

# Upcoming evaluation: Green Cities programme



Information sheet

March 2022

The Independent Evaluation Department (EvD) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is conducting an evaluation of the EBRD Green Cities programme. This document outlines its main aspects.

## What does EvD do?

EvD is an independent department within the EBRD charged with independently assessing whether the Bank's products and services are achieving the results expected of them – in short, what worked, what didn't and why?

The Department reports directly to the Executive Board of Directors to ensure objectivity in its work. EvD assesses performance, identifies lessons and makes recommendations to improve future performance.

Each evaluation carried out by EvD is guided by an approach paper, which spells out the scope of the evaluation, the questions it proposes to answer, methods to be employed, and sources of information.

Further information on EvD's work is available at

<http://www.ebrd.com/evaluation>

## The rationale and scope of the evaluation

Green investments are at the forefront of the Bank's strategic agenda. EvD is contributing to the Bank's green agenda by delivering a series of green-focussed evaluations over the SCF 2021-2025 period. These evaluations are building a body of evidence enabling key stakeholders to gain deeper understanding of the results of EBRD green finance and policy actions.

The objective of the evaluation is to assess the merits of the Green Cities Programme including the achievement of objectives and results, and to gather insights contributing to improvements of the programme in the future.

Green Cities is an ambitious investment programme launched in 2016 and expanded a number of times. It is aimed at supporting cities in the EBRD's countries of operation, the biggest greenhouse gas emitters, in adapting to and mitigating climate change. The programme is on-going, with rapid growth in the number of cities involved and the number of investment projects launched.

The scope of this interim evaluation covers the implementation of the Programme from its launch in November 2016 until November 2021.

## Evaluation questions and methodology

The evaluation will answer the overarching question of the Programme's progress towards its main objective:

*To what extent has the Green Cities Programme become a sector-wide catalyst for addressing environmental and climate change challenges at municipal level?*

The evaluation will focus on three questions:

- ▶ To what extent has the Programme approach been meeting partner cities' needs and supporting EBRD strategic objectives?
- ▶ How efficiently has the Programme utilised resources for implementation and delivery of its objectives?
- ▶ What progress has the Programme made in five years since inception in delivering its stated objectives and contributing to transition?

It is a mixed-methods evaluation and will draw on both quantitative data analysis, such as portfolio analysis, and qualitative methods, such as case studies, stakeholder interviews, survey, and documentary review. The evaluation of effectiveness will be

underpinned by a Theory of Change reconstructed for the Programme.

## Timeline

EvD issued the approach paper in March 2022. It is available on request as well as on the EBRD website under the Evaluation department section.

A draft report is expected in Q3 2022 with the final report (and Management Comments) to be presented to the Audit Committee of the Executive Board of Directors for discussion in Q4 2022. Publication on the EBRD website is expected by the end of 2022. EvD welcomes input from interested parties at any stage of the evaluation.

The evaluation is launched at the time when EBRD's regions of operations are going through major security and economic crisis. The evaluation team will employ flexible approach that is mindful of the various challenges faced by the Bank and its municipal partners. Evaluation report and its recommendations will be important for planning recovery stage driven by EBRD's green and inclusive commitments.

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