

1. Introduction

The mission of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) is to promote social cohesion in Europe.

The CEB is the oldest European multilateral development bank (MDB), established in 1956 by eight member states of the Council of Europe with the objective of alleviating the plight of refugees and other vulnerable groups, as well as contributing to reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the Second World War. In 1997, the Strasbourg Summit reaffirmed and strengthened the CEB's social mandate, centring it on the promotion of social cohesion. Today, the CEB represents a major instrument of the policy of solidarity in Europe. It finances social projects, responds to emergency situations and contributes to improving the living conditions of the most disadvantaged population groups. The CEB's membership base has gradually expanded and now includes 42 member states.

The CEB shares the values and principles of the Council of Europe and helps translate them into reality. While it exists as a separate, financially independent entity, the CEB maintains strong institutional ties with the Council of Europe. In particular, the CEB works to promote the Council of Europe's guiding values and principles of human rights, democracy and rule of law across all its activities.

The CEB's activities are fully aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda.

Despite significant progress achieved, efforts are still being made by many CEB member states to meet the SDGs by 2030. The CEB is committed to sustainable social development and inclusion, and has prioritised the SDGs that are closest to its mandate and sectors of operation. In its capacity as a social development financier, the CEB supports its member states in financing social investments that are instrumental to achieving the SDGs.

The new Strategic Framework sets the CEB's strategic orientation for the next five years.

The Strategic Framework illustrates how the CEB plans to support its member states in their efforts to preserve and strengthen social cohesion over the period 2023-2027 by identifying overarching goals, lines of action and implementation plans.

The remainder of the document is structured as follows: [Chapter 2](#) describes the CEB's current operating environment and future outlook; [Chapter 3](#) illustrates the CEB's overarching goals and strategic directions for the next five years; [Chapter 4](#) describes how the CEB will work with clients to achieve these goals; [Chapter 5](#) discusses the lending activity volumes in the next five years; [Chapter 6](#) outlines how the CEB co-ordinates and collaborates with relevant partners; and lastly, [Chapter 7](#) describes how the CEB will ensure that it remains fit for purpose to successfully implement the Strategic Framework.

