

SPI ALBANIA

FINANCIAL SECTOR ANALYST

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The position

The Financial Sector Analyst will be a member of the SPI Secretariat that will orchestrate the activities of SPI Albania, the public-private partnership for Albanian financial sector modernization created with the World Bank's Convergence Program support. SPI Albania is placed under the oversight of a Public-Private Steering Committee (the SPI Committee), which represents a high-level commitment to public-private dialogue on financial sector development.

In the SPI context, the Financial Sector Analyst will fulfill the functions of "SPI Director of Analytics and Policy" (DAP). He/she will cooperate closely with the "SPI Director of Operations" (DOP) that is also part of the SPI Albania. He/she will be supported by a Banking Sector Technical Anchor that is also member of the SPI Secretariat.

His/her role consists of the following responsibilities:

- To prepare background studies, using international benchmarkings as an input into regulatory change proposals requested by the SPI Committee;
- To prepare various analytical materials for project working group discussion with a view to analyze these issues in depth and prepare a summary report reflecting the views of the working group members for SPI Committee consideration;
- To identify the most critical regulatory issues faced by Albanian banks to broaden their product range and increase their accessibility to existing and potential clients.

Reporting

The DAP will report to the SPI Regional Operations Director, who in turn reports to the Head of the Convergence Program.

Requirements

This position requires an ability to interface with tact and decisiveness with senior authorities, the local banking community and international organizations.

Additional requirements are as follows:

- Entrepreneurial desire to build a new "institution", under limited guidance, coping with ambiguity and uncertainties.
- Strong motivation to work hard under tight deadlines to meet ambitious objectives.
- Exceptionally developed interpersonal skills.
- Broad exposure to financial sector policy and business issues (min. 5 years).
- Proven business development and project management skills.
- Good analytical and quantitative skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Albanian.
- MBA or Masters in Finance/Economics/Law strongly preferred.

Context

Administered by the World Bank, the “Convergence” Program has been set up to promote the build-up of analytical capabilities in financial economics, banking and finance and legal and regulatory matters within the civil society of its seven countries of operations in South-East Europe.

To achieve this objective, it uses two instruments: 1) to undertake analytical studies of micro-structural issues that, if properly regulated, could impact the growth of financial sector intermediation; 2) to bring the results of these studies and other sponsored by other institutions, supported by a specific “Convergence” opinion, to the attention of authorities for decision-making after open public consultations.

Convergence has found common understanding and willingness among the Albanian financial industry stakeholders to start shaping an evidence-based and proportionate regulatory-making method to pursue the modernization of Albania’s financial sector as it strives to converge towards the EU Single Financial Market practices. The Special Projects Initiative is intended to support this evolution.