

**EBF publishes Toolkit on setting up public-private policy dialogue framework in candidate and other Eastern European countries**

The European Banking Federation is pleased to announce the publication of the ‘SPI Platform Toolkit’, derived from the World Bank’s Convergence Program. The Toolkit is a set of governance, analysis and operating processes of a public-private dialogue platform for national banking associations in Eastern European countries. This approach has already been effectively tested by the World Bank in Albania, Romania and other Western Balkans countries.

The Special Project Initiative (SPI) Toolkit is intended to be of service to the EBF Associate Members<sup>1</sup>, i.e. national banking Associations, as they develop collaboration with their financial authorities to identify opportunities and needs for reform to improve the role of banks as financial intermediaries.

The SPI Platform Toolkit distils the experience of the World Bank’s Convergence Program which was set up in 2005 with a five-year mandate to explore how to catalyse cooperation between financial authorities, market participants and civil society in order to facilitate reforms that enhance the financial sector’s contribution to growth in South-East Europe.

“The SPI Platform creates a safe and structured space to work out practical solutions to make the financial system work better for entrepreneurs and households”, said Luigi Passamonti, World Bank Senior Adviser and Head and Founder of the Convergence Program.

Based on the EU Better Regulation principles, the SPI Platform promotes transparent evidence-based professional dialogue in order to put in place a large scale financial modernisation program. “The SPI Platform embodies the values that reflect the engagement of the European Banking Federation with its public counterparts” said Guido Ravoet, Secretary General of the European Banking Federation. “This Toolkit will help our Associates play an even more important role in stimulating financial modernisation in their respective countries”.

The SPI Platform Toolkit is available at:

<http://www.ebf-fbe.eu/content/Default.asp?PageID=250>

More information on the Convergence Program can be found at: [www.convergence-see.eu](http://www.convergence-see.eu)

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<sup>1</sup> EBF Associates: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.

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**Note to the Editor**

Set up in 1960, the European Banking Federation is the voice of the European banking sector (EU and EFTA countries). The EBF represents the interests of some 5000 European banks: large and small, wholesale and retail, local and cross-border financial institutions