
EBRD Civil Society Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with the EBRD



January 2021, happy new year!

As we look back at the events of 2020, we reflect on the achievements that have been made in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and commend the civil society community on their continuing resilience and determination during these difficult times.

As part of the EBRD's [Solidarity Package](#), the Civil Society Engagement Unit (CSEU) continued to maintain regular strategic dialogue with civil society by organising consultations and workshops in the virtual setting. Focusing on gathering information on how COVID-19 is affecting vulnerable groups, we were able to understand areas where the EBRD can support Civil Society resilience through its [Civil Society Capacity Enhancement Framework](#)

Alongside our consultations, the [EBRD's Strategic Capital Framework](#) identified digital transformation as a critical area of the Bank's engagement with civil society.



EBRD launches the Digital Civil Society Programme in Turkey

Can digital technologies boost resilience in the civic space? If so, how?

These have been the most pressing questions of the past year and questions, we, in the Civil Society Engagement Unit (CSEU), have been trying to address. After much consultation and outreach, we are happy to announce the launch of the first project

within the Digital Civil Society Programme, in Turkey...

To read on, please click below and check-out our 'Articles' tab within the CSEU web pages.

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We interview, the EBRD's first Chief Accountability Officer, Victoria Marquez-Mees about heading the Bank's new Independent Project Accountability Mechanism (IPAM), her motivations and experiences

For the full interview, please click below and check-out our 'Articles' tab within the CSEU webpages.

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2021 Key highlights

- As a part of the Covid-19 response, we successfully organised 19 online consultations reaching out to 220 Civil Society Organisation (CSO) participants from more than 20 countries;
- Almost 70 CSOs represented 19 countries participated in this year's virtual meeting with the EBRD's Board of Directors;
- The Bank's Civil Society Capacity Enhancement Framework was adapted to the Covid-19 response. In 2020, it comprised 29 Technical Cooperation (TC) Projects, totalling around EUR 7 million, covering sectors of sustainable energy and resources, economic inclusion, good governance and the newly created pillar, digitalisation;
- Partnership agreements were signed with international organisations including Save the Children, Open Contracting Partnership, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Oxfam which led to the implementation of joint TC projects and will allow ongoing collaboration for future projects.



EBRD brings successful Cyprus mission to a close

We would like to thank the Cypriot civil society community for their collaboration over the years, particularly in the development of country strategies and the successful implementation of the Civil Society Programme at the EBRD Annual Meeting and Business Forum in Nicosia in 2017.

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How we've helped SMEs in the southern part of Cyprus



Luisa Balbi, Civil Society Engagement Unit: A year working on public control mechanisms

With the new year off to a start, it's time to look back at what happened over the course of 2020. Besides dealing with the unexpected pandemic, 2020 was a year which shone a light on public control mechanisms. It is this that is a *fil rouge* connecting the dots of my work over the year. The working year started symbolically on 8 January 2020, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)...

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[EBRD's Know How Academy](#)

Please visit our online learning platform; a free-to-use online learning and advice hub to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises confronted with the economic impact of the pandemic



EBRD signs up to Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles



[Odile Renaud-Basso assumes office as EBRD president](#)

First female head of a multilateral development bank



Transition Report 2020-21 The State Strikes Back

As the coronavirus pandemic sparks calls for more state intervention, countries face tough choices to determine whether an increased role for government will have positive or negative consequences in the long term.

The *Transition Report 2020-21* looks at the size of the state in various economies and the role of state-owned enterprises and state banks in the modern economy. It also examines the part that the state plays in supporting transition to a green economy.

A Transition Report Special edition podcast is also available online: [What is the role of the state post-Covid-19?](#)



EBRD News

[Emerging economies at crossroads as state role set to grow in wake of Covid-19](#)

[EBRD training for SMEs flourishes online amid pandemic](#)

[EBRD to boost green financing for residents in Romania](#)

[EBRD and Bank of Palestine boost small businesses in West Bank and Gaza](#)

[EBRD and EU scale up small business support in Eastern Partnership countries](#)

[Five years on from Paris 2015, the next climate challenge](#)

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JANUARY 2021



Covid-19 post-crisis recovery for the energy sector
Webex, 10:30 - 12:00 (London time)

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Upcoming events

For upcoming EBRD (virtual) events, please check-out the [EBRD Events Page](#)

