



INVITATION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR

Are you a start-up, scale-up or multi-national interested in **Digital for Development** or looking to expand in developing or emerging countries?

A year after the [D4D-Be platform](#) kick-off, **Close the Gap**, **Agoria** and **The Shift** have the pleasure to invite you to attend an information session on D4D-related financial instruments for private sector companies. The session will end with an update on the D4D-Be platform and a network lunch.

Agenda:

10:30-11:00: Welcome coffee

11-00 - 12:15:

- Introducing the new **Business Partnership Facility** co-presented by Elke Briers from the King Baudouin Foundation, responsible for the implementation of this new matching grant opportunity for partnerships with private sector, and by Jean-Jacques Bastien from the Belgian Directorate-general Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (open for not-Belgian corporates too and not limited to digital-oriented initiatives)
- Presenting **FINEXPO's grant instrument for Belgian SMEs** exporting for the first time to developing/emerging countries to a public client, by Mr. Joeri Colson from the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs with a testimonial from TigerPower's Chris Prengels
- Explaining how the **European Investment Plan** and its integrated 3-pillar approach (Access to Finance, Technical Assistance, Investment Climate) is expected to improve the investment climate dynamics for European private sector willing to expand and invest in Africa, by Zissimos Vergos, European Commission, International Cooperation and Development.

12:15 – 12:45: Latest **update on the D4D-Be platform** by Julie de Bergeyck from Close the Gap

12:45 -14:00: Networking lunch, where **actors of Development Cooperation** are most welcome to mingle with the private sector

Venue: Agoria's new Techlounge - Bd A. Reyers 80 - 1030 Bruxelles

Register:

Sign up [here](#) (by Jan 8, 2019) or contact marie.verbreyt@close-the-gap.org, +32 493 501015.

Limited seats available. Participants will be automatically registered on Kindling.be, unless notified.

Note: An **optional & informal roundtable** will be organized from **14:00 to 15:00** where private sector actors are invited to exchange their views and perspectives on developing their businesses in Africa with **Zissimos Vergos from the European Commission**. Interested? Mention it in the registration form.