



UNECE Weekly

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UNECE Spring Seminar, Geneva, 21 February 2005

Against the backdrop of the upcoming High-level Dialogue at the 2005 UN General Assembly on the follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, which will form part of the basis for a comprehensive review of the progress made with achieving the Millennium Development Goals, UNECE will be holding its eighth Spring Seminar on “*Financing for Development in Low-income Transition Economies*”.

The globalization of the world economy has brought significant benefits over the past 25 years. However, not all countries in the UNECE region have shared in these benefits in equal measure. Many transition economies suffer from a lack of the requisite financial resources to make the investments in

human and physical capital, public infrastructure, basic health care and social safety nets that are necessary for successful development. The seminar will discuss options to overcome these constraints by mobilizing domestic resources and by attracting foreign financing. Key topics will include the reform of domestic financial sectors, the determinants of foreign direct investment, the state of regional economic integration initiatives and the effective management of revenues from resource exports.

The full programme of the 2005 UNECE Spring Seminar is now available on the UNECE website at: http://www.unece.org/ead/2005provsem_new.htm .

Registration is now open at:

http://www.unece.org/ead/ead_registration_new.htm

Getting to know the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – A knowledge sharing initiative

This is the title of a new initiative by the UNECE to reach out and share its know-how and knowledge. The aim of this initiative is to increase transparency, share information with key interlocutors and stakeholders and improve networking and interaction with government departments and research centres in member States. To that end the secretariat has proposed to develop a course for staff from Foreign Affairs Ministries, and other Ministries in capitals as well as to newly arrived staff from the permanent missions in Geneva. The proposal was well received by the UNECE Commission and the secretariat is currently preparing for the first of two annual courses.

It is envisaged that each course will host up to ten participants and last for one week. The substantive areas that should be part of the course are the following: Energy, Environment, Human Settlements, Statistics, Transport, Trade, Timber, Economic Analysis, and Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development. The course will also include discussions with senior staff members of the respective programmes and a final seminar. UNECE Weekly will in a later issue give information on how applications can be made and the dates for the first course.

For more information contact Hans Hansell (hans.hansell@unece.org).

UNECE reform

After the adoption of an in-depth reform of the UNECE in 1997, the UNECE initiated its Second Round Reform in 2002, in the context of the second round of the Secretary-General's reform, adjusting its programme of work, governance structure and secretariat to new challenges. In February 2004, at the 59th Annual Session of UNECE, the decision was taken “to commission a comprehensive report on the state of the UNECE, with the aim of developing recommendations to determine what changes to the role, mandate and functions of UNECE are necessary in light of the changes in the European institutional architecture ...”. The report is supposed to be submitted to member States in the

second quarter of 2005. It is assumed that it will contribute to ongoing discussions of different UNECE bodies on the impact of EU enlargement, developments in the countries with economies in transition, etc. upon the organization. Reform of the UNECE, as a United Nations body, should also reflect the findings of the High-Level Panel appointed by the Secretary-General on Threats, Challenges and Change, particularly the recommendations to transform ECOSOC into a development cooperation forum and to take on board a more normative and analytical role. If agreed by the General Assembly, this will have immediate implications on the work of the UNECE.

Not an official record - For information only

Off the press...



Le **Guide d'application de la Convention d'Aarhus** offre à la fois une vue d'ensemble et une analyse détaillée article par article de la Convention. Les lecteurs trouveront un aperçu de l'historique de la Convention et des obligations qu'elle entraîne dans l'introduction de chaque section. Ces introductions rappellent le contexte dans lequel la Convention a été élaborée et décrivent sa structure, les principales obligations qui en découlent et les modalités d'application possibles. Cet "instantané" permet aux lecteurs de se faire une idée de ce qu'est la Convention et de ce qu'elle peut signifier dans la pratique.

Les décideurs et les autorités publiques qui participent à la tâche de grande ampleur que constitue la transposition de la Convention dans la législation nationale ou à l'élaboration de mécanismes pour la mettre en oeuvre dans le cadre de différents systèmes juridiques nationaux auront besoin d'une analyse plus détaillée de cet instrument. C'est pourquoi le Guide contient aussi une analyse de chaque disposition de la Convention pour aider le lecteur à comprendre aussi bien les obligations fermes que celles qui laissent une certaine marge de manœuvre et les modalités possibles d'application dans chaque cas. Enfin, l'autorité publique ou le conseiller qui rencontrera un problème précis d'application ou d'interprétation pourra utiliser le Guide comme ouvrage de référence.

Pour plus d'information contacter public.participation@unece.org

Coming up soon ...

24-28 January Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)
 24-28 January UNECE/UNFPA/NIDI Training Programme on International Migration
 27-28 January TIR Executive Board

Facts and figures:

Mean Age of Women at Birth of First Child Selected UNECE countries			
	1980	1990	2002
EU			
Austria	...	25.0	26.7
Belgium	24.7	26.4	27.5 ¹
Denmark	24.6	26.4	27.5 ¹
Finland	25.5	26.8	27.6
France	26.8	28.3	29.4 ⁹
Germany	25.2 ¹	26.9	28.1 ¹
Ireland	24.9	26.3	27.3 ⁹
Luxembourg	28.8
Netherlands	25.6	27.5	28.7
Portugal	23.6	24.7	26.5 ⁹
Spain	25.0	26.8	29.0 ⁸
Sweden	25.3	26.0	28.3
United Kingdom ²	24.5 ⁴	25.5 ⁹	27.1 ⁹
New EU Member Countries			
Czech Republic	22.4	22.5	25.6
Estonia	23.2	22.7	24.6
Hungary	22.9	23.0	25.6
Latvia	22.9	22.7	24.9
Lithuania	23.8	23.2	24.3
Poland	23.4	23.5	25.0
Slovakia	22.7	22.7	24.7
Slovenia	22.5	23.7	27.2
CIS			
Armenia	22.1	22.8	22.3 ⁹
Belarus	23.0 ⁴	22.9	23.3 ⁹
Kyrgyzstan	21.8	22.2	22.7 ⁹
Russian Federation	23.0	22.6	22.7 ¹
Ukraine	22.2 ³	22.7 ⁹	22.3 ⁹

Source: UNECE Gender Statistics Database

Notes

Source for some of the 2002 data: Eurostat

- 1 Federal Republic of Germany (excluding East Germany)
- 2 England and Wales only
- 3 1979
- 4 1981
- 5 1989
- 6 1991
- 7 1995
- 8 1999
- 9 2000

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