

How Can EBF Help Its Associates?

9.1. EBF Assistance for its Associates

One of EBF's guiding principles refers at promoting Better Regulation in the EU and at winning support for regulatory convergence abroad, in order "to alleviate the burden on banks and improve their competitiveness".

EBF identified the SPI Platform, designed and operated by the World Bank's Convergence Program, as a suitable instrument to implement these guiding principles in candidate and other countries in Eastern Europe.

By sponsoring the publication of this *Toolkit*, EBF offers a new service to its Associates –support for implementing SPI Platform and for helping raise financial support for these activities from EU financial assistance programs. Through the *Toolkit*, EBF helps to enhance the analytical capacities of its Associates, with positive effects on the integration of candidate and other Eastern European countries into the EU Single Financial Market.

EBF supports its Associates in establishing and operating SPI Platform partnerships (please see **Annex IX-1** – the letter to EBF Associates). Possible EBF support measures are provided in **Annex IX-2**.

9.2. EBF Support at each Stage of Implementation

9.2.1. Support for Associates in Building Consensus on Establishing SPI Platforms

Through the letter presented in **Annex IX-1**, EBF could encourage its Associates to state their commitment to bilateral discussions with members of banking associations and public authorities.

EBF might consider participating in meetings with stakeholders if required to do so by the Associate. The presentation in **Annex IX-2** may be used to illustrate EBF's offer on such occasions.

EBF experts could also participate in the Better Regulation and RIA seminar to share the knowledge of the experiences of EU members, as reflected in its December 2007 report¹⁵.

9.2.2. Support for Associate in Preparing a Request for EU Funding for an SPI Platform

EBF can keep its Associates informed of changes in the assistance programs developed by the European Commission and could provide samples of successful applications. It can also provide supporting letters to back up its Associates' funding applications, and could intervene to facilitate the formation of the regional partnerships. And, depending on the needs of Associates, EBF could help to mobilize assistance in drafting the application for EU funding.

¹⁵

http://www.fbe.be/DocShareNoFrame/Docs/1/HOMLKALBOMBBOBFOCMJFGNKABRDVOHT4JH681BOQHUC5N/EBF/docs/DLS/Better_Regulation_EBFReport_2007-2007-02318-01-E.pdf

EBF might consider applying for EU funding itself, and take part in forming a European partnership. As a beneficiary of EU funding, EBF would have the financial means to provide technical assistance, organize training and knowledge-sharing events for its partners, offer guidance on efficient operation of SPI Platforms, assess their performance and promote best practices and regional initiatives.

9.2.3. Assistance to Associates in SPI formation

EBF may send a congratulatory letter to the newly established SPI Committee on the occasion of its first meeting (**Annex IX-3**). This will reinforce its support for the initiative and offer its contribution SPI Committee activities.

9.2.4. Support in Operating the SPI Platform

EBF can provide support for projects run by SPI Platforms through its members. Technical assistance might take the form of peer review of documents produced by project working groups or advice on international experience, EU regulations and possible solutions to problems.

EBF can make available to SPI Platforms a list of experts to be contacted if needed, and can facilitate contact with them and encourage their participation in SPI Platform events or projects.

EBF can use its regular meetings to share knowledge about SPI Platforms. It could organize special events and training seminars or workshops by pooling resources from SPI Platforms and from its members.

The EBF website could host a forum for SPI Platforms where members can share views, concerns and solutions.

ANNEX

	ANNEX Section Page Number
Annex IX-1 European Banking Federation Letter to SPI Committee	331
Annex IX-2 Presentation on European Banking Federation Support Offer to its Associates	333
Annex IX-3 European Banking Federation Congratulatory Letter	335

