

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

STRATEGY FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**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 the Czech Republic and provide the Bank's management response.

In accordance with the EBRD Access to Information Policy (AIP), the draft strategy for the Czech Republic was posted on the EBRD website in English and Czech for 45 calendar days, starting from 26 June 2021. The public was invited to comment on the draft strategy no later than 9 August 2021. The previous strategy was also made available on the EBRD website at https://www.ebrd.com/downloads/country/strategy/czech_graduation_mar.pdf.

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 25 May 2021.

The objective of the meeting was to gather civil society's feedback during the preparatory phase for developing the draft strategy. 7 CSO representatives from different civil society organisations participated in the consultation.

The EBRD was represented by the Regional Head for Central Europe, the Deputy 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 the Czech Republic
Consultation with civil society, 25 May 2021

Summary of key messages from CSOs:

- Civil society organisations endorsed the Bank's strategic priority for the Czech Republic focusing on the economic recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. In particular, CSOs consider that EBRD support is needed in the area of fostering the green economy, renewables, energy efficiency and circular economy. In this regard, the EBRD should help promote a long-term decarbonisation process and strategy for the Czech Republic, which should avoid any green washing.
- CSOs suggested that EBRD funding should ensure complementarity with the EU funds currently available for the Czech Republic, in particular from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 in order to avoid any duplication.
- Civil society representatives also welcomed the Bank's focus on digitalization, gender and economic inclusion. Moreover, according to CSOs improvements are further necessary in the area of governance, integrity, conflict of interest and public procurement in the country.

List of CSOs participating to the consultation process

1. Centre for Transport and Energy
2. CEE Bankwatch Network
3. Environmental Partnership Association
4. Transparency International Czech Republic
5. Czech Helsinki Committee
6. Department for Democratic Theory, Charles University
7. AMO Research Center