

EBRD-CSO Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with the EBRD

Welcome to the
CSO Newsletter

April 2025



Foreword

Dear reader,
Welcome to another edition of the CSO Newsletter!

We are pleased to share with you the latest news and updates from our organisation.

In this issue we are thrilled to announce the detailed agenda of the upcoming Civil Society Programme at the Annual Meeting, set to take place at our London headquarters on 13-15 May 2025. The theme of Expanding Horizons, Enduring Strengths will guide the discussions as we foster meaningful dialogue between civil society stakeholders and EBRD leadership.

This newsletter also provides an update on the Bank's expansion into sub-Saharan Africa, with new shareholders including Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

Furthermore, we have a chance to speak with the EBRD Director of Communications, External Engagement and Planning about the recent launch of our new website, to hear more about the updated platform and its features.

Lastly, we are happy to share the

shortlisted books for this year's EBRD Literature Prize and an overview of our consultation meetings with civil societies in the first half of the year.

As always, we welcome your feedback on our work.

Happy reading!
The CSE team



See the back page for
links to more content

MAIN ACTIVITY

Civil Society Programme at the EBRD Annual Meeting 2025

Join us for the Civil Society Programme at our Annual Meeting and Business Forum in London, United Kingdom, on 13-15 May. This year's theme is Expanding Horizons, Enduring Strengths.

The programme, which will take place in a hybrid format, is designed to offer an opportunity for dialogue between civil society stakeholders and the EBRD Board of Directors, President, senior management and staff.

It offers a range of events and panel discussions and is set to attract prominent participants from around the world, including leading government officials, top financial and corporate executives, entrepreneurs, civil society representatives and international media.

The programme will feature, among other things:

- Board of Directors' meeting with CSOs
- EBRD President's meeting with CSOs
- Expanding horizons with civil society in sub-Saharan Africa
- Investing in people: restoring Ukraine's human capital
- Collaborative success: civil societies and multilateral development banks
- Project Accountability Policy review consultation meeting
- Evaluation influence amid uncertainty and change



Registration for online attendance is open. To register please email the CSO inbox at csso@ebrd.com. Updates to the programme will be available at the official [2025 Annual Meeting website](#).

EBRD expansion into sub-Saharan Africa

The EBRD has taken a significant step towards expanding its operations into sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This move highlights the growing economic ties between the EBRD's current regions and SSA, emphasising the potential for private-sector development in these economies.

The EBRD's Board of Governors paved the way for this expansion at our 2023 Annual Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, when they approved amendments to the Bank's statutes. Once these amendments are in force, the Bank will be able to take forward applications from SSA economies to become recipient countries. Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria have already joined as shareholders.

The theme for this year's Annual Meeting centres on the EBRD's expansion into SSA while reaffirming our dedication to our existing investee economies and principles of operation.

Do not miss the panel discussion "Expanding horizons with civil society in sub-Saharan Africa" on 15 May during the CSO Programme. It will explore key tools and areas of engagement between the EBRD and civil society actors for advancing transition across the region.

Join us as we celebrate this milestone and look forward to fostering growth and development in sub-Saharan Africa!

To learn more about the 2025 Annual Meeting please visit the website: ebrd.com/am.

To attend the SSA panel on civil society please email: CSO@ebrd.com



MAIN ACTIVITY

Introducing the new EBRD corporate website

We launched our new corporate website in March, offering a modernised platform designed to enhance user experience. To delve deeper into the features and the vision behind this redesign, we sat down with Marcus Warren, Director of Communications, External Engagement and Planning at the EBRD for an insightful Q&A.

What inspired the redesign of our corporate website?

Firstly, the old design and the publishing system that powered the website until March had done good service over a number of years, but it was definitely time for a change. As far as the site's look and feel are concerned, we think the new aesthetic – with its new colour scheme and Bellota font – is both more powerful visually and easier on the eye. And if you have been to our HQ, you might recognise the curvy lines around the new ebrd.com. The agency that worked on the site saw these contours inside our meeting rooms and really liked them, so much so they incorporated them into the design.

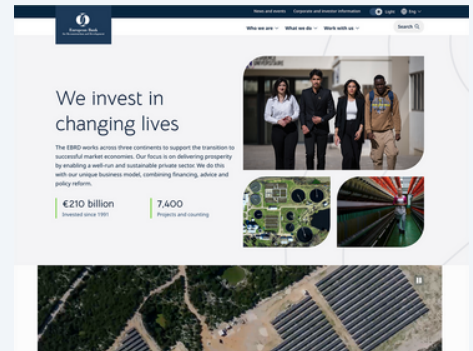
But the real changes to the site are "under the bonnet", so to speak.

Can you highlight some of the key features of the new website?

Under the aforementioned bonnet we have a completely new platform with a whole range of digital tools we never had before. And what you see now, in April 2025, is just the start. We will be rolling out new functionality, much of it very exciting and adding real value to users, in the weeks and months ahead. It is a major landmark on our journey to tell our story and that of our impact, but it is not the final destination. However, even now, I hope our audiences can see that our content is organised much more intuitively and that it is much easier to find relevant information all in one place.

How does the new website enhance transparency and accessibility for civil society?

The ability to group all relevant information about a given project in one place might sound like a minimum requirement for a website like ours,



but in the past, it was beyond us. Indeed, many of our peers still struggle with this.

But now you have all documentation, the project summary, environmental and social information, procurement and even complaints about a project in one location. And you can track a project's progress much more easily too.

The hope is too that as and when new data about our operations become available, it will be far easier to add this to the website.

And if you have any requests or ideas as to how we can do a better job, do get in touch with our CSE colleagues (CSO@ebrd.com) and we will add your suggestions to the list of potential upgrades.

EBRD announces literature prize shortlist

We recently announced the shortlist for the 2025 EBRD Literature Prize.

This year's selection of 10 outstanding books translated into English features writers from seven countries where the Bank invests: Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Türkiye and Ukraine.

The shortlisted works range from haunting poetic vignettes to gothic fairytale horrors and propulsive novels.

The finalists will be announced later this month, with the winner revealed at the awards ceremony on 24 June.



SHORTLISTED BOOKS
2025

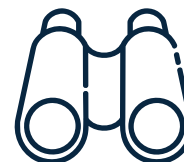


OVERVIEW OF CSE ACTIVITY

This year the CSE team has held the the following activities as of 31 March:

- One country/sector strategy consultation meetings
- Three presidential CSO meetings
- One external activity

LOOKING AHEAD



- The consultation on the draft [Bulgaria country strategy](#) runs until 15 May 2025.
- Our [current and upcoming country and sector strategies](#) will be available on our dedicated consultation page.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Review our open consultations



EBRD PUBLICATIONS



NEW COUNTRY STRATEGY FOR THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



NEW STRATEGY ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY



REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS



ACCESS PROJECT INFORMATION



ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION



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