

PUBLIC

**DOCUMENT OF THE EUROPEAN BANK  
FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**STRATEGY FOR KOSOVO**

**REPORT ON THE INVITATION  
TO THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT**

PUBLIC

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this report is to summarise the key comments received from stakeholders during the consultation period on the Bank's Strategy for Kosovo and provide the Bank's management response.

In accordance with the EBRD Access to Information Policy (AIP), the draft strategy for Kosovo was posted on the EBRD website in for 45 calendar days, starting from 11 November 2021. The public was invited to comment on the draft strategy no later than 26 December 2021. The previous strategy was also made available on the EBRD website at <https://www.ebrd.com/kosovo.html>.

Information about the public consultation process was posted on the EBRD's dedicated "Have your say" webpage, which highlights the latest opportunities for the public to comment on the Bank's policies and strategies under review. Targeted notifications of the consultation process were sent to local and international civil society organisations (CSOs) that have expressed interest in the Bank's work in the country.

During the consultation period, no written comments have been received by the EBRD.

In line with the Bank's increased efforts to involve civil society at an early stage of country strategy development, the EBRD organised a consultative meeting with civil society organisations (in virtual format) on 4 August 2021.

The objective of the meeting was to gather civil society's feedback during the preparatory phase for developing the draft strategy. Seven CSO representatives from different civil society organisations participated in the consultation.

The EBRD was represented by the Head of Kosovo, the Associate Director for Country Strategy Coordination, as well as the Economics, Policy and Governance, the Country Strategy and the Civil Society Engagement teams.

The summary of the key messages and the list of CSO participants in the consultation process are provided in the Annex 1 to this report.

## **EBRD Strategy for Kosovo**

### **Consultation with civil society, 4 August 2021**

#### **Summary of key messages from CSOs:**

- Civil society organisations endorsed the Bank's Kosovo strategy priority of developing a more competitive and inclusive private sector. In particular, CSOs consider that EBRD support is needed in the area of facilitating access to the labour market and financing, including for minorities, youth and double marginalised groups such as women within minorities. Also, migration and brain drain are areas of concern for CSOs.
- CSOs moreover welcomed the Bank's support for the Green Economy Transition through a more sustainable energy mix and greater resource efficiency. They highlighted that waste management, recycling and circular economy are key areas for CSOs, who want to see more action in this field. In addition, CSOs consider that the transition towards gasification and renewable energy needs to be very careful and evidence-based.
- Civil society representatives further endorsed the Bank's focus on strengthening regional integration, connectivity and foreign investment. According to CSOs, the EBRD should help promote more investments and concerted efforts to attract FDI.

#### **List of CSOs participating in the consultation process**

1. Kosovar Civil Society Foundation
2. Democracy for Development D4D
3. Kosovo Women for Women
4. Riinvest
5. Green Art Center
6. Youth Initiative on Human Rights
7. Institute for Development Policy