

65 years of social investment

In the 65 years of its existence, the CEB has helped its member countries to transition to more socially and environmentally sustainable societies and economies, adapting to various social priorities and challenges across Europe. Established as a “Resettlement Fund” to help European countries rebuild their shattered infrastructures and settle hundreds of thousands of displaced people in the aftermath of the Second World War, the CEB began

with capital of less than US\$ 7 million. Its gradual transformation into a fully-fledged, multilateral development bank with an exclusively social vocation has been inextricably linked with the history of the European continent itself. Nowadays and looking ahead, the CEB’s social mission remains more relevant than ever due to the acute strain on social cohesion in Europe caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the migrant and climate crises.

Timeline



Founded by Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg and Turkey



Focus on equipping migrant workers with necessary job market skills



First big membership expansion (10 new members); Focus on vocational training & rural development projects



Vienna Summit ushers a wave of new members from Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (5 new members)



Strasbourg Summit makes social cohesion in Europe official part of CEB’s mandate; Managing the environment becomes a priority



Membership grows to 36



Warsaw Summit broadens CEB’s role to contribute to developing a free, democratic and more inclusive European society



Regional Housing Programme developed with international partners to help the resettlement of people displaced by the wars in the former Yugoslavia



Establishment of the Migrant and Refugee Fund



CEB issues the first social inclusion bond



CEB issues the first COVID-19 social inclusion bond



CEB joins MDBs’ ‘collective climate ambition’ at COP26; defines roadmap for alignment with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change