

EBRD-CSO Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with the EBRD

Welcome to the
CSO Newsletter

August 2025

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Foreword

Dear readers,

Welcome to the summer edition of our CSO newsletter, in which we are pleased to share some of the highlights of the 2025 EBRD Civil Society Programme, held in hybrid format during our Annual Meeting in London on 13-15 May.

More than 130 civil society representatives from 24 countries joined us for discussions with the EBRD President, Board and Senior Management, as well as our multilateral development bank (MDB) partners, on the civic space, gender and inclusion, Ukraine's recovery, the Bank's expansion into sub-Saharan Africa and more.

We also recently marked the launch of the Central Asian Business Integrity Network (CABIN), a joint initiative by the EBRD and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The inaugural conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan brought together stakeholders from across the region to promote ethical business practices and strengthen anti-corruption compliance.

Another milestone was the release of the EBRD's first *Impact Report* – an important step in how we measure and communicate our transition impact.

With €16.6 billion invested in 2024, the report reflects our commitment to transparency and lasting change.

Looking ahead, we invite civil society organisations (CSOs) to prepare for the upcoming call for applications to the Civil Society Steering Committee (2026-27). We thank all current members for their contributions and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Happy reading and enjoy your summer!

The CSE team

MAIN ACTIVITY

Central Asian Business Integrity Network debuts at conference in Almaty

In July, the inaugural conference of the Central Asian Business Integrity Network (CABIN) took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, with the theme of “Turning integrity into business as usual”. More than 80 participants from government, the private sector, CSOs and international institutions joined the event.

The opening remarks by Hüseyin Özhan, EBRD Managing Director for Central Asia, Madina Sarieva, Head of the UNODC Programme Office in Kazakhstan, and Christophe Zeeb, Government Councillor and Alternate Director for Luxembourg at the EBRD, underscored the importance of regional collaboration in advancing sustainable integrity systems. They set the stage for a day of substantive dialogue, emphasising the importance of regional collaboration in advancing integrity systems that are both meaningful and sustainable.

[CABIN](#), a [joint initiative](#) by the EBRD and the United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime (UNODC), aims to foster a strong regional platform that enables peer learning and cooperation among compliance professionals, small and medium-sized enterprises, civil society actors and public institutions. The network will focus on strengthening anti-corruption compliance, promoting legal and ethical standards, supporting whistleblower protection and building tools that can be adapted to the specific contexts of the region.

The agenda featured sessions on CABIN's mission, regional gaps in business ethics, and practical approaches to strengthening integrity. Breakout groups developed recommendations to improve compliance offices, foster collaboration and design sector-specific tools.

The closing remarks reaffirmed EBRD and UNODC support. CABIN's launch marks a key step in building a trusted, inclusive platform for integrity in Central Asia.



CSO Programme at the 2025 EBRD Annual Meeting

This year, the Civil Society Programme took place in hybrid format on 13-15 May 2025 as part of the EBRD's Annual Meeting and Business Forum in London.

Our Programme attracted some 130 civil society representatives from 24 countries. It featured roundtable discussions and closed-door meetings on civil society engagement with the EBRD Board of Directors, the President, Senior Management and MDB CSO focal points.

CSOs shared key insights into challenges and opportunities in the EBRD regions, with a focus on the shrinking civic space, MDB cooperation,

gender and inclusion, the Bank's expansion into sub-Saharan Africa, the green transition and the reconstruction of Ukraine. The agenda also included open panel discussions on civil society in sub-Saharan Africa and on Ukraine's human capital crisis, fostering dialogue on recovery efforts and resilience.



**CSO PROGRAMME
IN DETAIL**



MAIN ACTIVITY

Upcoming call for applications: Civil Society Steering Committee 2026-27

As the current Civil Society Steering Committee cycle concludes at the end of 2025, we are preparing to launch the next phase of engagement.

The Civil Society Engagement (CSE) team will oversee a structured selection process for the new Committee, beginning with applications in September and October 2025. Following eligibility checks, evaluations and internal consultations, final selections and notifications will occur between mid-December 2025 and early January 2026.

We encourage all interested CSOs to begin considering their candidacy. While a formal call for applications, including updated terms of reference and selection criteria, will be shared in early autumn, CSOs can begin preparing now by:

- gathering the two requisite references (each one page long, in English), including a “character reference” from a peer CSO
- reflecting on their motivation for joining and the contribution they can make to the Committee.

This renewal process is informed by valuable lessons learned over the most recent term of the CSO Steering Committee. At the May and June 2025 Steering Committee meetings, members and the CSE team reflected on the Committee's operations, structure and impact.

We are grateful for the thoughtful contributions of all Steering Committee members and look forward to building on this foundation.



The current terms of reference (published in July 2023) are available on [our webpage](#). If you wish to be notified when the application period starts, please contact cso@ebrd.com.

The EBRD publishes its first Impact Report

At the Annual Meeting in May, the EBRD published its first *Impact Report*, marking a new chapter in measuring and communicating the Bank's results. The report reviews the Bank's impact in 2024, following a year of record investment of €16.6 billion, and highlights its achievements in recent years.

It will help to inform and fine-tune future initiatives to ensure they better deliver the lasting transition impact and systemic change that are the goals of everything the Bank does. Stakeholders can now follow the Bank's evolving impact, with future editions building on these insights to strengthen accountability and drive lasting change.

Highlights from the 2024 report include:

- From the onset of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022 through the end of 2024, the EBRD invested €6.2 billion in Ukraine – including €2.4 billion in 2024 – to bolster energy security, enhance digital networks and improve essential municipal services.
- In 2024, the EBRD invested €1.45 billion in Ukraine across 58 capital market transactions, unlocking a total issuance volume of €19 billion.
- Since 2006, our green investments have contributed to expected annual emissions reductions of 145 million tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to 7 per cent of 2022 emissions across our regions.
- In 2024, we advanced inclusion and human capital development by supporting 21,000 people with relevant training in 24 countries.

READ THE
IMPACT REPORT



OVERVIEW OF CSE ACTIVITY

From January to June 2025, the CSE team held the following activities:

Four country/sector strategy consultation meetings

Five presidential CSO meetings

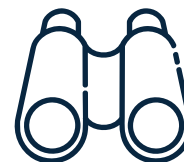
Three Board meetings with CSOs

EBRD Literature Prize winner announced.

Watch the ceremony:



LOOKING AHEAD



- The consultation on the draft [Romania country strategy](#) runs until 15 August.
- The consultation on the draft [Tajikistan country strategy](#) runs until 29 August.
- 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



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