



PEM-WECCO participants and delegates in Senegal

PEM-WECCO: Linking Senegal's talent to global opportunities

Senegal used to be one of the fastest-growing economies in sub-Saharan Africa, but in the face of rather stagnant productivity, it is grappling with intractable poverty, increasing inequality and vulnerability amongst its population. Therefore, **empowering individuals and communities is critical to sustainable economic growth and social stability**. The 'Pilot project for Business Mobility between Belgium and Senegal' (referred to as 'PEM-WECCO') aimed to tackle these challenges by investing in economic development. It did this by supporting entrepreneurship, helping small and medium enterprises (SMEs) form partnerships, and promoting innovation and business internationalisation.

Market access & knowledge transfer



PEM-WECCO participant presenting his company to delegates during the closing event in Senegal

The circular mobility project exposed close to 50 Senegalese entrepreneurs and SMEs to the European market and built their **capacity**. By connecting entrepreneurs with varying experience levels, the project facilitated skills transfer, addressing the need to give business support to Senegalese entrepreneurs. It served as a business accelerator for young Senegalese companies, offering benchmarking opportunities, insights into international standards, and learning from more established counterparts.

For instance, one participant shared how the project **helped her company grow**. Through the project, her company entered a strategic partnership focused on preventing precancerous lesions in Africa. **The partnership established through PEM-WECCO aims to improve access to innovative solutions for early screening and treatment.**

Impact on growth & partnerships

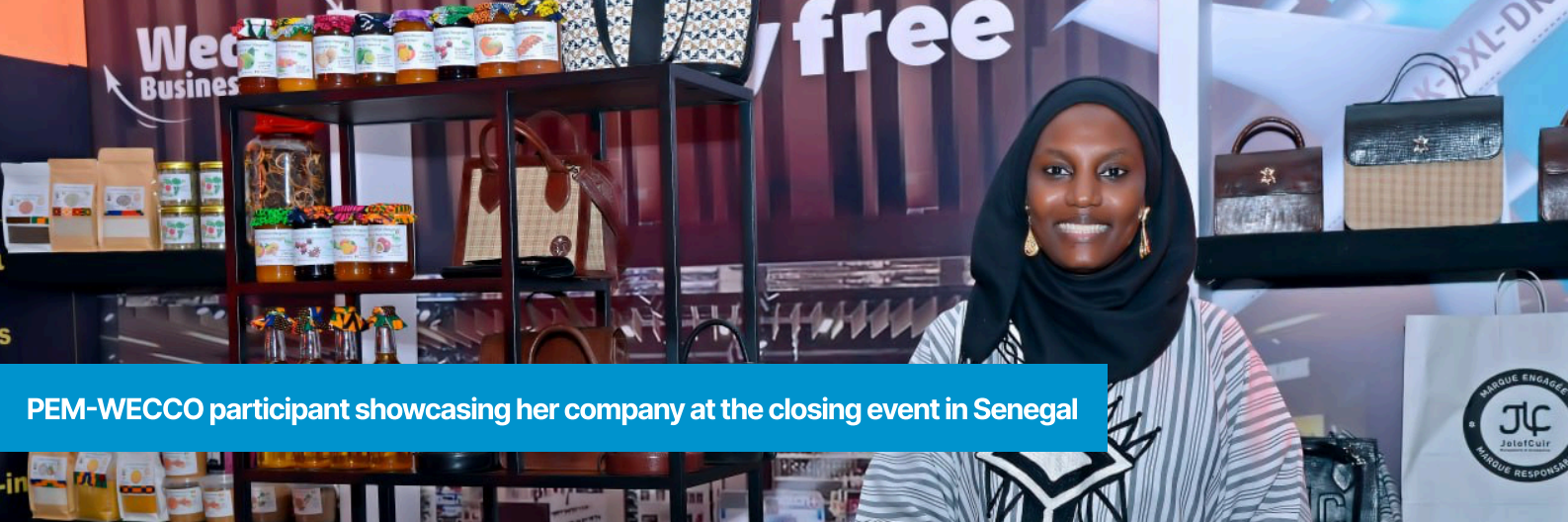
PEM-WECCO supported the expansion of business networks, with 29 reported business partnerships formed during the project. Among surveyed participants, 81% of the participants reported measurable changes after taking part in the project, including revenue growth (23%), market expansion (50%), an increase in the number of employees (15%), and the introduction of new products/services (46%). A logistics company reported: *'We attended the Logistics Fair in Antwerp, a major event in logistics, featuring all the players from global mobility. We were able to connect with over 100 or 200 logistics professionals. **If it weren't for that opportunity today, I might have found it challenging to try and meet people!***



PEM-WECCO participants during the exhibition in Senegal

Connecting to stakeholders

The project enabled Senegalese entrepreneurs from the diaspora to build meaningful ties with diaspora associations such as Afford Europe (African Foundation for Development), an international organisation that supports the role of Africans abroad in advancing development across the continent. These connections improved participants' access to information, technical and financial support. **They also strengthened academic and professional networks** by engaging with institutions like the University of Liège and the University of Leuven. Overall, 96% of the surveyed participants said the project helped them connect with key stakeholders, including businesses, incubators, and mentors.



PEM-WECCO participant showcasing her company at the closing event in Senegal

An ecosystem approach for collaboration

The project enhanced Senegalese-Belgian collaboration by connecting entrepreneurs, incubators, and institutions through an ecosystem approach.

"We have settled into strengthening business relations, diplomatic relations, dialogue (...). Facilitating the migration of young entrepreneurs who had difficulties in obtaining a visa is an important element of dialogue."- Government representative, Senegal

About the MPF

This grant project was part of the EU-funded Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), managed by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), implemented by Enabel, to support the external dimension of the EU's migration policy. MPF fund projects that promote dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between EU Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

About the project

The Pilot Project for Business Mobility between Belgium and Senegal (Project for Entrepreneurial Mobility - PEM-WECCO) was implemented under the Migration Partnership Facility Phase III and ran from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2024. PEM-WECCO is a Strand D – Grants, Lot 2 initiative, funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) (95%) and Immigration Office of Belgian Ministry of Interior. It supports the development and implementation of sustainable, multi-stakeholder mobility initiatives on regular and labour migration.

About the evaluation

Testimonies used in this document were gathered as part of the final evaluation of the project 'Project for Entrepreneurial Mobility - PEM-WECCO', conducted between December 2024 and April 2025. The evaluation was led by Samuel Hall, who is part of a consortium of six consultancies and NGOs, namely Blomeyer & Sanz, Diversity Development Group, Migration Policy Group, Policy Impact Lab, Samuel Hall and Tandans.



**Funded by
the European Union**



ICMPD
International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

