

## **HRH the Grand Duchess shows continued support for Luxembourg's innovative inclusive finance ecosystem**

**Luxembourg, May 5, 2025** – Inclusive Finance Network Luxembourg (InFiNe) hosted Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg at the Maison de la Microfinance on April 30 on an occasion that served to underline the Grand Duchy's status as a global center for the inclusive finance sector.

The daytime event was a showcase for the innovative work in inclusive finance and microfinance on the part of nine Luxembourg organizations: Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA), Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), European Microfinance Platform (e-MFP), Financing Innovation Tool (FIT), Inclusive Finance Network Luxembourg (InFiNe), Investment for Development (IforD), Microinsurance Network (MiN), Microlux SIS, and Social Performance Task Force (SPTF).

HRH the Grand Duchess was welcomed to the Maison de la Microfinance by Tom Pfeiffer, Chairman of the Board at InFiNe, together with Patrick Losch, Chairman of Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA).

In his speech to welcome HRH the Grand Duchess, Pfeiffer said:

*"Your Royal Highness, your presence here today serves not only as inspiration but also as validation of our collective work. We know that behind your support lies a profound belief in the dignity of all people and their right to economic opportunity. This belief drives us all forward in our mission to ensure that financial services become truly accessible to everyone, especially the most vulnerable."*

HRH the Grand Duchess, a longstanding supporter of microfinance and other forms of combating global inequality, was offered brief presentations by each of the nine Luxembourg-based organizations to explain their key activities and objectives.

Nestled in the heart of Luxembourg City, Maison de la Microfinance serves as a dynamic hub for the country's inclusive finance ecosystem, hosting a diverse range of internationally active institutions.

Each of these organizations plays a vital role in tackling financial exclusion, both within Luxembourg and across developing and emerging economies. From microcredit and impact investment, to microinsurance and policy innovation, their combined efforts demonstrate the strength and synergy of a unique ecosystem.

Together, these institutions exemplify the power of collaboration in driving inclusive finance forward, reinforcing Luxembourg's position as a leading voice in building a more equitable financial future worldwide.

A position that Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg has been fostering and advocating for, for more than three decades: *"Years ago, my dream was for Luxembourg to become a European—and indeed global—platform and example in microfinance. Looking at what we've accomplished together, what you have accomplished, I must say I am very proud of what Luxembourg has achieved today."*

InFiNe was founded in 2014 to stimulate financial inclusion as a key for poverty alleviation and the empowerment of low-income groups. InFiNe brings together 44 members, key stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors, creating a unique platform to help transform Luxembourg's collective financial expertise into effective global deployment of inclusive finance initiatives.

*"It's very important to mention that a network represents the ability to unite members from diverse backgrounds with a shared objective. Luxembourg is widely recognized around the world as a key player in financial inclusion,"* reminded Philippe Guichandut, Interim Director of InFiNe.

Inclusive finance refers to the provision of affordable financial services, such as banking, credit, insurance, and savings, to individuals and businesses that have been excluded from traditional financial systems. Inclusive finance seeks to empower marginalized communities, foster entrepreneurship, and promote economic growth while reducing income inequality.

According to the World Bank, 2.5 billion people around the world remain excluded from financial services. Most are in developing countries – but not all: more than 13 million adult EU citizens still lack access to formal financial services.

The event highlighted the critical need for de-risking mechanisms to attract more investment into the inclusive and impact finance sectors. InFiNe's newly launched dedicated working group aims to develop its members' knowledge and capabilities in this area, and to advocate for Luxembourg to set up its own de-risking mechanism to encourage greater private sector participation.

Several participants emphasized the importance of listening to and understanding local contexts before designing financial solutions, and to adapt the tools and responses: a statement shared by all participants including Her Royal Highness.