

EBRD-CSO Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with the EBRD



Welcome to the
CSO Newsletter

October 2023

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Foreword

Dear Reader,

Welcome to another edition of the CSO newsletter.

In this issue, we reflect on our activity over the summer months and look forward to upcoming activities for 2023 and 2024.

We highlight three very successful technical cooperation projects: the first, a project on stakeholder engagement and awareness raising with the Greater Amman Municipality in Jordan; the second, a project to support women's skills in Azerbaijan; and the third, a project in Türkiye to increase women's participation in the automotive sector.

We also provide an update on the consultations we held over the summer, namely for the Environmental and Social Policy and Access to Information Policy, as well as the energy sector and mining strategies.

Happy reading!
The CSE team

POLICY ACTIVITY

EBRD President meets civil society in Ukraine



In late September, as part of her visit to Ukraine, EBRD President Odile Renaud-Basso met Ukraine's civil society organisations (CSOs) in person. This was the first face-to-face meeting between the EBRD President and CSOs in Ukraine.

Discussions covered two topics: rule of law and monitoring of reconstruction funding; and the economic inclusion of war veterans, internally displaced people and people with disabilities.

It was the first time the topic of war veterans had been discussed between CSOs and the EBRD President. We are committed to continuing our constructive dialogue with Ukrainian civil society.

The EBRD visits Türkiye's earthquake zone



Eight months after Türkiye was struck by a series of devastating earthquakes, the country is still reeling from the impact.

With this in mind, the EBRD CSE team and Türkiye Resident Office leadership visited Türkiye's earthquake zone to assess the damage and understand what the communities there currently need.

Besides meeting the local governing bodies and private sector, the delegation held talks with CSOs such as Oxfam-KEDV, ACEV (Mother Child Education Foundation), the United Nations Development Programme, İhtiyac Haritası (Needs Map) and others. Each painted a rather bleak picture of great need and limited means, but none of them was fazed by the enormous challenges facing them.

The CSE team is now working to highlight the social and psychological layers of recovery besides the physical reconstruction of infrastructure to reintegrate the region into the country's economy

Gender equality in Türkiye's automotive sector



In October the EBRD celebrated the successful culmination of "We Assemble Equity", a capacity-building project implemented jointly with TAYSAD (Automotive Suppliers Association of Turkey) to increase women's economic participation in the automotive sector.

We have not only raised gender equality awareness and provided resources to help member companies implement gender-responsive practices and policies, but also initiated a cultural shift that will undoubtedly ripple through the industry, influencing generations to come.

The gender equality toolkit is available in Turkish through the QR code below.

The CSE team looks forward to disseminating similar initiatives in other economies in the EBRD regions.

READ THE TOOLKIT



New training on stakeholder engagement

A new, free e-learning course on community engagement for EBRD stakeholders is now available. The course provides accessible and engaging material to train community-facing personnel (including those of contractors) and all project staff whose work relates in some way to community engagement and the insights gained from it.

Access to the full course curriculum and enrolment are available via the QR code.

ACCESS THE TRAINING



POLICY ACTIVITY

Greater civil society participation in solid waste management in Jordan

In September we closed our project “stakeholder participation, capacity building and awareness raising on solid waste management practices” with the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM). It was implemented by Oxfam Jordan together with other CSO contractors, and was designed to support the EBRD’s Solid Waste Crisis Response.

The project successfully promoted sustainable solid waste management practices among the citizens of Amman, including refugees.

More than 200 members of the local community participated in 14 groups across Amman, learning about solid waste management and the circular economy. Several awareness-raising activities for youth and the public were also held across Amman, reaching more than 185,000 citizens.

Moreover, we strengthened GAM’s internal capacity to engage with local communities by creating focal points and channels of communication between GAM and the local community to ensure the project’s sustainability after its completion.

The CSE team is proud to see this project successfully completed. Our partnership with Oxfam Jordan was essential in ensuring the project’s sustainability on the ground. Oxfam brought its expertise of working with grassroots organisations and local communities in Jordan, and GAM constructively engaged with the implementing partners of the project.



Supporting women in Azerbaijan

The EBRD has been supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills among women in Azerbaijan. Through a technical cooperation project, the Bank has helped United Aid for Azerbaijan (UAFA) build an online training platform that will streamline training courses for women who want to build small businesses in pre-school education – a social franchise called Mektebim.

The aim of UAFA’s Mektebim programme is to contribute to stronger socio-economic development in Azerbaijan, based on UAFA’s 25 years of experience of working with communities in Azerbaijan.

To attract and empower women, UAFA has also developed and delivered a 360-degree awareness campaign on women as agents of social economic development

As a result, 23 women from all over Azerbaijan have been running a successful small business for at least a year, and a further 20 have recently applied to join Mektebim. With input from a range of experts, UAFA has now built an infrastructure that has great potential to be financially sustainable and expand with further investment.



OVERVIEW OF CSE ACTIVITY

The CSE team had held the following activities as of 13 October 2023:

18 country/sector strategy consultation meetings

11 presidential CSO meetings

9 senior management CSO meetings

8 events/external activities

6 Board meetings with CSOs

ENERGY AND MINING SECTOR STRATEGIES - AN UPDATE

Over the summer we conducted our public consultations for the new energy sector and mining strategies. Meetings for the energy strategy targeted stakeholders from civil society and the private sector across the EBRD regions. In total, 100 people participated in the seven public consultations.

For the mining strategy we held six consultations, attracting 71 participants. Consultations were held for Central Asia, Egypt, Mongolia, Poland, Serbia, the southern and eastern Mediterranean, Türkiye, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The new strategies will be available in 2024. Watch this space for more news and updates.

Contacts

Civil Society Engagement

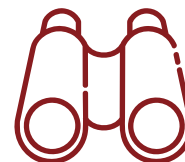
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LOOKING AHEAD



- Our [Serbia country strategy](#) consultation runs until **20 November 2023**.
- Our [current and upcoming country and sector strategies](#) will be available on our dedicated consultation page.
- We are [drafting the updates](#) to the [Access to Information Policy \(AIP\)](#) and the [Environmental and Social Policy \(ESP\)](#). Public consultations will be held once the draft policies are publicly disclosed in the spring of 2024, including a dedicated session during the EBRD's Annual Meeting in May 2024. A list of in-person and virtual consultation events will be posted [on this page](#) towards the end of year. In the interim, you can provide feedback using the [online feedback form](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY

Review our open consultations



ACCESS PROJECT INFORMATION



Environmental and Social Policy and Access to Information Policy consultation



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