

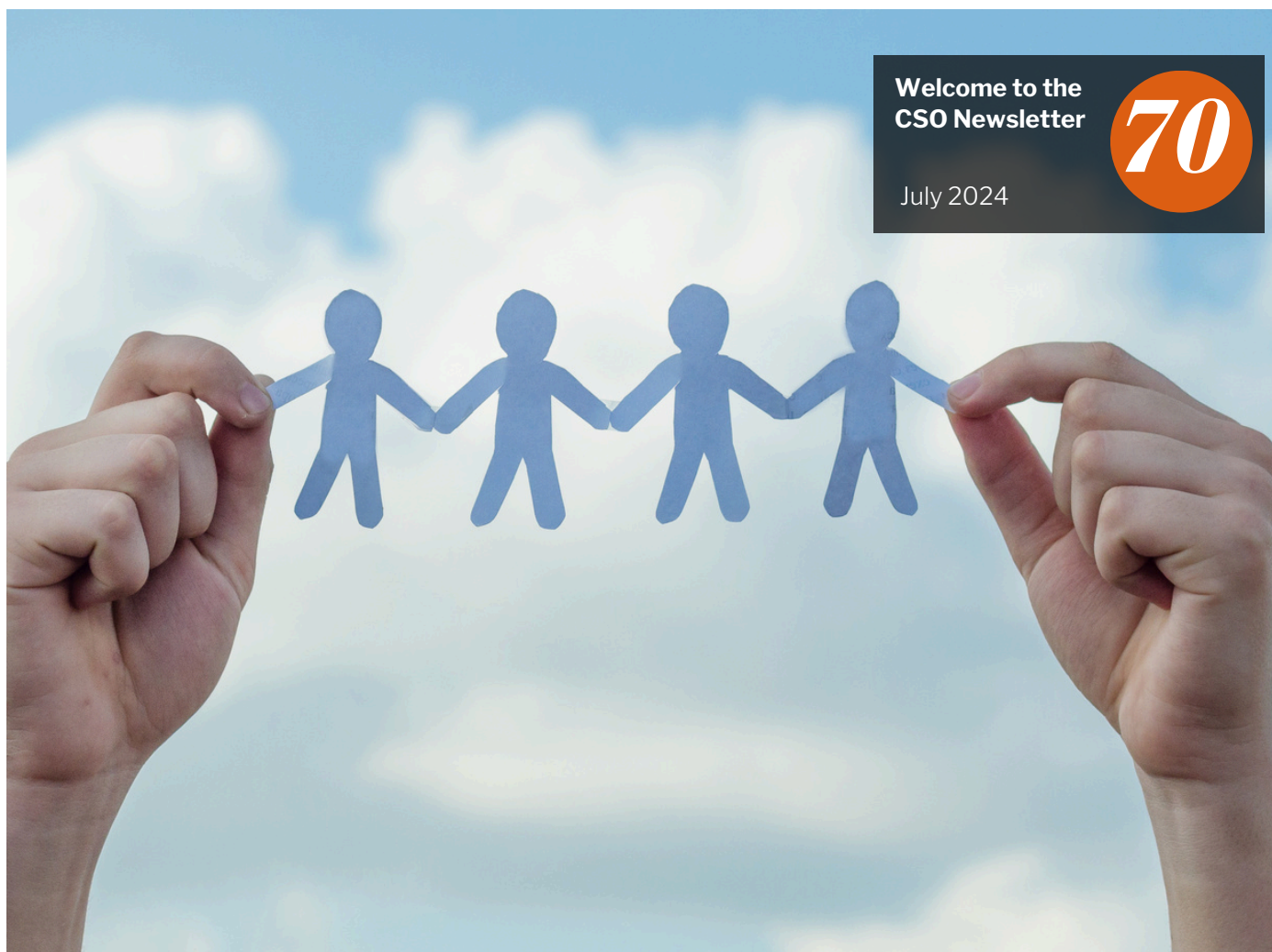
# EBRD-CSO Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with the EBRD

Welcome to the  
CSO Newsletter

July 2024

70



## Foreword

**Dear reader,**

Welcome to the 70th issue of our EBRD CSO newsletter!

In this issue, we report on and feature some key moments from our Civil Society Programme at the EBRD Annual Meeting in Armenia.

We also take a look at our new approach to civil society engagement for 2024-29 that was announced on 8 July, and give an update on the consultation on the EBRD's Infrastructure Sector Strategy.

In addition, we showcase an important initiative that supports Ukrainian and Romanian families in Bucharest and preview the launch of the second round of our digital transformation technical cooperation project in Türkiye.

We hope that this issue will inform, inspire and empower you to participate in our civil society activities and support our common objectives.

We always appreciate your feedback and suggestions for future issues.

Please contact us at [cs@ebrd.com](mailto:cs@ebrd.com) for more information.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Happy reading!  
The CSE team

# POLICY ACTIVITY

## EBRD Civil Society Programme at the 2024 EBRD Annual Meeting

This year the Civil Society Programme took place in hybrid format on 14-16 May 2024, as part of the EBRD's Annual Meeting and Business Forum in the vibrant city of Yerevan, Armenia.

Our event attracted 191 civil society representatives from 36 countries and consisted of: two sessions between civil society representatives and the Board of Directors and the EBRD President; an open panel showcasing the EBRD's impact through community collaboration; a civil-society-led panel focusing on the role of civil society in Armenia and the wider region; and a special consultation session on the review of the EBRD's Environmental and Social Policy and Access to Information Policy.

As in previous years, the programme featured a session on the Bank's [Independent Project Accountability Mechanism](#) (IPAM), and a session on the Bank's independent [Evaluation Department](#).

During the meetings with the Board and the EBRD President, civil society representatives engaged in constructive dialogue and were able to present their concerns and recommendations on key strategic themes and Bank operations. Both the Board and the President recognised the importance of working together with civil society organisations (CSOs) to achieve greater impact.



**CSO PROGRAMME IN  
DETAIL**



## Supporting Ukrainian refugees in Romania

In April, we launched our new initiative to support Ukrainian and Romanian families based in Bucharest.

In collaboration with [Jobs for Ukraine](#), [Save the Children Romania](#) and [Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth](#), we were excited to introduce a new initiative designed to support vulnerable Ukrainian and Romanian families in Bucharest by facilitating free childcare and employment services.



This initiative offers employment counselling and guidance, along with childcare for children aged 2 to 11, ensuring parents can pursue employment opportunities while their children are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment.

Want to help? We would greatly appreciate it if you could spread the word about this initiative.

Bucharest-based families can apply to the programme using this link: <https://jobs4ukr.typeform.com/to/lk0AsUci?typeform-source=jobs4ukr.com>.

Stand  
With  
Ukrainians

# POLICY ACTIVITY

## Supporting the digital transformation of CSOs in Türkiye



Sivil Toplum Destek Vakfı (Support to Civil Society Foundation - STDV) is launching the 2024-25 period of the Digital Transformation Fund in Türkiye in cooperation with the EBRD and Turkey Mozaik Foundation. The project supports the digital transformation of CSOs with capacity building programmes and grants.

Each CSO taking part in the project is expected to create and implement a digital transformation plan in line with its organisational goals. In the first three months of the grant programme, CSOs will be able to attend direction-setting, knowledge and skills-building workshops. In the following 12 months they will benefit from grants, mentorship programmes and various other skills-building opportunities. The project will last 15 months.

The call for the new round of applications is planned for September. Details will be posted on STDV's [website](#) and communications channels.

## Infrastructure Sector Strategy consultations



In early June, the EBRD launched the public consultation on the new draft Infrastructure Sector Strategy. The draft, outlining the EBRD's investment ambitions and focusing on the transport and municipal sectors for the 2025-29 period, is available [online](#) in multiple local languages.

Our consultation meetings, held between 11 June and 11 July, covered seven regions and attracted over 200 participants. Feedback is being collected over a 45-day period, running from 11 June to 26 July.

The public can also provide feedback by sending an email to [infrastructurestrategy@ebrd.com](mailto:infrastructurestrategy@ebrd.com) by 26 July 2024. The new strategy is expected to be published towards the end of the year.

## New approach to civil society engagement



We are excited to share with you our new approach to civil society engagement, which aims to enhance our collaboration and partnership with civil society across our regions. After extensive internal and external consultations, the document is now publicly available, outlining the principles and key objectives of our engagement with civil society.

The EBRD's president, Odile Renaud-Basso, said, "Civil society organisations are key partners in our efforts to promote economic development and to build greener, more digitally advanced and inclusive economies. I was delighted to directly engage with several of them at the Bank's recent Annual Meeting in Armenia. The new approach to civil society engagement will further enhance our cooperation on shared priorities for the places where the EBRD invests."

This will be a living document, revised periodically to reflect operational needs on the ground.

You can access the document here:

[www.ebrd.com/documents/cse/approach-to-civil-society-engagement-202429.pdf](http://www.ebrd.com/documents/cse/approach-to-civil-society-engagement-202429.pdf).

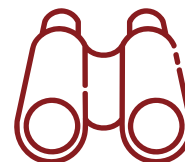


# OVERVIEW OF CSE ACTIVITY

This year the CSE team has held the following activities as of 30 June 2024:

- 9 country/sector strategy consultation meetings
- 9 senior management CSO meetings
- 5 presidential CSO meetings
- 2 Board meetings with CSOs

# LOOKING AHEAD



- The consultation on the **draft Infrastructure Sector Strategy** runs until 26 July 2024.
- 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**



## EBRD PUBLICATIONS



**2023 DONOR REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**



**2023 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**



**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE EBRD BOARD**



**2024 EBRD LITERATURE PRIZE**



**2023 ANNUAL REVIEW**



**REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, MAY 2024**



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