

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

STRATEGY FOR ALBANIA

**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 EBRD's draft Albania Country Strategy (hereinafter – draft Strategy) and provide the Bank's management response.

In accordance with the EBRD Access to Information Policy (AIP), the draft Strategy for Albania was posted on the EBRD website in for 45 calendar days, starting from 20 December 2024. The public was invited to comment on the draft Strategy no later than 3 February 2025. The previous Strategy was also made available on the EBRD website at <https://www.ebrd.com/albania.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, the Bank did not receive any written comments on the draft Strategy.

In line with the Bank's increased efforts to involve civil society at an early stage of country strategy development, the EBRD organised an in-person public consultation meeting with civil society organisations in Albania on 14 November 2024.

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

The EBRD was represented by the EBRD Resident Office team in Albania, as well as by the Country Strategy, Policy Strategy Delivery, and 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.

ANNEX 1

**Consultation with Civil Society Organisations
on the EBRD country strategy for Albania**

Thursday 14 November 2024

Key messages from Civil Society to the EBRD

1. CSOs underlined that Albania's business environment and civic participation in the EU accession process needs further improvement and the private sector's innovative initiatives should be encouraged to scale up.
2. CSOs encouraged the EBRD to drive meaningful progress in addressing (i) gender disparities in the labour market, (ii) access to finance for women entrepreneurs and (iii) gender-responsiveness of its projects through supporting the development of clear targets, indicators, assessments and action plans.
3. CSOs urged the Bank to enhance its support of Albania's green transition by (i) fostering green and circular economy, (ii) promoting the use of renewable energy within the country, (iii) help improve the implementation environmental impact assessments, and (iv) enhancing the protection of natural resources and the environment.

List of CSOs represented in the consultation meeting:

1. European Movement Albania
2. Partners Albania for Change and Development
3. Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)
4. HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
5. EcoAlbania
6. AlbaForest Centre
7. Director Institute for Environmental Policy
8. Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania