Youth inclusion in Ukraine’s dairy sector

On-the-farm training and internship programme

The results of the programme exceeded expectations.

- Of the students who participated in the programme, 94 per cent completed internships at the 10 dairy farms involved (the original target was 50 per cent).

There were also unexpected benefits:

- Among the non-graduate students (those continuing with college or university education), 45 per cent received proposals for additional summer practice at the farms.
- Offers of employment were made to 23 per cent of participants during the internship.

Project sustainability

Demand for the programme was high. In addition to the first intake of 31 students, a further 17 were able to take part, with a total of 48 students benefiting from the EBRD project.

Since the successful completion of the programme, the Canadian Dairy Business Development project has committed to continuing this initiative for the next two years, along with Dnipro State University of Agriculture and Economics and Novomoskovsk College.

For more information see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqdUOL9TPKM&feature=youtu.be

Total number of students participating in the pilot programme: 31
Completed the intensive five-day training: 31
Completed the initial internship: 29
Received an offer of an additional (summer) internship: 14
Received a job offer: 7
Civil Society Programme at the 2018 Annual Meeting – save the date!

The 2018 Civil Society Programme at the EBRD’s Annual Meeting will take place from 9-10 May at the Dead Sea, Jordan. As in previous years, CSO representatives will have an opportunity for dialogue with EBRD staff, senior management, the President and Board Directors, to discuss the Bank’s investment projects and policy documents. The Programme will also feature roundtable sessions for stakeholders, where CSOs will discuss the role of civil society in promoting economic inclusion and the green economy, in line with the EBRD’s priorities and updated concept of transition. In addition to the main sessions, CSOs will organise and lead a panel on youth economic and financial inclusion in the southern and eastern Mediterranean region. The EBRD will call for panel proposals in early 2018.

We look forward to seeing you in Jordan!

More information will be available shortly at: www.ebrd.com/who-we-are/civil-society/news-and-events.html

For details of the EBRD Annual Meeting and Business Forum 2018 see: www.ebrd.com/am

One Planet climate summit

The EBRD joined other global development organisations at the One Planet climate summit, held in Paris on 12 December 2017. EBRD President Suma Chakrabarti unveiled the Green Cities Climate Finance Accelerator, launched together with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), an international alliance of around 7,500 cities united in their goal of promoting action to combat climate change and moving towards a low-emission and climate-resilient society.

The EBRD and the GCoM are seeking to drive climate action in up to 60 cities, by providing over US$ 500 million for city action plans and projects worth a total of US$ 1.5 billion. The EBRD’s climate finance commitments have been hovering around 40 per cent of the Bank’s annual business investment for much of 2017.

At the summit, the EBRD announced its participation in the “Amundi Planet – Emerging Green One” fund with an investment of up to US$ 100 million. This is the first fund to focus on investing in green bonds issued by private-sector financial institutions. It is designed to become the world’s largest green bond fund and the first to be dedicated exclusively to emerging markets.

The EBRD Transition Report 2017-18: Sustaining Growth

On 22 November a panel hosted by EBRD Chief Economist Sergei Guriev presented the Transition Report 2017-18. The Report finds that many economies in the EBRD region appear to have become stuck in a “middle-income trap” and need a new model to create sustained economic growth in future. The three main areas that the new model should embrace are: improving the productivity of individual firms, infrastructure investment, and an emphasis on green growth. On 8-9 February 2018 the EBRD will host a workshop at its HQ in London on growth in middle-income economies, to debate the key elements of the model. See http://www.ebrd.com/news/events/sustaining-growth.html.
EBRD adopts new Mining Strategy

The EBRD’s new Extractive Mining Industries Strategy was adopted by the Board of Directors in December and will guide the Bank’s operational priorities in the mining sector from 2018-22. The new Strategy takes stock of changes over the past five years, including initiatives to improve the environmental and social performance of the sector, health and safety practices, climate change, the transparency of revenue flows and contracts, and the role of local communities.

The Bank consulted with civil society, mining companies, governments and academia, and organised public consultation meetings in London in July, and in Ulaanbaatar, Almaty, and Istanbul in October, with 108 representatives attending from nine different countries. In addition, bilateral meetings took place in each of these locations. All written and verbal comments received during the public consultation period were taken into account in the preparation of the new strategy.

Country strategy consultations

Serbia
On 23 October the EBRD hosted a workshop in Belgrade to consult on the upcoming draft country strategy for Serbia. Representatives of Transparency International Serbia attended, along with the Association for Business Women in Serbia, the Center for Civil Society Development (Protecta), and the Centre for Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEKOR). Topics included transparency and good governance, the business climate and access to finance, human rights, social and environmental issues, EU integration, and other EBRD operational priorities for the forthcoming strategy.

Poland
On 14 November, the EBRD Resident Office in Warsaw hosted a consultation on the Bank’s draft country strategy for Poland. Representatives from national CSOs, including the Stefan Batory Foundation, WiseEuropa, Business Centre Club and Confederation Lewiatan attended the roundtable. Participants discussed operational priorities for the forthcoming strategy period, including the green economy, economic competitiveness and productivity, and capital market development.

Board consultation visits

Turkey
A group of EBRD Board members visited Turkey from 22-27 October, where they met with a number of local CSOs, think-tanks and professional associations, in Ankara. Board Directors and Alternate Directors also met representatives of international CSOs in London on 2 November: Chatham House, Human Rights Watch, Reporters Without Borders, the International Press Institute, and the International Medical Corps UK. A wide range of topics were covered during these meetings, including the situation of human rights organisations and press freedom in the country, unemployment among women and young people, and vocational training, as well as challenges in the energy sector.

Moldova
On 25 October, EBRD Board Directors met with civil society representatives in Chisinau as part of their consultation visit to Moldova. The topics covered included transparency and anti-corruption, the rule of law and democracy, private-sector development, economic inclusion and EU integration. CSOs represented at the meeting included Transparency International Moldova, the Institute for Development and Social Initiative, Partnership for Development Centre, Centre for International Private Enterprise and Centre for Policies and Reforms.

Tunisia
On 27 October, a delegation of the Bank’s Board of Directors concluded the first-ever consultation visit to Tunisia. Directors met some of the main civil society stakeholders in the country: the Tunisian Human Rights League, Al Bawsala, the Al Kawakibi Democracy Center, and the Center for Arab Women Training Research. Important messages were highlighted during those meetings, including how the EBRD could address gaps in inclusion and integration by supporting vocational training, facilitating access to microfinance and seed finance, promoting skills and employability for young people, and fostering initiatives for female entrepreneurs.

Morocco
On 23 October, a delegation of Board Advisers held meetings with several CSOs in Morocco: Forum des Alternatives, Transparency Morocco, the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights, the Democratic Association of Women of Morocco, Espace Associatif, and the Working Group for the Environment. The topics for discussion ranged from law enforcement and anti-corruption efforts, to justice reform and public participation in decision-making, freedom of expression and association, and environmental protection and awareness.
Review of EBRD good governance policies

In February-March 2018, the EBRD will start to review its good governance policies: the Public Information Policy (PIP), Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Project Complaint Mechanism (PCM). During the first quarter of 2018, the Bank will invite CSOs and the public to comment in writing on the existing policies. EBRD teams will also seek feedback from CSOs during dedicated meetings at the Civil Society Programme on 9-10 May 2018 (details will be available soon). Public consultations on the new draft policies will take place in late 2018 and early 2019, including face-to-face meetings in several regions where the Bank invests. The teams aim to submit the revised PIP, ESP and PCM – alongside reports on public consultations – for the approval of the EBRD Board of Directors in the first quarter of 2019.

Women in Business in Turkey

In November, after four years of implementation, the EBRD Women in Business Programme in Turkey was fully disbursed. Over 150,000 women have been helped to grow their businesses by receiving affordable loans through local banks, advisory services, coaching and mentoring programmes, training and network opportunities.

Total EBRD finance: €300 million

Supporting renewable energy in Jordan

The EBRD is continuing to support Jordan’s wind power generation by financing the construction and operation of a 45 MW wind farm in the Shobak region. This brings the cumulative installed capacity of renewable projects in Jordan supported by the Bank to 350 MW.

EBRD finance: US$ 26 million

Total project value: US$ 52 million
(co-financed by the EBRD, the Europe Arab Bank and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector)

Global Sustainable Development Goals on road safety

On 11 December the Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport, the Global New Car Assessment Programme and the Towards Zero Foundation, in association with the EBRD, organised a conference on road safety and on how multilateral development banks can address the issue. Under the Sustainable Development Goals the international community has committed to halving “the number of global deaths from road traffic accidents by 2020”.

One of the panels featured a technical cooperation project, started in April 2017 under the Civil Society Enhancement Framework and funded by EBRD shareholders, to boost the use of seat belts and teach essential eco-friendly driving skills in Tajikistan. The public campaign was launched on 2 November on the streets of Dushanbe. Seminars took place with fleet managers, policy-makers and CSOs.

Key dates and contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country strategies: public comment periods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>Uzbekistan</td>
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To have your say on strategies visit: www.ebrd.com/strategies-and-policies/have-your-say.html

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