

EBRD-CSO Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with the EBRD



Foreword

**Dear reader,
welcome to the CSO Newsletter!**

We are pleased to share with you the latest news and updates from our organisation.

In this issue, we highlight the successful completion of our technical cooperation project supporting the integration of Ukrainian refugees in Poland and the visit of a civil society organisation (CSO) delegation to our headquarters in London.

We look ahead to the Civil Society Programme for the EBRD Annual Meeting in May. The programme will focus on delivering impact

together and give CSOs an opportunity to engage with senior EBRD officials. Please read the relevant section to find out more about the programme and how you can register.

We also provide an update on the consultation process for the review of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Access to Information Policy (AIP), and on our new approach to civil society engagement.

As always, we welcome your feedback on our work.

Happy reading!
The CSE team

POLICY ACTIVITY

Supporting Ukrainian refugees in Poland

The EBRD has provided capacity-building support to a help centre designed to promote the economic integration of Ukrainian refugees in Poland. In early April, we held a closing event to celebrate the success of the project, which was attended by the implementing partner, the Freedom Institute; EBRD staff; and beneficiaries of the project in Warsaw.

The project, which was carried out under the EBRD's Civil Society Capacity Enhancement Framework with donor funds from the Korean Technical Assistance and Cooperation Fund, provided resources to the help centre to deliver employment and human-capital support services to Ukrainian refugees residing in Poland.

As a result of these capacity-building efforts, the help centre supported the economic and social integration of more than 3,000 Ukrainian refugees – 99 per cent of which are women – in the country by providing employment training, career advice and other human-capital support services.

The project helped to increase the overall long-term economic integration prospects for Ukrainian refugees across Poland and foster social cohesion across local communities.

The increased employment of displaced Ukrainians also benefited the Polish economy by filling vacancies in several sectors.

We would like to express our appreciation to all project stakeholders – to the Freedom Institute for implementing the initiative, the Republic of Korea for the generous financial support and the Ukrainian refugees for their continued courage, resilience and determination to overcome the hardships of displacement and secure a decent life in Poland.



Civil Society Programme at the EBRD Annual Meeting 2024

Join us for the Civil Society Programme at the Annual Meeting from 14 to 16 May in Yerevan, Armenia. This year, the theme of the Business Forum is “Delivering impact together”.

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

It offers a range of events and panel discussions and is set to attract prominent participants from around the world, from leading government

officials and financial and corporate executives to entrepreneurs, civil society representatives and international media.

The programme will feature, among other things:

- the EBRD Board of Directors' meeting with civil society
- the EBRD President's meeting with civil society
- a high-level open panel on “Connecting worlds: how the EBRD fosters community collaborations for positive change”



- a CSO-led panel on “Bridging the divide: civil society engagement for regional impact”
- a session on the review of the EBRD's ESP and AIP
- a panel on the Independent Accountability Mechanism (IPAM)
- an EBRD Evaluation Department panel

Registration is [available here](#). Updates to the programme will be [available here](#).

POLICY ACTIVITY

Update on the public consultation for ESP and AIP



The revised drafts of the 2024 AIP and ESP have been prepared and were officially disclosed on 25 March 2024 on the main page of the policy web hub. The ESP details the Bank's commitments to promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development, while the AIP sets out the EBRD's commitment to transparency and disclosure.

The public consultation period will run until 23:59 BST on 17 May 2024. We will then review all feedback received and adjust the final policies, which will be approved by the EBRD Board of Directors in the summer of 2024 and come into force on 1 January 2025.

Feedback can be provided either in writing, through the [online feedback form](#) or by participating in one of several planned virtual and in-person [consultation events](#).

Update on our new approach to civil society engagement



Earlier this month, we concluded the public consultation period for the new approach to civil society engagement. The draft document was published on the EBRD's consultation portal between 6 March and 22 April.

In early April, we held an online public workshop on the draft document to introduce the EBRD's new approach to civil society engagement and its strategic objectives, solicit feedback and suggestions from CSOs on its effective implementation, and identify potential areas of collaboration and partnership between the EBRD and CSOs in the economies where the Bank operates.

More than 70 CSOs joined the workshop, as well as representatives from international non-governmental organisation and the public sector.

The CSE team is currently considering the input and feedback received during the consultation window, with the aim of publishing the final text in the summer.

CSO visit to the EBRD's headquarters



A group of civil society stakeholders, led by the EBRD's main watchdog, CEE Bankwatch Network, visited the EBRD's headquarters in London from 8 to 12 April.

In the discussions with relevant teams, the stakeholders focused on human rights risks in the EBRD regions, the EBRD's safeguards and human rights due diligence practices, sustainable infrastructure and several banking projects.

The civil society delegation also had bilateral meetings with the Bank's Board of Directors and IPAM.

OVERVIEW OF CSE ACTIVITY

The CSE team had held the following events as of 12 April 2024:

- 9** senior management CSO meetings
- 3** country/sector strategy consultation meetings
- 2** CSO meetings with the EBRD President
- 1** Board meetings with CSOs

EBRD PUBLICATIONS



NEW COUNTRY STRATEGY FOR MOROCCO



EBRD Literature prize 2024: Shortlist announced



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LOOKING AHEAD



- The consultation on the **draft 2024 ESP and AIP documents is now open** until 23:59 BST on 17 May 2024. A list of all consultation events and registration information is available on the web page below.
- Our **current and upcoming country and sector strategies** will be available on our dedicated consultation page.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Review our open consultations



ACCESS PROJECT INFORMATION



Environmental and Social Policy and Access to Information Policy consultation



Free course for EBRD stakeholders on Smart City Development and Transformation



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