

Civil Society Programme at the Annual Meeting 2015



Between Private and Third Sector: Enabling and Financing Social Enterprises

Thursday, 14 May 11.30- 13.00
Youth Palace, 6 Shota Rustaveli Ave, Tbilisi, Georgia

Social enterprises combine the public interest rationale of not-for-profit organisations with the commercial model of for-profit businesses, with the goal of using an entrepreneurial approach to achieve a socially-responsible objective. These organisations, which aim not at profit maximisation, but rather to bring innovative solutions to the marketplace to attain certain economic, environmental or social goals, face a number of difficulties in the countries where the EBRD works.

Social enterprises are often viewed as either an SME or an NGO, and, because of their hybrid nature, often fall into a 'legal limbo' with unclear regulation that hampers their development, particularly with regards to accessing finance and markets.

Can social enterprises learn lessons from MSMEs in accessing finance, entering new markets and applying innovation? Can models from MSME support efforts be applied to supporting the development of social enterprises in the EBRD region? Is social entrepreneurship a viable alternative funding method for NGOs looking to diversify funding away from dependence on donors? Are there innovative financing tools able to address emerging credit needs or could the legal framework support social enterprises by ensuring, for example, equitable taxation?

The roundtable, chaired by Charlotte Ruhe, Director of the EBRD's Small Business Support team, will look at how support for MSMEs could represent a role model in overcoming barriers to the development of social entrepreneurship, with a focus on access to finance, regulation and promoting innovation.

Moderator

- ▶ Charlotte Ruhe, Director, Small Business Support Team, EBRD

Speakers

- ▶ Dario Vins, Social Business Adviser, Mozaik Foundation- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ▶ Nino Masurashvili, Deputy CEO in charge of SMEs, TBC Bank- Georgia
- ▶ Viktor Baramia, Senior Program Manager, Eurasia Partnership Foundation- Georgia

Discussant

- ▶ Luisa Balbi, Principal Manager, Civil Society Engagement Unit, EBRD

