



International
Labour
Organization



Enterprise
Formalization

CASE STUDY
6/2021

► The platform Monentreprise.bj in Bénin

This document is part of a series of case studies by the Enterprises Department of the ILO. Each case study presents one or several approaches that contribute to enterprise formalization across the world. The case studies provide a snapshot on a particular initiative and may not be exhaustive.

AT A GLANCE

Name: Monentreprise.bj platform

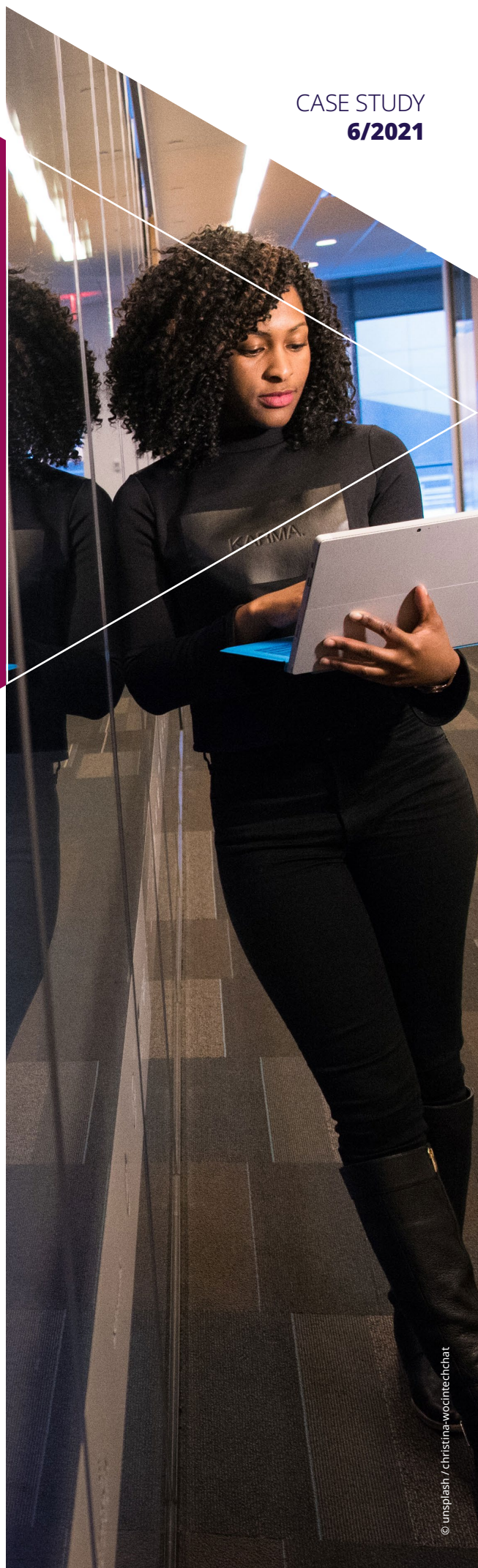
Short description: Easy business registration of economic units using a web-based platform, accessible via desktop computer or mobile phone, facilitated by a QR code

Technology: Website – One Stop Shop

Country/region: Bénin (West Africa)

Link to enterprise formalization: Direct (registration and compliance of small economic units)

This case study shows how technological innovations may contribute to the formalization of economic units and their workers. Coined [e-formality](#), the ILO has developed a theoretical framework for different public policies and technological applications that support transitions to formality.



1. What is the initiative and how does it work?

The Investment and Export Promotion Agency (APIEx) in Benin launched *monentreprise.bj* on 17 February 2020. It is a web platform that allows entrepreneurs to create their enterprise online, using a computer or an android device. The website is a one-stop shop that allows entrepreneurs to comply with all regulatory requirements on one digital platform. The entrepreneur needs only to present a valid identity document, birth certificate, passport photo and address. Every user must also provide details of the proposed business activities. This initiative was developed by the Government of Benin with financial support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and technical assistance from the United Nations Conference on Trade Development (UNCTAD).

Creating a business in less than three hours is now a reality in Benin. This has been made possible through the

digitalization of the registration process on the www.monentreprise.bj platform and the simplification and decrease in the number of procedures from six to one. The step formerly known as the “declaration of existence”, which was obligatory, has now been eliminated. In addition, the interconnection and centralization of certain services within one single platform has eliminated various round trips between banks, notaries and other actors in the chain of business creation.

The prerequisite is to have an internet connection, a smartphone, or a computer. Once these conditions have been met, the entrepreneur creates a file by filling in a single form and uploading all the required documents online. The user can also check the availability of the enterprise name and choose the type of enterprise that should be created.

► A simplified process

Create your file.	Create your profile using the interactive guide, fill in the single form and upload your documents.
Pay fees.	Check the total cost of inscriptions fees, pay online or at the cashier desk of your one-stop shop (GUFE).
Get your certificates.	Receive electronic certificates by e-mail.

Monentreprise allows entrepreneurs to set up an enterprise and carry out all the necessary formalities online, without having to go to the Investment and Export Promotion Agency. After registering online on the platform, users receive a QR code generated by the platform, which enables them to obtain and print all the documents and certificates related to their enterprise. These include:

1. Business registration (*Immatriculation au registre de commerce et du crédit mobilier, RCCM*)
2. Unique tax identification number (*Identifiant Fiscal Unique, IFU*)
3. Public notice (*annonce légale*)
4. Declaration of establishment to the Directorate-General for Labour (DGT)
5. Professional ID (*carte professionnelle*), valid for two years.



In other words, *Monentreprise* covers business registration and other registration procedures during the formalization process by applying a one stop shop concept, utilising synergies and making interagency coordination more efficient to the benefit of the entrepreneur. Various legal forms such as a single and multi-person or incorporated companies, firms with and without limited liability as well as economic interest groups can be registered. The platform also simplifies the process of tax registration and payment. For a sole proprietorship, a fee of 10,000 West African CFA franc (FCFA) (US\$18.00) applies. For a larger company, the fee is 17,000 FCFA (US\$30.60¹).

The fees associated with business registration can be paid online, on the same platform. Mobile payment is facilitated by Open-Si's payment aggregator "KKiipay", a single, customizable, online platform to make secure financial transactions via mobile money, credit cards, and bank accounts. Fees can also be paid online with a bank card, via mobile phone through Moov Money or MTN Mobile Money (money transfer platforms), or physically at an APIEx cash desk. After successfully completing these steps, the entrepreneur receives an email containing all the documents attesting to the registration of the enterprise.

2. What has been achieved?

The primary aim of this platform is to facilitate business registration, and support formalization. Entrepreneurs that register through this system do not pay any tax during the first year of their activities, but the tax authorities will thereafter be able to identify them. Monentreprise was launched just before the COVID-19 crisis, and it assisted in the acceleration of enterprise formalization. The number of businesses created between March and June 2020 averaged 2,783. Up to mid-May 2021, already more than 4,000 business have been created per month.

One-third of the entrepreneurs that registered through this system were women, half were under 30 and half were based outside Cotonou. Government officials were able to check documents and approve company applications from home, respecting a two-hour time limit. The creation of an online business registration platform was very timely, given the risks associated with in-person interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1 Exchange rate on 6 April 2021: US\$1 equals 555.54 West African CFA franc.

► Costs to register a business

Registration	Costs
Business registration	5,000 FCFA
Professional ID	5,000 FCFA
Registration of an unique tax identification number	Free of charge
Declaration of establishment	Free of charge
Registration of the business at the National Social Security Fund (CNSS)	Free of charge
Public notice	Free of charge
Confirmation from the Investment and Export Promotion Agency	Free of charge
Total costs	10,000 FCFA

Source: <http://www.gufebenin.org/index.php/creation-d-un-etablissement>

3. Resources

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- 🔗 Rogez, O. (2021). [Le Bénin champion du monde de vitesse pour la création d'entreprise.](#)
- 🔗 UNCTAD (2020). [How the UN helped Benin become the world's fastest place to start a business on a mobile phone.](#)

Please contact us in case you have any comments or questions with respect to this case study.



More case studies on enterprise formalization can be found [here](#)