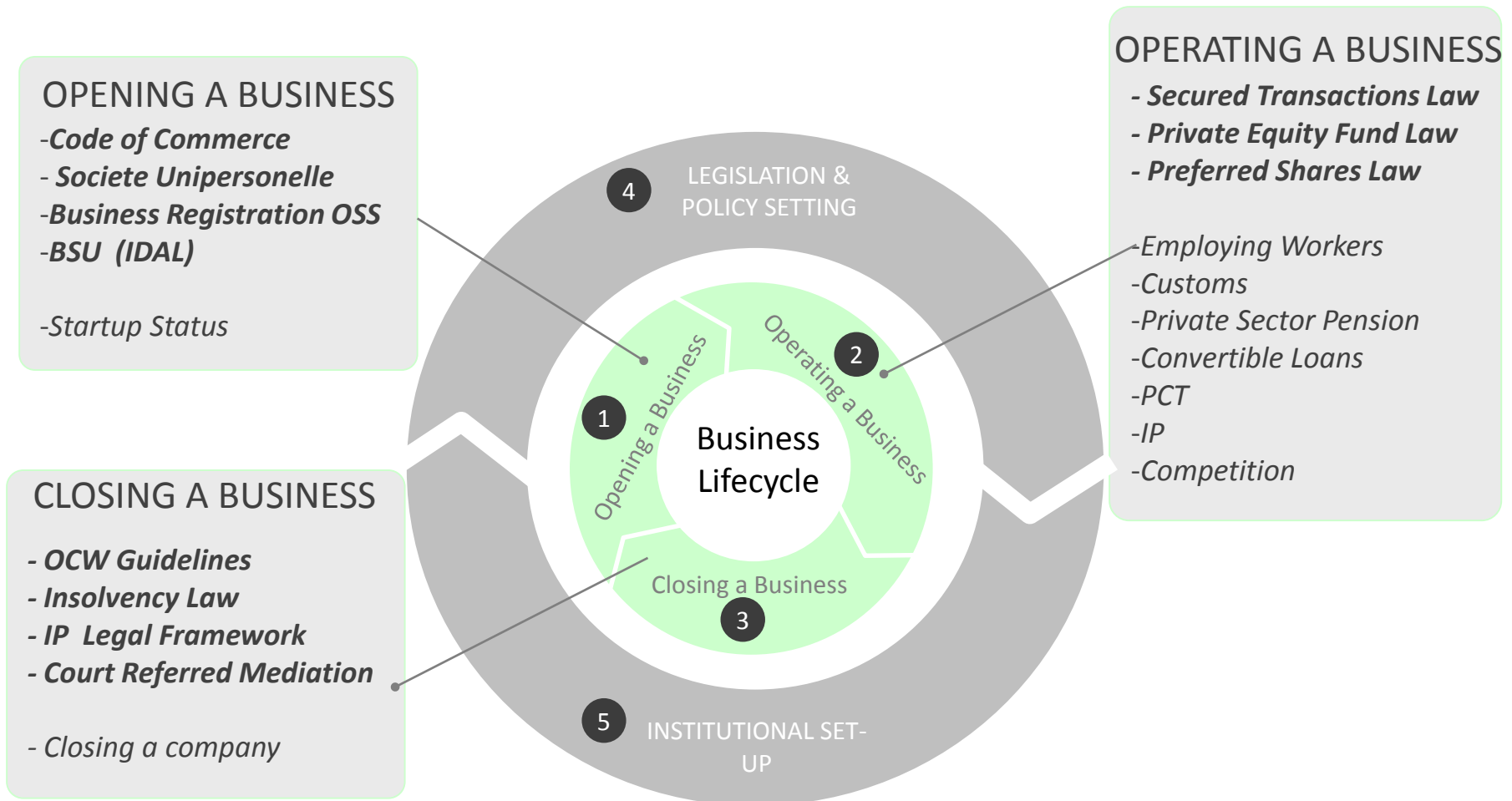


... but it still has a long way to go to reach its full potential

---



# The Prime Minister's Office involvement in further enabling the SME life cycle...



## ... and in developing the skills needed to upgrade our workforce, scale businesses and digitize SMEs

---

The Office of Prime Minister is working to support youth activities across Lebanon in innovation, technology, entrepreneurship and creativity. As part of that effort, we are organizing “Summer of Innovation”, a program to help give visibility to all groups organizing youth activities in these fields between July and September 2017.

Please visit: [summerofinnovation.io](http://summerofinnovation.io)

SUMMER OF  
INNOVATION  
صيف الابتكار 2017



# Thank you

---

Yasmina el Khoury Raphael

[yelkhoury@pcm.gov.lb](mailto:yelkhoury@pcm.gov.lb)

01/980890 ext 607

summerofinnovation.io

SUMMER OF  
INNOVATION  
صيف الابتكار 2017

