



**European Bank**  
for Reconstruction and Development



# What's Holding Back the Private Sector in MENA?

## Lessons from the Enterprise Survey

The formal private sector in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economies needs to play a critical role for the overall economic transformation of the region. Creating a conducive environment for private sector development depends on a sound understanding of the performance of private firms, as well as the problems they face.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the World Bank (WB), have collaborated on a joint report – What's holding back the private sector in MENA? The report addresses four issues that are at the heart of private sector development in the MENA region: the general business environment; firm finance and financial constraints; employment in the private sector; and competitiveness, with a focus on trade, innovation and management practices. It provides an in depth analysis of these issues and discusses the policy responses that are needed. The report is based

on the results of the MENA Enterprise Survey which was designed and financed jointly by the EBRD, the EIB and the WB, to gain a better understanding of factors affecting firms' behaviour, firm dynamics and growth prospects. The survey covers some 6,000 firms in eight economies in the region and is a unique and rich source of information, now at the disposal of economists, the business community and policy makers.

This conference will bring together representatives of relevant authorities and national institutions as well as from the private and financial sectors. The first part of the event will include the presentation of the joint study and its conclusions. The second part will focus on the report's implications for the Arab Republic of Egypt and on future steps for the MENA region with regards to strategies and priorities for future operations, along with a discussion of the operational strategies of the three institutions involved.

Monday, 25 July 2016 - Conrad Hotel, 1191 Corniche el Nil, Cairo

**8.30 – 9.00** Registration and Welcome Coffee

**09.00 - 11.00** **Part I: Private Sector Development in the MENA Region**

Presentation of the survey results by **Debora Revoltella**, Chief Economist, EIB

**Panel Discussion**

- **Tarek Hassan Amer**, Governor, Central Bank of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- **Sergei Guriev**, Incoming Chief Economist, EBRD
- **Kaushik Basu**, Sr. Vice President and Chief Economist, WB
- **Ahmed Galal**, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum

Q&A

**11.00 – 11.30** Coffee Break

**11.30 – 13.00** **Part II: Future Steps in the Arab Republic of Egypt and in the MENA Region**

Keynote Speech by Her Excellency **Dr. Sahar Nasr**, Minister of International Cooperation, Arab Republic of Egypt

**Panel Discussion**

- **Philip ter Woort**, Director, Head of Egypt, EBRD
- **Marion Hoenicke**, Head of SMEs finance Neighbouring Countries, EIB
- **Asad Alam**, Country Director Djibouti, Republic of Yemen and Arab Republic of Egypt, WB

Q&A

**13.15 – 14.30** Lunch

Part I of the conference moderated by **Jonathan Charles**, Director of Communications, EBRD.

Part II of the conference moderated by **Phillip Jeremy Hay**, Communications Advisor, World Bank.

A light lunch will be served following the conference.