

PUBLIC

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

STRATEGY FOR SLOVENIA

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

08 July 2024

PUBLIC

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 Slovenia and provide the EBRD's management response.

In accordance with the EBRD Access to Information Policy (AIP), the draft strategy for Slovenia was posted on the EBRD website in for 45 calendar days, starting from 10 May 2024. The public was invited to comment on the draft strategy no later than 24 June 2024. The previous strategy was also made available on the EBRD website at <https://www.ebrd.com/slovenia.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.

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 on 22 November 2023.

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

The EBRD was represented by the Regional Head for Central Europe, the Country Economics, Strategy and Policy 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.

ANNEX 1

Consultation with Civil Society Organisations on the EBRD country strategy for Slovenia

Wednesday 22 November 2023

Key messages from Civil Society to the EBRD

1. CSOs highlighted that the emergence of new technologies, like robotics and AI, represents a crucial opportunity and a challenge, set to reshape the labour market and pose inclusion challenges, suggesting the necessity for EBRD to be involved in this area.
2. Civil society representatives identified SME succession as a critical challenge for the country's future development. As limited opportunities to sell companies often lead to closures and job losses, employee buyout mechanisms were identified as a potential solution.
3. While emphasising the importance to scale up efforts for a green economy transformation, CSOs highlighted the need to introduce adequate and compliant green procurement criteria in public administration, including adopting technologies, engagement mechanisms and business architecture models to further enhance green procurements in the country.
4. CSOs also mentioned the importance of PPPs, suggesting EBRD's involvement in this area through awareness raising, capacity building, and investments.

List of CSOs participating in the consultation meeting

1. Simona Grobelnik, Head of Department for Strategic Development and Legal Affairs, Slovene Enterprise Fund
2. Damjan Kavaš, Director, Institute for Economic Research (IER)
3. David Ellerman, President, Institute for Economic Democracy
4. Kosta Marco Juri, Head of Research and Policy, Institute for Economic Democracy
5. Luljeta Dalliu, Partnerships Manager, Save the Children
6. Karorils Granickas, Head of Europe, Open Contracting Partnership