

## **EBTN successfully launches a new quality standard for professional qualifications in the European banking and financial services industry**

*Triple E Standard manifests the ambition of EBTN to contribute to rebuilding trust and confidence in financial services*

**EBTN, the European Banking & Financial Services Training Association, the Brussels-based united voice of leading training providers in banking and financial services, successfully launched the Triple E Standard, a quality standard for professional qualifications in the European banking and financial industry. The Triple E Standard specifies how a non-formal qualification should be designed and executed. It is not a certification tool for individuals, it is an accreditation recognition for institutions of the quality of qualifications they provide. The Triple E Standard recognises existing national good practices and accepts automatically the levels and institutional accreditations awarded by national competent authorities. Approximately 100 executives attended the conference in Brussels on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015, hosted by the European Banking Federation (EBF).**

After welcome statements of Mr. Clemens Spoorenberg, EBTN President, and Mr. Koen Venekamp, EBTN General Secretary, EBF Chief Executive Mr. Wim Mijs opened the conference. “I congratulate EBTN on this brave project. It is now up to the members of EBTN to use it and introduce it at national level”, Mr. Mijs said. Further, Mr. Mijs emphasised the importance of lifelong learning for professionals in the banking industry and the pivotal role of EBTN members in that regard. Referring to EBF’s recent annual conference on ‘A Brave New World for Banks’ Mr. Mijs concluded with: “Brave banks need brave bankers. Despite the digital revolution in banking, skilled professionals will make the difference”.

An address on behalf of the European Commission, who co-funded the Triple E project, was delivered by Mr. João Santos, responsible for vocational training and adult education at the Commission’s Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. “I am impressed how you efficaciously integrated the three lifelong learning instruments EQF, ECVET and EQAVET”, Mr. Santos said. “I would encourage you to take it further, for example in relation to the EU’s funds for Skills Alliances”.

Mr. Clemens Spoorenberg, EBTN President, and Mrs. Mariola Szymańska-Koszczyk, EBTN Vice President, then launched the Triple E Standard. “The Triple E Standard is like a dream trip on a beautiful sailing boat: you need an attractive destination. You need a solid boat. You need some port infrastructure, and finally you need some rules to know how to navigate. With the Triple E Standard you should be able to get where you want to be in your professional development as an individual, as a manager, as an organisation, and finally as a sector”, Mrs. Szymańska-Koszczyk emphasised.

After the plenary part the delegates participated in two breakout sessions. The first session, ‘What’s in it for me?’, focused on the benefits of the Triple E Standard for the various stakeholders. The second session, ‘Let’s put it in practice’ concentrated on how to use the Triple E Standard in the design of qualifications.

The conference concluded with a round table session moderated by Mr. Simon Thompson, Chief Executive of the Chartered Banker Institute. The panellists representing the employers, employees and banks welcome the Triple E Standard as an important instrument to enhance employability of bank employees and raise quality of training in the sector. The educational experts were impressed by the technical quality of the standard itself and the way the lifelong learning instruments were implemented.

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*More information about the Triple E Standard is available via:*

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