



European Federation of Building Societies

Fédération Européenne d'Épargne et
de Crédit pour le Logement

Europäische Bausparkassenvereinigung

Leading voice for stable housing finance
in Europe

The European Federation of Building Societies (EFBS)

is an association of credit and other institutions promoting and supporting housing finance.

With its foundation on 29 August 1962, the EFBS was one of the first credit federations at the European level. During the last decades the European Federation of Building Societies has continuously represented the interests of its members from all over Europe and supported the idea of home ownership in Europe.



Currently the EFBS has around 50 members throughout Europe. Together its members have a considerable market share in housing financing. Their average market share on the relevant markets is around 30 %.

Participating members may be credit and other institutes or their associations domiciled in a member state of the European Union, a signatory state of the Agreement on the European Economic Area, or in a state having applied for European Union membership.

Corresponding members may be institutions domiciled in one of the countries mentioned above, countries bordering to the Mediterranean Sea and countries in Eastern Europe. Institutions whose national associations are participating members of the Federation are only permitted to become corresponding members.

Objectives

The Federation is committed to political and economic integration in Europe and

- promotes the idea of home ownership,
- represents the interests of its members in the European Union,
- ensures that its members are kept informed about progress in European unification and about the measures taken to this end by the bodies of the European Union and
- supports and intensifies mutual information and exchange of experiences among its members in the field of housing finance and housing policy.

The EFBS is the voice of European housing finance. The Federation has its focus on housing finance with a stable capital basis which has proved its robustness even in times of crises.

Bodies

The EFBS is directed by the following bodies:

- The General Assembly, consisting of all participating and corresponding members, defines the general principles of the policy of the Federation.
- The affairs of the Federation are conducted by a Council of Management which is responsible for defining the objectives to be achieved according to the Constitution of the Federation and to take the measures necessary to this end.



Points of detail are elaborated by the Technical Committees. A Legal Affairs Committee, a Housing Policy and Marketing Committee and a Financial Affairs Committee have been set up as standing committees.

Activities and Publications of the EFBS

The member institutes of the EFBS have always focussed on the establishment of a well-functioning housing finance system in countries of transition. The activities of the EFBS and its members especially in the new Member States and accession countries have thus made a contribution to the local development of the housing sector.

The EFBS is one of the leading European federations in the financial services sector. In this function it also represents the interests of its members in the European Banking Industry Committee (EBIC) as well as in other consultative panels.

Apart from its activities at European level, the EFBS also maintains permanent contact with other organisations and institutes active in the housing finance sector at an international level such as the World Bank, UN-Habitat, OECD and BIS.

Since 2011 EFBS has been running the secretariat of the International Union of Housing Finance.

The EFBS also organises Conventions and Congresses on International and European housing issues on a regular basis.

The EFBS publishes Annual Reports with informative articles on relevant EU and housing topics. Apart from statistics and other information on housing finance and the house construction market sector in the EU it informs about the latest developments in these fields.

Moreover, it reports on the events organised by the Federation during the year and studies undertaken in housing finance and housing policy in the European countries.

The EFBS Newsletter is published in the EFBS working languages and provides up to date information on recent developments at EU level which are of importance for its members. Moreover, it focuses on core issues of European legislation which are related to home financing. This Newsletter is issued about six to eight times a year in an electronic version and distributed online directly to the members.

As an internal networking service, the EFBS also organises annual and semi-annual meetings in Brussels and in other significant places in Europe. In general, these meetings are joined by high level representatives of national governments, European institutions as well as academic researchers.



The EFBS also offers an online service for its members providing access to a compilation on relevant European Union legislation and background documents as well as a directory of recent case law of the European Court of Justice in the three working languages of the Federation.

The EFBS considers itself as an intermediary and contact point between the members of the EFBS and the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament and the European Council.

By promoting stable housing finance, the Federation and its members contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda: to create a sustainable framework and economic development for all European citizens.



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