

## EBRD's Transition report 2021-22

Launch Event – 12 April 2022 – 10:00 to 13:00 – Nile Ritz Carlton

### ***System Upgrade: delivering the digital dividend***

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's newest Transition Report (2021-22), "System Upgrade: delivering the digital dividend" looks at how our countries of operations are doing on leveraging digitalisation as a driver of growth – especially after the Covid-19 pandemic. It looks at various dimensions of digitalisation, from physical infrastructure, to skills, enterprise performance and Fintech. Extensive data work, including dedicated surveys – including on countries in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean – was undertaken to inform the report and generates some interesting insights:

- While economies with medium levels of digitalisation have been catching up with advanced economies, those with the lowest levels (including most countries in SEMED) have been falling further behind – and despite starting from a low base.
- Underdeveloped digital skills are the key constraint holding back digital upgrades to economic systems in many parts of the EBRD regions. In this respect, thanks to numerous reforms since 2016, skills have improved most in Egypt (albeit from a low base), with improvements in several key schooling/digital skills indicators.
- Digital divides may also contribute to increased divergence in the performance of firms, with larger, better-managed and more innovative firms being more likely to reap digital dividends. Digitalisation of financial services could be a key driver of better access for Small firms and households to finance and banking products, and thus promote inclusive development.

EBRD's Chief Economist, **Professor Beata Javorcik**, will present the report's findings, and the launch event will also discuss the main opportunities and challenges facing the private sector in Egypt.

#### Agenda:

10:30 – 10:35	Introductory Remarks by Dr Heike Harmgart, MD SEMED, EBRD
10:35 – 10:50	Introductory Remarks by H.E. Dr Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation and EBRD governor
10:50 – 11:20	Transition Report Presentation: Professor Beata Javorcik, Chief economist, EBRD
11:20 – 12:05	Panel Discussion moderated by Dr Heike Harmgart, MD SEMED, EBRD <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Yasser Shaker, CEO, Orange Egypt</li><li>• Professor Beata Javorcik, Chief economist, EBRD</li><li>• Mr Karim Hussein, Managing Partner, Algebra Ventures</li></ul>
12:05 – 12:50	Q&A
12:50 – 13:00	Concluding Remarks by Dr Heike Harmgart, MD SEMED, EBRD