

# EBRD-CSO Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with the EBRD

Welcome to the  
CSO Newsletter

October 2022

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## Foreword

Dear reader,

**Welcome to another edition of the CSO newsletter!**

In this issue, we reflect on our activity over the summer months and look forward to this year's COP27 climate conference in Egypt.

We highlight what we have been up to in two very successful technical cooperation projects: the first, a cross-regional project in Kosovo and the Kyrgyz Republic on public procurement oversight by civil society, and the second, a project to support Jordan's first jobs portal dedicated to the tourism and hospitality sector.

In this issue, we would also like to share with you some of the key findings of the survey we conducted in the first half of the year on the EBRD's civil-society engagement.

Your participation in this survey is very much appreciated and we will continue our dialogue with civil society organisations to further enhance our engagement.

The summer months also saw some changes to the EBRD's Civil Society Engagement team, so keep reading to find out more.

Happy reading!

The CSE team



# MAIN ACTIVITY

## Enhancing civil-society capacity to monitor public procurement

The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on the economy and people around the world. At the onset, citizens and the business community faced unique challenges from the pandemic itself, but also from the emergency policies and measures governments put in place to mobilise the purchase of supplies and services needed to fight the disease. Public procurement is already the No. 1 governmental corruption risk, with the medical sector particularly risky due to its complex procurement and sourcing requirements. To prevent the abuse of Covid-19 response instruments and measures, it was essential to support civil-society capacity for the monitoring of efficient spending and the delivery of public goods and services.



CSOs play a crucial role in the monitoring, development and implementation of EBRD projects, policies and strategies – as both an integral audience and partners in the economies where we operate. They further promote valuable policy dialogue and foster good governance by providing the checks and balances that hold public institutions to account. CSOs are uniquely placed between the public and private sectors to act as overseers and a counterweight to vested interests, discretionary power and poor governance.

With this in mind, we joined forces with the Open Contracting Partnership (OCP) to launch a project to build CSO capacity to monitor public procurement processes in Kosovo and the Kyrgyz Republic. The project, based on the open contracting approach, aimed to create a sustainable CSO community of public procurement monitors. It built user-friendly online platforms that showed how the procurement system was performing in meaningful ways for taxpayers and oversight authorities. The project encouraged public procurement agencies to incorporate an application programme interface into government contracting databases so that the platforms could source official data in real time.

What's more, CSOs trained budget monitors, citizens' rights advocates, auditors and other actors on how to use the data platforms to monitor contracts to detect problems, such as corruption risk and inflated prices, and to recommend improvements. The participating CSOs formed alliances and built a civil-society coalition to amplify common concerns and advocate for better buying processes and competitive procurement.

The CSE team is now planning to replicate this success story in other countries where the Bank operates. The EBRD's engagement and support for CSOs in creating more robust monitoring systems will serve as a long-term platform for monitoring public procurement across our regions.

### FIND OUT MORE

Read about our joint project with the Open Contracting Partnership in Kosovo and the Kyrgyz Republic



Kosovo



Kyrgyz Republic



# MAIN ACTIVITY

## Supporting Jordan's first jobs portal dedicated to the tourism and hospitality sector



Supporting an inclusive and green recovery from Covid-19 is at the heart of our work. At the EBRD, we actively endorse the role of CSOs and understand that partnerships with like-minded organisations are fundamental to having a sustainable impact. Last year, we reported on our collaboration with the Jordanian Restaurant Association (JRA) to launch a high-quality project to create the first jobs portal in the country dedicated to tourism and hospitality to achieve a recovery that left no-one behind.

Earlier this year, we held a closing event for our impactful project, with the participation of the JRA, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities and various tourism associations. During the event, the platform was relaunched under a new name, [siyahajobs](#), and handed over to the JRA, ensuring its sustainability after the end of EBRD participation.

The platform provides networking opportunities for employers, jobseekers and alumni in the tourism sector and also offers training courses by relevant institutions. Forging a more inclusive jobs market for the restaurant industry, the project showcases the positive impact on the ground and ensures greater participation of underrepresented communities in the recruitment process. Work is also underway to create a database for Jordan's tourism sector in both Arabic and English.

At the EBRD, we are delighted to see the website, developed under our Civil Society Capacity Enhancement Framework, being endorsed by both the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and being integrated into the National Employment Programme. We are delighted to have supported this project, which has a positive impact on people's lives, and we are looking forward to supporting civil society and advancing inclusion in Jordan and elsewhere. We will proudly watch the platform grow and become a key digital tool that benefits both the industry and underserved job seekers.

# POLICY ACTIVITY

## The EBRD at COP27

The EBRD will be hosting roundtables and participating in panel discussions at the COP27 climate conference in Sharm El Sheikh this November, convening key climate actors, CSOs and the private sector to share insights and progress on enabling the green transition and decarbonising our economies.

We will be addressing the nexus between climate and other transition impact priority areas, including agriculture and water, gender and economic inclusion, and digitalisation.

Follow us on social media for more information on our COP27 activity.



# MAIN ACTIVITY

## Initial findings of the EBRD civil-society engagement survey



In the first half of the year, we conducted a survey to gather feedback from our partners on the ways in which the Bank conducts civil-society engagement and how the last EBRD roadmap on civil-society engagement was perceived, as well as to seek ways in which we could strengthen our approach to deliver more inclusive investments and policies. Along with the survey, we interviewed CSO partners and EBRD colleagues on the Bank's civil-society engagement.

For the online survey, we reached out to all of our contacts in the CSO database and received 107 responses. We thank all of the CSOs that provided feedback and comments.

While we are working to revise our civil-society engagement approach, we would like to share with you a few of the findings:

- One of the **EBRD's greatest strengths** in terms of civil-society engagement is its **sincere consideration of feedback and shared value creation** with CSOs.
- The EBRD should explore more ways to **make the consultation process more inclusive**.
- **The Civil Society Capacity Enhancement Framework advances CSO engagement** and satisfaction in our regions.

We thank you for your feedback and look forward to working closely with you in implementing the updated EBRD civil-society engagement approach once it is ready.

# OTHER ACTIVITY

## Changes in the CSE team

The first half of the year saw changes to our EBRD CSE team, not least a new team member.

Illia Borovynskyi joined us over the summer and will initially cover Ukraine, Moldova, Tunisia and Morocco. From January, he will also cover the Caucasus. Furthermore, Illia will be responsible for the digitalisation pillar of our Capacity Enhancement Framework.

Illia comes to us from another international organisation and has assumed the role of Associate Manager. We wish him a warm welcome and productive collaboration with our civil-society community.



# OVERVIEW OF CSE ACTIVITY

The CSE team had held the following events as of 7 October 2022:

- 10** presidential CSO meetings
- 5** country/sector strategy consultations
- 3** Board country visits

## OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

The EBRD literature Prize 2023 is open for submissions



## EBRD PUBLICATIONS



**REGIONAL  
ECONOMIC  
PROSPECTS**



**2021  
ANNUAL  
EVALUATION  
REVIEW**



## Contacts

### Civil Society Engagement

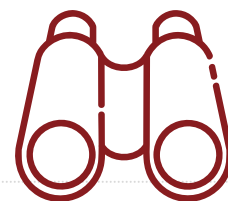
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# LOOKING AHEAD



- The EBRD is starting to review its **energy sector strategy**. Send us comments on the current strategy by **2 December 2022**.
- Our current and upcoming **country and sector strategies** will be available on our dedicated consultation page below.

## HAVE YOUR SAY



Review all our open consultations

## ACCESS PROJECT INFORMATION



## Find us on social media



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