

**DOCUMENT OF THE EUROPEAN BANK
FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

STRATEGY FOR ROMANIA

**REPORT ON THE INVITATION
TO THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT**

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIP	Access to Information Policy
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CfD	Contracts for Difference
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ESP	Environmental and Social Policy
EU	European Union
EV	Electric Vehicle
GCAPs	Green Cities Action Plans
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GPP	Green Public Procurement
IPAM	Independent Project Accountability Mechanism
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plans
PRs	Performance Requirements
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium sized Enterprises

1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this report is to summarise the key comments received from stakeholders during the consultation period on the EBRD's draft Romania Country Strategy (hereinafter – draft Strategy) and provide responses of the Bank's management.

The public consultation process was in line with the EBRD's Access to Information Policy (AIP) and Access to Information Directive stipulating that the Bank's draft country strategies are disclosed for a period of 45 calendar days during which time the public is invited to send comments to the Bank.

The draft Strategy was posted on the EBRD website for 45 calendar days, starting from 1 July 2025 until 15 August 2025. The previous Country Strategy for Romania was also made available to the public on the EBRD website: <https://www.ebrd.com/home/what-we-do/where-we-invest/romania.html>

Information about the public consultation process was posted on the EBRD's dedicated "Have your say" webpage, which highlights the latest opportunities for the public to comment on the Bank's policies and strategies under review. Targeted notifications of the consultation process were sent to local and international civil society organisations (CSOs) that have expressed interest in the Bank's work in the country.

The Bank received one set of comments in written format on the draft Strategy, jointly submitted by CEE Bankwatch Network and WWF Romania. The written comments received and relevant EBRD responses are outlined in this report. The Bank's responses varied in length and complexity depending on the issues/suggestions raised and their relevance to the draft Strategy for Romania. The length of EBRD responses do not imply the importance of respective question/comments.

In line with the Bank's increased efforts to involve civil society at an early stage of elaborating the country strategy, the EBRD organised an in-person public consultation meeting with civil society organisations in Romania on 29 April 2025. The objective of the meeting was to collect civil society's feedback during the preparatory phase of developing the draft Strategy.

Five CSO representatives from five different civil society organisations participated in the consultation. The EBRD was represented by the EBRD Resident Office team in Romania, as well as by the Country Strategy, Policy Strategy Delivery, and Civil Society Engagement teams.

The summary of the key messages of the consultation process is provided in the Annex 1 to this report.

2. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND EBRD RESPONSES

	Public Comments/Feedback	EBRD Response
1.	Priority 1: Enhance private sector competitiveness through innovation, access to finance and good governance	
	EBRD's focus on innovation, green value chains, and access to finance is welcomed. These instruments should be explicitly targeted to just transition regions to create future-proof jobs and diversify local economies where industries are closing. Prioritising investments in RES manufacturing, storage, energy efficiency and circular economy projects in these areas can leverage Romania's strong potential whilst addressing regional disparities. Capacity building and policy support should be place-based, and developed with local authorities, social partners and SMEs, ensuring that competitiveness gains go together with decarbonisation and just transition.	<p>The EBRD's country strategy focuses on promoting economic diversification and creating new opportunities in regions of Romania that are heavily dependent on fossil fuels, such as coal-mining areas. The bank views these regions as having strong potential for a shift towards a green economy and aims to direct investments to projects that will create future-proof jobs and diversify local economies. In this respect, Priority 2: "Enhance Resilience of the Economy", states that:</p> <p><i>"Where opportunities arise in Just Transition regions, [EBRD will] support projects that reduce social dependency on coal-related activities, including but not limited to economic diversification."</i></p> <p>This is achieved, among others, by targeting investments in renewable energy manufacturing, energy efficiency projects, and the circular economy in these specific areas. This leverages Romania's potential in the green sector while addressing regional disparities.</p>
2.	Priority 2: Enhance resilience of the Economy	
	Investments in grids, interconnectors and storage are essential to integrate Romania's growing RES capacity; these should be complemented by policy support to enable energy communities, prosumers and decentralised generation, ensuring benefits are shared locally and grid upgrades align with demand growth. The focus on reskilling and upskilling is welcome and should be prioritised in just	<p>The Bank acknowledges that investments in large-scale infrastructure like grids and storage must be complemented by a focus on decentralised energy sources. Its approach in Romania includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Dialogue: The EBRD engages in high-level policy dialogue with the Romanian government to support the

	transition regions where coal closures create the greatest need for alternative livelihoods. Linking infrastructure investments with place-based skills programmes will ensure the energy transition strengthens both resilience and social cohesion.	<p>development of the relevant regulatory framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grid Modernisation investments and digitising the electricity grid is crucial for handling the two-way flow of electricity from prosumers and energy communities, ensuring grid stability as more decentralised generation comes online. • Skills Development: as opportunities arise, EBRD provides technical assistance and financing for reskilling and upskilling programs. These programs are designed in partnership with local authorities, educational institutions, and/or social partners to ensure the skills provided align with the jobs created by the new green infrastructure.
3.	Priority 3: Accelerate Romania's green economy transition	
3.1	<i>Key Objective: Increased Renewable Energy Capacity and Green Energy Transition</i>	
3.1.1	Support for green and low-carbon fuels should only be given to green fuels, such as renewable hydrogen and sustainable biofuels, not to other low-carbon solutions that continue to rely on fossil fuels.	The Bank's energy strategy is based on the principle of decarbonization, and while it prioritizes renewables, it also recognizes the role of other low-carbon solutions. The EBRD's Energy Sector Strategy for 2024-2028 explicitly prioritises zero-carbon fuels, which include renewable hydrogen and sustainable biofuels. The Bank has strict criteria to ensure that biofuels meet sustainability standards.
3.1.2	Integration of RES in district heating should, in addition to geothermal energy, focus on other existing technologies such as heat pumps and heat recovery.	<p>The Bank's approach to district heating projects goes beyond a single technology and focuses on a comprehensive, long-term approach that integrates a variety of renewable and waste heat sources, including heat pumps and heat recovery.</p> <p>The EBRD's work in the municipal and environmental infrastructure sector is</p>

		designed to support the complete decarbonisation of urban heating.
3.1.3	<p><i>Supporting RES solutions/Transposition and implementation of the RED III Directive - Acceleration areas for RES.</i> By adopting a coordinated, cross-sectoral, science-based and inclusive approach to spatial planning, Romania can establish a sustainable framework for renewable energy development that accelerates the transition to clean energy whilst maintaining environmental integrity and social cohesion. The challenges facing Romania are related to 1) insufficient inter-ministerial coordination, 2) insufficient technical capacity of key institutions and 3) the absence of a centralized spatial data platform for effective integrated planning. These obstacles are compounded by financial constraints that have prevented the Ministry of Energy from officially launching the process of mapping renewable acceleration zones, threatening the timely achievement of national renewable energy targets. EBRD can support this process and ensure that a truly integrated and sustainable planning will take place.</p>	<p>The EBRD works to strengthen institutional capacity in Romania as a core part of its mission. Specifically, the Bank has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Energy while</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Policy Frameworks: The EBRD has provided expertise in designing key policy instruments, such as the Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme, to help the Ministry effectively implement national RES targets. • Building Technical Capacity: The Bank's support is not limited to policy advice but also includes building the technical capacity of key institutions to manage complex processes like renewable energy auctions. <p>The Bank recognizes that lack of centralized spatial data platform needs to be addressed by the relevant stakeholders.</p>
3.1.4	EBRD should actively support the development of energy communities in Romania, including investments from legal setup to digitalization, infrastructure, and integration into the grid.	<p>The EBRD provides technical assistance to governments, including Romania's Ministry of Energy, to help them transpose and implement EU directives.</p> <p>The EBRD agrees with the CSOs' recommendation on the importance of energy communities for Romania's energy transition. While the development of these communities is not explicitly a separate, ring-fenced priority in the draft country strategy for 2025–2030, the principles of supporting them are integrated into our existing and planned activities in the context of innovative financial intermediation.</p>

3.1.5	<p>CSOs recommend allocating funding for retrofitting of existing hydropower infrastructure, particularly for plants with a capacity greater than 10 MW. Such investments can significantly increase production capacity, extend operational lifespan, and – if adequately planned – bring improvements in biodiversity and freshwater efficiency. These retrofitting efforts have a lower environmental impact compared to new projects planned in protected areas, which tend to be ecologically damaging.</p>	<p>Hydropower is not explicitly mentioned in EBRD's Country Strategy for Romania as a standalone focus area.</p> <p>More generically EBRD's strategy for hydropower development is strongly guided by its Environmental and Social Policy and its commitment to the Green Economy Transition. The Bank prioritizes the modernization of existing hydropower facilities, especially those over 10 MW, for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Environmental Impact: Retrofitting projects typically have a significantly lower environmental and social footprint compared to new construction. They avoid the need for new land acquisition, resettlement, and habitat destruction, which can be devastating to freshwater ecosystems. • Increased Efficiency and Capacity: Modernization can substantially increase a plant's energy generation capacity and extend its operational lifespan, delivering greater climate benefits from an already established asset.
3.1.6	<p>Investments in the extraction and recycling of critical minerals must be conditional on strict adherence to environmental legislation, transparent governance, and meaningful community consultation to ensure a social license and minimise environmental harm.</p>	<p>The EBRD's primary tool for managing environmental and social risks is its Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) 2024. This policy is a non-negotiable requirement for all EBRD clients and projects. For mining and critical mineral projects, the policy requires clients to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a thorough assessment of all potential environmental and social risks and impacts, including those on biodiversity, water resources, and community health.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to the highest international standards for pollution prevention and control, even if they are more stringent than national laws. • Establish robust management systems to mitigate risks and continuously monitor the project's performance throughout its lifespan. <p>Transparent Governance and Community Consultation</p> <p>The EBRD has a strong focus on ensuring transparent governance and obtaining a social license for its projects. The Bank's approach includes Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement - all projects with significant social or environmental impacts are required to undertake meaningful consultation with affected communities and other stakeholders. This process begins early and continues throughout the project's development and operation to ensure that local concerns are heard and addressed. In addition, the Bank's Independent Project Accountability Mechanism (IPAM) provides a channel for communities and CSOs to raise concerns and seek recourse if they believe a project is not complying with the EBRD's policies. This mechanism holds both the Bank and its clients accountable to their commitments.</p>
3.2	<i>Key Objective: Decarbonisation and Greening of the Economy</i>	

3.2.1	<p><i>“Finance low carbon and climate resilient transition [...] in line with the EBRD Energy Sector Strategy (p.15)”</i>: the sectoral strategy also allows support for mid and downstream oil and gas in exceptional cases. CSOs believe that, in Romania, there is no need for additional support of fossil fuels development, especially in the gas sector, where billions of euros in public and private money have already been invested in the last five years. It is time for Romania to focus on post-fossil economic development, especially in the hard-to-abate sectors. Further investments in oil and gas will only hinder this transition.</p>	<p>The EBRD's Energy Sector Strategy (2024–2028) strictly limits its involvement in fossil fuels. The Bank has already committed to no new financing for coal, and it has expanded its exclusion to all upstream oil and gas development.</p>
3.2.2	<p><i>“Finance CAPEX investments to reduce GHG emissions in industrial processes and applications (p.15)”</i>: this activity should offer more details on what type of investments it can cover. CSOs advise excluding additional support for the use of fossil oil and gas and low-carbon sources such as blue hydrogen or carbon capture and storage (CCS).</p>	<p>The EBRD's strategy for financing industrial decarbonization is comprehensive and targets a wide range of capital expenditure investments. These include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency: Investing in new, more efficient equipment and processes to reduce energy consumption and lower operational costs. • Fuel Switching: Supporting the transition from high-carbon fossil fuels (like coal or oil) to lower-carbon or zero-carbon alternatives. • Electrification: Financing the replacement of fossil fuel-powered processes with electric alternatives, powered by renewable energy. • Green and Circular Technologies: Supporting the adoption of technologies that enable the circular economy and promote resource efficiency. This can include recycling of materials and the use of sustainable feedstocks.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero-Carbon Fuels: The EBRD finances projects related to green hydrogen and sustainable biofuels, which are seen as critical for decarbonizing "hard-to-abate" sectors like cement, steel, and chemicals. The bank has already financed pilot green hydrogen projects in its regions to help replace fossil-fuel based hydrogen.
3.2.3	<p><i>"Explore opportunities for supporting carbon capture (p.15)":</i> CCS should be considered only as the last resort in hard-to-abate sectors. Projects should prove that other solutions were explored and are not feasible technically or economically.</p>	<p>The EBRD fully aligns with the CSOs' position that Carbon Capture and Storage should be a last resort and a targeted solution for hard-to-abate sectors. The Bank's policy on CCS reflects this approach, ensuring that such projects are only considered after other, more direct decarbonization options have been exhausted.</p> <p>The Bank's focus on CCS is exclusively for hard-to-abate sectors, such as cement, steel, and chemicals, where process emissions are difficult or impossible to eliminate. The EBRD views CCS as a necessary tool to achieve deep decarbonization in these sectors. The Bank's policy requires that all CCS projects be fully Paris-aligned, meaning they must be part of a long-term low-carbon pathway that is consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>All projects, including those with a CCS component, are subject to a carbon lock-in test to ensure they do not create a scenario where a high-emitting asset continues to operate when a lower-carbon option could replace it.</p>
3.2.4	<p><i>"Promote electrification of the economy, including EV charging infrastructure (p.15)":</i> this activity should also address both transport poverty and energy poverty by aligning with policies that ensure affordability, accessibility, and equitable access for underserved communities.</p>	<p>The EBRD's work on electrification goes beyond simple investment in infrastructure. We view the electrification of transport as a key component of a just and inclusive green transition. This is reflected in our Infrastructure Sector Strategy and our Energy Sector Strategy,</p>

		<p>which both explicitly aim to broaden access to high-standard, affordable, and inclusive services. Our approach addresses the social dimension of transport electrification through targeted investments: The EBRD prioritises investments that can have a social impact. For example, our financing for EV charging networks, such as the investment in Eldrive in Romania, aims to expand infrastructure in a way that serves a wider geographical area and makes e-mobility a viable option for a greater portion of the population.</p> <p>The EBRD recognises that transport and energy poverty are significant barriers to an inclusive green transition. Our strategy mitigates these risks by promoting Public Transport. The EBRD's investments in municipal transport, such as modernizing bus fleets and tram networks, are designed to provide affordable and accessible alternatives to private car ownership, addressing a key cause of transport poverty.</p>
3.2.5	EBRD could also support sustainable forest circular bioeconomy, with fair compensatory mechanisms for local communities, through training, research and modern wood processing technologies for high-added value products.	The EBRD acknowledges the CSOs' recommendation regarding the forestry sector. However, projects in the forestry sector are not within the scope of the current country strategy for Romania. Therefore, the Bank is not planning to undertake any new investments in this sector at this time.
3.3	<i>Key Objective: Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Infrastructure</i>	

3.3.1	<p><i>“Climate adaptation and nature-based solutions (p.15)”</i>: this activity should be a priority not only under the Green Cities programme, where the focus should be on reducing the heat island effect, but especially in regions exposed to drought and floods. There is an urgent need for implementing nature-based solutions to prevent high impact natural phenomenon exacerbated by climate change. The agricultural sector is particularly exposed. CSOs urge increased allocation to nature-based solutions to protect communities, conserve biodiversity and enhance local and regional climate resilience.</p>	<p><i>The Bank's strategy on climate adaptation and nature-based solutions extends well beyond its Green Cities programme and is a core component of its work across all sectors, including agribusiness sector.</i></p> <p><i>The EBRD recognizes that rural regions, especially those exposed to drought and floods, are among the most vulnerable to climate change. Its work in these areas focuses on both policy and investment to build resilience in communities and key economic sectors.</i></p> <p><i>The agricultural sector is a particular focus for the EBRD due to its high exposure to climate risks. The Bank can support a range of climate adaptation activities in this sector as opportunities arise, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management: <i>Financing for water-efficient irrigation systems, which directly addresses the risk of drought.</i> • Resilient Infrastructure: <i>Investing in infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather events, such as flood defences and erosion control, which often include nature-based components.</i>
3.3.2	<p>Capacity building support for cities and municipalities and public service operators is critical to enable them to access finance, to develop robust climate and energy strategies, and report climate related data, particularly on greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation, and adaptation measures. This is critical for tracking progress toward climate targets and adjusting strategies in a timely manner and implementing resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>EBRD support should prioritise smaller and medium-sized towns, rural areas and just</p>	<p><i>The Bank's approach is to provide technical assistance that is both targeted to regions with the greatest needs and designed to empower local institutions for the long term.</i></p> <p><i>The EBRD recognizes that reliable data is essential for effective climate action. As part of its Green Cities Action Plans (GCAPs) and other technical assistance programmes, the Bank helps cities and municipalities to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Baselines: <i>Work with them to calculate their baseline</i>

	<p>transition regions where administrative capacity and data gaps are greatest, helping ensure that the benefits of the green transition are distributed fairly across the country. Also, periodic monitoring and transparent climate data reporting are essential for informed decision-making and accountability. Strengthening local capacity in this area would significantly increase the effectiveness and credibility of Romania's climate action at both national and city levels.</p>	<p><i>greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate-related risks, using internationally recognised methodologies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Monitoring Systems: <i>Provide support for setting up systems for periodic monitoring and transparent reporting of climate data. This is crucial for tracking progress towards climate targets and attracting climate-related finance.</i> • Align with National and Global Goals: <i>Ensure that local strategies and data collection align with Romania's National Energy and Climate Plan and the goals of the Paris Agreement, increasing the effectiveness of climate action at all levels.</i> <p><i>By building capacity and fostering data transparency, the EBRD helps ensure that the benefits of the green transition are distributed fairly and that all regions of Romania can contribute to and benefit from the country's climate goals.</i></p>
3.3.3	<p>Without a coherent, extensive and well-managed network of green spaces, urban areas become more vulnerable to climate change, which affects the health of the population, the economy and social cohesion. Green spaces must be viewed from the perspective of the multiple economic and social services provided by healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, in the context of the importance of increasing resilience to climate change. All these aspects must be addressed within the framework of urban planning, as green spaces cannot be treated as a separate topic, isolated from urban planning in general. Expanding and interconnecting green spaces with each other, but also with natural habitats around localities, to ensure “climate corridors” – green belts</p>	<p>The EBRD's Green Cities programme does not treat green spaces in isolation. Instead, it provides a holistic framework for urban development. Through the Green City Action Plan process, the Bank helps municipalities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess Environmental Challenges: <i>Identify and prioritise environmental issues, including those related to green space deficits and the urban heat island effect.</i> • Integrate Solutions: <i>Develop comprehensive action plans that link green infrastructure with other sectors like transport, water, and energy efficiency. An example of such integrated</i>

	that cool, protect from floods and ensure the continuity of urban ecosystems. Also, it is important to support the inclusion of climate adaptation criteria in the planning, budgeting and maintenance of green spaces, for example the diversity of plant species adapted to new climate conditions.	<p><i>approach is EBRD's recent financing for a private urban regeneration project in Cluj-Napoca, which involves transforming a former industrial site into a mixed-use development that includes new green infrastructure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Multi-functional Benefits: The EBRD's policy framework recognizes that green spaces provide a wide range of services, including flood protection, air purification, and biodiversity conservation, which are essential for long-term urban resilience.
3.3.4	<i>"Promote green and sustainable buildings (p.15)":</i> EBRD can support national programmes focused on renovation, energy efficiency and reducing energy poverty.	<p>The EBRD acknowledges that Romania's building stock remains a major source of energy consumption and that energy efficiency upgrades are critical for both the country's climate goals and for improving the living standards of its citizens. The Bank is exploring new financing mechanisms that will continue the work previously undertaken by GEFF.</p> <p>In the next strategy period, the EBRD plans to continue working with local financial institutions, leveraging their networks to provide credit lines for households, businesses, and public entities to invest in building renovations.</p>
3.3.5	To support biodiversity conservation and protected areas, CSOs recommend establishing a dedicated and accessible financing mechanism for Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas, enabling direct involvement of site managers, local authorities and NGOs. Funding should contribute to concrete biodiversity conservation outcomes.	<p>The EBRD's engagement on biodiversity conservation is guided by its Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) 2024, with particular reference to Performance Requirement (PR) 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources. This policy is applied to all projects and requires clients to assess and manage risks to biodiversity. While the EBRD will not establish a dedicated financing mechanism, the Bank's investments are subject to a rigorous review process.</p>

4.	Additional suggestions from CSOs	
4.1.1	<p>Additionally, CSOs underlined that Romania is one of the largest methane emitters due to its history with oil and gas extraction. In this regard, CSOs highlight that the EU countries must implement the Methane Emissions Regulation, which involves creating an inventory on closed and existing wells and implementing measures to reduce methane emissions in the energy sector. This work is still in its early stage and given that methane reduction is a key priority in EBRD's energy strategy, CSOs believe the Bank should support companies in fulfilling these obligations at the national level.</p> <p>Furthermore, CSOs stress that policy advocacy for the reduction in fossil fuels subsidies is another key point in the Bank's energy strategy for decarbonisation is supporting the government to phase out fossil fuels through fossil-fuel subsidy reforms. CSOs believe this is a necessary work in Romania, since the European Commission also recommended Romania to reduce fossil fuel subsidies under the NECP assessment.</p>	<p>The EBRD acknowledges that Romania, like many countries in the region, faces the challenge of managing methane emissions from its energy sector, particularly from legacy oil and gas infrastructure.</p> <p>We concur that the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies is a necessary and critical step for Romania to meet its decarbonisation targets.</p>
4.1.2	<p>"Do No Significant Harm" principle should be strictly adhered. It is essential that environmental impacts of projects are rigorously assessed, and that consultants adhere to the highest standards. Projects with irreversible negative effects on ecosystems should be excluded.</p>	<p>The EBRD operates on the principle of "do no significant harm", which is a foundational element of its Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) 2024. This policy sets out a comprehensive set of Performance Requirements (PRs) that all projects, both public and private, must adhere to. The EBRD's due diligence process is designed to rigorously assess the environmental impacts of all projects.</p> <p>Key policy tenets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irreversible Impacts: The EBRD's project exclusion list explicitly prohibits financing for activities with unacceptable environmental and social impacts, including

		<p><i>those that would result in irreversible negative effects on critical habitats and ecosystems. This is a core safeguard to ensure the Bank does not contribute to environmental degradation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest Standards: <i>The EBRD requires clients to engage consultants and experts who adhere to the highest international standards for environmental and social impact assessment. This ensures that environmental impacts are not only identified but also managed effectively throughout the project lifecycle.</i> • Paris Alignment: <i>All new EBRD investments are subject to a Paris Alignment Methodology, which includes a "carbon lock-in" test to ensure projects are consistent with a low-carbon transition and a "do no significant harm" principle in line with the EU Taxonomy.</i>
4.1.3	<p>CSOs emphasised the critical need for EBRD support to ensure Romania implements the National Plan for Green Public Procurement across all sectors - from schools and hospitals to infrastructure. This is essential to create consistent demand for products with low environmental impact stimulate innovation in the economic sector and drive the transition to sustainable production and consumption models, in line with the SDGs.</p> <p>Additionally, CSOs highlighted a need to promote public investments by showcasing good practice that stimulate energy savings, efficient water use, waste reduction and the development of the</p>	<p>The EBRD fully agrees that Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a powerful tool to drive a green and circular economy.</p> <p>The EBRD actively promotes public investments that showcase good practices in resource efficiency, consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Bank's work in Romania is focused on providing financing and technical assistance to municipal and public service operators for projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Resource Efficiency: <i>Promote energy savings in public buildings, efficient water use in municipal networks, and the reduction of waste through</i>

	secondary market for biodegradable and compostable materials.	<p><i>modern waste management infrastructure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Circular Economy: <i>Encourage the development of markets for recycled materials and the reuse of biodegradable products.</i> • Demonstrate a Business Case: <i>The EBRD's approach is to demonstrate that these investments not only deliver significant environmental benefits but also have a strong business case through long-term operational savings and improved service delivery.</i>
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Annex 1. Consultation meeting with civil society on 29 April 2025

In the framework of elaborating new country strategy for Romania, the Bank organised an in-person public consultation meeting with CSOs in Romania. The objective of this meeting was to collect civil society's feedback during the preparatory phase of developing the draft Strategy.

Key messages from CSOs

- Civil society representatives in Romania highlighted the need for accelerating green transition in the country through i) reducing emissions from oil, gas, and methane resources, ii) scaling up energy efficiency, including in the transport infrastructure, and iii) increasing the capacity for renewable energy.
- CSOs further underlined that supporting just transition for local communities and cross-sector digitalisation of businesses are key components to foster economic resilience in Romania.
- CSOs moreover emphasised the need for enhancing Romania's economic competitiveness through supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on improving access to international capital markets, as well as fostering public-private sector cooperation on structural reforms and policy advocacy.