



[EBRD targets coronavirus financing of €21 billion through 2021](#)

May 2020

EBRD Civil Society Covid-19 Response

The EBRD's Solidarity Package

The EBRD's deep country knowledge, its close connection to and cooperation with its Country of Operation (CoO) authorities, and its Regional Office (RO) network, are critical foundations of crisis response. Management has stepped up its regular monitoring of CoO developments, including through an in-depth survey of RO heads to assess government measures, business needs, and opportunities for collaboration followed by regular pulse surveys.

The Bank's efforts between now and the end of 2021 will be focused on dealing with the Covid-19 crisis response and preparation for eventual recovery - a total financing of 21 billion Euros will be available.

The main components are:

- A 4 billion Euro Resilience Framework to provide finance to meet the short-term liquidity and working capital needs of existing clients.
- Financing under the Trade Facilitation Programme will increase to meet rising demand to keep open the channels of commerce.

- We will strengthen established frameworks that can reach out to SMEs that are not yet our clients.
- There will be a new emergency facility to meet essential infrastructure requirements.

In parallel with increased financing, there will be a stepped up effort on providing policy support in order to respond to the short and long term consequences of the crisis. We will take all of this action while seeking to safeguard and eventually enhance transition and the green economy.

The Bank's Civil Society Engagement Unit engages with civil society representatives in CoOs to:

- Gather information on how COVID-19 is affecting vulnerable parts of the population;
- Gain insights into how policies adopted at the national or local level to blunt the spread of the virus are working;
- Share with them the intentions behind the EBRD Solidarity Package and test reactions to it on the ground;
- Maintain important aspects of our stakeholder engagement during turbulent times (on country and strategy consultations, project-related communication);
- Identify specific areas where EBRD can support resilience of civil society organisations through capacity building.

As in past crises, the solidarity packages are being built bottom up, from the Bank's partnerships on the ground with governments, business, international partners, and other stakeholders. For more information please visit our website: <https://www.ebrd.com/what-we-do/coronavirus-solidarity>



EBRD's Regional Economic Prospects May 2020

Virtual Consultations with Civil Society Organisations

In light of the current situation, the Civil Society and Engagement Unit has moved all consultations into a virtual setting. We are pleased to say Covid-19-specific consultations have already taken place with the Western Balkans, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan with great success. And the EBRD's Green Economy Transition (GET) consultation also took place last week in a virtual setting with other business as usual consultations planned for the coming months.

The following virtual Covid-19 CSO consultations are upcoming:

Tajikistan - Wednesday 3rd June 10.00AM (London)

Moldova - Thursday 4th June 10.00AM (London)

We are planning consultations with the rest of our countries and regions of operations in the coming weeks. If you would like to be involved, please email CSO@ebrd.com, detailing your country of interest, to be added to our distribution list for registration.

Please check-out the following videos for further EBRD/Covid-19 news:

[EBRD responds to Covid19 in the Western Balkans](#)

[EBRD responds to Covid19 in Central Asia](#)

[EBRD responds to Covid19 in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean](#)

[EBRD responds to Covid19 in Turkey](#)

[EBRD responds to Covid19 in Romania and Bulgaria](#)

We are working on improving our online engagement and therefore will release further information soon about how we intend to interact while lockdown and social distancing measures are still in place.



Please visit the EBRD's Covid-19 specific website for further information on how we are tackling the crisis: <https://www.ebrd.com/what-we-do/coronavirus>

EBRD Response to Covid-19 Under the EBRD Civil Society Capacity Building Framework

The impact of the pandemic calls for innovative approaches to keep business, services, and public relations as 'normal' as possible using ICT tools to overcome social distancing. Against this background, under the EBRD Civil Society Capacity Building Framework, the Bank aims at supporting the resilience to COVID-19 of the civil society sector through digital transformation with the following objectives:

1. Supporting EBRD clients in adapting stakeholder engagement and information disclosure practices;
2. Enhancing public accountability mechanisms;
3. Supporting community monitoring of EBRD projects;
4. Supporting the digital transformation of the civil society sector

All TCs under the EBRD Civil Society Capacity Building Framework will be designed to ensure that the support to digital transformation of the civil society sector and of the EBRD's clients practices on stakeholder engagement and information disclosure could maintain its significance beyond the COVID-19 response.



The Environment and Social Sustainability Department's Covid-19 'hublet'

Please check out our website for further information which could be of help, including a very useful video outlining five key factors to bear in mind when running a business during the coronavirus pandemic: <https://www.ebrd.com/sustainability-covid.html>



How to stop the coronavirus pandemic disrupting a green future

Partnerships and Signings

On 8th January 2020 the EBRD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** to foster collaboration on anti-corruption efforts across the EBRD region. UNODC is the UN agency headquartered in Vienna serving as a Secretariat to the United Nations Convention on Anti-Corruption (UNCAC). The signed MoU provides a strong message of the EBRD zero tolerance policy against corruption as well as of the recognition of civil society engagement as an integral part of the fight against corruption.

On Friday 14th February, the EBRD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Open Contracting Partnership (OCP)**. The OCP is an organisation created by the World Bank in 2012 that is leading the scene on the use of open data in public procurement. Future cooperation will be focused on the monitoring of public procurement and the EBRD is working on framework agreements for cooperation with OCP for projects across our regions of operations.

Finally, Introducing the New Civil Society Engagement Unit...

We are a team of six: three members new to the Bank and London, two members, including the Head of Unit, new to their roles and one veteran who's been in the team for eight years.

We found each other late and lost early. With the new structure of the unit, we could only physically work together for three months. Even before we had a chance to feel tight-knit, we were sent home to work remotely. With the Bank's recent decision to extend the period of remote working over the summer until at least September, we find ourselves in a position where we will have spent more time apart than together at EBRD HQ. Strange times indeed.

In this brave new world, our chances for collaborating, networking, being visible and engaging with you are limited to the emails we receive, consultations we organise, continuing dialogue with calls and video conferences and our online presence in general.

We just want to reassure our CSO community that we're still here, we're still engaged, we're still active and we're working harder than ever to collaborate and understand your needs during the Covid-19 crisis. As always, please feel free to get in touch:

CSO@ebrd.com

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