Leveraging the private sector to address migration challenges and harness opportunities

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The EBRD was founded in 1991 – today, we are active in more than 35 countries.
Migration is not a new phenomenon and affects the EBRD’s countries of operation in many ways.

A. Outward migration and host/transit for third country migrants from Africa – SEMED’s economies are struggling to create opportunities for youth to remain; and to cope with the effective management of substantial through-flows of migrants.

B. Western Balkans high outward migration, Turkey and Greece focused on transit migration – outward migration of young people particularly a concern for the Western Balkans.

C. While post-Soviet resettlement is waning, lack of local job opportunities, brain-drain and human trafficking remain key issues of concern for the EaP countries.

D. Intra-EU migration from Eastern European MS – the labour migrants fuelling EU15 GDP.
EBRD contributes to the migration agenda through its **regular investment and policy initiatives** combined with a **targeted refugee response plan**.

1. **Improving access to employment and skills** through private sector engagement especially targeting youth, populations in less developed regions and women.

2. **Improving access to finance and entrepreneurship**, including SME advisory.

3. **Improving access to infrastructure** (transport, water/wastewater, irrigation ICT, etc.).
Examples of projects and operations opening up access to employment and skills for migrants and host communities

EBRD is building on its existing private sector-led economic inclusion approach to enhance access to work-based learning opportunities and skills verification mechanisms in the most affected regions.

Example 1: Introducing local skills verification mechanisms
• In recognition of the large informal employment of Syrian refugees in Turkey, the Bank partnered with UNDP to support Gaziantep Chamber of Industry in establishing a full-scale Vocational Training and Testing Centre
• The centre is the first of its kind in Turkey to increase the employability of refugees and host community
• A similar Centre is now being established with Adana Chamber of Industry, serving the larger Adana-Mersin region

Example 2: Improved vocational education and work based learning
• In Jordan, EBRD supported a private sector client in the property and tourism sector to establish an on-site training centre for young women and men on retail, services and hospitality skills
• Collaboration with local not-for-profit (JEFE) for recruitment and provision of soft skills training
• To date, more than 400 Jordanian youth and 140 Syrian refugees have completed the training and are progressing into formal employment

Example 3: Inclusive procurement in urban transport projects in Cairo
• Introduction of inclusive procurement practices, encouraging private sector contractors to open up work-based learning opportunities for the young and unemployed.
• Introducing gender sensitive designs of transport services and strengthened equal opportunities HR policies.
Examples of projects and operations on SME support and finance

Promoting inclusive growth and the improved **performance and competitiveness of small businesses** is a key component in strengthening economic resilience in communities facing migration challenges.

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<th>Example 1: Women in Business</th>
<th>Example 2: MSME credit lines with a focus on refugees</th>
<th>Example 3: Youth Initiatives enhancing employment, training opportunities and finance</th>
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<td>• To date the EBRD has provided over €500 million across 23 countries and 43 partner financial institutions, helping over 60,000 <strong>women-led SMEs to access finance and advisory</strong> to grow their businesses.</td>
<td>• Currently two credit facilities for <strong>on-lending in refugee affected areas of Turkey and Jordan</strong> and to refugee owned MSMEs specifically, incl. one facility with first-loss risk cover on Syrian refugee portfolio.</td>
<td>• A SEMED Youth Employment Programme has been launched to enhance employment and training opportunities for young people in the SEMED region with a focus on the SME sector as well as access to finance for young entrepreneurs.</td>
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<td>• Including Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Western Balkans, Eastern Europe/ Caucasus, Turkey, Croatia and Central Asia.</td>
<td>• TC support for advisory at both PFI and SME level.</td>
<td>• Capacity building to address difficulties faced by <strong>employers in the SME sector to recruit and retain young talent</strong>.</td>
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<td>• EBRD is cooperating with civil society to engage refugee populations in <strong>financial literacy training</strong>, community saving and loans schemes.</td>
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Examples of projects and operations on infrastructure and local services delivery for communities affected by migration

The EBRD invests in municipal infrastructure to support critical improvements and to adapt the services to the increased service demand in communities affected by migration.

**Example 1: Irrigation in the Tunisia Southern Oases**
- The project will allow for extending cultivated areas and increasing productivity in the South of Tunisia, which is impacted by climate change and where the population relies heavily on irrigated agriculture as an income-generating activity; and where youth inactivity persists with unemployment above 60% (up to 80% among young women).

**Example 2: Jordan Greater Amman Solid Waste Crisis Response**
- The project will increase the municipality’s capacity to process waste by an additional 3,000t a day (300t/day from Syrian refugees in a context of already overstretched solid waste management services)
- 4m beneficiaries (incl. 400,000 Syrian refugees with an additional 200,000 refugees residing in Zarqa and Rusayfeh)

**Example 3: Green buses in the refugee-hosting city of Gaziantep**
- EBRD provided a €5 million loan and a €5 million grant to the south-eastern Turkish city of Gaziantep, for the acquisition of 50 new buses.
- EBRD financing will help the city of Gaziantep meet growing demand for services at a time of enormous challenges and increasingly tight budgets. The financing will enable the city to buy 50 environmentally friendly, compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.
Policy engagement, governance support and capacity building

**EBRD engages in policy dialogue to create favourable economic conditions:** policy engagement in Turkey and the SEMED region has grown in scope and scale over the past years, bringing together private sector employers (EBRD clients) with education authorities to develop skills standards and work based learning programmes that are directly relevant to industry needs.

- **In Turkey:** An MOU was signed with the Ministry of Education. Senior level public-private steering group established. Building the capacity of sectoral committees to develop national occupational standards in line with private sector requirements.

- **In Jordan:** EBRD is the driving force behind the creation of a new retail, tourism and hospitality Sector Skills Council for inclusive skills standards.

- **In Egypt:** An integrated policy dialogue approach to enhance work-based learning and improve skills standards, in close partnership with the private sector and National Authorities. (*In progress*)

EBRD’s leverages its network of **civil society partners** to engage with local communities and deliver messaging through established and trusted channels of communications. This is particularly important for raising awareness of specific issues among vulnerable communities.