

## How do we engage with stakeholders?

### Engagement

The manner in which the EBRD engages with stakeholders helps us to improve our environmental and social policies and evaluate the impact of our work on daily lives. We also ask our clients to proactively engage with their own stakeholders in order to maximise benefits and ensure that the potential impacts of a project are fully understood by all parties.

The EBRD continued to engage actively with civil society organisations (CSOs) in countries where it invests throughout 2015. Our engagement with CSOs includes, but is not limited to, the following:

We are committed to engaging in a manner that helps civil society participate in the Bank's strategic decision-making, and are always trying to find better and more innovative ways to engage with CSOs.

In 2015, more than 3,100 CSO representatives were registered with the EBRD and nearly 500 civil society stakeholders participated in over 40 thematic meetings and events that the Bank organised.

The EBRD Civil Society Programme took place on 14-15 May in Tbilisi, Georgia, with a record number of 144 civil society participants from 18 countries.

This flagship event featured a series of discussion sessions between civil society representatives and the Bank's senior management on specific investment projects and policy dialogue activities, as well as with the Board of Directors and the President on the EBRD's key strategic directions.

### Consultations

Throughout 2015 the Bank continued to incorporate input from CSOs in its decision-making, at the strategic level and during periodic reviews of policies. We engaged proactively through consultation meetings with CSOs during pre-drafting stages of the preparation of country strategies for Albania and Turkey. CSOs were also invited to provide written comments on all country strategies reviewed during 2016, namely Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Romania, Tajikistan and Turkey.

We invited civil society feedback on our Gender Strategy, which was adopted in December 2015. The Bank held seven public meetings with 142 attendees, plus 19 bilateral meetings with development agencies, international financial institutions (IFIs) and industry associations.

The EBRD has invited civil society to comment on the review of its Financial Sector Strategy for 2016-20. Although the CSO feedback was limited, the strategy was nevertheless amended to elaborate on comments received from a CSO about climate change and green finance mechanisms.

### International cooperation

The EBRD continues to play a prominent role in international efforts to address climate change. 2015 has proved to be a crucial year for global development, one in which the world's leaders have taken historic decisions about our sustainable future – and how it will be funded.

At the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September, world leaders endorsed new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were endorsed by leaders of multilateral development banks, including the EBRD. The SDGs overlap with core areas of the EBRD's operations and with its strategic priorities. As a multilateral development bank specialised in working with the private sector, the EBRD is well placed to support the delivery of an agenda in which private firms will play a key role.

The Bank, together with the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, hosted a global energy efficiency finance forum in Istanbul in September 2015, attended by representatives from over 70 IFIs who endorsed a joint statement pledging to further integrate energy efficiency investments into both their own operations and those of their clients.

Following the COP21 conference in Paris in December 2015, the EBRD is fully committed to playing its role in ensuring the successful implementation of the historic Paris Climate Change Agreement.



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