

Civil Society Programme at the 2016 Annual Meeting

In the EBRD's 25th anniversary year, the Civil Society Programme attracted a large number of civil society representatives – around 100 people from 22 countries – to the Bank's Headquarters in London on 11 and 12 May.

The EBRD Civil Society Programme provides an opportunity for civil society participants to engage in dialogue with the Bank's Board of Directors and the EBRD President as well as EBRD staff and senior management, about the Bank's investment projects, policies and strategies, and to participate in multi-stakeholder discussions.

This year's Programme featured thematic panels on topics including the role of civil society in transition, transparency in public procurement, youth, skills, economic inclusion and gender equality. The civil society sector also featured prominently in the Business Forum, with a session dedicated to the civil society group [National Dialogue Quartet](#) which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015 for its contribution to democratic transition in Tunisia.

Civil society fostering transition

In light of the Bank's 25th anniversary, the Civil Society Programme included a 'fireside chat' with [Sergei Guriev](#), incoming EBRD Chief Economist, to reflect on key

achievements and setbacks experienced by [civil society in relation to transition processes in the EBRD region](#) since the Bank's inception. The discussion also considered the challenges that lie ahead for civil society in building well-governed, sustainable and inclusive economies and societies. Participants highlighted that a free and vibrant civil society is key to ensuring successful socio-political and economic transition. Therefore the EBRD needs to continue to encourage the involvement of civil society and invest in building the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) so that they remain strong partners in the transition process in the years ahead.

The Programme also featured a panel on [engaging civil society to promote transparent procurement](#). This roundtable discussion looked at how civil society can strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms in public procurement. The panel also addressed challenges regarding the disclosure of information.

Watch video interviews with [Sergei Guriev](#), incoming EBRD Chief Economist, and [Biljana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay](#), Head of the Bank's Civil Society Engagement, on '25 years of transition: the role of civil society in central and eastern Europe and Central Asia'.

April-June 2016

Welcome to the CSO Newsletter

In this issue we report back from the Civil Society Programme 2016, which was held on 11-12 May in London as part of the EBRD Annual Meeting and Business Forum. You can also read about the meeting of the EBRD President and civil society representatives in Azerbaijan.



As always, we bring you the latest news about the Bank's dialogue with CSOs on country strategies, recent projects and initiatives.

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



EBRD opens Representative Offices in Tokyo and in Washington, D.C.

The EBRD opened its first Representative Offices for Japan and for North America, in March and April 2016 respectively. The Office in Washington, D.C. will help foster relations with companies and authorities in Canada, Mexico and the United States of America.

The Office in Tokyo has been opened with the aim of increasing further the EBRD's successful business relationships with Japanese partners.



Sir Suma Chakrabarti re-elected as EBRD President

During the EBRD Annual Meeting, the Bank's Board of Governors voted to elect Sir Suma Chakrabarti as President of the EBRD for a second four-year term.

Approaches to inclusion

Inclusion was one of the main topics discussed during the 2016 Civil Society Programme at the EBRD Annual Meeting. [Dedicated panels](#) reviewed different aspects of inclusion, such as the importance of innovation and skills, the role that youth can play in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the role of civil society in the promotion of gender equality by the EBRD. The wide range of discussions shows the scale of the Bank's commitment to supporting an inclusive transition and business model in partnership with its private sector clients as well as with civil society.

A panel discussion on [Inclusion through Innovation and Skills](#) brought together inspirational speakers from the private and public sectors for a lively dialogue on the links between innovation and the development of skills, and on their relevance for inclusion. Since 2013 the EBRD has been working with private sector employers to develop tailored training programmes that can improve productivity, attract and retain talent, and widen access to employment opportunities. The session considered how the EBRD could support its clients as they embrace inclusive business models by leading in and adapting to innovation. It also looked at how to

promote vocational training for current employees and the acquisition of skills for new entrants to the labour market.

Another roundtable discussion, on the [EBRD's Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality 2016-2020: the role of civil society](#), provided an opportunity for the Bank to present its first Gender Strategy to civil society participants. The Strategy aims to advance equal opportunities for women and men in all EBRD activities, in both the public and private sectors. The discussion focused on the role of civil society in the promotion of equal access to finance, employment and skills.

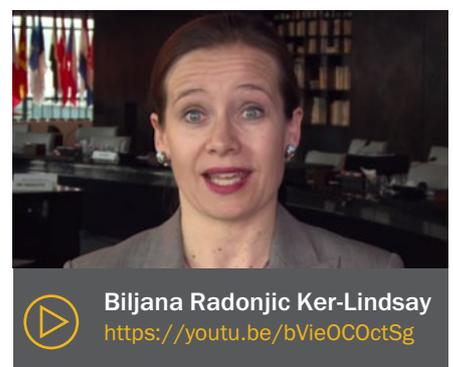
Lastly, continuing the approach launched by the Civil Society Engagement Unit (CSEU) in 2015, the EBRD also invited CSOs to submit proposals for the organisation of a thematic panel. AIESEC International submitted the proposal that was chosen, on the [role of youth in shaping the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). The panel looked at how young people, who make up a large proportion of the population in transition countries, benefit from and contribute to inclusive development and should be supported in order to promote the achievement of the global SDGs.

From dialogue to closer cooperation

The 2016 Civil Society Programme strengthened the shift in the Bank's engagement with civil society from dialogue to ever-closer cooperation. The CSEU presented the preliminary achievements of its Civil Society Capacity Building Framework, which was launched in mid-2014 following the successful implementation of the pilot phase (June 2013 to June 2014). The Framework is an innovative, grant-based programme that aims to raise awareness and achieve the transfer of knowledge and skills to local civil society groups and organisations. It allows the Bank to engage more proactively and provide support to a wide range of civil society stakeholders when there is a link with specific EBRD-financed projects and policy dialogue initiatives.

In line with EBRD strategies, civil society capacity-building technical cooperation projects focus on three key areas that underpin the Bank's transition mandate: sustainable energy and resources, economic inclusion (youth and regional disparities), and good governance.

"To re-energise transition and build economic resilience, the EBRD recognises that it needs to reach beyond its investment projects to encourage broader change. Building deeper partnerships with civil society as a key stakeholder group is important for achieving broader social acceptance for reforms and increased local ownership of the transition process," said Biljana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay, Head of the EBRD's CSEU, who moderated the session.



DIALOGUE

EBRD consults with civil society on upcoming country strategies



KOSOVO

On 14 April the EBRD hosted a workshop in Pristina to consult on the upcoming draft country strategy for Kosovo. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Studies, the Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development and the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network. The topics addressed included transparency and good governance, the energy sector, as well as other EBRD operational priorities for the forthcoming strategy. The draft Strategy for Kosovo is to be released for public comments for 45 calendar days from November 2016.

MONTENEGRO

On 10 June the EBRD Resident Office in Podgorica hosted a roundtable discussion with CSO representatives from the Center for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations, the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, the Association of Business Women of Montenegro, the Montenegrin Employers Federation, and the Network for the Affirmation of the NGO Sector. The discussion focused on transparency and corruption, gender issues and human rights. Participants also debated ways to improve the business climate and create sustainable economic development. The draft Strategy for Montenegro is due to be released for comments for 45 calendar days, starting in December 2016.

GEORGIA

On 13 April the EBRD Resident Office in Tbilisi hosted a consultation meeting with civil society representatives where participants exchanged views about transparency, anti-corruption and good governance in Georgia and pointed out environmental and climate change challenges. In addition, CSOs offered their views on technological innovation, including energy efficiency, and regional integration prospects. Representatives from Transparency International Georgia, Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN), the Association "Green Alternative", the Energy Efficiency Centre, the Association of European Studies for the Innovative Development of Georgia, and the Georgian Association "Women in Business" attended the meeting. The draft Strategy for Georgia is expected to be released for comments for 45 calendar days, at the end of July 2016.

Update on the Civil Society Capacity Building Framework

Case study: Promoting governance and the investment climate in Albania (2015-17)

EBRD TC contribution: €190,000

OSCE contribution: €220,000

The CSEU has partnered with the OSCE Presence in Albania to:

- build the capacity of civil society to increase its oversight of public and corporate governance
- enhance the training capacity of the Albanian School of Public Administration, which is in charge of training civil servants who deal with businesses, including by supporting the development of specialised curricula on anti-corruption and integrity
- contribute to setting standards for corporate conduct through the development of an anti-bribery code of conduct and related guidelines, in partnership with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy.

Since 2015, the EBRD, in partnership with the OSCE, has been supporting the Albanian National Coordinator on Anti-corruption (NCAC) to draft and implement a communication action plan on anti-corruption. The plan, which is related to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2015-2020, includes lectures on anti-corruption in universities and high schools across Albania, regional workshops on monitoring governance issues, awareness-raising activities, and multi-stakeholder consultations with regard to monitoring reports by civil society. The EBRD has also supported NCAC with a national 'NO corruption' campaign, including an online complaints portal.

The importance of behavioural change to help promote integrity standards was illustrated by an anti-bribery survey, conducted by the Institute for Development Research and Alternatives (IDRA) among 800 firms to assess the business community's experience of corruption in Albania and explore its role in addressing corrupt practices. The survey findings will form a baseline for drafting the anti-bribery code of conduct and related guidelines.

EBRD President meets civil society in Azerbaijan

The EBRD President met local civil society representatives on 24 May in Baku. The discussion was dedicated to recent developments regarding human rights, transparency issues, the freedom for CSOs to operate, and sustainable economic development in the country.

CSO representatives referred to progress in the fight against corruption, in particular the gradual implementation of the Azerbaijan Service and Assessment Network of citizen service centres, as well as a reduction in the frequency of company inspections. Participants agreed that the restoration of Azerbaijan's full membership in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a priority which also necessitates meaningful cooperation with civil society stakeholders.

IN BRIEF

Turkish city of Gaziantep unveils climate change action plan

The EBRD supported the Turkish city of Gaziantep with a climate change action plan to cut emissions by 20 per cent before 2023. The municipality, in cooperation with the city's industrial zones and firms, other municipal stakeholders, community organisations and development partners, will create a new department to implement the plan. In addition, Gaziantep will begin an awareness-raising campaign that will include training programmes and centres offering advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy. The total value of the technical cooperation assignment was €156,000, funded by the EU from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) under a programme led by the EBRD to enhance the Turkish energy sector in line with EU energy strategies.

Road project in Tajikistan becomes first joint EBRD-AIIB investment

On 25 June, the EBRD and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed their first joint project. The signing took place during the AIIB's first annual meeting in Beijing. The AIIB was inaugurated in January 2016, the same month in which China became an EBRD shareholder country. The two banks have mobilised US\$ 55 million, in equal co-financing portions, for the upgrade of an important section of motorway that links Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, with Uzbekistan. The financing is in addition to the US\$ 35 million that the EBRD had granted in 2015 for the motorway. The EBRD-managed multi-donor Early Transition Countries Fund and the governments of the Slovak Republic and Tajikistan will provide the necessary technical cooperation.

The motorway is part of the Pamir Highway and the trans-continental highway networks. As such, it is one of the key international roads in urgent need of refurbishment.

AT A GLANCE

EBRD WELCOMES NEW PPP CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME

A new public-private partnership (PPP) certification programme has been created by APMG International to establish good practices worldwide. The programme is a collaboration between multilateral development banks and has been developed by top PPP experts.

At the core of the certification is the PPP Certification Programme Guide, a definitive text on PPPs. When all three APMG PPP Certification Programme levels are available, candidates will be able to gain the Certified Public-Private Partnerships Professional (CP3P) credential. This will grant them a PPP qualification that is globally recognised. The certification will build the capacity of professionals working in their countries' PPP programmes, by imparting stronger knowledge of PPP management as a means for government to meet infrastructure needs.

The EBRD has invested over €3 billion in around 40 PPP projects, as well as mobilising an additional €6 billion in other commercial financing.

Key dates and contacts

Public comments period

Country strategies

Belarus	June – August 2016
Georgia	July – September 2016
Kosovo	July – September 2016

Board consultation visits

Egypt	October 2016
Turkey	October 2016

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

Contacts

Civil Society Engagement Unit

Tel: +44 20 7338 7982
Email: csu@ebrd.com

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

One Exchange Square
EC2A 2JN, London
United Kingdom
Website: www.ebrd.com

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