



# Office for South East Europe

European Commission/World Bank



*International Financial Institutions Advisory Group meeting on Human Development*

*June 17, 2008*

*Rue du Trône 4, 1000 Brussels*

## **Draft Agenda**

### **Enhancing opportunities for employment in the Western Balkans**

- 10.00-10.15** **Introductory remarks** by the Chair of the IFIAG Human Development Working Group, Mr. Yngve Engström, European Commission, DG Enlargement
- 10.15-11.45** **Enhancing labour skills through education and Vocational Training**
- Education and VET : a priority of the Lisbon Agenda (EC)
  - Education and labour market in the Balkans (World Bank)
  - Overview of national education and VET programs: main challenges for education and training policies (European Training Foundation)
- 11.45-12.00** **Coffee Break**
- 12:00-13:00** **Overview of activities and coordination mechanisms**
- The regional agenda : the Education Regional Initiative (ERI) under the RCC (RCC representative)
  - Tour de Table on IFIs activities in education and VET
  - Proposals for next steps to improve coordination and synergies at national level and to promote regional cooperation (Joint Office)
- 13.00-14.00** **Lunch**
- 14:00-14:45** **Reducing the skills gap - a key challenge for job creation in the Western Balkans**
- Findings and recommendations emerging from the study "Defining and Strengthening Sources of Sector Specific Competitiveness in the Western Balkans" (Mr Anthony O'Sullivan/ Mr Fadi Farra-OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe)
- 14.45-16:00** **Increasing employment through SME support and Micro-credit –**
- Financing Small and micro enterprises: lessons learnt from the European Fund for South Europe (KfW-tbc/DG Enlargement)
  - Tour de table on SME support activities (including, identification of main obstacles to implementation)
- 16:00-16.15** **EU Project Preparation Facilities (PPF) for infrastructure projects in the transport, energy, environment and social sector** (E C, DG Enlargement)
- 16.15-16.30** **Coffee break**
- 16.30-17.15** **Brainstorming on future priorities for the IFI Advisory Group on Social Sectors**
- 17.00-17.30** **Conclusions**