Exposing the harmful impacts of public finance and proposing sustainable alternatives

BULGARIA CZECH REPUBLIC ESTONIA GEORGIA HUNGARY LATVIA LITHUANIA MACEDONIA POLAND ROMANIA RUSSIA SLOVAKIA UKRAINE

www.bankwatch.org

BAN



bankwatch network

Our activities include

- Developing cooperative working relationships among CEE environmental activists and building the capacity of national NGOs to participate in environmental decisionmaking
- Researching and analysing the potential and actual impacts of IFI and EU-funded projects and policies
- Improving the practices of the IFIs and EU funding through our advocacy work, particularly in the areas of energy, transport, the extractive industries and waste management
- Providing daily updates of our public websites in English and Russian so that affected communities, the
 European public, decision-makers and the media have comprehensive, up-to-date and easily accessible
 information on problematic IFI- and EU-funded projects, critiques of IFI and EU policies, and a range of
 proposals for more sustainable alternatives.
- Collecting and disseminating information about the activities of the IFIs within the region, including the publication of a quarterly newsletter called Bankwatch Mail which throws the spotlight on what these institutions are doing.



Raising public awareness of the EIB during Green Week in Brussels

How we are financed

Bankwatch is grateful to receive funding from a range of international donors, including private foundations in the EU and US, national governments and several directorates of the European Commission.



We work to protect the few remaining grey whales that feed in the waters off Sakhalin Island



لنا

For more information contact:
CEE Bankwatch Network's head office in Prague, Czech Republic
Tel: + 420 274 816 571, Email: main@bankwatch.org
Website: www.bankwatch.org

This leaflet was made possible by the financial support of the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission.

Our mission

To prevent the environmentally and socially harmful impacts of international development finance, and to promote alternative solutions and public participation.

Who we are

Established in 1995, CEE
Bankwatch Network is an
international non-governmental organisation with member organisations based all
across the central and eastern
European (CEE) region. The aim
of the network is to monitor the
activities of the international
financial institutions (IFIs)



PUBLIC MONEY FOR A LABOUR LAW ABUSING SUPERMARKET CHAIN IS CHALLENGED IN POLAND

which operate in the region, and to propose constructive alternatives to their policies and projects.

A public finance watchdog with bite...

Bankwatch campaigning focuses on the problems that result from projects backed by the publicly owned IFIs (eg, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank) as well as the EU's structural funds.

Supporting our campaigns is our advocacy work, which seeks to achieve policy changes so that public money goes to support sound projects and sustainable, environmentally-sensitive development.

Bankwatch focuses primarily on investments in energy, transport, extractive industries and waste management, while working at the same time to promote public participation and access to information about the activities of the IFIs across our region.

Major oil, nuclear and infrastructure projects are regarded as prestige projects for governments and international investors but are very often much less attractive to neighbouring communities and the environment they live in. With potential multi-million euro IFI investments like the Sakhalin II oil and gas project or Bulgarian gold mining developments, Bankwatch brings pressure to bear on the major public lenders and passes on this expertise to local communities and groups so that their voices can be heard effectively.

Bankwatch's presence extends from Sakhalin Island in eastern Russia across Europe to Brussels, where we have a permanent office that allows us to engage directly with European decision-makers.

...and a user-friendly window on the complexities of international public finance

Our popular English and Russian language websites provide rolling news, analysis and an extensive archive of information on how major public financial flows into the CEE region, often described as 'development' or 'aid' money, may in fact work against the interests of the people that they are intended to benefit. Our websites provide the opportunity for people to get involved directly with key decision-makers within the IFIs and their own governments in order to safeguard their communities and environment.

Our goals

CEE Bankwatch Network has five main goals:

- To change or stop the environmentally and socially destructive policies and projects financed by the IFIs and EU funds in CEE, and to promote alternatives
- To create public awareness about the activities of the IFIs and EU funds in CEE countries and their social and environmental impacts
- To promote public participation in decisionmaking about the policies and projects of the IFIs and EU funds at the local, national and regional levels



SHOOTING FILM FOR THE SOURCE, OUR AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY THAT REVEALS THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THE BTC PIPELINE IN AZERBAIJAN

- To help non-governmental environmental organisations and citizen groups to monitor what the IFIs and EU funds are doing in CEE
- To cooperate with environmental and citizen organisations in order to help them prevent or limit the negative impacts of transnational corporations on the environment in CEE.