

Closing remark

Training Program on Economic Diplomacy for Lebanese Diplomats How European development cooperation works Thursday 27 November 2025

Good afternoon,

*Your Excellencies, Ambassadors,
Dear Public Policy Consultants and advisors,
Esteemed colleagues, distinguished guests, and dear partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

As we bring this Economic Diplomacy Training Program to a close, allow me first to express my deep appreciation for your active participation, thoughtful contributions, and commitment throughout these intensive days of learning.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our speakers, trainers, and partners particularly the **Italian Embassy in Lebanon** and the esteemed **University of Rome - Tor Vergata** for their expertise, commitment, and unwavering support for the objectives of this program.

Building on years of work in public financial management, international cooperation, and capacity development, the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan recognizes that **Lebanese diplomats are indispensable to any credible reform and recovery plan**. This program is therefore a natural extension of the Institute's long-standing mission to **strengthen public sector capacities, promote evidence-based policies, and support Lebanon's integration into global economic and governance frameworks**.

The current situation of Lebanon, more than ever before, necessitates to extend its **diplomacy far beyond its traditional politics**, tackling **economics issues, building trust, and forging strong and strategic partnerships**. This program has been designed precisely to offer an opportunity to deep dive into the global economic complexity, and the international mechanisms of sustainable development.

Throughout the sessions, we trust you have gained a clearer understanding of the EU's cooperation approach, its financial instruments, and policy priorities. The insights shared by high-level representatives from the European Commission and the Italian Embassy have, we hope, illustrated how environmental and economic diplomacy shape the EU-Lebanon partnership and international cooperation more broadly.

Today, EU–Lebanon cooperation is more important than ever. Lebanon faces profound economic, social, and institutional challenges that cannot be addressed in isolation. The European Union remains a reliable and strategic partner, offering financial support, access to global markets, and a governance framework anchored in predictability and accountability.

Most importantly, the EU provides a foundation of **credibility**, which Lebanon urgently needs to rebuild trust with international institutions, restore investor confidence, and anchor its recovery in sustainable, rules-based cooperation.

As Amine Maalouf once said” My deep conviction is that **the future is not written anywhere; the future will be what we make it.**” Therefore, our task now is to maintain this momentum. Let us continue to strengthen expertise, deepen engagement, and, most importantly, translate our shared knowledge into tangible actions for Lebanon’s reform and recovery.

To mark this important step, we will soon gather at the Italian Embassy for a special ceremony to formally award you with the certificates related to this program. This gathering will be an occasion to reaffirm the commitment of all stakeholders as to Lebanon’s reform and international cooperation agenda.

We encourage you to **stay connected, exchange insights, and carry forward the collaborative spirit** that has defined these sessions.

Before officially closing, we warmly invite you to join us for a cocktail reception. This will be a perfect opportunity to network, exchange impressions, and celebrate the collective commitment that made this program possible.

Thank you once again for **your presence, your energy, and your dedication.**

We wish you a **pleasant afternoon and continued success** in your important missions.

Thank you.