

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

STRATEGY FOR ESTONIA

**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 Estonia and provide the Bank's management response.

In accordance with the EBRD Access to Information Policy (AIP), the draft strategy for Estonia was posted on the EBRD website in English and Estonian for 45 calendar days, starting from 15 June 2021. The public was invited to comment on the draft strategy no later than 30 July 2021. The previous strategy was also made available on the EBRD website at <https://www.ebrd.com/where-we-are/estonia/overview.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, 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 23 April 2021.

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 different civil society organisations participated in the consultation.

The EBRD was represented by the Head of Baltics, the Associate 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 Estonia

Consultation with civil society, 23 April 2021

Summary of key messages from CSOs:

- Civil society organisations endorsed the Bank's Estonia strategy priority regarding the Green Economy Transition (GET). In particular, EBRD support is needed in the areas of circular economy, recycling and waste management, in which Estonian CSOs are actively campaigning.
- CSOs moreover urged the EBRD not to invest in fossil fuel projects, in companies with a large carbon footprint, and to be careful of investments in biomass which is a sensitive sector in Estonia.
- Civil society representatives welcomed the EBRD's Estonia strategy focus on promoting the knowledge economy and digitalization, including through investments in Research and Development (R&D). They also pointed out that governance and transparency should be improved, including lobby transparency.

List of CSOs participating in the consultation process

1. Transparency International Estonia
2. Network of Estonian Nonprofit Organizations
3. Estonian Institute for Human Rights
4. Friends of the Earth Estonia
5. Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia
6. Jaan Tõnisson Institute