



Foreword

Dear reader,

Happy New Year and welcome to the CSO Newsletter!

In this issue we reflect on our activity at the end of 2022, namely our engagement with civil societies in our regions, and the very first visit by CSO representatives to the new EBRD headquarters in Canary Wharf, London.

Last year was extremely challenging for civil societies across our regions. The war on Ukraine and the impact on energy and food prices affected many of our countries.

But we have been working hard to support civil society, refugees and internally displaced people both in Ukraine and in other affected countries. It is our belief that CSOs should play a vital role in responding to the war, as well as during Ukraine's reconstruction phase as soon as the war is over.

Looking ahead to the first months of 2023, we aim to deliver an equally ambitious agenda that delivers impact on the ground. We are continuing our work to revise the previous civil society engagement roadmap to create a new strategic approach. We also want to continue the dialogue with our partners and civil society representatives and to expand further into new areas of concern for CSOs.

Happy reading!

The CSE team

MAIN ACTIVITY

CSOs visit the EBRD's new headquarters



In November 2022 the CSE team welcomed a small delegation of civil society representatives to the new EBRD headquarters in Canary Wharf, London. CSO partners from CEE Bankwatch, Accountability Counsel, Uzbek Forum for Human Rights, and the Coalition for Human Rights in Development had the opportunity to meet EBRD colleagues and the Board to discuss issues related to human rights due diligence, remedy and accountability. This visit was an opportunity for CSOs to engage in meaningful dialogue with the EBRD between the Bank's Annual Meetings.

During this visit we also held the kick-off meeting for the pilot CSO Steering Committee, a platform that we will use to further strengthen our collaboration with civil societies across the EBRD regions. The committee comprises international non-governmental organisation partners of the Bank, as well as civil society representatives from across our regions and thematic areas of work. We look forward to sharing more information about the committee in future newsletters.

Country visits by EBRD Board Directors in 2022

Several country visits by Board Directors took place at the end of 2022. For most of these visits a consultation was organised with CSOs so that the Board could hear their views and the key challenges and opportunities on the ground. These meetings also gave the Board important insights ahead of meetings with local authorities.

Key topics discussed included: the impact of the war on Ukraine, refugee, gender and youth inclusion, green and sustainable development, food security, human rights, transparency, governance and rule of law, political economy and economic competitiveness.

Dialogue between civil societies and the EBRD Board is key to understanding how the Bank and other international stakeholders can continue to deliver a positive transition impact across the economies where the Bank invests. Last year was equally intense for the EBRD President when it came to consultation meetings with CSOs, with the President meeting CSOs 12 times across our regions.

POLICY ACTIVITY

Full alignment with the Paris Agreement

The Bank achieved a major green milestone on 1 January 2023 by fully aligning with the Paris Agreement.

From now on, all of the Bank's investments – whether lending directly to clients or providing indirect financing for sub-projects through financial institutions – will be aligned with and assessed according to the United Nations climate goals. Last year, more than 280 CSOs took part in the consultation for the alignment methodology.

“At the heart of our Paris alignment commitment is our ambition to support the clients and countries with whom we work in delivering the vital low carbon transition,” said EBRD President Odile Renaud-Basso.

Moreover, in November 2022, during the UN climate talks at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, the EBRD launched its Climate Adaptation Action Plan to boost adaption finance. The action plan involved integrating climate resilience into project design, building new and enhanced partnerships and mobilising private finance. The Bank also launched the Blue Economy Mediterranean Partnership, which aims to reverse ecosystem degradation and foster sustainable Blue Economy development.

The EBRD has committed to making more than half of its investments green by 2025.



See the back page for links to more content

MAIN ACTIVITY

Supporting Ukraine - EBRD Community Initiative



As part of the EBRD's Community Initiative, the CSE team is supporting Needs Map, an international NGO that uses interactive map technology and community-based verification to unite individuals, institutions and organisations with people in need, and enhance cooperation and solidarity.

The "Needs Map for [Ukrainian Refugees](#) and Internally Displaced People (IDPs)" aims to support and mobilise local CSOs in Ukraine and affected countries to coordinate up-to-date needs of refugees and IDPs, and establish a systemic humanitarian response.

For this effort, we held various events at the EBRD's headquarters at the end of 2022, raising more than £4,000 for the organisation. Under the Community Initiative for Ukraine, the Bank will triple this amount. Our fundraising will be open until the end of March so you can also contribute.

In addition to the CSE team fundraising, several other initiatives for Ukraine have been organised across the Bank.

OTHER ACTIVITY

Civil Society Programme at the 2023 EBRD Annual Meeting

Join us for the Civil Society Programme at the 2023 EBRD Annual Meeting from 16 to 18 May in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. This year, the theme of the Business Forum is "Investing in Resilience".

The 2023 Civil Society Programme, which will take place in hybrid format, is designed to provide an opportunity for dialogue between civil society stakeholders and the EBRD Board of Directors, the President, senior management and staff.

The Civil Society Programme will feature, among other things:

- the Board of Directors' meeting with CSOs
- the EBRD President's meeting with CSOs
- a high-level open panel
- a CSO-led panel.

More information will be available in February. Stay tuned and check out our social media accounts.

**CONTRIBUTE
TO OUR
FUNDRAISING**



OVERVIEW OF CSE ACTIVITY

The CSE team had held the following events as of 30 December 2022:

12 presidential CSO meetings

6 country/sector strategies consultations

4 Board meetings with CSOs, including BcVs

EBRD PUBLICATIONS



EBRD BECOMES FULLY PARIS ALIGNED



EBRD 2022 TRANSITION REPORT



EBRD CLIMATE ADAPTION PLAN



Contacts

Civil Society Engagement

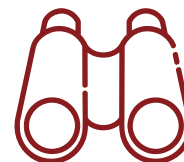
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LOOKING AHEAD



- Our **Moldova country strategy** consultation runs until **30 January 2023**.
- 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



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