EBRD Transparency and Information Disclosure developments

1) Guidelines for private operators of public services
2) Public Information Policy 2014 – key changes
3) Developments on IATI

16 June 2016
Definitions

2. “Public authority” means:
(a) Government at national, regional and other level;
(b) Natural or legal persons performing public administrative functions…in relation to the environment;
(c) Any other natural or legal persons having public responsibilities or functions, or providing public services, in relation to the environment, under the control of a body or person falling within subparagraphs (a) or (b) above;
What does this mean?

Private Companies and Public-Private Partnerships

• Drinking water
• Wastewater treatment
• Municipal solid waste
• What about public transport (buses, trams, metro)?
• Other sectors, such as electrical distribution?

Assumption: Disclosure of information
Information Disclosure example

Water Companies’ need for disclosure

- Routine information to public on water quality
- Information on planned works/disruption
- Clarity on information in emergency situation
- Clarity on terminology used
- How they will respond to requests for information
- Grievance/Complaint procedure
EBRD prepared a guidance note for operators that provide a public service and who may be subject to the Convention directly under 2c

Introducing Aarhus Convention and obligations

• Clarifying expectations
• Reporting/information disclosure
  • Routinely
  • On request
  • In an emergency situation
• Handling grievances
Guidance note (continued)

Comment group

- UNECE Aarhus Secretariat
- Water company association (representing more than 300 private water/wastewater operators in Europe)
- Provided to Aarhus parties/observers who volunteered to provide comments on draft

Availability

- English and Russian languages
- Circulated to other IFIs
- Provided to EBRD banking teams for clients

Public Information Policy 2014 & EBRD’s work with IATI
2) Public Information Policy 2014 – key environmental changes

- Project Summary Documents for projects requiring environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) under Frameworks are now being prepared.

- Environmental and social sections of Project Summary Documents for ESIA projects will be updated annually.

- Enhanced information in Project Summary Documents on environmental and social issues for projects that do not require ESIA ("Category B projects").
• Concise Project Summary Documents are now disclosed for Technical Cooperation projects over EUR 300,000 that are not linked to other EBRD transactions.

• Transition impact ratings for Public Sector projects are now disclosed in the Project Summary Documents.

• EBRD’s Annual Report now includes aggregate information on transition impact with geographical and sectoral breakdowns.
3) IATI – EBRD joins global transparency initiative

- Working group to agree best practice for IFIs and DFIs with regard to International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), recognising that the business models and practices differ from those of traditional development cooperation and grant aid providers.
- At the IATI Steering Committee in 2014, the DFIs and IFIs Implementation Schedule was formally agreed.
- Publication of IATI data started in May 2015.
- Six new indicators since the 2015 EU Aid Transparency Review covering audit information, disbursements and expenditure and tied aid status.
- This information is published in IATI’s agreed electronic format (XML) and links to the IATI registry. The Bank also publishes its IATI implementation schedule, in line with the agreed standards for DFIs and IFIs.