

Welcoming note
Training Program on Economic Diplomacy for Lebanese Diplomats
How European development cooperation works
18 November 2025 - Online

Good morning,

- **Ms. Silvia Tosi, Deputy Ambassador of Italy to Lebanon,**
- **Your Excellencies, Ambassadors,**
- **Dear Public Policy Consultants and advisors,**
- **Dear Partners, and Colleagues,**
- **Professore Gustavo Piga, Director of the IMPPM Program at the University of Rome Tor Vergata,**

It is a real pleasure to welcome you today all to this first-time program on Economic Diplomacy that the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan is co-organizing with the University of Rome Tor Vergata in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Italy to Lebanon.

We are truly honored to have amongst us for this program esteemed participants from the Lebanese Diplomatic corps, from the EU Diplomatic Corps, from Academia, and from the public service, Public Policy Consultants to MPs and ministers.

The title of the program, “Economic Diplomacy: How European Development Cooperation Works,” reflects a core conviction: that strategic cooperation is fundamental to progress. The growing partnership between the Embassy of Italy, the University of Rome Tor Vergata, and the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan stands as a proof of this conviction.

We are so happy to witness the progress of our collaboration with our Italian partners. It all began with a Master's program in Public Procurement Management with the University of Rome Tor Vergata, it expanded to a Certification program which equipped more than 38 Lebanese civil servants and practitioners in Public Procurement with modern tools for transparent, efficient, and accountable procurement systems.

And now, we are pursuing this beautiful partnership by exploring a new horizon: **The Economic Diplomacy** with the aim of enhancing Lebanon's engagement with the EU and strengthen its role in the global economy.

Economic diplomacy is important because it helps countries attract investments, open markets, secure financial support, and shape economic policies through international partnerships.

And in Lebanon's current context—marked by severe financial crisis, weak institutions, and urgent need for external support—Economic Diplomacy is even more crucial. Effective economic diplomacy can help Lebanon regain investor confidence, negotiate aid packages, support reforms, reconnect with global markets, and mobilize international backing for economic recovery.

The **European Union** has played a crucial role in Lebanon by supporting **humanitarian needs, economic stabilization, governance reforms, and institutional development.**

Thus, the importance of getting fully acquainted with the mechanisms of How the European Development Cooperation Works.

In conclusion, please allow me again to express our sincere gratitude to our key partners and stakeholders whose commitment and support have made this program possible:

- The **Embassy of Italy to Lebanon**, for its continuous support and commitment to capacity development.
- The **University of Rome Tor Vergata**, for its academic leadership and long-standing partnership with the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan.

For us, this partnership is more than a program, it is a roadmap for Lebanon's recovery, where diplomacy drives reform, and reform builds the path for sustainable growth and stability. And allow me to add that this program is coming at a very timely momentum. It is coinciding with the launch, today, of the first big conference entitled "Beirut ONE" initiated by the current government, with the objective of restoring confidence in Lebanon, promoting investment opportunities, and shifting Lebanon from crisis management to economic growth.

So, thank you for your interest in this program and thank you for being with us today.

I wish you a most fruitful and inspiring program.