



## TECHNICAL COOPERATION

### Delivering as one

UNECE's technical cooperation is the extension of its normative work. It is aimed at assisting countries of the region to accede to, adopt and implement UNECE legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations, as a means of their integration in the regional and global economy. All UNECE technical cooperation activities (advisory services, capacity building and field projects) have a strong regional/subregional dimension and seek to provide common solutions to transboundary problems.

*UNECE delivered  
102 capacity building  
activities*

During the reporting period, UNECE carried out 75 advisory missions, delivered 102 capacity building activities (workshops, trainings and seminars) and implemented 35 various projects, including 5 projects funded from the United Nations Development Account (UNDA). Technical cooperation activities were related to the areas of economic cooperation and integration, environment, housing and land management, population, statistics, sustainable energy, trade and trade facilitation and transport. These were the areas where the countries needed assistance most and where UNECE has strong comparative advantage over other organizations to respond.

Countries with economies in transition, particularly low income and landlocked, were the major beneficiaries, accounting for almost 90 per cent of activities. Among subregions, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe accounted for 30 per cent and 14 per cent of UNECE's technical cooperation activities, respectively. They were followed by Eastern Europe (13 per cent) and the Caucasus (5 per cent), while 38 per cent of the activities were of a regional nature, involving two or more subregions. Both subregional and regional projects facilitated sharing experience, lessons learnt and best practices among countries.



This regional/subregional approach to technical cooperation also enabled UNECE to make optimal use of its resources, increase cost-effectiveness, and enhance its impact. Mindful of the importance of sustainability, UNECE had been increasingly relying on local expertise and using local contractual services in delivery of its TC services. In 2009, the UNECE Grant Committee approved 45 grants to various non-profit organizations. Almost 70 per cent of consultants used by the UNECE were national consultants.

Furthermore, to maximize the effectiveness of its operations, UNECE strengthened its partnerships. Internally, more emphasis was put on strengthening collaboration among the UNECE divisions and strengthening synergies in their work with respect to subregional and intersectoral initiatives. Externally, UNECE strengthened its cooperation with relevant stakeholders in the region; in particular with other United Nations entities such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UNCTAD, FAO, WIPO and the regional commissions;

international and regional organizations and financial institutions, including the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank. A large number of activities were implemented in partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and initiatives, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

*Countries with economies in transition accounted for 90% of activities*

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, adopted in the follow-up to the World Summit in 2005, and the subsequent resolution on System Wide Coherence "Delivering as One", UNECE actively supported country led development efforts through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). At the regional level, UNECE ensured coordination of its activities through the United Nations Development Group, Europe and Central Asia. At

the global level, it coordinated its operational activities with the Chiefs Executive Board (CEB) Inter-agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacities which includes 14 United Nations entities and international organizations. Participation of UNECE in UNDAF, RDT and CEB Cluster contributed to greater coherence of the United Nations operational activities at the country, regional and global levels. It enhanced UNECE cooperation with United Nations Resident Coordinators and country teams. It made UNECE more visible at the country level as a partner organization in the national development process.

Nearly 86.6 per cent of UNECE's technical cooperation activities were funded from extrabudgetary resources. The remaining activities were funded from the regular budget, in particular from the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation and UNDA, which accounted for 10.3 per cent and 3.2 per cent respectively. Despite the economic crisis, extrabudgetary resources have increased by 32 per cent since 2008 and reached US\$ 15.1 million in 2009. Much of this increase was due to the UNECE member States, which contributed 77.2 per cent of extrabudgetary resources. Compared to 2008, their voluntary contributions to UNECE Trust funds increased by 60 per cent in 2009 and have more than doubled since 2006.

The top ten bilateral donors, by the size of contributions, included Germany, Italy, France, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Sweden. These countries accounted for 65 per cent of the total extrabudgetary contributions. Germany was the largest donor country in 2009, providing more than 16 per cent of all voluntary contributions of member States. Most of the German funds were allocated to a 3-year project in Central Asia that aims to improve dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in the region. A number of countries (Turkey, Israel, Slovakia, etc.) also provided in-kind contributions in the form of office space, venue, local staff, conference services (translation/interpretation, documents reproduction, publishing, etc), transportation, lodging, hospitalities, etc.



This increase in the extrabudgetary funding of UNECE's technical cooperation activities in times of crisis suggests a strong support from member States and the relevance of UNECE's work.

*86.6% of technical cooperation activities were funded from extrabudgetary resources*

**Trend in funding from extrabudgetary resources in 2005-2009, by source**

