Corporate social responsibility at the CEB

As the development bank in Europe with an exclusive social mandate the CEB naturally places Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and, more broadly, sustainability at the very heart of its own operations and project financing.

The CEB’s angle on CSR and sustainability and how it is managed

This report will use the term ‘sustainability’ in the broad sense, including CSR and aligning with the European Commission’s definition of CSR as “the responsibility of enterprises for their impact on society”. Given the CEB’s mission to be a Bank with a social purpose, its dedication to sustainability is already enshrined in its founding documents: the CEB shall “enable jobs to be created in disadvantaged regions, people in low income groups to be housed or social infrastructure to be created”, paying particular attention to supporting refugees, displaced persons and migrants (see the CEB’s Articles of Agreement). For the medium-term strategic orientation, the link between the social purpose and environmental and social sustainability is spelled out in the new Development Plan 2020-2022 (see below ‘Strategy: the new Development Plan 2020-2022’).

At operational level, the CEB is strongly committed to also integrating environmental sustainability into its project financing (see the CEB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy) and into its own internal operations (see the Environmental Statement).

Managing sustainability

In addition to the dedicated Unit for CSR at the Bank, in charge of topics concerning the whole organisation, e.g. ESG ratings, stakeholder engagement, disclosure, and coordination between directorates, other teams and their experts throughout the CEB work on specific questions, such as:

- **Compliance**, working on integrity and transparency in the conduct of all the CEB’s activities, ranging from anti-money laundering, to whistleblowing, to IT systems security.
- **Corporate Services**, working on human resources, e.g. gender and wellbeing, and issues related to facility management, e.g. office energy consumption and waste management.
- **Evaluation**, working on independent evaluations of CEB-financed projects to assess their social performance and derive lessons learnt for the CEB’s future work.
- **Finance**, working on funding the Bank’s project financing on competitive terms, for example by issuing the CEB’s Social Inclusion Bonds.
- **Loans & Social Development**, working with borrowers to develop their projects and maximise their social value added.
- **Technical Assessment & Monitoring**, working with borrowers on technical aspects throughout the project cycle; this also includes procurement and support from in-country experts in the form of technical assistance.

Reporting on sustainability at the CEB (CSR reports)

The CEB has been reporting on sustainability for over a decade; this latest edition of the Annual CSR Report again makes use of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) ‘Standards: Core option’, accompanied by a detailed GRI Content Index (available separately online), backed up by a full materiality assessment performed in 2019.

In addition, the Bank uses dedicated channels to disclose on its Social Inclusion Bonds (a report twelve months after each bond issuance), and to report on lessons learnt from its project monitoring and evaluation activities.

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1 CSR is widely understood as the effort made by companies to act more sustainably, to go beyond mere ‘business considerations’ and to take into account the organisation’s impacts on the environment and also on society at large. For more information, see also the European Commission here (https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/corporate-social-responsibility_en).
Table of contents

2 Corporate social responsibility at the CEB
4 Highlights in 2019
5 Foreword by the Governor
6 Sustainability reviews and ratings
7 The CEB: a development bank with a social impact
8 Business model
10 Strategy: the new Development Plan 2020-2022
16 The CEB’s impact on the most vulnerable
17 Our approach and expertise
20 Supporting vulnerable groups: four case studies
26 The impact of the CEB’s own operations
27 Materiality & stakeholder engagement
30 Gender programme, well-being and recruitment
33 Compliance
34 Procurement at the CEB
35 The CEB’s own environmental footprint
38 Appendix - GRI Content Index for 2019
Highlights in 2019

New in 2019

- The CEB’s volume of loan approvals reached €4 billion, enabling the implementation of 46 socially and environmentally sustainable projects.
- The CEB drew up a new Development Plan for the period 2020-2022 setting out its medium term strategy. Placing particular focus on social impact, sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Bank highlights its distinctive position in the market.
- The Governor published an ‘Environmental Statement’ formalising the CEB’s commitment to minimising its own environmental footprint and setting out a framework for related action.
- The CEB completed a full materiality assessment, engaging a large number of internal and external stakeholders in order to better understand their expectations on sustainability with regard to the Bank.
- The Bank financed climate actions worth €1 billion, thereby helping to avoid some 130 000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.
- The Bank issued its third Social Inclusion Bond, thus levelling up its total financing obtained through sustainable finance to €1.5 billion.
- The Bank pursued implementation of its Gender Programme and a new mentoring programme, training courses, staff well-being initiatives and the disclosure of key hiring and workforce data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY FINANCIAL DATA AT END-2019</th>
<th>GRI 102-2 • 102-7 • 102-8 • 201-1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Projects approved</td>
<td>&gt; Loans outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€3.98 billion</td>
<td>€15.43 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Loans disbursed</td>
<td>&gt; Equity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€2.85 billion</td>
<td>€3.09 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Issues</td>
<td>&gt; Total assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€4.52 billion</td>
<td>€26.14 billion</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY EXTRA-FINANCIAL DATA AT END-2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206 permanent staff members and four appointed officials (Governor and Vice-Governors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 nationalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54% female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46% male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&gt; Climate action financing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(tonnes of CO₂ eq. per year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute emissions from projects approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emission savings from mitigation projects approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>&gt; Climate action financing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(in € million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate action financing total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is a pleasure to share with you the CEB’s Corporate Social Responsibility report for 2019. Taken together with the Global Reporting Initiative index, this report gives you an overview of how the CEB contributed to socially and environmentally sustainable development over the last year.

By virtue of its exclusively social mandate, the CEB has been and remains firmly committed to all aspects of social responsibility, including sustainability in the broad sense of the word but also transparency, accountability, and good governance, in line with the highest international standards and practices. In addition to the dedicated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) unit and the Office of the Chief Compliance Officer, all CEB directorates engage with CSR-related matters and coordinate with each other in that respect.

In the course of 2019, we continued to finance projects with a high social content across Europe and actually increased disbursements to € 2.8 billion while maintaining a high level of new loan approvals at € 4 billion. Our third Social Inclusion Bond issued in 2019 attracted significant interest from the international investor community, as had been the case in the two previous years. Supporting Europe’s most vulnerable population groups and strengthening social cohesion remain at the heart of our activity and mission.

Environmental concerns have always been part of our project selection and monitoring criteria but since last year they have taken centre stage in our strategic framework and planning, operations, and internal business activities. The CEB Development Plan 2020-2022 places additional emphasis on environmental sustainability as well as on how to support in the most effective way possible CEB members in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In its Environmental Statement released in 2019, the CEB made a firm commitment to enhancing further its environmental performance in internal business operations with a focus on minimising its carbon footprint through targeted action.

With all this in mind, it is heartening to see that our efforts continue to be recognised, which is reflected in our sustainability reviews and ratings: the CEB has been awarded a ‘prime’ status by ISS ESG and has been rated ‘leader’ by MSCI ESG and ‘outperformer’ by Sustainalytics.

This can only strengthen further our resolve to be not just the social development bank in Europe but also a socially responsible bank.

Paris, 2 March 2020
Rolf WENZEL
Sustainability reviews and ratings

Ratings that underpin the CEB’s sustainability commitments

It has been almost a decade now since non-financial rating providers specialised in Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) first assessed the CEB’s management of and performance on the three topics. With more and more financial market participants paying attention to ESG when taking their investment decisions, and demanding detailed information and disclosure, the standards set by ESG rating agencies have been constantly rising. This has helped the CEB to underline time and time again its longstanding commitment to sound environmental, social and governance practices.

Latest results

The CEB is a regular issuer of bonds in the capital markets, most prominently through its Social Inclusion Bonds (see ‘The CEB’s Social Inclusion Bonds’); therefore the results of the non-financial or ESG ratings are directly related to the Bank’s business model.

The CEB is rated by a growing number of ESG rating agencies, with several of them reaching out and engaging the CEB directly in their assessment. By way of illustration, three of these ‘unsolicited’ ratings are presented below:

• B-, ‘Prime’ by ISS ESG (November 2018),
• AA, ‘Leader’ by MSCI ESG (December 2019),
• ‘Outperformer’ by Sustainalytics (November 2019).

“In 2019, we saw ESG become a front and centre topic, particularly in the banking sector. At the CEB, we have been working with non-financial rating agencies for almost a decade and our consistently high ratings are a sign that our focus on social and environmental sustainability is well understood and appreciated by our stakeholders and the wider market. Looking ahead, we will continue to integrate ESG in the Bank’s activities.”

Jérôme Hamilius, Director for European Cooperation and Strategy

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The CEB: a development bank with a social impact
The CEB: a development bank with a social impact

Business Model

WHO the CEB is

- The CEB’s social mandate is defined in its ‘Articles of Agreement’
- Close cooperation with the Council of Europe and respecting its values
- The Bank has 41 member states as shareholders, and its own governance system (International organisation)

HOW the CEB operates

- The CEB is adding value through:
  - Experience with complex projects, particularly in difficult institutional, cultural, financial, or technical contexts
  - In-house technical expertise with more than six decades of activity
  - Close project follow-up, monitoring and evaluation
  - Grants and technical assistance
  - Project selection according to social, environmental and governance criteria
  - Assessment of projects’ carbon footprint

- Best practices for CEB’s own operations:
  - CSR (SDGs, stakeholder engagement, tracking of own operation’s GHG emissions), compliance (anti-corruption, ethics, data protection) and HR (gender, EDGE certification, well-being)
  - Disclosure and transparency

The CEB checks the projects according to its social mandate

Members states contact the CEB to finance social and sustainable projects
The CEB: a development bank with a social impact

46 new projects across 24 countries

€ 1 billion for climate mitigation and adaptation

€ 0.8 billion for MSME financing

€ 0.6 billion to support investment in urban and rural infrastructure

€ 0.6 billion to support the construction and rehabilitation of educational infrastructure

€ 0.5 billion funding for social and affordable housing solutions

€ 200 million for the integration of refugees, displaced persons and migrants

€ 100 million for health projects

€ 10 million for a new penitentiary facility

Focus on Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy applicable throughout the project cycle

Project cycle at the CEB

1. IDENTIFICATION
2. APPRAISAL
3. APPROVAL
4. NEGOTIATION
5. MONITORING AND DISBURSEMENTS
6. COMPLETION
7. EVALUATION

Funding through bond issues in international capital markets, including through CEB’s Social Inclusion Bonds, offers competitive rates for project financing

Financial sustainability evidenced by credit rating agencies

Financing enables projects that contribute to SDGs and benefit from CEB’s added value, through close monitoring of projects

1 Albania*, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Bulgaria*, Croatia*, Cyprus*, Czech Republic*, Denmark, Estonia*, Finland, France, Georgia*, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary*, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo*, Latvia*, Liechtenstein, Lithuania*, Luxembourg, Malta*, Moldova (Republic of)*, Montenegro*, North Macedonia*, Netherlands*, Norway, Poland*, Portugal, Romania*, San Marino, Serbia*, Slovak Republic*, Slovenia*, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey*. As a sign of solidarity among CEB member states, the Bank aims to provide increased support to a group of 22 “target countries” (marked with an asterisks*).
Overview

The starting point for the CEB’s strategic thinking was its role as the only development bank in Europe with a social mandate. Given the wide range of social issues that Europe will need to address in the medium term, this mandate can only grow in importance. Derived from this positioning, the CEB has defined three lines of action:

- **Inclusive growth**: working to promote access to economic opportunities to ensure a prosperous future for all. The CEB aims to support inclusive growth and especially investments in sectors such as housing and social care, health and education, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

- **Support for vulnerable groups**: helping to integrate the most vulnerable citizens by tackling complex subjects such as gender, age, homelessness, disability, migrant background or emergency response.

- **Environmental sustainability**: promoting the protection of the environment, climate mitigation and adaptation by emphasising these aspects in all its projects. Project screening will be reinforced so that misalignments with the Paris Climate Agreement can be identified early on. This means that the Bank promotes the integration of environmental sustainability and climate measures in all socially-oriented projects. This is achieved, among other things, by reducing a project’s carbon footprint through improvements in energy efficiency in housing, transportation and social infrastructure.

The CEB has drawn up a Development Plan for the period 2020 to 2022, setting out its new medium-term strategy. Unanimously approved by the CEB’s Governing Board, and with a focus on social impact, sustainability and SDGs, the Bank’s new medium-term strategy underscores its distinctive position in the market place.

Focus on the CEB and the Sustainable Development Goals

The Development Plan sets out a framework with which the CEB can support its member countries in their efforts to realise their respective SDG agendas.

At strategic level, the CEB will prioritise a set of ten key SDGs closest to the Bank’s mandate and three lines of action. The figure below presents those ten key goals. At operational level, the CEB’s potential contribution to the SDGs is identified at the project appraisal phase and then regularly assessed at portfolio level, for all potential projects having been screened since the end of 2019.

The Bank’s contribution to the priority SDGs is categorised into the following three groups:

- **Alignment with the CEB’s core social mandate**: the CEB’s primary mission to undertake investments that promote social cohesion and inclusiveness, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, is well aligned with two broad goals, namely SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

- **Cross-cutting issues**: namely SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) are screened for in all CEB projects. Firstly, the CEB addresses gender inequality as a cross-cutting structural disadvantage, considered in the framework of the social aspects of the projects it finances. Secondly, the CEB carries out environmental/climate action screening on all its projects (see the CEB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy).
“I am pleased that we have been able to incorporate the SDGs into our strategic planning for 2020-2022. We have taken special care to develop a practical approach to screening new projects for their potential SDG contribution and to ensure that all CEB project financing is in compliance with the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. We remain fully committed to supporting all our members in reaching their SDG targets.”

Rolf Wenzel, Governor

From a sectoral perspective, six SDGs particularly resonate with the Bank’s social mandate and long-standing experience in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Through its financing of sustainable projects, the CEB aims to directly support its member countries in achieving the SDGs, with a special focus on the following priority SDGs, closely aligned with the Bank’s social mandate:

For more on SDGs, see the ‘CEB Handbook for the Preparation and Implementation of Projects’ which was revised in early 2020 to include, among others, the SDGs.
The CEB: a development bank with a social impact

GRI 102-11 • 102-12

The CEB and climate change

The Bank is committed to progressively achieving the alignment of its project portfolio with the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change and improving the tracking of green and climate action finance. The CEB’s technical staff therefore reviewed the climate change parameters (e.g. GHG emissions, contribution to mitigation and adaptation) of approximately 100 project proposals, including the 46 loans approved during the year, for the purpose of identifying early on any potential projects which could be misaligned with the Paris Agreement.

The figure below provides an overview of the carbon footprint estimates for the portfolio of projects since 2017. Absolute emissions of projects reviewed in 2019 equal the 2017 levels, reflecting a more ‘standard social portfolio’, with less GHG intensive projects.

GRI 201-2 • 305-3 • 305-5

The figure below depicts total climate action finance approved from 2017 to 2019, with a new high of € 1 037 million reached in 2019 comprising € 703 million for investments in mitigation and € 334 million for adaptation. Of the 46 projects approved, 22 contribute to climate change mitigation (mainly energy efficiency leading to GHG reductions), and eight offer a significant climate adaptation potential. Financing for resilience to climate change strongly increased in 2019, through new projects aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate scenarios mainly involving higher stress on water resources or increased flooding.

In 2017, climate financing (€ 323 million) accounted for 8% of all projects approved whereas in 2018, climate financing (€ 629 million) made up 16% of the total; and in 2019 (€ 1 037 million) stood for about 26% of total projects approved.

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4 Projects approved in 2018 had a higher share of agricultural activities with relatively high GHG emissions.

5 Calculations are based on standard methodologies, e.g. the ADEME’s Bilan Carbone for buildings, and include estimates of construction-related emissions where feasible.

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In 2017, climate financing (€ 323 million) accounted for 8% of all projects approved whereas in 2018, climate financing (€ 629 million) made up 16% of the total; and in 2019 (€ 1 037 million) stood for about 26% of total projects approved.
“Environmental sustainability lies at the heart of the CEB’s core social mandate. In recent years the Bank has been steadily increasing its support for green projects that help address the climate crisis.”

Anton Spierenburg, Deputy Director for Technical Assessment and Monitoring
Note: The impact reported by the CEB concerns the total project. The CEB usually finances a portion of such projects and therefore contributes financially to only a share of the benefits.

ESG Investment

In 2014, the CEB started to invest in green, social and sustainable bond transactions, adhering to what have become the ICMA Principles. The Bank’s treasury team also operates with a list of exclusion criteria, e.g. no investment in oil and gas or weapon manufacturers, etc., and the treasury staff usually meets the issuers of such transactions on a yearly basis.

As of 31 December 2019, the Bank’s ‘responsible investments’ amounted to about 6% of the Bank’s total investment portfolio.

Creating transparency: focus on the bond’s impact

While the bond issuances contribute to developing the market for sustainable financial products and to helping to attract new types of investors, the main impact of these bonds comes through linking the proceeds to concrete projects that have a solid social value.

Aggregating the measures of impact for the CEB’s first three Social Inclusion Bonds, the numbers speak for themselves:

- 46 projects were financed in 19 countries, with a focus on education, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and social housing.
- Total project financing leveraged stands at € 4.3 billion, far beyond the € 1.5 billion initially raised through the CEB bonds.
- The financing enabled a total of 10 638 dwelling units of social housing to be built or renovated.
- 11 334 jobs are estimated to have been created and 218 354 jobs have been preserved.
- Education investments, e.g. in schools, cultural institutions and sports centres, have been made for the benefit of 224 501 students.

“The CEB’s Social Inclusion Bonds now constitute a reference for ESG investors. Given the strong investor support we have received, over the past three years we have built a benchmark curve which we intend to extend even further.”

Arturo Seco Presencio, Deputy Director of the Finance Directorate, Head of Funding Division, Head of Treasury & Asset & Liability Management Division
The CEB’s impact on the most vulnerable
What are vulnerable groups? How does the CEB support vulnerable groups?

At the CEB, supporting and integrating vulnerable citizens is understood to be a complex subject as it often works to address people-related issues based on gender, youth, homelessness, disability, and/or migrant background. Moreover, the problems to be tackled are often multi-dimensional, spanning the inter-related realms of social issues, labour markets, housing, education and health.

For the most vulnerable people, there is a need for rapid emergency aid in times of need and for long-term integration programmes to ensure economic resilience and social inclusion. The CEB provides both.

The integration of vulnerable people is a central and determined focus of the Bank’s activity. The CEB works with borrowers to ensure that investments are channelled towards effective integration-oriented policies, such as providing vulnerable people with quality housing, access to education and job-creation programmes. Vulnerable groups are supported through the CEB’s core loan products, including through financing to microfinance institutions, and through grant funding and fiduciary operations that are often used to enhance the quality and impact of a loan-funded project.

The CEB’s knowledge creation and sharing on vulnerable groups

While the Bank has published a wealth of information and reports on a broad number of topics over the past 12 months, the five examples presented below place emphasis on vulnerable populations and how tailored project solutions accompanied by the CEB’s experts help to develop innovative approaches for migrant and refugee integration, affordable housing, and even criminal justice systems.

Highlights from the evaluation of judicial infrastructure projects

In 2019, the CEB’s Office of Evaluation (EVO) concluded an in-depth evaluation of projects for the construction of a new prison in Cork and the establishment of a detention facility for children in Oberstown, both in Ireland.

Two main factors make this evaluation especially noteworthy:

• First, the CEB is purportedly the only Multilateral Development Bank that finances projects in the judicial infrastructure sector. There was thus a need to strengthen institutional accountability and social responsibility by providing the Bank’s top management and governing bodies with an independent assessment of the social results achieved and the lessons learnt.

• Second, constructing judicial infrastructure is somewhat unique: The final beneficiaries (i.e. detainees) can be considered among the poorest and most vulnerable social groups. Renovation and construction of such facilities are costly and might not be the object of consensus from either sector experts or the general public. Judicial facilities are exposed to the highest scrutiny by national and international inspection and monitoring bodies to verify their compliance with applicable rules and standards. Nonetheless, such infrastructure development operations are not systematically subjected to evaluations that provide an independent assessment of the social performance of the investments.

The evaluation put forward a series of lessons, both for the CEB and for stakeholders involved in the financing and/or management of judicial infrastructure. The evaluation flagged the enabling role of new detention estates for initiating new and more progressive approaches to detention. At the same time, it pointed out that, in order to achieve social results, a commensurate effort needs to be made to promote dedicated, meaningful and well-funded rehabilitation and reintegration activities. These are crucially important for reducing the general vulnerability that characterises the post-detention environment.

The evaluation also pinpointed the importance of efficient management of the design and construction phases and showed that timely financing from the CEB contributed to the well-being of staff and detainees. However, the prospect of new judicial infrastructure may in fact induce a declining commitment to repair and maintenance in the facilities that are to be replaced, along with diminished incentives for innovation and improvement of available regimes, which could hence increase detainees’ exposure to health, security and safety risks.
Migrant Networks for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees

In addition to the financing activities undertaken by the CEB through its Migrant and Refugee Fund, in 2019 the Bank also actively contributed to the work of two key EU-driven initiatives focused on the integration of migrants and refugees: the Urban Partnership for the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees (‘the Partnership for Inclusion’) and the Cities and Regions for Integration of Migrants (‘Regions4Integration’).

The Partnership for Inclusion was initiated in 2016, with the CEB as one of its core members. The Partnership’s main purpose is to provide a platform for cities, the EU and its member states, civil society, and international institutions to express their views on proposed EU legislation and funding mechanisms, and to share knowledge on solutions to common challenges.

In 2019, the work of the Partnership for Inclusion focused on identifying best practices in labour market integration, including for the most vulnerable refugees and migrants, e.g. persons with disabilities. The CEB’s work in the MSME, education, and housing sectors is feeding into the Partnership’s future activities.

Regions4Integration was launched in 2019 by the European Committee of Regions as a platform for mayors and regional leaders to showcase positive examples of integration of migrants and refugees, share knowledge, and promote diversity as an added value for inclusive cities and social cohesion. The CEB has actively supported the knowledge-sharing component of the Regions4Integration, in particular through the organisation of a workshop in Brussels during the 2019 European Week of Cities and Regions, and has continued to engage with selected cities and regions on concrete financing needs in support of migrant and refugee integration.

Technical Briefs: Affordable Housing and Microfinance in Europe

The Technical Assessment & Monitoring Directorate launched the first Technical Brief at the end of 2017 and had already published seven of them by the end of 2019. These Technical Briefs analyse common issues, country operating models and good practices around a specific sector of public investment, providing examples from recent CEB lending operations.

The Technical Brief ‘Social and Affordable Housing Provided by Non-Profit Private Organizations in Europe’ (September 2019) discusses four distinctive models of private non-profit sector participation in the provision of social and affordable rental housing that could inform Eastern European countries wishing to support the development of new organisations for the provision of social and affordable rental housing.

Another brief published was ‘Supporting Inclusion in Europe through Microfinance’ (May 2019). Building upon the CEB’s microfinance operations to date, exchanges with other European international financial institutions and the European Microfinance Network, this report highlights three areas where action by IFIs is highly relevant in supporting microfinance institutions, thus enabling them to reach their objective to support vulnerable groups in Europe.

“The social exclusion of the most vulnerable risks leaving our societies with long lasting scars such as homelessness, segregation across all spheres of life and intergenerational poverty. [...] From this perspective, our response - multilateral or individual - is no longer only about the human or social rights of migrants and refugees. It goes much deeper. [...] It is about our commitment to the essential principles upon which peace and stability in Europe are based.”

Tomáš Boček, Vice-Governor for Target Group countries, at the European Week of Cities and Regions 2019
Focus on affordable and social housing

The CEB’s cooperation with Housing Europe, a leading association of public, cooperative and social housing providers in Europe, intensified in 2019. The Bank actively engaged with their working group in support of countries with housing systems in transition, including during a dedicated event in Tallinn (Estonia) in April 2019.

The CEB also participated in the International Social Housing Festival in Lyon (June 2019) and helped the organisers with the review of applications for the European Responsible Housing Awards. The Bank was also active as a member of the Steering Committee involved in the selection of 50 out-of-the-box housing solutions for homelessness and housing exclusion, published by Housing Europe with the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) and the Abbé Pierre Foundation.

GRI 102-12

The CEB at the Paris Peace Forum

The Bank participated in the Paris Peace Forum in November 2019, attended by some 7 000 participants, and presented the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) to a diverse audience from more than 100 different countries. The RHP was one of the 114 projects selected by the Paris Peace Forum out of some 700 applications from all over the world.

At the Forum, Stephan Sellen, Deputy Director of the CEB’s Loans and Social Development Directorate, explained: “The RHP provides homes to vulnerable persons who were displaced during the armed conflicts of the 1990s in the former Yugoslavia. Beyond the infrastructure, the RHP has contributed to rebuilding trust and friendship between neighbours who previously went to war against each other.”

The RHP provides housing to vulnerable persons who were displaced during the 1990s conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and have been living in dire conditions ever since. Financed by the international community with the EU Commission and the USA as the largest donors, the Programme targets 11 300 vulnerable families in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia. To date, almost 5 000 families have already received homes and a significantly higher number should do so before the end of 2021.

“At the CEB, the Office of Evaluation has adopted a demand-driven approach to generate evaluation knowledge that starts with identifying knowledge gaps and learning needs of the organisation, as reflected in its work programme. The team is also aware that sharing of knowledge calls for various communication tools that are customised to the needs and interests of those towards whom such knowledge is directed.”

Rachel Meghir, Director of the Office of Evaluation
The CEB’s social mandate materialises in its project work, mainly financing social infrastructure covering a large range of sectors and beneficiaries, always keeping in mind local needs and specificities.

The CEB staff, especially country managers, monitoring and technical advisors as well as evaluators engage directly with project stakeholders to improve the sustainability, monitor progress and assess the results, outcomes and impacts of projects the Bank finances. The case studies below are a good illustration of the Bank’s broad and, at the same time, specific focus on projects dedicated to vulnerable groups.

**FRANCE**

Aid to refugees, migrants, displaced people and other vulnerable groups

Through a € 100 million loan, the CEB is financing measures that are part of France’s plan for asylum seekers and other vulnerable people. The project known as Hémisphère follows in the footsteps of a previous € 100 million loan to ADOMA, the leading provider of accommodation and support to asylum seekers in France, which is nearing completion.

About 100 mainly outdated, budget hotels are expected to be acquired and renovated for emergency accommodation. The redeveloped premises will meet current technical standards and respond to the needs of beneficiaries, particularly those of families.

ADOMA manages the renovated accommodations and provides social support to asylum seekers and other vulnerable people, including social security entitlements, securing of employment, referral for long-term accommodation, health monitoring, and schooling.

The relevance of the Bank’s involvement in Hémisphère is demonstrated by the project’s three goals: operational effectiveness and safe emergency accommodation; provision by ADOMA of social support tailored to the groups of beneficiaries concerned; and budget optimisation for the central government.

Also the structure of the project is innovative: At the time of inception, Hémisphère was one of the biggest social impact funds, bringing together public and private financing and linking their financial return to the achievement of clearly identified social goals.

**Supporting vulnerable groups: four case studies**

CEB’s impact on the most vulnerable
Supporting vulnerable groups: four case studies

Providing sustainable housing solutions to the most vulnerable

As a result of the 1992-1995 conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2.2 million people, representing almost half the country's population, were forced from their homes. Of these, one million were displaced within the country, living in ‘collective centres and alternative accommodation’ (CCs & AA).

A € 60 million loan seeks to build on the lessons learnt from a previous, successfully completed project, albeit with a larger scope and more financing. 138 300 people still live in CCs & AA and are often the most vulnerable with serious social or medical concerns such as the elderly, chronically ill, physically or mentally disabled, highly traumatised or former detainees. Other people are now also living in CCs & AA due to their vulnerabilities, such as the unemployed, homeless, or Roma.

The project seeks to close the CCs & AA and settle these highly vulnerable people in towns close to their areas of origin, where an appropriate level of security and social services can be provided. Local verification commissions ascertain eligibility, define housing needs, and ensure social care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Overview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total project cost / CEB loan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sector</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEB approval date / project schedule</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expected result / outcome:**
- So far, investments have created 6 000 places in which to accommodate vulnerable people
- 59 facilities have been acquired to date, with a total surface area of 75 000 sq m. Acquisition of 40 additional facilities is planned over the 2020-2021 period
- Total costs of acquisitions and rehabilitation currently stand at € 93 million
- Accommodation and social support services for asylum seekers and other vulnerable people, requiring temporary housing

GRI 413-1
Project Overview

| Total project cost / CEB loan | € 104 million / € 60 million |

Grants
- TA funds for the project's preparatory and implementation phase were made available
- In total, TA and interest rate subsidies worth € 4.3 million came from the EU's Western Balkans Investment Framework, Spanish Social Cohesion Account, Italian Fund for Innovative Projects, Slovak Inclusive Growth Account, Norway Trust Account and the CEB.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Aid to refugees, migrants and displaced persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEB approval date / project schedule</td>
<td>01/2012 / Initially 2013-2017, extended to 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expected result/outcome:
- The loan is expected to provide at least 2 600 new or refurbished housing units (not-for-profit rental housing) and 5 institutional accommodation centres, for at least 7 200 people still living in CCs & AA
- In addition, over 180 places are planned for assisted living in social institutions, especially geriatric centres, and one psychiatric care centre
- Already today 63 out of the 73 sub-projects are fully operational in 52 municipalities across all three entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. About 100 families moved to new locations by the end of 2019
- Municipalities will support beneficiaries with socio-economic integration into their new living environment
- Furniture and medical equipment, where relevant, are supplied to beneficiaries

ITALY  Fostering financial and social inclusion through microfinance

The CEB sees microfinance as an effective tool, enabling disadvantaged populations to engage in a revenue-generating activity, thereby reducing vulnerability and improving their living standards. It also contributes to local economic activity, promotes women empowerment and fosters social cohesion. Even in Europe, many micro/small businesses and families still lack access to financial services in spite of a developed banking system.

A € 7 million loan to PerMicro, the microcredit leader in Italy, follows in the footsteps of a pilot project that helped transfer knowledge to other CEB-funded microfinance projects. By lending to PerMicro, the CEB promotes access to microcredit in a sustainable, non-discriminatory and equitable manner.

The CEB loan part-financed PerMicro’s portfolio of both business and family loans and is generating very satisfactory results, in particular for family loans that absorbed two thirds of the funds, and is financing solely migrants, half of which are women facing unstable employment and low income. The programme helps to maintain and create jobs and promotes entrepreneurship. The CEB’s engagement is in line with Italy’s increasing focus on social lending programmes for migrants.

PerMicro complements its lending activity with mentoring services provided by the non-profit association ‘PerMicro Lab’ mainly to micro-entrepreneurs, thus enhancing the social added value of micro-loans. The CEB has also approved a grant to support these mentoring services.
Project Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Total project cost / CEB loan</strong></th>
<th>€ 25 million / € 7 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Grants**
- A guarantee from the CEB’s Social Dividend Account covering 28% of the loan underlining the CEB’s commitment to the project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sector</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Supporting MSMEs for the creation and preservation of viable jobs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Aid to refugees, migrants, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Country</strong></th>
<th>Italy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CEB approval date / project schedule</strong></th>
<th>06/2018 / 2018-2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Expected result/outcome:**
- Financial and social inclusion of migrants and women’s economic empowerment (>50% of family loans go to women)
- Micro business loans ranging from € 3 000 to € 25 000 to support entrepreneurship, reduce unemployment, particularly among youth and women
- Family loans ranging from € 2 000 up to € 10 000 to improve the financial and social inclusion of vulnerable individuals, notably immigrants
The CEB’s €200 million loan to the Republic of Serbia will allow the country to upgrade its water infrastructure, notably water supply and waste water treatment in 60 municipalities, and help the country to address a challenging supply and demand situation. With currently only 8% of Serbia’s waste water treated, the used water causes surface and ground water pollution and creates severe environmental issues. Further, 50% of the municipal drinking water does not meet EU standards, leading to health issues, while inefficiencies – for instance leakage – lead to high costs.

The objective of the project is twofold:

• For the water supply component, the financing of key infrastructure to protect water quality and reduce water losses in a context of scarce water resources due to climate change and pollution.

• For the waste water component, the construction of several waste water treatment plants (WWTP) and sewage systems to reduce environmental pollution, reduce health-related problems and protect water resources.

The investments are part of the CEB’s ‘green’ or ‘climate’ finance as they directly decrease water pollution and increase the climate change resilience of water and sanitation services in Serbia.

The project also has a potentially high social impact as 30% of the population in Serbia will benefit from water supply improvements (quality and quantity) and it is expected that at least some of the largest cities in Serbia will benefit from pollution reduction due to the new WWTP and sewage systems. Technical assistance needs are likely and will be further assessed as part of the CEB’s regular technical and financial monitoring activities.
Project Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total project cost / CEB loan</th>
<th>€ 300 million / € 200 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Grants
- € 1 100 000 grant for preparing the design and related documentation for the Kragujevac WWTP
- The grant is to be sourced from the Italian Fund for Innovative Projects, Slovak Inclusive Growth Account, Spanish Social Cohesion Account and CEB’s Social Dividend Account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Protection of the environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEB approval date / project schedule</td>
<td>11-2019 / 2020-2026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expected result/outcome:
- Increased efficiency in water systems and water quality for 2 million people, representing close to 30% of Serbia’s population
- Upgrading of water supply networks will take place in around 60 municipalities
- Direct beneficiaries of the three WWTP would be residents of the three municipal areas, accounting for 7% of the country’s population, but the benefit of clean water would affect many more along the Danube river to the Black Sea
- Decreased water pollution and increased climate change resilience of the country’s water and sanitation services through:
  - Improvements in the quality and quantity of drinking water
  - Increase in water supply efficiency
  - Reduction in the pollution load of waste water and decreased pollution in surface and ground water
  - Decrease in exposure to water borne diseases
  - Preservation of water resources, ecosystems and biodiversity

“The CEB is aiming to provide €4 billion annually in new loan approvals of social projects. The Bank will keep on adapting its strategy in order to best capitalise on its unique social mandate and ensure its effectiveness in supporting sustainable and socially-responsible finance.”

Cristian Tabacaru, Head of Projects Division
The impact of the CEB’s own operations
In the second half of 2019, the CEB actively engaged with a large number of its internal and external stakeholders in order to better understand their expectations with regard to the Bank, especially concerning numerous specific sustainability topics. This approach, often referred to as a materiality assessment, helps the CEB to tailor its reporting and disclosure but also its future actions on these sustainability issues.

Materiality & stakeholder engagement

What is a materiality assessment?

A materiality assessment is one in which stakeholders are asked to map out different pre-defined sustainability issues according to their importance – issues potentially material range from gender equality, to climate mitigation and governance to information security. For the CEB’s materiality assessment, participants had to rate each issue for two different aspects: first, importance according to their own view (‘Importance to Stakeholders’) and second, their perception of where the CEB can be most impactful (‘CEB’s Impact’).

What is the CEB doing with the results?

Overall, the exercise helps the CEB to better:
- Understand stakeholder groups’ expectations on sustainability,
- Prioritise sustainability issues and a business-centric sustainability approach,
- Build an internal consensus on the CEB’s key sustainability priorities,
- Fine-tune the CEB’s disclosure and reporting, focusing on the most material issues.

The exercise also helped the CEB to reaffirm and systematically think about which groups of stakeholders to actively engage with, i.e. CEB’s Governing Board, Administrative Council and Auditing Board (all three representing the CEB’s member states), management, staff representatives, Council of Europe6, business partners (e.g. borrowers and suppliers), EU institutions, other international public organisations (financial and non-financial), financial sector associations, civil society representatives and researchers.

Further details on the methodology of the assessment

The assessment took place between June and October 2019 and was supported by Deloitte France at all stages; this was particularly important to guarantee the anonymity of the participants’ answers and an unbiased review of the findings in order to define the room for improvement and derive recommendations.

The project followed good practice and a robust materiality methodology, along the following steps:

1. Issue list: A list of 16 potentially material issues was developed based on a desk review, e.g. SASB, GRI, SDGs, ISS-ESG and Sustainalytics, and Deloitte expertise. The 16 identified issues were grouped into four categories: Operations, Employees, Governance & Ethics and Project Impact.

2. Insights gathered: In July 2019, an online survey was sent to internal and external stakeholders. A similar set of questions was discussed during interviews with the CEB’s top management. Overall, 79 stakeholders shared their insights with the CEB.

3. Materiality analysis: The data was collected with Deloitte’s survey tool, and converted into a materiality tool customised to the CEB that allows for the mapping of these issues (see the figure on page 29). Based on the findings, the consultant developed recommendations.

\* For instance, the Council of Europe Secretariat of the Partial Agreement & Secretariat to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.
The CEB’s Development Plan and materiality assessment are well aligned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEB Development Plan’s lines of action</th>
<th>CEB Materiality’s top priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive growth</td>
<td>Inclusive economic growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental sustainability</td>
<td>Climate mitigation &amp; adaptation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for vulnerable groups</td>
<td>Support for vulnerable groups &amp; human rights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, the exercise also shed light on the important role of issues related to governance and ethics, e.g. compliance, anti-corruption, reporting and transparency, gender, and women’s empowerment.

Moreover, the CEB’s new framework on SDG’s comes at a very timely moment as the stakeholders underlined the importance of the UN goals and want the CEB to contribute to them. In this regard, it was found that the Bank’s prioritisation of key SDGs aligns well with the issues identified by the materiality assessment.

In terms of the potential improvements that became clear from the assessment, stakeholders would like the CEB to disclose even more information on key material issues, the CEB’s specific impact on them, and the Bank’s related frameworks and approaches, e.g. project screening and monitoring approaches, environmental strategy and related KPIs, and the scope of human rights covered.

To learn more about the CEB’s materiality assessment and stakeholder engagement, visit our website.

“For this year’s materiality assessment, we have received feedback from a wide range of nearly 80 stakeholders. Their priorities and perception of the impact the CEB can make resonated with the Bank’s new Development Plan, which places emphasis towards inclusive growth, support for vulnerable people and the fight against climate change.”

Jérôme Halb, Deputy Director for European Cooperation & Strategy, Head of Corporate Responsibility & Studies Division
The CEB’s materiality matrix

**Important**
Sustain / Communicate

- Inclusive economic growth
- Climate mitigation & adaptation

- Support for vulnerable groups & human rights
- Environmental impact of CEB

**Strategic**
Prioritise

- Governance & accountability
- Reporting & transparency

- Project safety, durability & affordability
- Talent recruitment, development & retention

**To be Monitored**
Comply / Manage

- CEB Impact
- Community & stakeholder engagement
- Gender & women’s empowerment
- Capacity building & skills
- Working conditions

- Information security & privacy

**Important**
Continue Internal Efforts

- Biodiversity & pollution
- Governance & Ethics
- Employees
- Operations

The impact of the CEB’s own operations
Gender programme, well-being and recruitment

In 2019, the Bank not only continued to implement the Gender Equality and Diversity Strategy and also built initiatives contributing to a more inclusive workplace.

Key HR data at end-2019

At year-end 2019, the CEB’s workforce amounted to 206 permanent staff, with the following characteristics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of nationalities represented</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff turnover</td>
<td>6.31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakdown by gender (206)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional staff, including managerial (143)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support staff (63)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>48 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average job tenure</td>
<td>11 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of the staff following one or more training courses</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRI 102-16

Moving forward with the CEB Gender Equality and Diversity Strategy

In 2018, in order to provide the CEB with the opportunity to engage its entire staff in fostering equal opportunities for women and men in the workplace, the Bank launched a Gender Equality and Diversity Strategy and also obtained the first level EDGE certification, i.e. EDGE Assess.

As of 2019, the Bank started preparing for the second level of the certification, EDGE Move, thereby implementing the actions as recommended by EDGE in the first level:

- Conduct yearly gender pay gap assessments,
- Set targets or objectives for gender composition at management level,
- Improve the transparency of the promotion process and criteria,
- Have top leadership teams actively promote flexible working and act as role models,
- Allocate dedicated resources to implement gender equality.

For the coming years, the Bank is also striving for gender parity at senior level by maintaining the objective of a minimum of 50% female recruitments among its professional staff (Group II) with particular emphasis on the recruitment and internal promotion of women for management functions at A4 level and above.

Consequently, in its recruitment processes, Human Resources has provided selection committees with tools that allow them to use gender neutral language and to ask questions to understand the candidates’ perspective on gender-related issues in the workplace. In 2019, a full day’s training was organised for management on ‘How to conduct a competency based recruitment interview’ in order to ensure the best possible decisions on recruitment while adopting competency assessments and avoiding potential gender biases. For details on the CEB’s prior actions on diversity, e.g. interview best practices, diversity scorecards for recruitment, gender awareness training for senior managers and the CEB’s women leadership coaching programme, see the 2018 CSR Report.

Fostering gender-sensitive management is an important element of the CEB’s Gender Strategy. Building on the 2018 actions, in 2019, a mentoring programme was launched where, in the first round, 12 women (grades B6 to A3) and 9 mentors (3 women, 6 men, grades A4 to A6) paired up.

The Human Resources team has also mainstreamed gender equality and diversity into the CEB’s internal policies and processes, especially into the Rule on Appointments, but also in its external communication on the new internship programme. In addition, the training policy reinforces the Bank’s commitment to equality of learning opportunities and to grant training without discrimination, in particular on grounds of gender. Finally, through the performance management guidelines, appraisers are encouraged to promote an

---

7 On a scale with maximum A7.
Over the course of 2019, emphasis was placed on cross-team training opportunities. To provide staff with opportunities to learn from each other’s experience, training on “Negotiating skills in the financial sector” was organised, bringing together staff from numerous directorates. Furthermore, in order to select candidates according to best practices and contribute to the CEB’s image of an employer of choice, managers or staff participating in recruitment panels received training on ‘Competency-based recruitment interviews’. Finally, both managers and staff were invited to participate in a seminar on ‘Psychosocial risks and wellbeing’, followed by a one-day training course for managers on ‘Dealing with psychosocial risks and creating a climate of wellbeing at work’.

Staff well-being and training

In addition to existing provisions for maximising staff well-being through regular medical visits, teleworking, flexible working hours, access to cafeterias and a gym in the building, in 2019 the Bank introduced preventive measures through a campaign of voluntary flu vaccination. Furthermore, for the first time, in addition to the CEB Day, which gathers all the staff and is organised every summer, the Bank came together for another social event, the Family Day held in December.

In 2020, more initiatives will be launched such as a gender pay gap analysis and flexible working conditions in order to achieve the second level of EDGE certification which, in turn, will provide concrete recognition of the Bank as an employer of choice.

GRI 102-8 • 401-1 • 405-1

Recent recruitment

The Bank seeks not only to retain competent staff and ensure the transfer of knowledge, but also to attract new talent and to diversify its workforce.

Although women are generally well represented at the Bank (see figure below), efforts continue to improve their representation, particularly at senior levels and in management positions. In 2019, there was a slight increase in the percentage of women at professional level (from 44% to 45%), and a slight increase in men at support level (23% to 25%). Several opportunities to increase the representation of women at higher level will occur over the next few years as a number of directors are expected to leave the organisation.

Number of staff members by grade group and by gender

![Number of staff members by grade group and by gender](image)

![Women](image)

![Men](image)
In 2019, the Bank hired 14 new people, representing women and men equally, from 7 different nationalities. Out of the 7 women, 5 were hired at professional level and 2 at support level. Out of the 7 men, 1 was hired at managerial level, 3 at professional level and 3 at support level. Overall, there was a healthy balance between the arrival of new talent at the Bank and internal opportunities, including mobility. There were 6 internal staff movements which included staff changing jobs, moving from one area or role to another, or from one type of contract to another, etc.

In terms of the recruitment of women, 2019 was a successful year. Due to the CEB’s more targeted advertisements for its job postings, the number of applications from women continued to increase, while men’s applications remained at a solid level, which is encouraging as it directly supports the aims of the Bank’s gender diversity strategy.

“We invite all, men and women alike, to continue to strive for a working environment where all staff, independent of gender and background are offered the same chances for growth and success.”

Terje Hagen, Director of Corporate Services
Over the past year, OCCO’s activity has followed the growth in the CEB’s loan volumes and numbers and has provided data, information and support to decision-making bodies when it comes to the Integrity Due Diligence of the Bank’s counterparties. At the same time, OCCO has created, reviewed and updated relevant policies and guidelines, and provided input to other directorates and divisions regarding the revamping of internal policies and rules.

In 2019, the work and achievements of OCCO were recognised and acknowledged by industry peers and even more widely when the CEB’s Chief Compliance Officer was awarded the Chief Compliance Officer of the Year 2019 Award, in the SME category.

**Highlights in 2019**

In 2019, OCCO upgraded and maintained the Bank’s internal regulatory framework, and fine-tuned internal processes related to compliance - notably the CEB’s Policy on Non-compliant/Uncooperative Jurisdictions, Integrity Due Diligence Guidelines and Procedures, Guidelines against Market Abuse and the Rule on Financial Instruments.

In the Data Protection segment of OCCO’s mandate, the CEB finalised a data protection risk mapping project. To ensure alignment with best practices and requirements, the CCO and CISO met the criteria to be certified as Data Protection Officers.

Expanding external cooperation and coordination in the field of ethics and compliance, the CEB has become a member of the Ethics Network of Multilateral Organizations (ENMO), which provides a forum for exchanges on compliance and ethics more widely.

As a regular everyday contribution to the CEB’s core activity, OCCO performs compliance risk assessments of counterparties, shares the findings and assessments with the decision-making bodies, safeguards the CEB’s internal procurement process with ex-ante validations, and ensures high ethical standards and respect for the CEB Code of Conduct. As a part of the continuous effort to promote awareness raising and information and knowledge sharing, OCCO issued two newsletters to staff in 2019 on topics related to data protection and the culture of ethics, and conducted an anti-harassment town hall meeting to promote respect in the workplace.

Joining its peers and many other international organisations and private companies, the CEB marked the International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9th with an address by the Governor to all employees reconfirming the CEB’s determination to fight corruption. This ‘tone from the top’ is building on the staff training and awareness raising that was enhanced in 2019 by the introduction of an interactive board game on ethics which has had positive feedback from participating staff.

“The social mandate and development work of the CEB is inseparable from fostering an ethical corporate culture based on transparency, good will and respect.”

Katherine Delikoura, Chief Compliance Officer
Procurement at the CEB

The CEB procures supplies, works and services for its own operational needs. The Bank uses external service providers to provide, among other things, IT services and a variety of other services on the organisation’s premises.

As an international organisation - to which national legislation on public procurement does not apply - the CEB has its own internal procurement rules. The organisation’s supply chain for its own operational needs is governed by the CEB’s Guidelines on the Internal Procurement of Services, Supplies and Works. The related Internal Procurement Procedures were updated in 2017.

GRI 102-9 • 308-2

Principles and practice

The Bank considers that, as a general rule, these principles can best be implemented by effective and fair competition among qualified tenderers and by transparent selection based on considerations of both cost and quality.

The CEB also aims to ensure that the purchase of supplies, works and services required for the satisfactory operation of the CEB:

• Is handled in a timely, efficient and effective manner with due regard to the Bank’s needs, including a high level of qualification and quality of services (including best practices in terms of occupational health and safety), efficiency and economic use of resources.

• Takes into account sustainability issues with respect to human resources and the environment, in line with the Bank’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy.

Moreover, the CEB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy has now been complemented by the Environmental Statement dated 26 July 2019, which underlines the importance of enhancing environmental and social considerations in procurement decisions for its own operational needs.

In this respect, the existence of ecological labels or the use of environmentally friendly products (e.g. in cleaning services) is taken into account when selecting a provider. The CEB is going to take advantage of the upcoming revision of its Guidelines on Internal Procurement and the subsequent procedures to consider incorporating sustainability aspects in the criteria that may be used for selecting contractors.

Procurement in CEB financed projects

For projects financed by the CEB, there are separate project and loan procurement policies and guidelines. These Procurement Guidelines detail the principles and methods to be applied when awarding contracts to be financed by CEB loans. Implementing them ensures that funds are used solely for purposes covered by the loan and that special emphasis is placed on economical and efficient implementation of the projects it finances. In parallel, the Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy is incorporated into the procurement activity of the project through close monitoring of the policy’s clauses in contracts that borrowers sign with contractors. The use of recognised international contract standards (e.g. FIDIC) is an important tool in this respect.
The CEB’s own environmental footprint

In 2019, important steps were taken to further reduce the Bank’s environmental footprint from its own internal operations. Those efforts directly translate into lower GHG emissions from the CEB’s own operations.

Committed and working towards a lower environmental impact

In 2019, the Bank issued an Environmental Statement formalising and disclosing the CEB’s commitment to minimising its own environmental footprint and setting out a framework for related action. Specifically, the CEB seeks to limit its overall greenhouse gas emissions and improve its environmental performance, by:

- Enhancing the heating and cooling systems on CEB premises,
- Assessing business travel and staff commuting,
- Improving waste management,
- Reducing the consumption of office supplies, paper, plastic and water,
- Enhancing environmental and social considerations when procuring for own operations,
- Compensating for emissions from operations that cannot be avoided,
- Promoting awareness among the staff.

To support and follow up on these goals, an internal work plan has been developed to define timelines and responsibilities for specific actions.

Key developments

While business activity further increased in 2019, total GHG emissions (absolute and per employee) dropped compared to 2018 levels, due to:

- A 17% decrease in emissions from business travel,
- A 17% decrease in emissions from heating and cooling,
- A 32% decrease in emissions from electricity consumption\(^8\).

These significant improvements were not offset by a slight increase in emissions from staff commuting, waste disposal and water treatment\(^9\).

The overall positive trend can be in part attributed to a number of concrete measures taken over the past 12 months, for instance the phasing out of plastic cups and cutlery, a new parking space for bikes, a change of cleaning company to one using more sustainable cleaning agents, and more video conferencing facilities.

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\(^8\) A small part of the decrease in emissions from electricity can be explained due to updated ‘emission factor’ for electricity used for the 2019 assessment, reflecting the decreasing carbon footprint of electricity produced in France - compared to the 2014 emission factor used previously.

\(^9\) For the 2019 assessment an updated ‘emission factor’ for waste has been used, assuming an increased carbon footprint for waste treatment. Another reason for higher emissions from waste is a small increase in the quantity of waste produced.
In order to ensure transparency in the evolution of the Bank's detailed GHG emissions, comparative tables of GHG emissions are presented at constant perimeter below.

**Key measures and trends**

In total, the CEB’s greenhouse gas emissions for 2019 amounted to 865 tonnes of CO₂, representing 4.2 tCO₂e/employee, down from 993 tonnes and 4.8 tCO₂e/employee last year, according to the Bilan Carbone methodology.\(^\text{10}\)

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The calculation for the figure is based on Bilan Carbone. Note that in 2017, there was a major overhaul of the carbon footprint methodology, detailed in the 2017 CSR Report. The minor adjustments made in 2019 are explained in the footnotes 8 to 10.

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\(^{10}\) For the 2019 GHG assessment, the scope of the analysis was increased to include IT equipment, and this was also retroactively added for the year 2018. For some general background on the Bilan Carbone methodology see the GRI Index, Emissions – GRI 305.
The CEB’s detailed GHG emissions by source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total variation</td>
<td>Variation per employee</td>
<td>Total 2019</td>
<td>Per employee 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface - m²</td>
<td>0% -4%</td>
<td>7 600.0</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>7 600.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEB personnel - FTE</td>
<td>+4% 0%</td>
<td>206.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>206.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall emissions</td>
<td>-12% -16%</td>
<td>865.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>993.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings - Heating &amp; cooling</td>
<td>+2% -2%</td>
<td>145.2</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>175.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vapour network emission - tCO₂e</td>
<td>+2% -2%</td>
<td>144.9</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>175.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling use emissions - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings - Electricity</td>
<td>-37% -39%</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>59.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity emissions - tCO₂e</td>
<td>-37% -39%</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>59.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling - Commuting</td>
<td>+79% +72%</td>
<td>79.9</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>78.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to commuting by car - tCO₂e</td>
<td>+77% +70%</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>70.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to commuting by moto - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to commuting by public transport - tCO₂e</td>
<td>+5% +1%</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling - Business travelling</td>
<td>-38% -40%</td>
<td>474.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>572.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to travelling by plane - tCO₂e</td>
<td>-33% -36%</td>
<td>462.7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>557.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to travelling by train - tCO₂e</td>
<td>+62% +55%</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to travelling by car and taxi - tCO₂e</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper &amp; consumables</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>94.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to water bottles - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to consumables - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to post services - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to magazines and newspapers - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>35.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to printing brochures - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to printing paper - CO₂e</td>
<td>-56% -58%</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste disposal and wastewater</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to wastewater - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to garbage - tCO₂e</td>
<td>+703% +671%</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT equipment</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to printers - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to computers - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions linked to large screens - tCO₂e</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that for the baseline year 2015, when the previous methodology for tracking GHG was still being used, some data was not available or has not been assessed and is therefore marked as "Not available".
Appendix - GRI Content Index for 2019

GRI 102-54 • 102-55

The 2019 index of sustainability indicators was prepared on the basis of the internationally recognised standard for sustainability reporting, namely the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards, and has been prepared in accordance with the ‘GRI Standards: Core option’. The GRI Index provides an overview of sustainability considerations in the CEB’s lending and non-lending services and in its day-to-day functioning and staff management.

The GRI Content Index 2019 can be found as a separate document on the CEB’s website.
## General Disclosures

- Organisational Profile
- Strategy
- Ethics and Integrity
- Governance
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Reporting Practice

## Specific Disclosures

### OPERATIONAL IMPACT

- Economic Performance
- Market Presence
- Indirect Economic Impact
- Anticorruption
- Anti-Competitive Behaviour
- Tax
- Biodiversity
- Emissions
- Human Rights Assessment
- Local Communities
- Socio-Economic Compliance

### CORPORATE IMPACT

- Economic Performance
- Materials
- Energy
- Water
- Emissions
- Effluents and Waste
- Supplier Environmental Assessment
- Employment
- Labour/Management Relations
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Training and Education
- Diversity and Equal Opportunity
- Non-Discrimination
ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

102-1 Name of the organisation
Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB).

102-2 Primary brands, products, and services
The CEB invests in social projects that foster inclusion and contribute to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations across Europe. To this effect, the CEB provides loans and guarantees in its 41 member states to finance projects meeting a certain number of criteria. Potential borrowers include governments, local or regional authorities and financial institutions. Loan applications are rigorously reviewed, and related projects are designed and implemented within national sectorial policies, when applicable. From a financing perspective, the CEB has at its disposal a number of different lending instruments (Project loans, Programme loans, Public co-finance facility, EU co-finance facility, Cross-sectoral loans), financing of public private partnerships, guarantees and, through specific programmes (such as Migrant and Refugee Fund) or, on an ad-hoc basis, grants.

102-3 Location of headquarters
Paris, France.

102-4 Location of operations
According to its mandate, the CEB can provide loans and guarantees in any of its 41 member states. The Bank may also receive voluntary contributions from its members, through fiduciary accounts. As a sign of solidarity among the CEB member states, the Bank is able to provide increased support to a group of 22 “target countries” in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova (Republic of), Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Turkey.

102-5 Ownership and legal form
The CEB is an international organisation governed by public international law which, according to its mandate, operates as an international financial institution. As an international financial institution, the CEB is owned by its shareholders, namely its 41 member states.

102-6 Markets served
The CEB invests in social projects that foster inclusion and contribute to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations across Europe. More specifically, the CEB’s sectors of action are as follows:
- Aid to refugees, migrants and displaced persons
- Housing for low-income persons
- Creation and preservation of viable jobs
- Improvement of living conditions in urban and rural areas
- Natural or ecological disasters
- Protection of the environment, including climate mitigation and adaptation
- Protection and rehabilitation of historic and cultural heritage
- Health
- Education and vocational training
- Infrastructure of administrative and judicial public services

For more details, see:
- the Loan and Project Financing Policy
- the Handbook for the Preparation and Implementation of Projects

102-7 Scale of organisation
As at 31 December 2019, the CEB had 206 staff members - plus 4 appointed officials (Governor and 3 Vice-Governors). The Bank approved 46 project loans for a total amount of € 3.98 billion. The profit for the year 2019 reached € 104.7 million.

102-8 Information on employees and other workers
As at 31 December 2019, the CEB’s workforce was made up of 206 staff members (54% women / 46% men). Of these staff members, 68% were professional staff (44% women / 56% men) and 32% were support staff (77% women / 23% men) comprising 33 different nationalities. Out of the 206 staff members, 195 were on indefinite-term contracts and 11 on fixed-term contracts. The CEB only has one office, located in Paris.
102-9 Supply chain
The CEB procures supplies, works and services for its own operational needs. In addition, the Bank uses external service providers to provide, among other things, IT services, cleaning and security services on the organisation’s premises.

As an international organisation - to which national legislation on public procurement does not apply - the CEB has its own internal procurement rules. The organisation’s supply chain for its own operational needs is governed by the Guidelines on the Internal Procurement of Services, Supplies and Works by the CEB. The related Internal Procurement Procedures were updated in 2017.

It is the CEB’s policy that its Procurement Guidelines and procedures follow the principles of:
- equal treatment
- non-discrimination
- transparency

The Bank considers that, as a general rule, these principles can best be implemented by effective and fair competition among qualified tenderers and by transparent selection based on considerations of both cost and quality.

The CEB also aims to ensure that the purchase of supplies, works and services required for the satisfactory operation of the CEB:
- is handled in a timely, efficient and effective manner with due regard to the Bank’s needs, including a high level of qualifications and quality of services, efficiency and economic use of resources. The notion of quality of services includes compliance with best practices in terms of occupational health and safety policies.
- takes into account sustainability issues with respect to human resources and the environment, in line with its Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy.

The CEB’s new Environmental Statement from July 2019 underlines the importance of enhancing environmental and social considerations in procurement decisions for its own operational needs.

These rules are aligned with those of other international organisations.

For the projects financed by the CEB, there are separate project and loan procurement policies and guidelines. These Procurement Guidelines detail the principles and methods to be applied when awarding contracts to be financed by CEB loans. Implementing them ensures that funds are used solely for purposes covered by the loan and that special emphasis is placed on economical and efficient implementation of the projects it finances. It is recognised that fairness and transparency of public spending are essential to sound governance and to the sustainability of projects.

For more information, see the CEB’s Policies and Guidelines.

102-10 Significant changes during the reporting period regarding the organisation and its supply chain
None.

102-11 Precautionary principle or approach
Application of the precautionary principle is integrated in the CEB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy (para. 18). “The CEB may apply the precautionary principle when it considers that the potentially adverse effects of a Project are not adequately mitigated or that the likely residual environmental impacts outweigh the expected social benefits”.

102-12 External initiatives
As stated in the CEB’s Development Plan 2020-2022: “The Bank’s approach in terms of social safeguard review and management draws upon the principles enshrined in the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and European Social Charter. The principles specifically emphasised in project operations are those related to: Conditions and rights of workers, Protection of vulnerable groups, Forced labour and child labour, Gender equality and non-discrimination, Protection of livelihoods and housing, Community health and safety [and] Stakeholder information and consultation.” (Annex 6).

Moreover, “applications for loans or guarantees shall be submitted to the [Bank’s] Administrative Council after receipt of the Secretary General [of the Council of Europe’s] opinion as to admissibility based on the project’s conformity with the political and social aims of the Council of Europe” (Article XIII of the Bank’s Articles of Agreement).

From an environmental perspective, inter alia, the CEB has signed the Declaration on the European Principles for the Environment (EPE) concerning the environmental management component in the financing of projects; the CEB has also been working together with its stakeholders and peers to reflect on the design of adaptation strategies and to elaborate guidance for resilient project development including for urban centres, as well as exploring metrics for measuring adaptation outcomes (in particular, within the EUFIWACC - European Financing Institutions Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change); furthermore, in 2017, the CEB joined the global Climate action
in financial institutions initiative, thereby endorsing five voluntary principles for Mainstreaming Climate Action. The CEB joined the coalition as part of the multilateral development bank (MDB) group. In 2018, the CEB obtained permanent observer status to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC) and joined the initiative for Harmonized Indicators for Private Sector Operation (HIPSO). As a founding member of the ICMA Social Bond Working Group, the CEB helped develop the Social Bond Principles and contributed to a sub-working group on impact reporting.

The CEB’s medium-term strategy, the Development Plan 2020-2022, draws on the UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an initiative the Bank strongly supports.

102-13 Memberships of associations
Over the years, the CEB has forged partnerships with other international organisations and donors to bring additional financing and greater expertise to the projects it supports. In addition to its natural links with the Council of Europe, the CEB has become a partner of choice to the European Union and regularly cooperates with other international financial institutions (IFIs), and with several United Nations specialised agencies (in 2017, the CEB and UNDP agreed to extend their cooperation for another five years, aiming to scale up their support for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South-Eastern Europe, Turkey, Republic of Moldova and Georgia). In 2019, the CEB renewed its memorandum of agreement with UNICEF.

For more details, see:
- the “Donors and Partnerships” section in the 2019 Report of the Governor
- the web sections “Partnerships” and “Donors and trust funds”

STRATEGY

102-14 Statement from senior decision-maker
Please see the ‘Foreword by the Governor’ in the 2019 Corporate Social Responsibility Report.

102-15 Key impacts, risks, and opportunities
The CEB is a multilateral bank with a unique social vocation. The CEB is tasked to contribute to the social cohesion and sustainable social development of its 41 member states, which are also its shareholders.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is thus rooted in the Bank’s core mission. The focus is to ensure that growth is socially inclusive and pursued in a manner that is both economically empowering and environmentally sustainable. The CEB acknowledges that achieving this vision is contingent upon implementing environmental, social and climate-change safeguards.

For more details, see the Development Plan 2020-2022, which lays out in detail the Bank’s medium-term strategy and includes very detailed considerations on impacts, risks and opportunities.

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

102-16 Values, principles, standards and norms of behaviour
The Office of the Chief Compliance Officer (OCCO) is the principal organisational unit within the CEB that is specifically tasked to address integrity and corruption issues. To ensure OCCO’s independence from all operational divisions, OCCO is headed by the Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) who reports directly to the Governor.

The framework defines the compliance function’s mission as being "to ensure that the Bank conducts its activities in compliance with its own rules, current legislation, the Codes of Conduct as well as with good practices, in order to avoid any risk of irregularity in the functioning of the institution, of its Organs or of its Staff". The compliance function’s purpose is therefore to enable the CEB to limit its exposure to the risk of legal, administrative or regulatory sanctions, material financial loss or loss of reputation incurred in the event of non-compliance. This is of the greatest importance for a development bank, and particularly one with a social vocation placed ‘under the “supreme authority” of the Council of Europe’.

102-17 Mechanisms for advice and concerns about ethics
The CEB has a comprehensive and publicly available compliance framework, including inter alia a Compliance Policy, an Anticorruption Charter, a Policy on Non-Compliant/Uncooperative Jurisdictions, Internal Procurement Guidelines, Codes of Conduct, Integrity and Dignity at Workplace, Integrity Due Diligence Guidelines & Procedures, and a Whistleblowing Policy.

OCCO identifies compliance risk, assesses compliance risk, advises the Governor and management committees on relevant rules and standards and ensures that the CEB is aware of, and follows, best market principles and international standards regarding the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, fraud and corruption and other prohibited practices. OCCO also designs, recommends and maintains the policies, rules and procedures governing dignity, ethical behaviour and integrity towards counterparties and third parties, advises staff and gives guidance on conflicts of interest, prevention of insider trading, protection of confidential
information and ethical issues. When a request for opinion arises, the entry points used as advice and help lines, both internally and externally, are compliance@coebank.org and whistleblowing@coebank.org.

Apart from the entry points mentioned above, OCCO has a full set of procedures, terms of reference and dedicated forms that specifically refer to reporting unlawful / unethical behaviour or misconduct.

**GOVERNANCE**

102-18 Governance structure

Like other international organisations/international financial institutions governed by public international law, the CEB has a specific governance structure established by virtue of its Articles of Agreement. The CEB has the following statutory bodies:

1. the **Governing Board**, which is the CEB’s “supreme body”, competent for all matters not delegated to the Administrative Council;
2. the **Administrative Council**, which, amongst its delegated powers, approves lending operations in favour of proposed projects and gives its opinion on all decisions having financial consequences; and
3. the **Auditing Board**, which is independent from all the other statutory bodies and inspects the CEB’s annual accounts.

The **Governor** is elected by the Governing Board. The Governor, who is assisted by one or more Vice-Governors, is the Bank’s legal representative and the head of its operational services. The Governor conducts the day-to-day business within the framework of the decisions adopted by the Governing Board and the Administrative Council. Currently, the Governor (Rolf Wenzel, re-elected in 2016) is assisted by three Vice-Governors: Carlo Monticelli (Financial Strategy, appointed in 2015), Rosa María Sánchez-Yebra Alonso (Social Development Strategy, appointed in 2016), and Tomáš Bolfék (Target Group Countries, appointed in 2019).

For more information on the governance structure, see the Annual Report (“Governance structure”) or the CEB’s website.

102-19 Process for delegating authority for economic, environmental, and social topics from the highest governance body to senior executives and other employees

102-20 Executive-level responsibility for economic, environmental, and social topics

As the social development bank in Europe, economic, environmental and social considerations are embedded in almost all our activities. While the Bank’s Governor is ultimately responsible for these topics, numerous directorates and teams work on sustainability:

- **Unit for CSR**, in charge of topics concerning the whole organisation, e.g. ESG ratings, stakeholder engagement, disclosure, and coordination between directorates
- **Compliance**, working on integrity and transparency in the conduct of all the CEB’s activities, ranging from anti-money laundering, to whistleblowing, to IT systems security.
- **Corporate Services**, working on human resources, e.g. gender and wellbeing, and issues related to facility management, e.g. office energy consumption and waste management.
- **Evaluation**, working on independent evaluations of CEB-financed projects to assess their social performance and derive lessons learnt for the CEB’s future work.
- **Finance**, working on funding the Bank’s project financing on competitive terms, for example by issuing the CEB’s Social Inclusion Bonds.
- **Loans & Social Development**, working with borrowers to develop their projects and maximise their social value added.
- **Technical Assessment & Monitoring**, working with borrowers on technical aspects throughout the project cycle; this also includes procurement and support from in-country experts in the form of technical assistance.

102-22 Composition of the highest governance body and its committees

Both the Governing Board and the Administrative Council are composed of a Chairperson and one representative appointed by each member state.

102-23 Chair of the highest governance body

Both the Governing Board and the Administrative Council chairpersons are elected by the Governing Board. The chairpersons do not have voting powers.

102-25 Conflicts of interest

The CEB has a Codes of Conduct which set out the ethical rules that must govern the conduct of those working for the CEB (Chairmen and members of the Collegial Bodies, Governor, Vice-Governors, staff members, contractual collaborators, and service providers) and help them to abide by those rules, as well as to inform their colleagues, the CEB’s organs and the general public of the standard of conduct they are entitled to expect.
The Codes of Conduct, approved by the Governing Board on 27 November 2009 and effective as of 1 January 2010, apply respectively to:

- the Governor, Vice-Governors, staff members and to contractual collaborators or service providers
- the Chairmen and members of the Collegial Bodies (Governing Board and Administrative Council)
- the members of the Auditing Board

Each Code of Conduct has a specific provision that deals with the issue of conflicts of interest in full. As an example, the one applicable to the chairpersons and members of the Collegial Bodies provides that “The chairmen and members of the Collegial Bodies must ensure that no personal interests or any particular financial interests in any way affect their activities on behalf of the CEB or jeopardise the image of the CEB, given the information of which they have knowledge within the framework of the performance of their duties. The chairmen and members of the Collegial Bodies remain bound to respect these obligations after their mandate expires. Should an actual or apparent conflict of interest arise, the Collegial Body chairman or member shall promptly disclose the matter to the Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) for guidance. They shall recuse themselves by withdrawing from any attendance of or participation in deliberations or decision-making connected with their particular case, unless the CCO deems otherwise” (CoC for Chairmen and members of the Collegial Bodies, Article 3).

102-26 Role of highest governance body in setting purpose, values and strategies
The Governing Board, which, pursuant to the CEB’s Articles of Agreement is “the supreme body” of the CEB, is competent, notably, to set out the general orientations for the CEB’s activity and to approve the annual report and financial statements.

Among the powers delegated to it by the Governing Board, the Administrative Council establishes and supervises operational policies and approves lending operations in favour of projects.

102-29 Identifying and managing economic, environmental and social impacts
As a multilateral development bank with a social purpose, the CEB provides finance and expertise for economically, environmentally and socially sound investment projects across its European membership, which contribute to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations, including refugees and migrants, and more broadly to strengthening social cohesion.

The Directorate for Technical Assessment and Monitoring (TAM) is responsible for the technical appraisal and monitoring of projects financed by the Bank. TAM’s appraisal and monitoring processes include the assessment of economic, environmental and social opportunities and risks. Environmental and social risks are screened and managed in accordance with the CEB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy. TAM’s analysis of these risks and recommendations for their management are integrated in the Loan Document that is presented to the Administrative Council and reflected in the Framework Loan Agreement for each project. During implementation of the project, TAM reviews the management of environmental and social risks, carrying out site visits where appropriate. The results of the monitoring are reported to the Bank’s Management.

In addition, the Directorate for Loans & Social Development (L&D) has monitoring experts who follow up on project quality and oversee that projects are implemented according to the specifications outlined initially.

The CEB also has an Office of Evaluation (EVO) which contributes to improving the quality of future projects based on in-depth and rigorous analyses of past project and programme outputs and outcomes.

102-30 Effectiveness of risk management processes
Risk management at the CEB is based on a prudent Risk Management Framework through strong governance, policies, procedures, limits and controls that provide the Bank with the appropriate tools to identify, assess, monitor, report, mitigate and control risks throughout the Bank. While the Bank is not subject to member states’ regulations, it considers the European Union Directives on banking regulation and the recommendations of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision as the references for its Risk Management Framework.

The Bank’s risk and control policies are based on international best banking practices and validated by internal committees composed of members of the CEB’s senior management and ultimately approved by the Bank’s governing bodies. The Bank continuously reassesses its Risk Management and Control Framework to ensure that it is able to fulfil its objective.

The Directorate for Risk and Control (R&C) is responsible for implementing the Risk Management Framework within the CEB and is independent from other operational and business directorates, reporting directly to the Governor. The divisions within the Directorate for R&C are dedicated to specific risk areas: credit, operational risk, financial transactions, derivatives and collateral management. The Asset & Liability Management (ALM) Unit in the Finance Directorate is in charge of managing the Bank’s market risk (interest and currency exchange rates) and liquidity risk.

Decision-making committees in charge of defining and overseeing the Risk Management Framework are chaired by the Governor:

- The Regular Credit Risk Committee (CRC) meets on a weekly basis and takes credit decisions in relation to lending and treasury exposure, based on internal credit risk assessments and recommendations. In addition, a special CRC meeting takes place once a month to deal with specific topics and issues within an extended committee.
The Asset & Liability Management Committee (ALCO) meets on a monthly basis to formulate strategic orientations and, on a forward-looking basis, to address interest rate, foreign exchange rate and liquidity risks arising throughout the balance sheet. In addition, on a quarterly basis, a “Special ALCO” meeting addresses ALM and funding issues.

Capital market information is provided at the weekly meetings of the General Management Committee.

The Committee for Operational Risks & Organisation reviews operational risk issues at the CEB on a semi-annual basis and ensures that adequate steps are taken to mitigate, monitor and control these risks.

The IT Steering Committee reviews information systems issues and takes the appropriate actions to ensure operational resilience and business continuity.

In view of the Bank’s credit track record, the organisation and processes have proven to be effective, with almost no impairments in over 60 years since the institution’s inception.

102-31 Review of economic, environmental and social topics
Helping social and environmental development, thereby improving people’s lives and strengthening social cohesion across Europe, is at the core of the CEB’s mandate and operational priorities. The Bank’s approach is reflected in a number of public documents including inter alia the CEB’s Development Plan 2020-2022 and in its key corporate policies and guidelines such as the Loan and Project Financing Policy, the CEB Handbook for the Preparation and Implementation of Projects, the Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy and the new Environmental Statement, passed in 2019.

It is also worth noting that, among the CEB’s statutory bodies, the Administrative Council is the body responsible, among other things, for approving lending operations in favour of projects.

Its decisions are based on: (i) the Governor’s Report including the anticipated economic, environmental and social impacts of the project; and (ii) the opinion of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe as to the admissibility of the project, based on its conformity with the political and social aims of the Council of Europe.

102-32 Highest governance body’s role in sustainability reporting
The Bank’s Annual CSR Report is on the agenda at every ‘Spring meeting’ of the Administrative Council and the Governing Board.

102-35 Remuneration policies
102-36 Process for determining remuneration
102-37 Stakeholders’ involvement in remuneration

Compensation for the Governing Board and Administrative Council chairpersons as well as for “elected Officials” (Governor and Vice-Governors) is individually and fully disclosed in the Financial Report (see Note A– Item 10).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

102-40 List of stakeholder groups engaged by the organisation
In the second half of 2019 the CEB actively engaged with a large number of its stakeholders, both internal and external, to better understand their expectations towards the Bank, especially regarding numerous specific sustainability topics. This approach is often referred to as a materiality assessment.

The stakeholder groups engaged were: the CEB’s Governing Board, Administrative Council, Auditing Board, management, staff representatives, the Council of Europe, business partners (e.g. commercial banks, borrowers and suppliers), EU institutions, international public organisations, financial sector associations, civil society representatives and researchers.

For more information on the materiality assessment please see the main body of the 2019 CSR Report.

102-42 Identifying and selecting stakeholders
102-43 Approach to stakeholder engagement
The 2019 materiality assessment will help the CEB to further tailor its reporting and disclosure but also its actions on the sustainability issues raised. The outcome of the exercise directly fed into the process of defining the CEB’s medium-term strategy, i.e. the Development Plan 2020-2022.

The stakeholders contacted were identified by asking CEB staff working on sustainability topics for their key contacts, but also through desk research and the expertise of the materiality consultant (i.e. Deloitte).

As stated in the CEB’s Public Information Policy, the Bank “acknowledges the merits of constructive dialogue with representatives of civil society (nongovernmental organisations, etc.), and recognises that any such dialogue must necessarily be proportioned to its size and to its sectors of action.” The CEB engages in such dialogue on a case-by-case basis.
102-44 Key topics and concerns raised
The key message from the stakeholder outreach was that the CEB’s strategy and reporting are largely aligned with stakeholder expectations. The Bank’s three lines of action, as set out in the CEB’s new Development Plan, where also mentioned by stakeholders as ‘top priorities’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEB Development Plan’s lines of action</th>
<th>CEB Materiality’s top priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive growth</td>
<td>Inclusive economic growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental sustainability</td>
<td>Climate mitigation &amp; adaption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for vulnerable groups</td>
<td>Support for vulnerable groups &amp; human rights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, the exercise also shed light on the importance of issues related to governance and ethics, e.g. compliance, anti-corruption, reporting and transparency, as well as gender and women’s empowerment.

In terms of potential improvements that became clear through the assessment, stakeholders would like the CEB to disclose even more information on key material issues, the CEB’s specific impact on them, and the Bank’s related frameworks and approaches, e.g. project screening and monitoring approaches, environmental strategy and related KPIs, or scope of human rights covered.

102-41 Percentage of total employees covered by collective bargaining agreements
The CEB’s employees are staff of an international finance institution. Based on the CEB’s legal status, as an international organisation with its privileges and immunities, neither the host country’s labour laws nor those of its member countries apply to its staff members. There is no system of collective bargaining agreements.

The system of remuneration at the CEB is part of a legal and institutional framework defined by the Bank’s Regulations and its Staff Regulations. Furthermore, as an organisation attached to the system of Coordination Organisations due to its link with the Council of Europe, the CEB follows the Coordinated Organisations’ rules on matters of remuneration and salary adjustments.

The structure of the total compensation is specifically outlined in Article 41 of the Staff Regulations and Appendix IV thereto (Regulations governing Staff salaries and allowances).

Each year, the Co-ordination Committee on Remunerations calculates the adjustment index that defines the progression of the basic salary for the Coordinated Organisations and attached Organisations such as the CEB.

All the CEB’s staff members enjoy the full right to associate and may belong to trade unions or professional organisations, subject to the CEB’s staff-related documents and the Codes of Conduct.

The Staff Committee represents the general interests of the staff and contributes to the smooth running of the CEB by providing the staff with a channel for the expression of their opinions. The Staff Committee participates directly or is represented by staff members whom it appoints to sit on a number of commissions and committees created within the Bank and which require staff participation. Staff members are thus represented on the:

- Health and Safety Committee
- Advisory Pension Committee
- Personal Data Protection Commission
- Advisory Committee on Disputes and the Disciplinary Board

The CEB also has a General Meeting of Staff which enables all staff members to express their opinions on their conditions of employment and work. The General Meeting of Staff is a body in which all retired staff members may also express their opinions on the conditions that concern them. It meets at least once a year in ordinary session and may also be convened in extraordinary session.

The Joint Committee is a consultative organ in charge of facilitating cooperation between the Administration and staff on questions of a general nature. It may be consulted by the Governor or by the Staff Committee accordingly. It also gives its opinion on measures for the termination of service as provided for in the Regulations on indemnity for loss of job.

REPORTING PRACTICE

102-45 Entities included in the consolidated financial statements
Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB).

102-46 Defining report content and topic boundaries

102-47 List of material topics

Approach for determining Materiality
The full materiality assessment conducted in 2019 included both internal and external stakeholder surveys and followed best practice approaches. For more information on the assessment’s methodology, please see the main body of the 2019 CSR Report.
The 16 material topics identified are presented below. The stakeholders’ assessment of the relevance and importance of these topics to the CEB can be found in the materiality matrix depicted in the main body of the CSR Report.

**Operations:**
- Community & stakeholder engagement
- Environmental impact of CEB
- Information security & privacy

**Employees:**
- Gender equality & incl. workplace
- Talent recruitment, develop. & retention
- Working conditions

**Governance & Ethics:**
- Ethics, compliance & anti-corruption
- Governance & accountability
- Reporting & transparency

**Project Impact:**
- Inclusive economic growth
- Support for vulnerable groups & human rights
- Gender & women’s empowerment
- Climate mitigation & adaptation
- Biodiversity & pollution
- Project safety, durability & affordability
- Capacity building & skills

**Report Boundary**
The differentiation between “operational” and “corporate” indicators establishes the boundaries of the GRI Index disclosures.

**Operational impacts**
- Economic performance
- Indirect economic impact
- Human rights
- Local communities
- Anti-corruption and compliance (environmental and social)

**Corporate impacts**
- Staff (occupational health and safety, training and education, diversity and equal opportunity, etc.)
- The CEB’s own environmental impact, including its carbon footprint

**102-48 Restatements of information**
None.

**102-49 Changes in reporting**
None.

**102-50 Reporting period**
The CEB reports on a calendar year basis from 1 January to 31 December. This report covers the year 2019.

**102-51 Date of most recent previous report**
April 2019.

**102-52 Reporting cycle**
Annual.

**102-53 Contact point for questions regarding the report**
Corporate Responsibility & Studies Division (info@coebank.org)

**102-54 Claims of reporting in accordance with the GRI Standards**
The CEB’s 2019 CSR Report and GRI Index has been prepared in accordance with the ‘GRI Standards: Core option’.

**102-55 GRI content index**
The GRI Index 2019 is available on the Bank’s website.

**102-56 External assurance**
The CEB does not seek external assurance for its sustainability reporting.

**103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its boundary**

**103-2 The management approach and its components**

**103-3 Evaluation of the management approach**
In 2019, the CEB completed a full materiality assessment which largely supported the Bank’s management approach, as outlined in 102-44, 102-46 and 102-47. The management approach for issues deemed material is presented individually in the chapters on ‘Operational Impacts’ and ‘Corporate Impacts’ below.
Specific Disclosures

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

ECONOMIC – GRI 200

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE – GRI 201

Management approach
The CEB provides loans to co-finance projects in any of its 41 member states, in accordance with its social mandate. Potential borrowers include governments, regional or local authorities, and public or private financial institutions and banks. Benefitting from its excellent rating (AAA with Standard & Poor’s, outlook stable; Aa1 with Moody’s, outlook stable, and AA+ with Fitch Ratings, outlook positive), the CEB has access to the most favourable funding conditions on the international capital markets, which enables the Bank to offer attractive interest rates to its borrowers. The CEB generates a moderate but stable net income, the aim being to maintain and enhance its financial soundness by gradually strengthening its capital base.

201-1 Direct economic value generated and distributed
See the 2019 Financial Report (including the Key Figures and the Financial Summary) for extensive information.

201-2 Financial implications and other risks and opportunities due to climate change
The CEB incorporates environmental considerations in all the projects it finances. It acknowledges the importance of climate change, as underscored by the Development Plan 2020-2022 which introduced ‘environmental sustainability’ including climate change as one of three strategic lines of action. Climate change risks and opportunities as regards the CEB’s lending operations are addressed in the Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy (section 2.4). Projects considered for financing are screened for four climate change parameters (GHGs emitted, mitigation potential, adaptation potential, and vulnerability to climate change).

201-4 Financial assistance received from government
The CEB is owned by its 41 member states. In accordance with its Articles of Agreement, the CEB’s capital is subscribed by the member states. The CEB may borrow on the capital markets to raise the funds necessary for fulfilling its mandate. In certain cases, it may be entrusted with funds from member states, the Council of Europe and, subject to certain requirements, third parties (such as the EU) to implement activities supporting its mandate.

MARKET PRESENCE – GRI 202

Management approach
As an international organisation with 41 member states and active business relations with most of the CEB’s member countries, the Bank aims for diversity of nationalities (from its member states) for its senior management team.

202-1 Ratios of standard entry level wage by gender compared to local minimum wage
Not applicable. Please see the CEB’s salary scale.

202-2 Proportion of senior management hired from the local community
In 2019, 33 out of 41 CEB member countries were represented among the 206 staff members. Out of the 15 people in senior management positions, i.e. Governor, Vice-Governors and Director level, three are from France, the CEB’s host country, two each from Germany, Greece and Italy, and one each from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Spain. It will be noted that, at the end of 2019, one senior management position was not staffed.

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1 On 15 February 2019, Standard & Poor’s upgraded the CEB’s rating from ‘AA+, outlook positive’ to ‘AAA outlook stable’.
2 On 3 September 2019, Fitch Ratings changed the outlook of its rating from ‘stable’ to ‘positive’.
INDIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT – GRI 203

Management approach
The Bank invests in sustainable social sector infrastructure projects with a view to maximising the social impact of its operations and promoting economic and social inclusion. The CEB aims to design its projects in such a way as to benefit the largest number of potential final beneficiaries, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups.

203-1 Infrastructure investments and services supported
Most CEB investments are in physical infrastructure projects but it can also support “soft” investments in supporting equipment and services, such as access to vocational training schemes. For a detailed breakdown of financing provided by the CEB, see the Governor’s Report (“Annual Report”).

203-2 Significant indirect economic impacts
Investment in one sector of the Bank’s activity often results in significant co-benefits in economic terms. For example, careful design of new social housing construction part-financed through a CEB loan will also positively contribute to the energy efficiency of the dwellings. In the same way, renovation of a housing block can serve as a catalyst for urban renewal in a wider area. Moreover, the job creation impact of construction projects financed by the CEB must also be considered.

These economic, social and environmental inter-linkages are a recurring item in the majority of projects financed by the CEB.

ANTI-CORRUPTION – GRI 205

Management approach
The Office of the Chief Compliance Officer (OCCO) is clearly supported by “tone from the top” and is committed to achieving the highest standards of integrity and transparency in the conduct of all the CEB’s activities. The CEB has a comprehensive and publicly available compliance framework, including inter alia a Compliance Policy, an Anticorruption Charter, a Policy on Non-Compliant/Uncooperative Jurisdictions, Internal Procurement Guidelines, Codes of Conduct, Integrity Due Diligence Guidelines & Procedures and a Whistleblowing Policy (as mentioned in item 102-17). OCCO identifies and assesses the compliance risk and advises the Governor and management committees on relevant rules and standards and ensures that the CEB is aware of, and follows, best market principles and international standards regarding the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, fraud and corruption and other prohibited practices.

205-1 Operations assessed for risks related to corruption
On average, the bank’s compliance function conducts specific investigations into less than five claims of corruption related to CEB-financed operations per year.

205-2 Communication and training about anti-corruption policies and procedures
Each year, OCCO delivers a mandatory induction class to newly recruited staff members. OCCO issued two newsletters for staff in 2019, with topics related to data protection and the culture of ethics.

The CEB marked the International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9th, with the Governor’s address to all employees reconfirming the CEB’s determination to fight corruption. This ‘tone from the top’ goes hand in hand with staff training and awareness raising through, for instance, an interactive board game on ethics. In 2019, the CEB became member of the Ethical Network of Multilateral Organizations (ENMO).

205-3 Confirmed incidents of corruption and actions taken
None.

ANTI-COMPETITIVE BEHAVIOUR – GRI 206

206-1 Legal actions for anti-competitive behaviour, anti-trust, and monopoly practices
None.

Tax – GRI 207

207-1 Approach to tax
207-2 Tax governance, control, and risk management
207-3 Stakeholder engagement and management of concerns related to tax
207-4 Country-by-country reporting
The CEB is an international organisation. Pursuant to its constitutive treaty, the Third Protocol to the general agreement on privileges and immunities of the Council of Europe, the CEB and its assets, income and other property are exempt from all direct taxes.

Within the scope of its mandate, the CEB supports the implementation of international standards in the field of tax good governance – notably to ensure tax transparency and the fight against tax evasion/avoidance in connection with the projects it finances.

In October 2017, the CEB was granted observer status to the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes.

In 2014, the CEB enshrined this commitment by means of a Policy on Non-Compliant/Uncooperative Jurisdictions approved by its Administrative Council. In light of developments that have occurred since then, the CEB upgraded this Policy in 2019 in order to reflect the latest developments in the area of tax good governance and transparency, fair taxation, base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), in alignment with the CEB’s peer group of Multilateral Development Banks. The updates place emphasis on the rationale for the tax good governance principles promoted by the EU, and the OECD Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes. In particular, the 2019 update of the CEB’s Policy on Non-Compliant/Uncooperative Jurisdictions introduced the immediate effect of the EU List of Non-Compliant jurisdictions for tax purposes. Assessment of concerns related to tax standards is part of the integrity due diligence performed by the CEB’s services.

### ENVIRONMENTAL – GRI 300


The CEB assesses the environmental impact of the projects it finances. The Bank’s Management approach to these issues is framed through the relevant applicable policies such as the Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy, the Loan and Project Financing Policy, the Handbook for the Preparation and Implementation of Projects, and the Guidelines on the Internal Procurement of Services, Supplies and Works by the CEB. Taking the examples of Biodiversity GRI 304 and Emissions GRI 305, the paragraphs below provide insights into how the CEB assesses project impacts on environmental issues.

### BIODIVERSITY – GRI 304

**Management approach** (additional information)

Biodiversity is addressed in the CEB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy (section 2.5). The policy requires that projects proposed for financing are subject to environmental screening and environmental impact assessment, if applicable, and specifies that the Bank will not finance projects that may cause the loss of critical natural habitats and endangered species.

**304-3 Habitats protected or restored**

In accordance with its Loan and Project Financing Policy, the CEB may finance projects that aim to protect and develop biodiversity (e.g. ecological corridors).

### Emissions – GRI 305

**Management approach** (additional information)

The issue of project greenhouse gas emissions is addressed in the CEB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy (section 2.4). The CEB applies greenhouse gas emission (GHG) screening to all projects proposed for CEB financing to establish a preliminary estimate of the expected GHG emissions from a project and, in the case of mitigation projects, the relative decrease in GHG emissions. The screening methodology distinguishes three levels of CO₂ equivalent emissions:

- **High:** > 20 000 tonnes CO₂
- **Medium:** 10 - 20 000 tonnes CO₂
- **Low:** <10 000 tonnes CO₂

Carbon footprint calculations are made for all projects estimated as “medium” or “high” emissions and for those categorised “low”, where sufficient data is available to yield meaningful results. Calculations are based on standard methodologies (e.g. the ADEME’s Bilan Carbone for buildings) and include estimates of construction related emissions where feasible. The assessments are carried out by the CEB’s Directorate for Technical Assessment & Monitoring.

**305-1 Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions**

The Bank’s Scope 1 emissions are not project related and are therefore disclosed under the chapter heading ‘Corporate Impact’ in this GRI index.

**305-2 Energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions**

**305-3 Other indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions**

**305-4 GHG emissions intensity**
305-5 Reduction of GHG emissions
Please see the chapter on ‘The CEB and climate change’ in main body of the Annual CSR Report.

SOCIAL – GRI 400

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSESSMENT – GRI 412

Management approach
Although the CEB has a separate legal identity and full financial independence, as a partial agreement of the Council of Europe, it nevertheless operates under the Council of Europe’s “supreme authority” (Article 1 “Establishment of the Bank” of the CEB’s Articles of Agreement). The Council of Europe is kept regularly informed of the CEB’s activities and its Secretary General plays an important role in issuing an opinion on admissibility from a political and social point of view for every project submitted to the CEB’s Administrative Council for approval.

In this context, successive Council of Europe Summits, held at the highest political level of Heads of State and Government, have each given new impetus to the CEB’s action and contributed to shaping its current identity as the social development bank in Europe. The third of these summits, held in Warsaw in 2005, invited the CEB to contribute in its own way to the development of a free, democratic and socially cohesive European society and concretely resulted in the introduction of human rights safeguards in its Loan and Project Financing Policy and Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy.

Thus, acting within the framework of the Council of Europe, the CEB supports its principles, values and overall objectives. The Bank’s approach in terms of social responsibility draws upon the principles enshrined in the Council of Europe’s Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and European Social Charter.

Within this framework, the CEB considers that the risks associated with incidents of child labour, forced or compulsory labour or violations of rights of indigenous peoples to be non-applicable in its countries of operation, themselves also members of the Council of Europe and, for a significant number of them, the European Union - nonetheless, the CEB deploys thorough screening mechanisms and would not knowingly finance projects presenting these risks.

412-3 Significant investment agreements and contracts that include human rights clauses or that underwent human rights screening
In accordance with the CEB’s Loan Regulations, which constitute the general conditions governing all the CEB’s loans, in the event that the implementation of a project financed by the CEB should lead to any violation of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms or the European Social Charter, the CEB may suspend/cancel undisbursed loan amounts under the CEB loan regulations and/or demand early reimbursement of disbursed amounts.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES – GRI 413

Management approach
413-1 Operations with local community engagement, impact assessments and development programs
413-2 Operations with significant actual and potential negative impacts on local communities
Loans to local communities can be made on a direct basis or via on-lending through a financial institution. Given the specificity of the CEB’s overarching social mission, the Bank’s loans are to be considered for the most part and in more general terms as resulting in tangible “community engagement”, since the final beneficiaries of CEB loans are members of local communities in the Bank’s member states.

With respect to the issue of potential negative impacts, the CEB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy in particular “requires the Borrower to address Project-related Community Health and Safety matters and Stakeholder Information and Consultation”.

Over the course of 2019, it was brought to the Bank’s attention that three of the projects it supports have the potential to trigger some negative impacts on local communities which were not foreseen during project screening, i.e. appraisal phase.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPLIANCE – GRI 419

Management approach
All projects undergo compliance due diligence. Banks that partner with the CEB for on-lending use “Know Your Customer” questionnaires.

419-1 Non-compliance with laws and regulations in the social and economic area
None.
Specific Disclosures

CORPORATE IMPACTS

ECONOMIC – GRI 200

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE – GRI 201

Management approach

201-3 Defined benefit plan obligations and other retirement plans

The CEB’s Pension Schemes apply to staff members holding indefinite-term or fixed-term appointments and who have a minimum of 10 years of service. The Bank guarantees the payment of a lifetime pension for its retired staff members. The pension entitlement starts as of age 65 – except for those staff members hired prior to 1/1/2014, where the entitlement can start as of age 60.

In order to ensure the long-term economic performance and sustainability of its pension scheme, the CEB has adopted rigorous and sound assessment mechanisms, which are evaluated by external actuaries and follow international accounting standards (IAS).

An Advisory Pension Committee meets twice a year and may advise on proposals relating to the administration of the pension schemes such as the interpretation of the pension scheme rules, the assessment of the actuarial equilibrium of the schemes, the actuarial assumption underlying the pension scheme liabilities, and the appointment of the Bank’s actuarial adviser.

Both the Advisory Pension Committee and the actuarial assessment provide the necessary checks and balances to ensure the financial soundness and sustainability of the pension schemes.

External auditors also review the methodology and the assumptions used by the CEB’s actuaries to obtain the actuarial valuation of the post-employment benefits related to the retirement plan and to the other related post-employment obligations, in line with IAS 19 and the financial information disclosed in the financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL – GRI 300


Since 2017, the CEB has been working with GreenFlex and its “custom-made” GreenFlex IQ platform to obtain more a precise measurement of some environmental indicators (especially energy metrics) and to extend the environmental management approach to new topics: logistics, indirect GHG emissions (life-cycle analysis of goods, e.g. IT equipment), non-physical services, water consumption, etc. As a result, the precision of the carbon footprint has been improved and its perimeter extended.

In 2018, the CEB started building out a more comprehensive Environmental Management System (e.g. responsibilities, timeline, KPIs) to reduce its environmental impact and increase its operating efficiency. In 2019, this was supplemented by the Governor’s Environmental Statement laying out specific areas for improvement and goals.

MATERIALS – GRI 301

301-1 Materials used by weight or volume

In 2019, the CEB used 5.67 tonnes of office paper (non-renewable or not specified), compared to 6.62 tonnes in 2018 and 7.25 tonnes in 2017.

The CEB staff and visitors consumed 6,912 plastic water bottles of 50 cl (non-renewable or not specified) in 2019; against 8,328 in 2018 and 8,816 in 2017.

At the end of 2019, the Bank introduced water fountains and phased out the supply of bottled water in meeting rooms.

301-2 Recycled input materials used

301-3 Reclaimed products and their packaging materials

As a non-physical service provider, the CEB is not concerned by this topic.
ENERGY – GRI 302

Management approach (additional information)
The CEB’s policy is to strike a balance between minimising its environmental footprint while offering good working conditions to its staff. The CEB is located in a historic building which was not designed according to modern energy efficiency standards. However, the CEB’s facility management aims to progressively improve the building’s energy efficiency by phased refurbishment and the replacement of energy intensive equipment.

302-1 Energy consumption within the organisation
Energy consumption by type over 2017 - 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>705</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating</td>
<td>1 245</td>
<td>1 162</td>
<td>1 094</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel in litres</td>
<td>3 458</td>
<td>4 118</td>
<td>2 934</td>
<td>CEB service vehicles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

302-2 Energy consumption outside of the organisation
The CEB being an organisation located in a single building, energy consumption outside the CEB mainly stems from business travel (see GRI – 305).

302-3 Energy intensity
The CEB being a non-physical service provider, the energy intensity ratio is presented per employee (where the number of employees is 206), and also per square meter (where the total office space is 7 600 m²).

To calculate the two energy intensity ratios below, the electricity consumed was taken as a basis (i.e. heating and cooling is excluded). Energy intensity 2017 - 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy intensity (kWh / employee)</td>
<td>4 376</td>
<td>3 826</td>
<td>3 424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy intensity (kWh / m²)</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

302-4 Reduction of energy consumption
Figure – 22% reduction in energy consumption over 2015-2019, electricity (kWh)

WATER – GRI 303

303-1 Water withdrawal by source
Municipal water use: 2 250 m³ in 2019 (2 250 m³ in 2018 & 2 595 m³ in 2017).

303-2 Water sources significantly affected by withdrawal of water
All the water consumed by the CEB comes from municipal water in a closed-loop system, hence there is no water source significantly affected by withdrawal.

EMISSIONS – GRI 305

Management approach (additional information)
The CEB is committed to improving the reduction of emissions from different sources such as day-to-day activity, business travel or facilities maintenance.
Working with GreenFlex and using its “custom-made” GreenFlex IQ platform enabled the CEB to obtain a precise measurement of some environmental indicators (especially energy metrics) which feed into the environmental management approach. To measure the 2019 emissions, the following changes and improvements were made:

- Losses from the distribution of electricity are now taken into account, also retroactively for 2018.
- As of 2019, an updated ‘emission factor’ for electricity is used, reflecting the decreasing carbon footprint of electricity produced in France - compared to the 2014 emission factor used previously.
- IT equipment is now included in the carbon assessment, also retroactively for 2018.
- As of 2019, an updated ‘emission factor’ for waste is used, assuming an increased carbon footprint for waste treatment.

As a result, the quality of both the data and the calculation of related GHG emissions has further improved.

The methodology for assessing the GHG emissions follows Bilan Carbone®, the official French methodology for calculating the GHG emissions of organisations according to the latest international references (GHG Protocol, ISO 14069, Carbon Disclosure Project etc.), in its version 8 dated December 2017.

The Bilan Carbone approach used to define the CEB’s organisational scope follows the “operational control” methodology, meaning that “emissions from installations operated by the organization are taken into account.”

Further information can be found on the English website of the French Agency for the Environment and Energy Efficiency (ADEME).

The base year for 305-1, 305-2, 305-3 and 305-4 is 2019.

**305-1 Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions**
Gross direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions: 8 metric tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
All the CEB’s gross direct GHG emissions are associated with the vehicles operated by the CEB.

**305-2 Energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions**
Gross location-based energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions: 185 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
The CEB’s gross location-based energy indirect GHG emissions are associated with the electricity consumption (40t CO₂ eq) and the municipal heating and cooling systems (145t CO₂ eq).

**305-3 Other indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions**
Gross other indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions: 672 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
The CEB’s gross other indirect GHG emissions are mainly associated with the goods and services bought and used by the organisation, and the emissions linked to the fuels of the energy consumed (not included in scope 2), business travel, employee commuting and IT equipment.
The CEB’s office building assets are not taken into account as the building dates back to the 19th century. The amortization period is therefore long past.

**305-4 GHG emissions intensity**
As the CEB is a non-physical service provider, the GHG emissions intensity ratio is presented per employee (where the number of employees is 206). All types of GHG emissions are included (i.e. scopes 1, 2 and 3).
2019 GHG emissions intensity ratio for the organisation: 4.2 CO₂eq/employee, based on the Bilan Carbone methodology.

**305-5 Reduction of GHG emissions (in tonnes of CO₂eq)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>GHG sources</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017*</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope 1</td>
<td>Own service vehicles</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heating &amp; cooling</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electricity consumption</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>40**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope 2</td>
<td>Business travel, incl. taxi</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Home-to-work commuting</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper &amp; consumables</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste &amp; water disposal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IT equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Since 2017, a new methodology has been used to calculate GHG emissions. For more information please see the CEB’s CSR Report 2017, page 29. ** Updated emission factors used

**EFFLUENTS AND WASTE – GRI 306**

**306-1 Water discharge by quality and destination**
Based on the public information about the municipal water network of Paris, and assuming that about one fifth of the water used by the CEB is not discharged:

- **Approximate volume of water discharges**: around 1 800 m³ in 2019 (2018: 1 800 m³, 2017: 2 000 m³)
- Destination of water discharge: municipal water treatment plant
- Quality of water discharges: domestic waste water
- The water discharges will be used again in the municipal water system

**306-2 Waste by type and disposal method**

At the end of 2019, an improved waste recycling scheme was introduced at the CEB’s premises, enabling staff to sort for paper, plastic and cans, batteries and light bulbs, coffee capsules and other ‘non-recyclable’ waste. The scheme will be fully operational in 2020.

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**SUPPLIER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – GRI 308**

**Management approach**
The organisation’s supply chain for its own operational needs is governed by the Guidelines on the Internal Procurement of Services, Supplies and Works by the CEB. The related Internal Procurement Procedures were updated in 2017.

In addition to this, the Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy which is complemented by the Environmental Statement of 26 July 2019, underlines the importance of enhancing environmental and social considerations in procurement decisions for its own operational needs.

**308-2 Negative environmental impacts in the supply chain and actions taken**
As a non-physical service provider, the CEB’s ‘negative impact’ from its supply chain, as explained above, is mainly limited to its energy consumption, travel, paper and office material bought and waste produced.

For the actions taken on those items in the course of 2019, please see the main body of the 2019 Annual CSR Report.

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**SOCIAL – GRI 400**

**EMPLOYMENT – GRI 401**

**Management approach**
The Bank supports measures that help maintain and develop its staff members. When staff members join the CEB, they are immediately considered as part of their teams and benefit from the same resources in terms of training and guidance on their development needs as any other staff member, regardless of their contract type or grade. In 2019, the CEB continued to rely on its staff members’ high level of expertise, with an average age of 48 years, and an average tenure of 11 years (10 years for men and 13 years for women).

The CEB also seeks to attract talented people through a recruitment process and procedures which provide clarity, dialogue, transparency, contractual clarification and flexibility. The recruitment process at the Bank follows different steps including preliminary selection, assessment, and interviews. Newly hired staff members also participate in an induction session to help them integrate the Bank smoothly and meet their peers.

**401-1 New employee hires and employee turnover**
The turnover is defined as the total number of Bank staff leaving the organisation in a given financial year divided by the total population in the same year. In 2019, the CEB’s turnover rate was 6.31%. The CEB’s low turnover is rather similar to other International Organisations with similar contractual policies.

Any national of one of the Bank’s member states may apply for employment. Nationals of countries that have joined since 1994 are particularly encouraged to apply. A total of 14 new hires (50% women and 50% men) joined the bank from 7 different nationalities. Out of the 14 new hires, one was managerial staff (man), 9 were professional staff (63% women and 37% men) and 5 were support staff (40% women and 60% men). Out of the 13 staff departures, 10 were professional staff (50% women and 50% men) and 3 were support staff (100% women). This low turnover rate is a consequence of the Bank having a large number of staff members on indefinite-term contracts who develop their careers at the Bank over long periods of time.

**401-2 Benefits provided to full-time employees that are not provided to temporary or part-time employees**
Part time staff members receive the same benefits as full time staff members.

Staff members on temporary contracts whose duration does not exceed 9 months per year are not eligible for all the benefits received by staff members, such as bonuses, basic family allowance, education allowance, expatriation allowance (although temporary staff members are eligible for a residence allowance).

**401-3 Parental leave**
The table below summarises 2019 data for parental leave by total number of women and men.
Appendix - GRI Index for 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employees entitled to parental leave</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees taking parental leave</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees returning to work in the reporting period after parental leave ended</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees returning to work after parental leave ended that were still employed 12 months after their return to work</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to work &amp; retention rate of employees that took parental leave</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LABOUR/MANAGEMENT RELATIONS – GRI 402

Management approach
Based on the CEB’s legal status, as an international finance institution with its privileges and immunities, neither the host country’s labour laws nor its other member countries’ labour laws apply to its staff members. The Articles of Agreement (Article XI, section 1, d.) provide that “[t]he Council of Europe Staff Regulations shall be applicable to the staff of the Bank in any matter not covered by a specific decision of the Administrative Council.” In other words, the Staff Regulations of the Council of Europe, as modified from time to time, automatically apply to the staff members of the Bank, except if the Administrative Council (AC) has adopted a specific decision in order for the Bank to have its own applicable provision(s) in a given area. In some instances, the Bank has its own needs due to its activity and size. If there is such a need, the Governor will submit a proposal to the AC in the form of a Resolution for adoption. Once the Bank has adopted its own provision(s), any further modification in this area also needs to be approved by the AC.

As further outlined below, the CEB provides its staff members with a comprehensive internal justice system to resolve and provide redress for staff’s issues and grievances using informal and formal mechanisms.

402-1 Minimum notice periods regarding operational changes
There is no system of collective bargaining agreements and, as stated above, the staff members’ employment related issues are governed by the Staff Regulations and their implementing rules.

For termination notices, reference is made to Articles 17 and 23 of the Staff Regulations, as well as to Articles 11 and 14 of Appendix II to the Staff Regulations. As to operational changes, particular reference is made to abolition of post (Article 23.b.i) and internal transfers and secondments (Article 5 of Appendix II to the Staff Regulations).

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY – GRI 403

Management approach
The CEB continues to develop initiatives that provide its staff members with a safe and healthy working environment.

Not only are working conditions taken into account, but staff well-being is also included in many communication and management training sessions. For many years now, the Bank has trained volunteer staff members to participate in the first aid programme and in the business continuity plan. A total of 21% of staff members are therefore trained in emergency first aid measures and fire safety. In addition, the CEB’s travel management programme provides staff members who travel for professional reasons with travel management systems and services. The CEB offers its staff 24 hour/7 day services from International SOS in order to provide safety information and assistance in case of an emergency situation during travel.

The CEB also offers its staff flexible working hours through regular or occasional teleworking. Occasional teleworking: not exceeding 20 working days per calendar year. Regular teleworking: not exceeding 1 day per week and/or 5 days per month. In 2019, a total of 31 staff members were teleworking on a regular basis and 110 staff members were on occasional teleworking.

Furthermore, staff members have the opportunity to maintain physical fitness through regular sports practice in the Bank’s on-site sports facilities, thereby creating a pleasant atmosphere through informal get-togethers, all of which has a positive influence on the Bank’s social climate. Every year since 2009, half of the Bank’s staff members have taken advantage of these facilities available at the CEB.

403-1 Workers representation in formal joint management-worker health and safety committees
The Health and Safety Committee is composed of:
- A chair appointed annually by the Governor
- The Head of the Human Resources Division or his/her representative
- The Head of the Facility Management & Security Division or his/her representative
- The Head of the Operational Risks Division or his/her representative
- Two representatives appointed by the Staff Committee or their substitutes
- The CEB’s Medical Officer

The Health and Safety Committee may, after the Governor’s consent, consult any qualified person within or outside the CEB.
403-2 Types of injury and rates of injury, occupational diseases, lost days, and absenteeism, and number of work-related fatalities

Staff members may be on uncertified leave for health reasons up to 4 days per year. They may also benefit from 6 days per child to take care of their children under the age of 16 (subject to medical certificates under certain conditions). The total period of absence for health reasons cannot exceed 36 months (or until stabilisation of the staff member’s state of health in case of work accident or occupational disease). Staff members may also be granted additional days in case of serious illness of their spouse/partner, children and parents (up to 3 days per year for each case).

The Bank monitors its absenteeism rate on quarterly and annual bases through its key performance indicators.

As at 31 December 2019, the rate of short term absenteeism stood at an average of 12.78 days per staff member per year for short term illnesses.

Only 4% of staff were on long-term illness, which is below the 5% key performance indicator.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION – GRI 404

Management approach

Staff members have access to training in four broad areas of skills: language, technical, information technology (IT) and core competencies (soft skills). These actions not only enhance staff skills but also help contribute to the development of both the Bank’s internal values and its management culture in line with current best practices. The development tool contributes to the identification of needed skills. Staff training and development are part of good management practices and provide a basis for mobility.

404-1 Average hours of training per year per employee

In 2019, on average, staff members spent 1 day in training – about the same time for women and men.

404-2 Programs upgrading employee skills and transition assistance programmes

Constant changes in the outside environment impact each and every organisation: there is therefore a need for adjusted training and development to help the workforce remain competitive and respond quickly to these changes. The CEB has organised an increasing amount of in-house inter-disciplinary team training in technical and communication areas, thereby enhancing knowledge transfer and team cooperation. Staff members’ training and development are fundamental to keeping the workforce engaged and ready to face future challenges. In 2019, 85% of staff participated in training, whether language, technical or managerial. 60% of training participants followed core competencies training while 30% followed language training and 10% followed technical training. The CEB also offers its staff members the opportunity to follow a speciality certification programme enabling them to reinforce their knowledge or acquire life-long education certificates.

The CEB aims to keep its staff employable and flexible through targeted staff development. The appraisal system, which includes both performance and development reviews, enables the Human Resources teams to move towards a more strategic partnership with both managers and staff by keeping abreast of needed skillsets, identifying job bridges and building better customised and efficient training paths. During the development review, the technical and behavioural competencies of staff members are assessed by the managers.

404-3 Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews

All staff members no longer in their probationary period must undergo both an annual performance review and a development review. Staff members in their probationary period must undergo more frequent performance reviews.

DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY – GRI 405

Management approach

The Bank’s increasing activities underscore the enduring objectives of HR management at the Bank: (i) to attract and retain staff of the highest quality with a diversity of gender and nationalities, and appropriate skills, experience, and career preferences; and (ii) to manage staff efficiently, in an environment that rewards excellence, fosters teamwork and promotes diversity, inclusion and fairness.

The Staff Regulations establish the principle of non-discrimination in various domains. In effect, the concept of diversity covers a wide variety of individual and cultural characteristics linked to age, sexual orientation, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, nationality, handicap, marital or parental status, gender, as well as political, philosophical and religious opinions. All these components are naturally important, but the main focus generally retained by international organisations is on gender and national diversity.

a. Gender: In the event of equal merit between a woman and a man, both of whom are candidates in an external recruitment or internal competition procedure, preference shall be given to the candidate of the gender which is
under-represented in the grade and category to which the vacancy belongs. One gender is under-represented in relation to the other when the proportion of staff of that gender in the grade and category to which the vacancy belongs is below 40 percent. Although women are generally well represented at the Bank, efforts are undertaken to enhance the representation of women at senior levels and in management positions.

b. National diversity Since the Bank’s objective is to recruit its staff from the widest possible geographical base (assuming the requirement for high standards of efficiency and technical competency are met), the benchmark for an equitable breakdown of nationalities across the workforce could be set according to the share of the capital subscribed by each member state.

405-1-Diversity of governance bodies and employees
While the concept of “diversity” covers a wide variety of individual and cultural characteristics, the CEB’s main areas of focus, as is generally the case with other international organisations, are on national diversity and gender. At 31 December 2019, 33 out of 41 CEB member countries were represented among the 206 staff members. Each country is also represented on the Governing Board and in the Administrative Council.

In terms of gender, as at 31 December 2019, the CEB had one female Vice-Governor (25% of its appointed officials) and three women (20%) on its Management team. The Administrative Council is currently chaired by a woman and the Governing Board by a man.

The Bank’s workforce is made up of 206 staff members (95 men - 46% and 111 women - 54%). Of the 206 staff members, 143 are professional staff (79 men - 55% and 64 women - 45%) and 63 are support staff (16 men - 25% and 47 women - 75%).

405-2 Ratio of basic salary and remuneration of women to men
The average grade level of men is grade A3 step 3 while for women, the average grade level is A1 step 7. For more information see the salary grade.

NON-DISCRIMINATION – GRI 406

Management approach
The Staff Regulations establish the principle of non-discrimination and prohibits the show of any illicit discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, nationality, handicap, marital or parental status, gender, as well as political, philosophical and religious opinions.

The principles of respect for diversity and non-tolerance of discrimination are also enshrined in the Codes of Conduct. Furthermore, the CEB has a protection of dignity at work policy.

406-1 Incidents of discrimination and corrective actions taken
No incident of discrimination filed.