

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

International Workshop on

**Fostering the Integration of Agricultural Value Chains of Commodity-Dependent Landlocked Developing Countries into Regional and Global Value Chains**

**24-25 November 2021, Palais des Nations, Geneva, and online**

**Agricultural Cooperatives: Challenges and Opportunities**

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

UNCTAD Workshop on fostering the integration of  
agricultural value chains of commodity-dependent landlocked  
developing countries into regional and global value chains  
24 and 25 November 2021

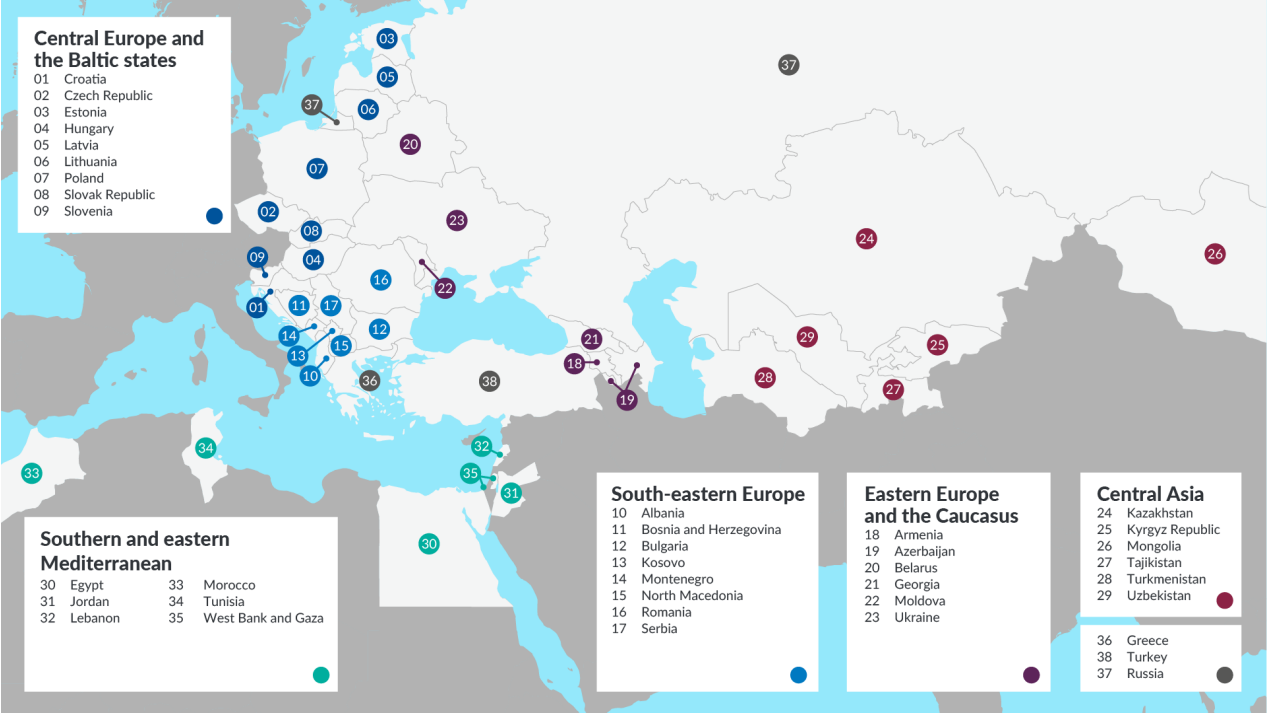


**European Bank**  
for Reconstruction and Development

# The EBRD at a glance

The EBRD invests to build up effective market economies in countries across three continents and to make a **positive impact on people's lives**.

With a focus on private sector investment and support for policy reform, we work to ensure that economies in our regions are **competitive, inclusive, well-governed, green, resilient and integrated**.



# The EBRD at a glance



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for Reconstruction and Development

**Established**

**1991**

**The EBRD is owned by**

**69 countries**

from five continents, as well as the European Union and the European Investment Bank. These shareholders have each made a capital contribution, which forms our core funding.

**Capital base**

**€30 billion**

**Triple-A rating**

from all three main rating agencies (S&P, Moody's and Fitch)

**Net cumulative Bank investment**

**€147.6 billion** (since 1991)

**€11.0 billion** (in 2020)

**Number of projects**

**5,984** (since 1991)

**411** (in 2020)

**Cumulative disbursements**

**€110.7 billion**

**Private share of net cumulative Bank investment**

**79%**

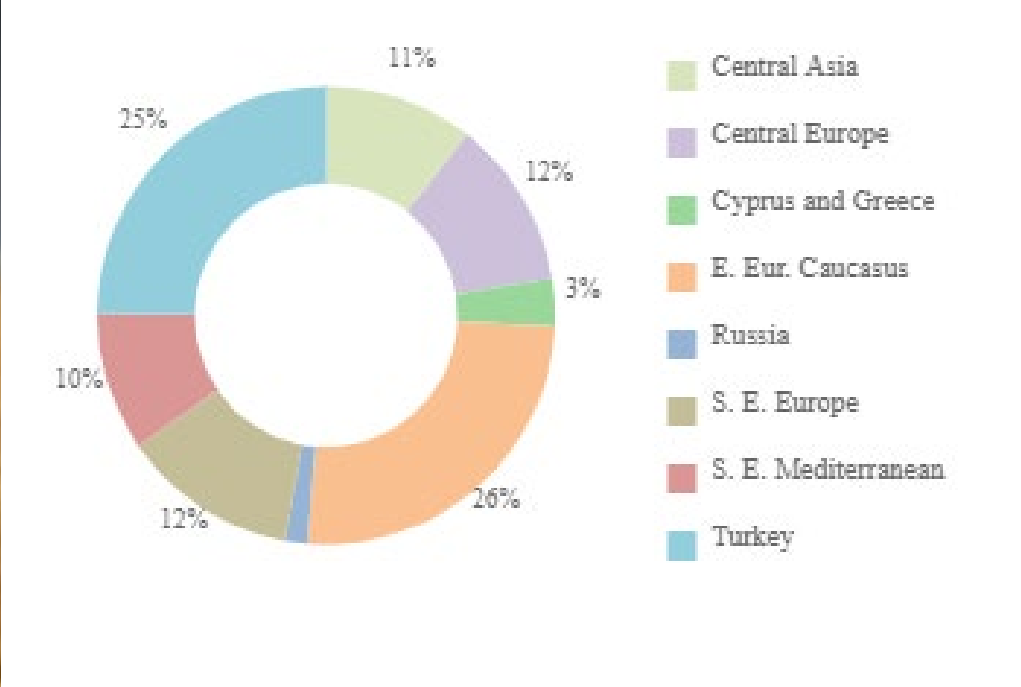
# Agribusiness at the EBRD



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**€13.3 billion** invested through **797 projects** since 1991

Active **portfolio** of **227 projects** or **€3 billion**



# Fostering integration of agricultural value chains – an illustrative example: ‘Apples to Mongolia’



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- EBRD initiative to promote imports of fruits and vegetable from Central Asia to Mongolia
- Focus on creating trading links between neighbouring SMEs and fostering regional integration
- Majority of apples imported from Europe or China
  - Opportunities for imports from Central Asia
  - Case study: **imports of apples from Uzbekistan**

## Identified challenges:

- Price competition; Branding
- Quantity, quality, and compliance with standards
- Logistics and storage capacity

## Potential opportunities:

- Capacity building through advisory support
- Improve financing options
- Increase consumer awareness

# Agricultural Cooperatives: Challenges and Opportunities



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## Challenges for agricultural cooperatives from:



### – Past legacies and attitudes towards cooperatives

- Facing legacies from past experiences, e.g. collectivized agriculture, political control and/or legal restrictions; Improving perceptions of cooperatives



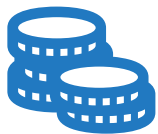
### – Legal and regulatory frameworks

- Fostering changes in regulatory environment, legal frameworks and tax systems around cooperatives



### – Capacity constraints

- Addressing capacity constraints of cooperative managers, administrative structures, and/or infrastructure; capacity constraints of producers



### – Access to finance

- Promoting access to financing to effectively support members' activities

## Capitalising on opportunities to boost agricultural cooperatives' potential

- Identify policy instruments to improve cooperative organisation
- Support improvements in legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks
  - e.g. promoting international principles of economic cooperation
- Promote Institutional development and support capacity building
  - e.g. improve administrative and financial management; capitalise on opportunities from new technologies to improve efficiency, transparency and communication and information systems
- Raise cooperative awareness and improving cooperative identity



- Strengthening agricultural value chains can present opportunities to promote economic growth in Central Asia and the EBRD region
- Cooperatives can play a role in promoting agricultural value chains
- Agricultural cooperatives can face important challenges in the EBRD region which can hinder their potential and make it difficult for MDBs to engage with cooperatives
- Identifying the right policy instruments to address these challenges can play an important role for agricultural cooperatives reach their potential