

Upcoming evaluation: EBRD's support to Gender



Information sheet
June 2023

The Evaluation Department (EvD) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is conducting an evaluation of the EBRD's support to Gender equality. This document outlines the main aspects of this evaluation.

What does EvD do?

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?

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 is available at <http://www.ebrd.com/evaluation>

Context and objectives of the evaluation

The evaluation primary focus is on learning and identifying operationally and strategically useful findings from past and most recent experience that are forward looking and relevant to the Bank's emerging priorities.

Under the first Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality 2016-2020, EBRD laid the foundations for its impact on gender equality at the project and policy level. In total, EBRD invested over €7.3 billion in projects that promote gender equality between 2016 and 2020.

In November 2020, EBRD launched the second Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality 2021-25 to scale up its activities to promote gender equality throughout its investments and introduced additional lenses to reflect new challenges such as the Green Economy; Digital Economy, Care Economy and Voice, Agency and Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Harassment.¹ A

phased approach has been taken to develop a full-fledged evaluation of EBRD's support to gender equality, including:

- Phase 1 - Project cluster evaluation focused on the "company level" that the Bank invests into.

- Phase 2 - Evaluation of the Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality 2021-2025 and the evaluation of the Women in Business programme

- Phase 3 - Evaluation of the Equality of Opportunity Strategy (2021 - 2025)

As part of the 2022/2023 EvD work programme, EvD will review the last five-year of EBRD's gender related investments TCs and capacity building activities in two countries under Phase 1 of the phased approach. An independent review of EBRD's gender activities will provide Board, Management and donors useful insights to shape future activities.

EvD intends to:

– provide the EBRD Board and Management with an independent, evidence-based assessment of the Bank's investments that promote gender equality in the last five years;

– identify findings, derive conclusions, draw lessons and where appropriate make recommendations useful to Management and the Board in managing and developing EBRD's activities to integrate gender equality components into at least 40 per cent of its annual investment operations.

Evaluation questions and methodology

The evaluation intends to respond to the following overarching question: To what extent has EBRD contributed to address gender gaps within the private sector?

To answer that question the evaluation will focus on three questions:

- ▶ Have EBRD's gender activities (investments, TC, advisory and policy) been aligned with and supportive of

EBRD's strategic agenda, sector strategies and donor priorities?

- ▶ Have EBRD's projects achieved their intended objectives related to the promotion of gender equality and what evidence is available with respect to this?
- ▶ To what extent has EBRD support to address the private sector gender gaps been sustainable?

The evaluation will use a range of methods and datasets. Documentary review, data analysis, and interviews with internal and external stakeholders will be the main methods of evidence gathering.

Timeline

EvD will issue the approach paper in June 2023. The approach paper will be available on request as well as on the EBRD website under the Evaluation department section.

A draft report is expected in Q4 2023 with the final report (and Management Comments) to be presented to the Audit Committee of the Executive Board of Directors for discussion. Publication on the EBRD website is expected in Q1 2024.

EvD welcomes input from interested people at any stage of the evaluation.

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¹ SPGE BDS21133