

EBRD-CSO Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with the EBRD

#76 | February 2026



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



Foreword

Dear readers,

As we enter 2026, the EBRD's engagement with civil society continues to deepen, reflecting our commitment to transparency, collaboration and meaningful dialogue across our regions.

Over the past year, civil society partners have played an essential role in shaping strategies. In 2025 alone, civil society organisations (CSOs) contributed to numerous country and sector strategy consultations, engaged in dialogue with the EBRD President and the Board of Directors across several countries, and supported the

Bank's work through diverse partnerships and community-driven initiatives.

In this edition, we are pleased to announce the new Civil Society Steering Committee for 2026-27. This cohort brings both continuity and fresh perspectives to this vital platform for structured engagement. We also highlight the Bank's impactful work in Türkiye supporting women's economic inclusion, and share the revised Green City Action Plan methodology.

As our engagement with civil society continues to evolve, we are exploring how best to shape future editions of this newsletter. We therefore invite you to complete our short survey to help us refine its structure and usefulness going forward.

Happy reading!

The CSE team

MAIN ACTIVITY

The EBRD President's engagement with CSOs in 2025



In 2025 EBRD President, Odile Renaud-Basso, strengthened the Bank's engagement with civil society across the regions, meeting CSOs in Bulgaria, Egypt, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, as well as during the Annual Meeting in London. These consultations offered civil society the chance to share its perspectives on democratic governance, economic inclusion, resilience and sustainable development, helping to ensure that the Bank's work remains grounded in local realities and community needs.

Across the region, CSOs reaffirmed the importance of transparent dialogue, safe civic space and inclusive policymaking. The President also held multiple meetings with Ukrainian CSOs, reflecting the Bank's commitment to supporting resilience, recovery and stakeholder engagement amid the ongoing war.

Since the beginning of 2026, the President has visited Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza, and Tunisia, where she met various CSOs.

These engagements signal another active year of collaboration, as the EBRD continues to invest in meaningful partnerships with civil society and to embed their insights across its strategies, policies and operations.

Announcing the new Civil Society Steering Committee 2026-27



After a thorough selection process, we are happy to announce the new EBRD Civil Society Steering Committee for 2026-27, which includes both newly appointed members and those whose terms have been renewed.

This cohort brings together a rich mix of civil society expertise from across our regions, reflecting the diversity, commitment and insights that are essential to shaping impactful engagement. It will also help to ensure continuity and bring fresh perspectives to the Committee's work.

The Civil Society Steering Committee remains a key platform for structured engagement with civil society, providing valuable input into our policies, strategies and engagement priorities.

This year's cycle saw strong interest, with more than 80 high-quality applications from across all regions and EBRD thematic areas.

We are delighted to welcome our new members, renewed members and core INGO partners. A list of new and current members is available [online](#).

For any questions regarding the Civil Society Steering Committee, please contact us at cso@ebrd.com.

 [Learn more about the selection process and criteria for the Steering Committee](#) 

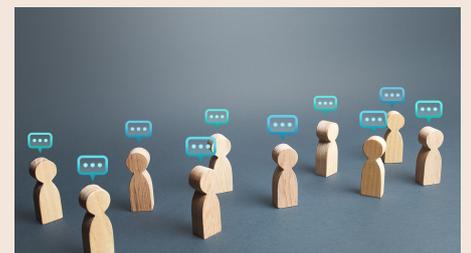
Updated GCAP methodology



The EBRD has published its revised Green City Action Plan (GCAP) methodology, keeping pace with the evolving priorities and challenges that cities face.

 [Read the updated methodology](#) 

Have your say: EBRD CSO newsletter



We are always striving to produce a newsletter around topics that matter to you most.

To help us improve further, we invite you to take a brief survey and share what you would like to see in future editions.

[Access the survey online](#). Your feedback truly guides our work.

Strengthening women's economic inclusion in Türkiye

In southern Türkiye, many local and refugee women have struggled to rebuild their livelihoods after the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2023 earthquakes, and amid ongoing economic pressures. These crises disproportionately affected businesses and households led by women, many of whom operate in informal or precarious economic conditions while managing significant unpaid care responsibilities.

In line with the EBRD's priority of fostering greater gender equality, economic and regional inclusion in Türkiye, we helped women entrepreneurs and cooperatives strengthen their skills, access resources and participate more confidently in economic and household decision-making.

Project highlights

STAKEHOLDERS

465

local and refugee women benefited from entrepreneurship, financial literacy and digital skills training; nine women-led enterprises received specialised technical and financial support to expand and diversify; and eight stakeholder roundtables enhanced women's participation in local decision-making.



Engaging civil society, delivering impact

To support women in the affected provinces of Hatay, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Mardin, we partnered with Kadın Emeğini Değerlendirme Vakfı (KEDV), Oxfam's affiliate in Türkiye.

A 360-DEGREE APPROACH

The project took a holistic approach to strengthening the environment for women-led businesses. It combined skills training and tailored support with engagement across the local community, helping women grow their enterprises more sustainably. Working with municipal authorities, chambers of commerce, local value chains and international actors, it reinforced support networks, improved skills and raised economic awareness. These partnerships extended the project's reach, fostering cooperation, peer learning and a more inclusive local economy.

DIVERSE PARTNERSHIPS

Grassroots organisations brought deep contextual knowledge, community trust and local insight, helping us to design support that truly reflects women's needs. Recognising that their operational approaches may differ from those of larger institutions, development partners can enhance results by remaining flexible, adaptive and collaborative, co-creating solutions that respond to both community needs and broader programme objectives.

OVERVIEW OF CSE ACTIVITY

In 2025 the CSE team held the following activities:

Eight country/sector strategy consultation meetings

Seven presidential CSO meetings

Five Board meetings with CSOs

LOOKING AHEAD



- The consultation on the draft economic governance strategy runs until 28 March 2026.
- 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/EVENTS



[LAUNCH OF THE EBRD TRANSITION REPORT 2025-26](#)



[EBRD SECURES CAPITAL INCREASE WITH STRONG SHAREHOLDER BACKING](#)



[EBRD IN AFRICA- CAREERS, IMPACT & OPPORTUNITIES](#)



EBRD 2026 ANNUAL MEETING AND BUSINESS FORUM

[Registration is now open](#)



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