

NEW EUROPE

European
Forum
Alpbach
2022



ERSTE
Stiftung

High-Level Retreat on Financial Literacy

[#efa22](#)

European Forum Alpbach
21 August – 2 September
Alpbach, Tyrol



Co-curated with [Three Coins](#)



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Executive Summary

Europe is at a turning point facing multiple challenges. Financial Education is one of the key measures when it comes to address the financial wellbeing of its citizens. Selected experts and opinion leaders followed the call to Alpbach this year to attend the High-Level Retreat on Financial Literacy. Topics that were addressed during the retreat were:

- Session 1: The influence of financial literacy on creating a socially balanced economy
- Session 2: Status quo and the potential of capital market participation and the role ideology plays
- Session 3: Evaluating impactful measures to increase the financial health of European citizens

I. Overarching Agreements

- Financial literacy can positively contribute to social mobility. The most enhancing factors are basic financial skills (e.g. planning, budgeting, long-term thinking), awareness and motivation.
- The most important factors which prevent social mobility are social influence and consumer culture.
- Financial literacy leads to better decision making, wellbeing and more capital market participation.
- Financial literacy is a lifelong process.

II. Outcomes

One of the main goals of this retreat was to come up with concrete measures that would increase the financial wellbeing of European citizens. After an extensive valuation, the group of selected experts agreed on the following three measures:

- Make **yearly financial health checks** a habit for everyone. Similar to a health check-up, each person's financial health should undergo an annual check-up and, if necessary, derive measures for improvement.
- Introduction of a **strong pillar 2 – pension scheme**. Occupational pension plans are an important pillar of our pension system. Strengthening this pillar, and the opportunity to participate indirectly in the capital market through it, promotes financial independence in old age.
- **Financial Literacy for Politicians**
Politicians should undergo trainings on financial literacy. In this way, the topic of financial education and its effects should be made more relevant in politics and taken into account in future decisions.

The retreat participants found these measures as most important to secure the financial future of Europeans and to create social equality. The group is committed to ensuring that these measures are implemented.