

PUBLIC

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

STRATEGY FOR LITHUANIA

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

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 Lithuania and provide the Bank's management response.

In accordance with the EBRD Access to Information Policy (AIP), the draft strategy for Lithuania was posted on the EBRD website in English and Lithuanian for 45 calendar days, starting from 15 June 2021. The public was invited to comment on the draft strategy no later than 30 July 2021. The previous strategy was also made available on the EBRD website at <https://www.ebrd.com/where-we-are/lithuania/overview.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 23 April 2021.

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

The EBRD was represented by the Head of Baltics, 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 Lithuania

Consultation with civil society, 23 April 2021

Summary of key messages from CSOs:

- Civil society organisations welcomed the EBRD's strategic priority regarding the Green Economy Transition (GET) and reduction of CO2 emissions in Lithuania, which are indispensable to the country's development.
- CSOs also pointed to issues with the implementation of large infrastructure projects, in particular their impact on nature-protected sites like NATURA 2000. Civil society representatives urged the Bank to help improve the assessment and preparation of such infrastructure projects, as well as public-private partnerships (PPPs).
- While welcoming the focus on knowledge economy and innovation, CSOs highlighted the need to improve public procurement systems and open data platforms, as well as the creation of a beneficial ownership registry. Cooperation with civil society in this area is crucial in order to promote good governance and transparency. CSOs moreover suggested that the EBRD should foster the development of social businesses and social entrepreneurship, including with the help of new technologies.

List of CSOs participating in the consultation process

1. Transparency International Lithuania
2. Open Society Fund Lithuania
3. NGO Information and Support Centre (NISC)
4. Lithuanian Fund for Nature
5. Lithuanian Free Market Institute