



Council of Europe Development Bank

*Microfinance Response to the Refugee
Crisis*

European Microfinance Week
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Jasmina Glisovic, Country Manager

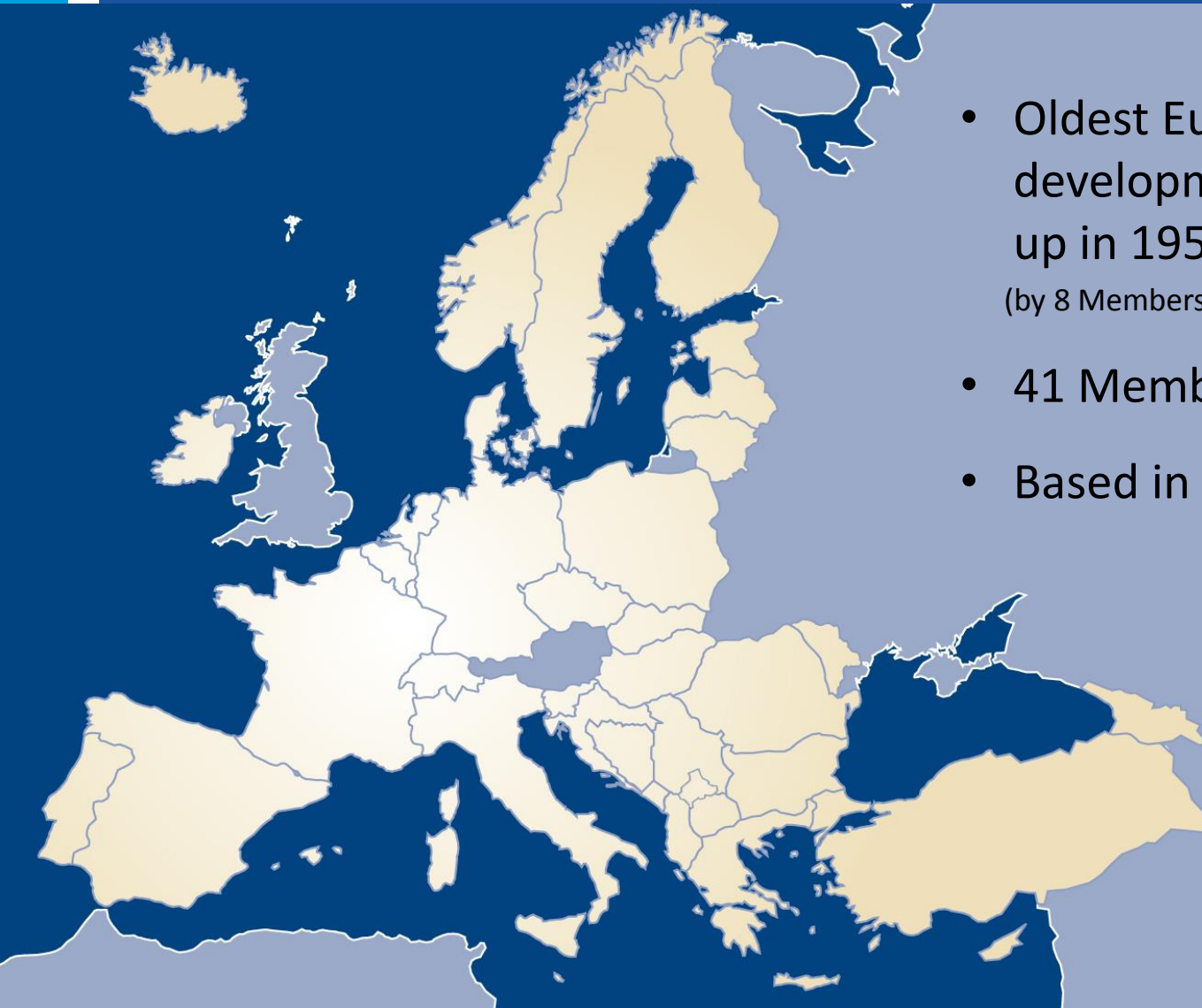
CEB's mandate

“The primary purpose of the Bank is to help in solving the social problems with which European countries are or may be faced as a result of the presence of refugees, displaced persons or migrants consequent upon movements of refugees or other forced movements of populations and as a result of the presence of victims of natural or ecological disasters.”

“The Bank may also contribute to the realisation of investment projects approved by a Member of the Bank which enable jobs to be created in disadvantaged regions, people in low income groups to be housed or social infrastructure to be created.”

Excerpt from Article II of the Articles of Agreement
of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)

CEB: the social development bank in Europe



- Oldest European multilateral development institution, set up in 1956
(by 8 Members of the Council of Europe)
- 41 Member States
- Based in Paris, France

Challenges of the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe

- Large and unpredictable inflow of migrants and refugees.
- Economic and political strains of the transit and recipient countries.
- Need for holistic approaches from immediate assistance to integration.

CEB actions to help refugees and migrants

Emergency support: Migrant and Refugee Fund

A dedicated grant facility to provide emergency assistance to the countries most affected by the massive inflow of migrants and refugees (e.g., Cyprus, Serbia, FYROM, Hungary).

Long term integration

Multi-sector solutions including social housing, education, job creation/micro-credit (e.g., in Germany, Belgium, France).

Job creation and microcredit

- CEB approached micro-credit in recipient countries as a “tool” for successful integration but other services, such as accompanying measures for entrepreneurs, are also needed.
- CEB’s support includes different types of institutions (e.g., MicroBank Spain, PerMicro, Italy).
- Some of the main challenges are identification of MFI partners able to reach refugees/migrants with adequate services and credit risk.



Thank you for your attention