Welcome

Welcome letter to FundSME Event

By Tánaiste Joan Burton

Ireland is firmly in recovery mode. Since the Government launched our twin strategies to boost employment – Pathways to Work and the Action Plan for Jobs – 95,000 more people are back at work, and unemployment has fallen by a third.

But while we are making firm progress, we've much more to do, and that is why I greatly welcome FundSME as an important event to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups.

SMEs are the lifeblood of our economy, forming the backbone of our towns and villages, creating jobs, providing services to and sustaining local communities.

But funding dried up during the economic crash, and even now, with the recovery overseen by the Government, many SMEs and start-ups are still struggling to get the money they need to grow their businesses.

The Government, for our part, has launched the Strategic Investment Bank to channel credit to viable and high-potential SMEs. But the bank is only part of the solution, which must be multi-faceted.

That's why FundSME is so welcome.

Its aim is simple – to help SMEs and start-ups find and access best-fit funding to suit their needs. And "access" is particularly crucial.

It's always helpful for SMEs and start-ups to have sources of information on the range of funding available. But what many small business owners need is that crucial bit of additional insight – how to access these options.

I am delighted to support FundSME and look forward to it playing an important role in our continued recovery and wish today's event and the FundSME website every success.

Tánaiste

Joan Burton