

Your impact on the new energy sector strategy



October - December 2018

Welcome to the CSO Newsletter

In recent months, you have provided us with feedback on topics ranging from human rights to hydropower.

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This issue explores how we have incorporated this input into our new energy sector strategy, and how we helped an EBRD client in Egypt with their own CSO engagement. In autumn 2018, many of you participated in consultations across our regions (see page 3), and we would like to thank you for all of your contributions to our work.

And if you didn't get a chance to have your say in 2018, there will be plenty of opportunities in 2019. Read on for more information about our upcoming consultations, and remember to register for the Civil Society Programme, which will take place at the EBRD Annual Meeting in Sarajevo in May.

→ For more information visit:
www.ebrd.com/who-we-are/civil-society/news-and-events

On 12 December, the EBRD Board of Directors approved the Bank's new Energy Sector Strategy 2019-23 (ESS). This new strategy makes the EBRD the only international financial institution that no longer invests in coal and upstream oil exploration under any circumstances. We consulted widely with civil society across our regions while developing the ESS, and our public consultations were attended by more than 120 stakeholders.

What we learned from civil society

Overall, the draft ESS received positive feedback during the consultation process. Participants commended the Bank's support for renewable energy and its decision to transition away from coal. The main points of contention related to the Bank's support for natural gas and to the insufficient alignment of the ESS – in the

view of some stakeholders – with more ambitious targets for decarbonisation and emission reductions, in line with international climate goals.

How we incorporated your feedback

We reflected a number of stakeholder comments in the [final ESS](#) and in the [Report on Public Comments](#). The following changes were made:

- We updated the document to emphasise its focus on renewable energy and to clarify the role of gas. The EBRD aims to support the transition to decarbonised economies by increasing the use of renewable energy and promoting the distribution of energy through smart, flexible, diverse, integrated and resilient networks.

- We acknowledged the potential role of natural gas for a transition period, as one of a number of options, while economies switch away from more polluting fuels. This role will depend on country and regional circumstances and will be in line with criteria ensuring that gas sector investments do not displace less carbon-intensive sources, or lead to carbon lock-in or stranded assets.
- We clarified that the ESS aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement and highlighted our commitment to energy efficiency.

Our work with municipalities in Egypt

Water conservation is a major challenge for Egypt. High population growth and rapid urbanisation have boosted demand for water but many Egyptians still lack access to water and public sanitation networks. In the Kafr El Sheikh governorate only 86.6 per cent of households are connected to the public water network and only 46.8 per cent to the public sanitation network – well below the national average.

To address this issue, the EBRD, the EIB and the EU Neighbourhood Investment Facility partnered with the state-owned KES Water and Sanitation Company (KWCS), a subsidiary of the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW), in a pilot project providing first-time sanitation to around 470,000 people in the districts of Burulu, Desouk and Motobas.



During the project's implementation, the meaningful involvement of users in the water and wastewater sectors was a major challenge. The EBRD addressed these gaps by providing technical assistance in the form of awareness-raising and capacity-building, led by the EBRD's Civil Society Engagement Unit (CSEU).

Our project, completed in October 2018, ensured that local communities better understand:

- **what** we are doing
- **why** it is done
- **who is doing the work**, and most importantly
- **who will benefit** from it.

Over a year, we engaged with 28 local community groups that are involved in raising awareness of water and wastewater management. As a result, this campaign had 100 direct and 98,000 indirect beneficiaries, such as schools and hospitals. In February 2018, the joint efforts of the EBRD's CSEU, the client (HCWW), and the consultant produced documentaries, ads and jingles to disseminate messages on water conservation and wastewater management. And our "Every Drop Counts" campaign ran on national TV to spread the message further. Watch our "Drop of water" video to find out how we reached millions to achieve the goal of conserving water.

Coming soon: Consultations on good governance policies and municipal and environmental infrastructure strategy

The EBRD is approaching the review of its three good governance policies: the Public Information Policy, the Rules of Procedures of the Project Complaint Mechanism, and the Environmental and Social Policy. The draft policies will be published on ebrd.com in late January. Join us to have your say at meetings in Kiev (5 February), Tbilisi (7 February), Almaty (11 February), Istanbul (13 February), Cairo (21 February), Casablanca (26 February), Belgrade (28 February) or London (5 March). In January we will send invitations to these meetings.

We are also reviewing our municipal and environmental infrastructure strategy. February will see publication of the draft strategy, and we will soon set dates for consultations with civil society.

Save the date: 2019 Civil Society Programme

SARAJEVO
2019

The 2019 Civil Society Programme will take place on 8-9 May 2019 in Sarajevo, in association with the 28th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors and the Business Forum. In what promises to be a series of stimulating discussions, the 2019 Civil Society Programme will be an opportunity for dialogue between civil society stakeholders and EBRD staff, senior management, President and Board of Directors. This will be an occasion for

civil society stakeholders to learn more about the Bank and discuss issues of mutual interest regarding the EBRD's policies and projects. The Programme will also feature a panel on impact investment that will look at how businesses and civil society can join forces to promote sustainable development. Participation in the Programme is free of charge for a maximum of two participants per civil society organisation. For the latest information and updates, visit www.ebrd.com/am. Online registration will be also accessible via this website. We look forward to seeing you in Sarajevo!

DIALOGUE

Consultations on country strategies and more



EBRD President meets civil society in Turkey

EBRD President Suma Chakrabarti met with CSO representatives in Istanbul on 18 October. The representatives introduced their activities in the country, in particular on gender equality and the economic empowerment of women, the environmental impact of renewable energy, the promotion of energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of the Turkish economy. CSOs also discussed with President Chakrabarti the general operating environment for CSOs in Turkey and how to work more closely with the EBRD.

Consultation with CSOs on the country strategy for Azerbaijan

On 21 November, the Bank hosted a consultation meeting with local civil society representatives to discuss the priorities envisaged for the Bank's upcoming strategy for Azerbaijan. Participants noted challenges and opportunities in the operating conditions for civil society, transparency and economic transition. The Bank will organise a consultation with international CSOs at its London Headquarters in January to collect CSO stakeholders' views about issues related to Article 1 and about the Bank's planned operations in Azerbaijan. The draft strategy is due for publication in early 2019.

Consultation on the country strategy for Slovenia

On 16 November, the EBRD Resident Office in Ljubljana hosted a consultation meeting with civil society to discuss the priorities of the new country strategy for Slovenia. The meeting was held during the pre-drafting stage to ensure that civil society's perspectives were integrated into the draft strategy. Civil society representatives provided recommendations for the scaling up of support in the fields of good governance, competitiveness and the green economy. The draft strategy for Slovenia is currently available for its 45-day public consultation period on the [EBRD website](#), and we invite you to submit your comments until 19 January 2019.

Consultation on the country strategy for Tunisia

On 12 December 2018, the EBRD Board of Directors approved the [Tunisia Country Strategy 2018-23](#) and the accompanying [Report on the Invitation to the Public to Comment](#). During the public consultation period, CSOs commented via email and provided input on many of the strategy's priorities. In particular, CSOs advocated for more EBRD involvement in economic inclusion, governance and transition to a green economy, and drew attention to human-rights challenges in relation to the political assessment.

Update of the EBRD political methodology

On 30 October at its London HQ, the EBRD hosted a meeting with civil society organisations to discuss the operational implications of its updated political methodology. The political character of the Bank, as set out in Article 1 of the Agreement Establishing the Bank, is one of the distinguishing features that sets the EBRD apart from other multilateral development banks. The application of these political principles is guided by the Bank's Procedures to Implement the Political Aspects of the Mandate of the EBRD, issued in 2013, of which the 2018 addendum now forms an integral part. The revised approach enhances the Bank's flexibility in adapting its operations to the evolving circumstances of the economies where it invests.

Consultation with local and international CSOs on country strategy for Turkmenistan

On 7 November, the EBRD held a consultation meeting with international CSOs at its London Headquarters to discuss the upcoming review of the Turkmenistan country strategy. The discussion focused on the political situation in the country and other transition challenges. On 29 November, the EBRD Resident Office in Ashgabat held a consultation with local CSOs to discuss the Bank's planned operational priorities for the forthcoming strategy period. The draft strategy is due for publication in the second quarter of 2019.



IN BRIEF

A new way to support youth employment in the West Bank and Gaza

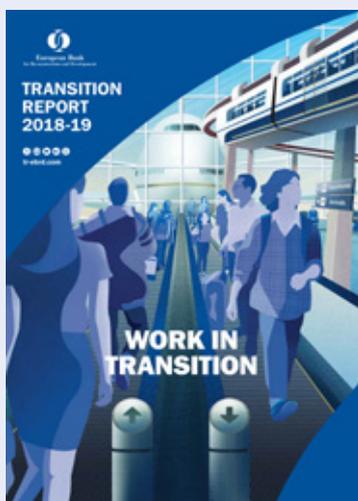
Youth unemployment widely affects our southern and eastern Mediterranean region, but it is particularly high among residents in the West Bank and Gaza. To address this challenge, the EBRD Board of Directors approved the youth employment impact bond for the West Bank and Gaza on 14 November. Commissioned by the World Bank, this project will promote the skills and employability of young people, based on a demand-driven approach and in partnership with the private sector. In addition, it will make local employers more competitive by expanding their access to a talent pool with improved skills. The project aims to raise total funding of US\$ 1.8 million, with up to US\$ 500,000 sourced from the EBRD West Bank and Gaza Trust Fund.

Supporting the transparency of public procurement in Moldova

On 22 October, the EBRD's CSEU launched a new technical cooperation project to support Moldovan CSOs in the monitoring of public procurement. The initiative coincided with the Open Government and Public Spending workshop in Chisinau, which was co-organised by the EBRD, the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme. In response to the request of the Moldovan Ministry of Finance, the EBRD designed a technical assistance project to create data-driven monitoring procedures and tools for public procurement conducted on an open-data procurement platform, and to enable civil society to verify procurement decisions and the outcomes of public contracts. The project has a total value of €200,000 and will be implemented over 24 months.

EBRD *Transition Report 2018-19*

The interplay of migration, automation and demographic shifts will drive major changes in labour markets in coming years. The EBRD's *Transition Report 2018-19: Work in Transition* analyses how these factors will shape our jobs and helps understand what the economies



of the EBRD regions need to do in order to leverage these rapid changes. The report argues that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. It makes concrete proposals about how to deal with rapidly ageing workforces in some societies and fast-growing numbers of young people looking for work in others. It also looks at how governments can respond sustainably to growing urbanisation. See tr-ebrd.com to find out what the report says about your country and how these changes may affect your job.

Key dates and contacts

Country strategies: public comment periods

Slovenia	December 2018 – January 2019
FYR Macedonia	February – March 2019
Turkmenistan	February – March 2019
Azerbaijan	February – March 2019



To have your say on strategies visit:
www.ebrd.com/strategies-and-policies/have-your-say.html

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