

# Sustainability – Risks and Opportunities for Financial Institutions in South East Europe

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Dr. Dariusz Prasek

Environment Department  
European Bank for Reconstruction and  
Development



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# UNEP FI Central and Eastern European Task Force (CEETF) - Mission and Objectives

- Raise awareness amongst the financial sector of environmental risks and opportunities
- Provide support to FIs wishing to address such issues (capacity building, risk management tools etc)
- Provide a forum for debate and discussion amongst FIs and civil society
- Encourage a level playing field



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# CEE Task Force - Membership

- Financial sector institutions based in the region.
- NGOs and other interested stakeholders.
- Task Force activities are member driven.
- Assist banks in CEE to improve local environmental conditions for the broader community.



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# Survey on Sustainable Finance in CEE

- Survey of 26 financial institutions in CEE (EU accession and non-EU countries)
- Aim:
  - gain understanding of the current status of sustainable finance in CEE financial sector;
  - what are the main drivers and barriers



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# Survey on Sustainable Finance in CEE - Findings

- Majority consider sustainability is an important issue.
- Financial and non-financial issues – top three most relevant sustainability issues.
- 90% respondents engage in community development activities.
- 60% publish an environmental report.
- Micro credit is frequently offered sustainable finance product (42.2%).



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# Survey on Sustainable Finance in CEE – Findings (2)

- Drivers: enhanced reputation (73.1%); social responsibility (61.5%).
- Barriers: difficulty to measure benefits(53.8%); lack of clear business case (46.2%).
- 95% respondents that implement sustainable finance practices experienced clear benefits.
- 38.5% provide at least one environmental financial product.
- 76.9% believe that in 5 years more emphasis will be on sustainability.



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