

Upcoming evaluation: The EBRD's Early Transition Countries Approach 2017-2019



Information sheet
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During 2022 the Evaluation Department (EvD) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is conducting an evaluation of the EBRD's Early Transition Countries Approach 2017-2019. This document introduces the evaluation.

What is this evaluation about?

As part of the Evaluation department's (EVD's) multi-year Work Programme, EvD is conducting an evaluation of the EBRD's work in the Early Transition Countries (ETCs), a complex grouping comprising ten countries of operations with some of the widest transition gaps in Eastern Europe & the Caucasus (EE&C) and Central Asia (CA).

These currently include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The overarching purpose is to provide evidence on the results of the EBRD's approach to ETCs, its operations and activities to contribute to Board and Management decision-making about the future approach to ETCs and to other countries of operations with large transition gaps. It will also help inform planning work in the new proposed region for activity, Sub-Saharan Africa. The study will add to learnings from other MDBs, IFIs and bilateral donors running programmes in ETCs.

The objective is to evaluate relevance, results, transition impact and efficiency of the EBRD's activities in ETCs against Management's last articulated 2017-2019 ETC priorities (the ETC approach).

Whilst the scope is limited to the 3-year period due to time and resource constraints, EvD will also analyse data of projects signed since 2004 to identify trends over time in aggregate across ETCs. This analysis of volume and number of projects will inform the effectiveness assessment, and allow identification of key achievements and any drawbacks during the period when the ETC Initiative (ETCI) also had a full Banking team and had implemented ETC specific products.

Approach

The evaluation approach will be a mixed-methods theory-based evaluation and will draw on both quantitative data analysis, such as portfolio analysis, and qualitative methods, including case studies, stakeholder interviews and documentary review.

EvD will address one overarching evaluation question, with three main sub-questions, shaped around the OECD Development Assistance Criteria (DAC).

Overarching Question: To what extent did EBRD's approach to ETCs contribute to narrowing transition gaps through development of the private sector and access to finance, sustainable infrastructure development and energy efficiency, and improving inter-regional connectivity and international integration?

EQ1 (Relevance and Coherence). To what extent does the 2017-2019 ETC approach fit with ETC country and beneficiary needs, the EBRD's mandate and strategies, and interventions by partner institutions and ETC governments?

EQ2 (Effectiveness). What results have been achieved from the 2017-2019 ETC approach so far, and are the benefits likely to last?

EQ3 (Efficiency). Were the tools and resources used efficiently in ETCs to achieve results, is donor support well mobilised and implemented, and is reporting on the ETCs to the Board and donors adequate?

The study will be externally peer reviewed by two experts. Consultants with expertise in private sector development and sustainable infrastructure in ETCs will join the EvD study team.

What is the expected timing?

The evaluation is scheduled for discussion by the Audit Committee of the Executive Board of Directors in early 2023. The report will be published externally on the EBRD website thereafter.

The evaluation team

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Evaluation in EBRD

EvD is an independent department within the EBRD charged with assessing whether the Bank's products and services are achieving the results expected of them – in short, what worked, what didn't and why? Further information is available at www.ebrd.com/evaluation

