

WELCOME NOTE

As part of the services that the European Banking Federation provides to its Associates, I am happy to make available this *Toolkit*, based on experience of the World Bank's Convergence Program, which will help our Associates play an even more important role in stimulating financial modernization in their own countries.

Through its structured public-private cooperation focused on removing obstacles to fluid financial intermediation, the SPI Platform initiative helps better align the banking industry activities with the needs of the real economy – and contributes to a more balanced post-crisis response. Tightening prudential regulations, while necessary, can stifle the economy in the absence of measures to revitalize financial intermediation.

Furthermore, the SPI Platform itself, which is based on the principles of transparent evidence-based professional dialogue and consensus-driven recommendations, embodies the values that have been informing the public engagement of the European Banking Federation with its public counterparts.

Therefore, helping its Associates promote SPI Platforms in their own countries is a small contribution that the European Banking Federation makes to constructive and responsible public-private dialogue for sustainable economic prosperity in candidate and other countries in Eastern Europe.

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