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Annual Report on Technical Cooperation Activities

UNECE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN 2007: AN OVERVIEW

The note contains an overview of the UNECE 2007 technical cooperation activities, including the work done by UNECE Regional Advisers, and UNECE's cooperation with sub-regional country groupings and initiatives, as well as with other United Nations agencies and regional organizations.

INTRODUCTION

1. In line with a revised UNECE Technical Cooperation Strategy adopted by the 62nd Session of the Commission (25-27 April 2007), the main goal of UNECE technical cooperation activities carried out in 2007 was to improve national capacities of countries with economies in transition to implement UNECE international legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations. Other important objectives included the following:

- (i) Assisting with the formation of institutional frameworks in support of subregional and regional integration in areas relevant to UNECE's programme of work;
- (ii) Supporting countries with economies in transition in their capacity-building efforts towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals in the UNECE region; and
- (iii) Assisting economies in transition in developing and implementing technical cooperation programmes/projects in the areas relevant to UNECE programme of work, with a special emphasis on those activities related to resolving subregional and transboundary problems.

2. In 2007, UNECE technical assistance continued to be guided by the governing principles approved by its member States. In particular, it was demand driven, linked to UNECE's normative work and focused on countries with economies in transition, concentrating on those areas where the Commission has a mandate and in-house expertise. Most of UNECE technical cooperation services were organized at a regional/subregional level, targeting cross-border and subregional issues in order to strengthen inter-governmental cooperation and maximize the number of countries benefiting from these activities.

3. The main categories of technical assistance services provided by the UNECE in 2007 were advisory services, capacity-building workshops and training courses, and technical cooperation projects. UNECE technical cooperation was primarily funded by the resources made available from the UN Regular Budget (mainly the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation and the UN Development Account), and extra-budgetary resources, as well as various ad hoc and in-kind contributions.

4. During the period under review, the UNECE Divisions and Regional Advisers carried out more than 160 advisory missions, capacity building workshops and training activities in response to requests received from member States. About 90% of these activities were

focused on 18 member States eligible for Official Development Assistance – four of them being in the low income category. A number of technical assistance projects were being implemented by the UNECE in 2007 in those areas where it has mandate, in-house expertise and competence, in particular, 11 projects funded from the UN Development Account, and more than 40 other technical assistance projects/activities funded from extra-budgetary resources contributed to the UNECE General and Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds. Technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2006-2007 contributed to a number of new ratifications of and accessions to ECE legally binding instruments in the fields of environment and transport during the period under review. Two new environment performance reviews were carried out in 2007. National reporting shows that in 2007 member States made significant progress in implementing both UNECE legally binding instruments and “soft laws”, in particular recommendations resulting from environment performance reviews, internationally recommended statistical standards and practices, recommendations on land administration and housing sector policies, and standards and recommendations for trade facilitation, including for agricultural produce.

5. Most of UNECE technical cooperation services were planned and implemented in cooperation with other international organizations and institutions both within and outside the UN system, involved in the provision of technical assistance in the UNECE region. In general, cooperation with other partners was important in view of the need to promote synergy, minimize potential overlap between activities and ineffective allocation of resources, and ensure optimal impact on recipient countries. Partnership with other stakeholders also helped to expand and diversify extrabudgetary sources in support of UNECE technical cooperation projects and activities financed from the United Nations Regular Budget.

6. In particular, the UNECE continued to promote cooperation with the other UN Regional Commissions with a view to facilitating cooperation for resolving the interregional issues of development concern through the use of commissions’ technical expertise and networks of policy-makers and experts. The UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) has been one of the promising examples of joint efforts in providing technical assistance, undertaken by the UNECE in cooperation with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP). The UNECE has maintained active collaboration with the European Commission, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Within the United Nations family organizations UNDP continued to be one of the most prominent partners, in practically all key areas of UNECE technical assistance. Technical cooperation with subregional organisations and initiatives, such as the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and SECI/Stability Pact for South-East Europe continued to be strengthened in the areas of transport, trade facilitation, statistics, environment and sustainable energy. In providing its technical assistance services the UNECE maintained active cooperation with such important stakeholders as the business sector and the academic community.

7. This report contains an overview of the UNECE 2007 technical cooperation activities, including the work of the UNECE Regional Advisers, technical assistance projects carried out under local and general trust funds, UNECE cooperation with sub-regional country groupings and initiatives, as well as with other United Nations agencies and regional organisations. Annexes I and II to the report contain the list of regional advisory activities

carried out in 2007, and provide financial data on the expenditures under general and local technical cooperation trust funds.

I. TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE UNECE REGIONAL ADVISERS

8. In 2007, most of the activities of the Regional Adviser on **Sustainable Energy** were focused on providing assistance in the planning and implementation of technical cooperation projects in the area of energy efficiency. In particular, the work concentrated on the following country-oriented and subregional projects: “Energy Efficiency 21”; “Developing Capacities and Removing Barriers to Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation”; “Regional (inter-state) Programme of Rational and Efficient Use of Fuel and Energy Resources in CIS countries”; “Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia” (jointly implemented with the Regional Adviser on Environment); “Biomass Energy for Heating and Hot Water Supply in Belarus”; “Introducing the Concept of Energy Service Company to Belarus”; “Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia”; “Private Sector Participation in Small Scale Energy Generation of Belarus”; “Removing Barriers to Implementation of Energy Efficiency Improvements in Belarus”; “Improvement of Energy Efficiency in Public Sector (Schools and Hospitals) of Belarus”; “Support and Development of Renewable Sources of Energy (Biomass) in Ukraine”; “Russian Renewable Energy Program”; and “Wide Utilisation of New Energy Efficient Technology “FISONIC” in Municipal Heat and Hot Water Supply Systems in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Ukraine”. Detailed information about the regional advisory services provided within the framework of these projects and the results achieved is available in the document “UNECE Regional Advisory Services Programme in the Field of Energy in 2005-2007” (ECE/ENERGY/2007/3).

9. During the period under review particular attention was given to problems relating to energy efficiency and conservation in countries with economies in transition, notably the development of Energy Efficiency Investment Zones in Kazakhstan and Ukraine, realisation of the concept of the energy service company in Belarus, development of renewable sources of energy in Belarus and Ukraine, and elaboration of financial mechanisms to attract foreign investments in energy efficiency projects. Three capacity-building workshops were organized by the Regional Adviser aimed at providing training on business planning and financial engineering in energy sector, and facilitating investments for the deployment of cost-effective clean coal technologies.

10. In 2007, the activities of the Regional Adviser on **Economic Cooperation and Integration** continued to focus on the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The Regional Adviser was particularly involved in the preparation, conduct and follow-up of SPECA meetings and workshops organised in 2007, including two complementary meetings of the Economic Forum in Almaty and Berlin. The first was followed by an informal meeting of SPECA Heads of Delegations to discuss further steps aimed at strengthening the Programme, and the second - by the annual session of the SPECA Governing Council (for more details please see Section V of this document).

11. In the framework of a joint UNECE-UNDP project a regional team of researchers prepared a background study for the Berlin meeting of the SPECA Economic Forum under the title “Improving the Business and Investment Environment through Technical Assistance

for Regional Economic Cooperation”. The Regional Advisor facilitated the participation of members of the regional research team in relevant capacity building activities and workshops organised within the framework of the ECE Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme. Members of the research team advised their Governments to expand the mandate of the SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on ICT for Development and rename it the PWG on Knowledge Based Economy. This proposal received broad support at the annual meeting of the SPECA Governing Council.

12. SPECA member States have repeatedly called for closer coordination and cooperation between SPECA and other organizations and programmes active in Central Asia. In this regard, the Regional Adviser presented SPECA activities at the Turkmenistan-EU Sustainable Development Roundtable held in Ashgabat in June 2007. He also contributed to the inter-agency coordination meeting of SPECA, the UNDP, CAREC, EurAsEC and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization which took place last October in Istanbul. The meeting resulted in an agreement on closer coordination and cooperation of the participating organizations and programmes in Central Asia.

13. The 2007 activities of the Regional Adviser on **Environment** were focused on facilitating the development of environmental cooperation between ECE member States and providing assistance to countries with economies in transition on the implementation of UNECE environmental conventions. The Regional Adviser provided training in the development of transboundary water cooperation and management for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-East Europe, advised on the topical issues of national environmental policies and subregional cooperation, as well as assisted in the formulation and implementation of technical assistance projects. Most of the capacity-building activities were carried out in the framework of the following projects:

- Development of Transboundary Cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers;
- Central Asian Regional Water Information Base;
- Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia (UNDA project jointly implemented with the Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy);
- Capacity building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia;
- Transboundary water management in Western Balkans;
- Action Programme to improve Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River;
- Capacity for Water Cooperation (a series of workshops on transboundary water cooperation for EECCA countries);
- Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context: Pilot implementation project in Central Asia.

These projects were planned and implemented in collaboration with other partners such as the UNESCAP, UNEP, OSCE, and UNDP.

14. A significant part of Regional Adviser’s activities was focused on the provision of advisory services and organization of capacity-building workshops and training seminars in the area of transboundary water and air quality management (in particular, five training seminars were organized for EECCA countries in this area). The Regional Adviser was also engaged in and advised on the development of national environmental policies and programmes, and the establishment within the framework of the EU Water Initiative of “National Policy Dialogues” on integrated water resources management in EECCA countries

in support for the implementation of MDGs in the water sector. New projects aimed to broaden the cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers, strengthen transboundary water management in Western Balkans, and prepare a bilateral water agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia were developed in 2007.

15. The 2007 activities of the Regional Adviser on **Statistics** were focused on assisting countries with economies in transition, in particular Central Asian countries, in strengthening the capacity of their national statistical systems to implement international statistical standards and best practices. A significant part of these activities concentrated on providing capacity-building assistance in the area of Population and Housing Censuses: two training workshops on the 2010 censuses preparation (in Dushanbe and Astana, March and June 2007) were carried out by the Regional Adviser and other staff members of the UNECE Statistical Division in collaboration with the UNESCAP, UNFPA and UNDP within the framework of the Development Account project for statistical capacity building in Central Asia, and a national training workshop on census preparation activities (Ashgabat, May 2007) was organized in cooperation with the UNFPA Country Office of Turkmenistan. Advisory services in this area were also provided to the CIS Coordination Committee on the Preparations to the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (Moscow, April 2007).

16. Another part of the Regional Adviser's activities was focused on statistical capacity building and promoting the use of statistical information. In particular, the Regional Adviser provided advice and made presentations during the following activities: advisory missions to Kazakhstan (October and December 2007) carried out in the framework of the Global Assessment of Statistical System of Kazakhstan; advisory services to national statistical offices of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (September 2007), Moldova (May 2007), Slovenia (October 2007) and Turkey (March 2007) on census preparations, dissemination of statistical information and its use in evidence-based decision making. Advisory services on the development of a reporting system on donor activities in the field of statistics were also provided during the meeting of the Coordination Committee on Statistical Activities of international organizations (Madrid, September 2007) and the three meetings of a Task Team (Paris; February, May and June 2007) established by this body. Participating in the Meeting of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), held in Bangkok in November 2007, the Regional Adviser negotiated a framework for future cooperation between the UNECE and SIAP in the field of training statisticians from Central Asian and South Caucasian countries.

17. The 2007 activities of the Regional Adviser on **Trade** focused on the following main areas: (i) increasing the capacity of recipient countries to develop trade integration and facilitation policies and to implement ECE trade-related standards, recommendations and tools; (ii) promoting trade facilitation measures and building the environment for "Single Window" implementation; (iii) strengthening national trade facilitation institutions, including the capacity for WTO accession negotiations.

18. During the period under review the Regional Adviser's activities concentrated on providing assistance to the following transition economies: (i) Central Asian countries within the framework of the SPECA programme (in particular, through a project on trade facilitation in Central Asia financed from the UN Development Account and activities of the SPECA Project Working Group on Trade). Two training seminars focused on trade facilitation and electronic business were organized in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (March and June 2007 respectively) within the framework of the abovementioned project, managed by the Regional Adviser. Advisory services on establishing a national trade facilitation body,

and on the implementation of UNECE trade standards and recommendations were provided to government officials of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan respectively; (ii) countries of South-East Europe (SEE): support for the network of trade facilitation bodies (SECIPRO) within the SECI/Stability Pact framework; promotion of the implementation of Recommendation 33: Single Window, and other trade facilitation recommendations of the UN/CEFACT; and support for the e-Southeast Europe Initiative (eSEE) of the Stability Pact for SEE. Assistance, provided by the Regional Adviser, focused on promoting trade data harmonization and the Single Window initiative in SEE, and the organisation of the second regional SEE conference on data harmonization (Belgrade, November 2007); (iii) countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia: organization of the second UNECE-EurAsEC Conference on Trade Facilitation (Almaty, October 2007) on the Single Administrative Document, data harmonization and Single Window implementation in EurAsEC countries; promotion of UNECE and UN/CEFACT standards for trade facilitation and electronic business, in particular, the Single Window concept and initiatives on trade data element harmonization. A major effect of these activities was the launching of several projects in the recipient countries, for example on the Single Window in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kyrgyzstan, and support for existing projects in Serbia, Croatia and other countries, with funding provided by the recipient countries and various donors.

19. The activities under the ECE RPTC Subprogramme on **Transport**¹ implemented in 2007 focused on the following main areas: (i) strengthening the capacity to implement the ECE legal instruments on transport; (ii) assisting in the development of transport infrastructure and border crossing facilitation; and (iii) assisting in the facilitation of international transport along the Euro-Asian transport links. In particular, advisory services were provided under the SPECA project on Development of Transport Infrastructure and Border-Crossing Facilitation; Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) projects and the implementation of their Master Plan; the UNDA project on Capacity Building in Developing Interregional Land and Land-Cum-Sea Transport Linkages and its UNECE-UNESCAP joint project component on developing Euro-Asian transport links; and other projects. Advisory services aimed at promoting UNECE legal instruments in the field of transport and intercountry cooperation for the coordinated development of transport networks were provided in the framework of the following activities: Meeting of BSEC Working Group on Transport (Belgrade, March 2007); 12th session of the SPECA PWG-TBC (Dushanbe, March 2007); National Workshop on Enhancing National Capacity for the Facilitation of Interregional Transport along Euro-Asian Transport Links (Minsk, May 2007); interregional Seminar on the Economic Assessment of International Transport Linkages and on Transport Facilitation (Cairo, June 2007); BSEC Working Group on Transport and the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of BSEC Member States (Istanbul, July 2007); 17th Polish Economic Forum and the panel on “The Eurasian Silk Road-a corridor connecting China with Europe” (Krynica-Zdroj , September 2007); 1st Interregional Workshop on Interregional Transport Linkages and a Visit of African Port’s Experts to Barcelona Port (Barcelona, October 2007); Seminar on the Interregional Transport Linkages (Abu Dhabi, October 2007); National Workshop on Enhancing Capacity for facilitation on Interregional Transport (Chisinau, November 2007); 6th Annual Conference of the IGC TRACECA (Astana, December 2007); and National Workshop on Enhancing Capacity for facilitation on Interregional Transport (Kiev, December 2007).

¹ The Regional Adviser position in Transport was vacant for most of the year

20. Technical cooperation activities implemented by the Regional Advisers were primarily funded by the resources made available from the UN Regular Budget (mainly the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC)). The distribution of the actual expenditures under Section 22 (RPTC) of the Regular Budget in 2007 is set out in Table 1 below, with figures for 2004-2006 also provided for comparison. In addition to the resources available under the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, part of Regional Advisers activities was carried out under extra-budgetary funds.

Table 1. Sectoral structure of expenditures of the resources available from the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation for Regional Advisory activities

Subprogramme	2004-2005 ¹		2006 ²		2007 ³	
	US\$	%	US\$	%	US\$	%
Environment	390,132	14	217,101	18	300,419	18
Transport	425,595	15	158,916	13	165,775	10
Statistics	431,925	15	181,906	15	256,015	15
Economic cooperation and integration	--	--	226,976	19	380,417	23
Sustainable energy	429,749	15	244,502	21	325,144	20
Trade	490,281 ⁴	17	153,167	13	236,520	14
Industrial restructuring and enterprise development	573,858 ⁵	20	--	--	--	--
Management of technical cooperation activities	105,702 ⁶	4	7,748	1	4,414	0
Total	2,847,242	100	1,190,316	100	1,668,704	100

¹ Actual expenditures in 2004-2005

² Actual expenditures in January-December 2006

³ Actual expenditures in January-December 2007

⁴ Includes activities of the Regional Adviser on Development and Policy Issues in 2004

⁵ Includes activities of the Regional Adviser on Development and Policy Issues in 2005 and of the Regional Adviser on Entrepreneurship and SMEs in 2005 (6 months)

⁶ Includes SPECA-related activities

21. Details on the advisory missions and capacity building workshops/training activities undertaken by the Regional Advisers in 2007 are presented in Annex I. It should be noted that, in most cases, the advisory services provided in a beneficiary country applied also to a number of other countries participating in a particular multi-country and/or sub-regional project or activity.

II. TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

22. During the period under review, the UNECE was involved in the implementation of the following eleven projects financed from the UN Development Account, of which three projects were led by the UNECE:

- (a) Capacity-building in support of trade integration, with emphasis on integrated trade, information flow management and trade facilitation in Central Asia (UNECE, in collaboration with UNESCAP and UNCTAD; 2006-2009; project budget - \$385,000);
- (b) Strengthening the statistical capacity of Central Asian countries to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (UNECE, in collaboration with UNDESA and UNESCAP; 2006-2009; \$385,000);
- (c) Capacity-building for air quality management and the application of clean coal combustion technologies in Central Asia (UNECE, in collaboration with UNESCAP and UNEP; 2004-2007; \$680,000);
- (d) Capacity-building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages (UNESCWA, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNECLAC, and UNECA; 2002-2007; \$1,250,000);
- (e) Capacity-building for sustainable utilization, management and protection of internationally shared groundwater in the Mediterranean region (UNESCWA, in collaboration with UNECA, UNECE, UNESCO and UNDESA; 2004-2007; \$360,000);
- (f) Interregional cooperation to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in the Millennium Development Goals process (UNESCAP, in collaboration with UNECLAC, UNESCWA, UNECE and UNECA; \$855,000; 2006-2009);
- (g) Knowledge networks through information and communication technology access points for disadvantaged communities (UNESCWA, in collaboration with UNESCAP, UNECLAC, UNECE and UNECA; 2006-2009; \$970,000);
- (h) Public-Private Partnership Alliance programme for capacity-building in infrastructure development and provision of basic services (UNESCAP, in collaboration with UNECA and UNECE; 2006-2009; \$615,000);
- (i) Interregional partnership for promoting trade as an engine of growth through knowledge management and information and communications technologies (UNECLAC, in collaboration with UNECE and the other regional commissions; 2004-2007; \$920,000);
- (j) Interregional cooperation on the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment (UNESCAP, in collaboration with UNECE and the other regional commissions; 2006-09; \$800,000); and
- (k) Capacity-building for policy-making on information and communications technologies (UNDESA, in collaboration with the regional commissions, UNDP and UNCTAD; 2004-2007; \$640,000).

23. Through these projects the UN regional commissions together with other UN agencies, programmes and funds promote joint interventions for solving development problems, tackling transboundary issues and ensuring the provision of regional public goods, thereby enhancing their synergies and facilitating more systemic approaches to providing assistance to beneficiary countries. Implementation of these joint projects, focused on capacity building in the areas of environment protection, trade facilitation, clean energy, development of interregional transport linkages, statistics etc., helped the UN regional commissions to further strengthen the linkage between their normative, analytical and operational activities, in particular aimed at achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals. Five more project proposals, including two projects led by the UNECE, have been approved by the General Assembly for financing under the Sixth Tranche of the UN Development Account (2008-2011).

III. TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES UNDER THE UNECE TRUST FUNDS

24. A considerable part of the UNECE technical cooperation projects/activities carried out in 2007 was financed from extrabudgetary resources, in particular: (a) contributions to the UNECE Trust Funds; and (b) contributions from UNDP, UNFIP and UNFPA. These resources were utilized to supplement resources from the regular budget, primarily to finance activities aimed at improving the capacity of countries with economies in transition to implement legally binding instruments and other regional standards and supporting these countries in finding solutions to transboundary problems. Details on the expenditures under these funds are provided in Annex II.

25. Depending on their sectoral area and objectives, these projects/activities were carried out either by regular UNECE staff or Regional Advisers, or both. Breakdown by sub-programme of expenditures under the general and local technical cooperation trust funds is set out in Table 2.

Table 2. Sectoral structure of expenditures from the Trust Funds and other sources as at 31 December 2007

Subprogramme	2006 ¹		2007 ²	
	US\$	%	US\$	%
1. Environment	4,758,588	61.7	5,463,187	63.5
2. Transport	1,167,339	15.1	1,380,329	16.0
3. Statistics	102,772	1.3	406,921	4.8
4. Economic cooperation and integration	187,041	2.5	172,603	2.0
5. Sustainable energy	1,049,349	13.6	867,438	10.1
6. Trade	66,790	0.9	34,661	0.4
7. Timber and forestry	30,706	0.4	92,939	1.1
8. Housing, land management and population	130,489	1.7	119,797	1.4
9. Economic analysis	16,296 ³	0.2	--	0.0
Office of the Executive Secretary	198,268	2.6	59,909	0.7
Technical Cooperation Unit	1,928	0.0	-1,493 ⁴	0.0
Total	7,709,566	100.0	8,596,291	100.0

¹ Expenditures in January-December 2006

² Expenditures in January-December 2007

³ Expenditures relate to last activities undertaken between January and March 2006 under the Economic Analysis subprogramme

⁴ Refund of overestimates in a previous year

26. As seen from the above table, the total extrabudgetary expenditures utilized by the UNECE in 2007 for technical cooperation amounted to US\$ 8,596,291, representing an increase of 11.5 per cent over that of 2006. The major part of resources in 2006 was spent on the Environment (61.7%), Transport (15.1%) and Sustainable Energy (13.6%) sub-programmes. In 2007, this pattern remained almost unchanged: the first three places were occupied by the same sub-programmes: Environment (63.5%), Transport (16%) and Sustainable Energy (10.1%). It should be noted also that the Statistics sub-programme increased its share in the distribution of expenditures from 1.3 per cent in 2006 to 4.8 per cent in 2007. This reflects both the demand for ECE technical assistance under the

aforementioned sub-programmes and the availability of extra-budgetary resources provided by donors in support of the activities in these areas.

27. In addition there were a number of technical cooperation activities supported by the resources of host countries/organizations, national and international donors, and private entities for projects/activities that were managed outside the UNECE but where the UNECE was involved in their implementation.

IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH SUB-REGIONAL COUNTRY GROUPINGS

28. Technical cooperation with the Permanent International Secretariat of the **Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)** is based on the cooperative agreement signed in July 2001. A significant part of UNECE technical assistance to BSEC member States in 2007 was focused on the areas of transport and trade.

29. The importance of the close cooperation between the two organizations in the field of transport was emphasized during the visit to Geneva by the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat held in February 2007. Representatives of the UNECE and BSEC secretariats discussed ways and means for the continuation and further strengthening of cooperation between these organizations. On the whole, during the period under review the UNECE continued to provide support to BSEC member States in their efforts to harmonize national transport legislation and, through the UNECE TEM and TER Projects Master Plan, contributed to a coordinated development of transport infrastructure in the BSEC region. Furthermore, in close cooperation with the BSEC Working Group on Transport and the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, a large number of data on major Black Sea and Mediterranean ports of Euro-Asian importance have been collected and processed in 2006-2007, which served as an input to the further implementation of the UNECE-UNESCAP joint project on Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links. Advisory services were provided during the two meetings of the BSEC Working Group on Transport held in Belgrade and Istanbul. These services aimed at assisting BSEC member States in their accession to and implementation of the main UNECE legal instruments on transport as well as coordinated development of transport infrastructure in the BSEC region.

30. The Memorandum on Interaction with the Inter-State Economic Committee of the Economic Union of the **Commonwealth of Independent States** was signed in April 1997. UNECE technical assistance to CIS member States in 2007 concentrated in the areas of statistics, energy, environment and transport.

31. In the area of statistics, UNECE technical cooperation focused on assisting CIS countries in the implementation of international statistical standards and statistical capacity building. Activities in these areas included technical cooperation projects (such as “Capacity building programme on engendering national statistical systems for a knowledge-based policy formulation in CIS and SEE countries”, “Building capacity and statistical literacy for MDG monitoring”, etc.), as well as policy advisory services and capacity-building workshops on strengthening the national statistical systems, improving statistical legislation, marketing of statistical information, strengthening the capacity to carry out the population and housing censuses of the 2010 round, etc.

32. In the area of environment, housing and land management UNECE technical assistance to CIS countries focused on strengthening their capacity to implement UNECE environmental conventions and protocols (capacity-building activities under the work programmes of the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes as well as the Industrial Accidents Convention, etc.); strengthening the capacity for transboundary water cooperation and management (projects “Action Programme to Improve Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River”, “Capacity for Water Cooperation”, “Capacity Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia” etc.); improving national implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management activities within the framework of the EU Water Initiative; improving environmental management and environmental information (“Environmental Performance Review” programme); and strengthening housing policies, institutional and financial frameworks for the housing sector (project “Country Profiles on the Housing Sector”). The UNECE continued to support the Environment and Security Initiative, in particular by providing technical assistance on water-related and other issues. New assessments have been initiated for CIS countries (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) in the framework of this initiative, which aims at strengthening the implementation of UNECE regional environmental conventions.

33. In the area of sustainable energy UNECE technical cooperation focused on assisting CIS countries in securing financing for energy efficiency projects and developing energy efficiency investment zones in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Ukraine (projects “Energy Efficiency 21”); promoting the formation of an energy efficiency market (project “Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation”); supporting biomass energy activities and the capacity of customers to finance and implement them (project “Biomass Energy for Heating and Hot-Water Supply in Belarus”); raising the awareness of the benefits that coal mine methane (CMM) has in economic, social and environmental terms (project “Development of CMM projects in Central and Eastern Europe and CIS”); and strengthening the capacity for air quality management and the use of clean coal technologies (project “Capacity-building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia”).

34. Cooperation with the **Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC)** included both the development of relations with its governing bodies and the provision of technical assistance to EurAsEC member countries. A Cooperation Agreement between the UNECE and EurAsEC Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA), focused in particular on assisting in harmonisation of draft legislation developed under the aegis of IPA with relevant ECE legal instruments, was signed in Geneva on 25 January 2007. Another cooperation document, a Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE, UNESCAP and Secretariat of the Integration Committee of the EurAsEC, was signed in Almaty on 23 May 2007. The main objective of this document is to promote effective cooperation between these organisations in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in EurAsEC member countries.

35. Technical cooperation services provided to EurAsEC member countries focused mainly on the areas of trade, transport, environment and energy. In particular, a seminar on Integrated Approach to Trade Facilitation and PPPs in Central Asia jointly organized by the UNECE, EurAsEC and ESCAP was held in June 2007 in Almaty. Participants of the meeting, conducted in the framework of the 5th Tranche UNDA project on trade facilitation in Central Asia, discussed the integrated approach to trade facilitation presented by the UNECE and UNESCAP, as well as future activities on establishing PPP mechanisms for

trade facilitation in this region. The second UNECE-EurAsEC Regional Conference on Trade Facilitation, held in Almaty in October 2007, discussed a number of issues related to data harmonization, implementation of the Single Administrative Document, and the Single Window concept for import and export clearance. The UNECE continued its cooperation with EurAsEC in the area of dam safety within the framework of the project “Capacity Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia”. A model national law and a regional cooperation agreement for dam safety in Central Asia have been developed and approved by representatives of the Central Asian states and recommended by the EurAsEC Secretariat for approval by the EurAsEC IPA. Cooperation with the Secretariat of the EurAsEC Integration Committee in the field of energy continued in 2007 with a focus on efforts to facilitate the implementation of a number of key recommendations contained in the regional cooperation strategy to promote the rational and efficient use of water and energy resources in Central Asia. This strategy was developed within the framework of the joint UNECE/UNESCAP project “Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia” financed from the 2nd Tranche of the UN Development Account.

36. Cooperation with **SECI/Stability Pact** for Southeastern Europe focused on providing advisory services and expertise on the following issues: data harmonisation initiative in SEE and building an environment for a Single Window; implementation of international standards for trade facilitation and e-business; and support for the e-South Eastern Europe (eSEE) initiative. The fourth SEE Ministerial Meeting on the Information Society, organised in Sarajevo in October 2007, endorsed the new “Agenda+” of the eSEE initiative, which includes e-business strategy guidelines developed by the UNECE Regional Adviser on Trade, and focused on promoting the use of UNECE standards and recommendations in the areas of e-business and Single Window (including data harmonization). The second SEE Conference on data harmonization and the Single Window (Belgrade, November 2007) was organized by the UNECE in collaboration with various regional structures. A substantive contribution was made by the UNECE to a regional workshop on e-Governance, organized by the eSEE initiative of the Stability Pact and USAID. The UNECE also continued to provide support to the Stability Pact Working Group on Trade Liberalization and Facilitation and the new CEFTA agreement. As the Stability Pact for SEE will be officially phased out in early 2008, efforts have been made to establish relations with the new structure, the Regional Cooperation Council, which will be based in Sarajevo.

37. Technical cooperation with the **International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)**, based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE, UNESCAP and IFAS signed on 3 June 2004, continued to focus on improving dam safety in the region.

38. In the framework of cooperation with the Intergovernmental Commission of the **Europe-Caucasus-Asia Corridor (TRACECA)** in the field of transport, consultations with the Permanent Secretariat of TRACECA continued to explore possible future technical cooperation activities in the areas of trade and transport facilitation and paperless trade.

V. UN SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA

39. In 2007, SPECA activities expanded in scope and gained in effectiveness due to the successful completion of the reform of the Programme. The second session of the SPECA Governing Council (Berlin, 14 November 2007) reviewed the activities carried out by the SPECA Project Working Groups, discussed proposals on further strengthening the Programme, improving its coordination and cooperation with other organizations, and

approved the SPECA Work Plan for 2008-2009. The new Work Plan comprises 27 projects/activities with funding already secured or expected, amounting to a total of US\$ 7,386,000 and 21 projects with a total funding requirement of US\$ 4,414,000 which could be implemented in addition to the first group if supported by donors.

40. Comparative advantages stemming from well-coordinated support of the Programme by the two Regional Commissions – the UNECE and UNESCAP – were increasingly utilized. Two meetings of the SPECA Economic Forum were held in 2007. The first, “Focus on Asia” organized in May in Almaty as part of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum of UNESCAP, was attended by some 250 business and government representatives. The second meeting (Berlin, November 2007) was held in the form of the Conference “Central Asia and Europe: a New Economic Partnership for the 21st Century”, attended by more than 200 high-level representatives of governments, the European Union and private sector. Both meetings of the Economic Forum discussed strategic issues of regional cooperation, such as improving trade relations, strengthening business links between Central Asia and its Asian and European partners as well as regional organizations like the ASEAN and the European Union creating a favourable business and investment climate in Central Asia, and strengthening UN technical assistance in areas, which are important for improving economic cooperation in the region. All SPECA Project Working Groups (Gender and Economy, ICT for Development, Statistics, Trade, Transport and Border Crossing, and Water and Energy Resources), held formal and/or informal meetings in 2007.

41. In 2007, UNECE technical assistance in the framework of SPECA continued to focus on the following areas: transport; water and energy; trade development; statistical capacity building; ICT; gender and economy. In providing support to Central Asian countries under SPECA, the UNECE combined its in-house technical expertise with the ability to carry out normative, analytical, and technical cooperation functions as well as to offer a neutral umbrella for cross-sector, inter-ministerial policy discussions and regular policy-business-research dialogues. In general, during the period under review UNECE technical assistance to SPECA member countries concentrated on the following main activities: (i) strengthening the capacity to implement ECE conventions, standards and recommendations (in such areas as environment, trade, transport and statistics); (ii) improving national environmental governance and environmental information through the environmental performance reviews, and strengthening the capacity for trans-boundary water cooperation and management (environment); (iii) assisting with the formation of energy efficiency market, including the development of financial mechanisms for attracting foreign investors for energy efficiency projects (energy); (iv) building the environment for “Single Window” implementation, and strengthening national trade facilitation institutions, including the capacity for WTO accession negotiations (trade); (v) strengthening the national capacity to monitor demographic, social and economic progress towards the implementation of goals set out in the Millennium Declaration (statistics); (vi) assisting in the development of transport infrastructure and border crossing facilitation (transport); and (vii) promoting gender equality and gender-sensitive economic policies under the MDG framework (gender mainstreaming).

VI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

42. In providing technical assistance to the economies in transition, UNECE has continued its cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations family and regional organizations in order to improve synergy, promote complementarity of efforts and avoid overlapping and duplication of activities.

43. Within the United Nations family organizations UNDP has been the most prominent partner, in practically all areas of UNECE technical assistance. The Commission has continued its efforts to improve communication, coordination and institutional interaction with the UNDP Resident Coordinator Offices. Particular attention in this area was given to consultations with UNDP country offices on bringing ECE's experience to some UN country teams and facilitating ECE's engagement in the preparation of the UN Development Assistance Frameworks, continued coordination of the UNECE staffs' visits with local UNDP offices, and sharing information on planned and ongoing technical cooperation activities. A Cooperation Framework between UNDP, UNECE and the other UN Regional Commissions was signed in October 2007. The main objective of this Framework is to realize the complementarities that might be reached through interaction between the Regional Commissions and UNDP, in particular, aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. The UNECE and UNDP were involved in the implementation of a number of ECE technical assistance projects and training activities in the areas of energy, statistics, trade, environment, housing sector etc.

44. During the period under review, the UNECE continued to cooperate with the other UN regional commissions in the framework of the implementation of technical cooperation projects financed from the UN Development Account (for more details please see Section II above). Collaboration between UNECE and UNESCAP has been particularly active within the SPECA framework, aimed at promoting economic development and accelerating the integration of Central Asian countries into the world economy. In particular, two meetings of the 2007 SPECA Economic Forum, as well as a meeting of the SPECA Governing Council and six meetings of the SPECA Project Working Groups were organised jointly by the UNECE and UNESCAP in cooperation with governments of the host countries.

45. Cooperation with OSCE is based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE and OSCE, signed in December 2004. During the period under review the UNECE continued its collaboration with OSCE in the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), in particular by providing technical assistance on water-related and other issues, as well as on the implementation of UNECE environmental conventions. A Workshop "River basin commissions and other institutions for transboundary water cooperation" (Almaty, October 2007) was the first example of joint efforts of the UNECE, OSCE and UNDP to arrange a capacity building meeting within the ENVSEC framework. Several projects in collaboration with OSCE were implemented in 2007 in the environmental sector, focused on capacity building in beneficiary countries in the areas of cooperative management of water and related resources, joint utilization of water facilities etc. Advisory services on the implementation of UNECE conventions, norms and standards were provided during the capacity-building seminars in the areas of trade, transport and environment, organized by OSCE in cooperation with the UNECE. A review of implementation of environmental commitments by OSCE member countries was provided by the UNECE Secretariat to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

46. On the whole, cooperation was further developed in the following areas: environment and human settlements (with UNDP, UNEP, WHO/EUROEC, OSCE, World Bank, EBRD and EEA); trade facilitation (with UNCTAD, WTO, ISO, UNDP, World Customs Organization, EC, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and ICC); sustainable energy (with UNDP, UN Foundation/UN Fund for International Partnerships, EC, IAEA, Global Environmental Facility, and EBRD); statistics (with UNDP, United Nations Population Fund, WHO, EC, Council of Europe, World Bank, Eurostat and OSCE); and transport (with EC, EBRD, World Bank, OSCI, and Asian Development Bank). On-going cooperation was also maintained with UNDESA and ILO.

Regional Advisory Activities in 2007

Acronyms for country groups are listed at the end of Annex I

Country visited	Brief description of activities	Beneficiary countries
Sustainable energy		
Belarus	Provided advice to government officials and representatives of the private sector on the planning and implementation of six projects in the area of energy efficiency; Minsk, Vileyka, and Petrikovo, 24-31 January, 4-7 February	Belarus
	(i) Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of six projects in the area of energy efficiency; (ii) Provided advice to government officials through a presentation on financial mechanisms for energy efficiency projects during a workshop organized by the Regional Adviser; Minsk, Vileyka, and Petrikovo, 24-31 January	Belarus
	(i) Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of five projects in the area of energy efficiency; (ii) Provided advice to government officials through a presentation on financing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects during a seminar “Modern technologies of traditional and renewable energy and mechanisms for financing the investment projects”; Minsk, Vileyka, and Mosty, 3-13 June	Belarus and other EECCA countries
	Provided advice to government officials and representatives of the private sector on the implementation of the project “Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation”; Minsk, 29 September – 3 October	Belarus
	Provided advice to government officials and representatives of the private sector on the planning and implementation of five projects in the area of energy efficiency; Minsk, Vileyka, and Mosty, 15-23 October	Belarus
Kazakhstan	(i) Provided training in air quality management and decision-making in the energy sector, and on financial mechanisms for energy efficiency projects during two workshops organized by the Regional Adviser; (ii) Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of two projects in the area of energy efficiency; Almaty, 5-16 March	Central Asian countries

	(i) Provided training on facilitating investments for deployment of cost-effective clean coal technologies during a workshop organised by the Regional Adviser; (ii) Provided advice to government officials on the implementation of four projects in the area of energy efficiency; Almaty, 4-6 July	Central Asian countries
Russian Federation	Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of two projects in the area of energy efficiency; Moscow, 1-3 February	Russian Federation
	Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of five projects in the area of energy efficiency; Moscow, 15-24 April	Russian Federation
	Provided advice to government officials on the implementation of a project in the area of energy efficiency; Moscow, 14-16 June	Russian Federation
	Provided advice to government officials and representatives of the private sector on the implementation of two projects in the area of energy efficiency; Moscow, 23-28 September	Russian Federation
Ukraine	Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of two projects in the area of energy efficiency; Kiev, 15-22 May	Ukraine
	Provided advice to government officials and representatives of the private sector on the implementation of three projects in the area of energy efficiency; Kiev, Zaporizhie, 29 August –9 September	Ukraine
Economic cooperation and integration		
Germany	Consultations with government officials during preparatory meetings of the SPECA Economic Forum/Conference "Central Asia and Europe: a New Economic Partnership for the 21st Century" and the SPECA Governing Council; Berlin, 19 January, 9 May, and 28 September	SPECA member countries
	Provided advice, including through the preparation of the working documents for the SPECA Economic Forum/Conference "Central Asia and Europe: a New Economic Partnership for the 21st Century" organised by the ECE; Berlin, 13 November	
	Provided advice, including through the preparation of the working documents for the meeting of the SPECA Governing Council, organised by the ECE; Berlin, 14 November	
Kazakhstan	Provided advice, including through the preparation of the working documents, for the First meeting of the SPECA Economic Forum and a meeting of the Heads of Delegations from SPECA member countries, organised by the Regional Adviser jointly with UNESCAP; Almaty, 18-19 May	SPECA member countries

	Provided advice and chaired an inception workshop “Improving the Business and Investment Environment through Technical Assistance for Regional Economic Cooperation” organised by the Regional Adviser; Almaty, 23 May	
Turkey	Consultations with UNDP, CAREC, EurAsEC and SCO during the Inter-agency Coordination Meeting of Organizations and Programs Active in Central Asia; Istanbul, 3-4 October	SPECA member countries
Turkmenistan	Provided advice to government officials, including through a presentation, during the Turkmen-EU Roundtable on Sustainable Development; Ashgabat, 7-8 July	SPECA member countries
Environment		
Austria	Consultations on future capacity building activities during a Secretariat meeting of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC); Vienna, 3-4 April	EECCA and SEE countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
	Consultations with the OSCE on the joint projects implementation and development of cooperation between the UNECE and OSCE in the environmental sector; Vienna, 17 October	EECCA countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
Belgium	Consultations with representatives of the European Commission on the planning and funding of technical cooperation activities in the area of water resources management; Brussels, 4 September	EECCA countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
Finland	(i) Consultations with representatives of the Government of Finland on the planning and financing of a project on dam safety in Central Asia; (ii) Made a presentation at the First Preparatory Conference to the Sixteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment”; Helsinki, 10-11 September	Central Asian countries
Greece	Consultations in the framework of Athens Declaration-Petersberg process on transboundary water cooperation in South-East Europe; Athens, 1-2 March	SEE countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
Hungary	Consultations on future capacity building activities held during the ENVSEC Management Board meeting; Szentendre, 3-4 May	EECCA and SEE countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
Kazakhstan	Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of the EIA, Dam Safety, CAPACT, and Chu-Talas II projects; Almaty and Astana, 27-29 March	Kazakhstan
	Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of the CAREWIB and CAPACT projects; Almaty, 25-28 April	Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries
	Provided training in air quality management to government officials during the workshop organised by the Regional Adviser in the framework of a UN Development Account project; Almaty, 4-6 July	EECCA countries

	Provided training in management of transboundary waters during the workshop “River basin commissions and other institutions for transboundary water cooperation”; Almaty, 22-26 October	EECCA countries
	(i) Provided training in air quality management to government officials during the workshop organised by the Regional Adviser in the framework of a UN Development Account project; (ii) Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of the EIA, Dam Safety, and Chu-Talas II projects; Almaty, and Astana, 19-22 November	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
Kyrgyzstan	Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of the EIA, Dam Safety, CAPACT, and Chu-Talas II projects; Bishkek, 30-31 March	Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan
	Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of the EIA, Dam Safety, and Chu-Talas II projects; Bishkek, 2 July	Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan
	(i) Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of the EIA, Dam Safety, and Chu-Talas II projects; (ii) Provided advice during the SPECA Project Working Group meeting organised by the Regional Adviser; Bishkek, 14-16 November	Central Asian countries
Moldova	Provided training in management of transboundary waters during the workshop on sustainable management of the Dniester River organised by the Regional Adviser; Chisinau, 12-13 June	Moldova and Ukraine
	Provided advice to government officials and donors through a presentation on ECE activities in the area of transboundary water management during a donor meeting; Chisinau, 14 December	Moldova
Serbia	Provided advice to government officials on the planning and implementation of the project “Transboundary water management in Western Balkans”; Belgrade, 1-2 February	SEE countries
	Provided advice through two presentations at a side event “Transboundary water cooperation in South-Eastern Europe: a key to development and security”, organised by the Regional Adviser during the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”; Belgrade, 10-12 October	SEE countries
Sweden	(i) Provided advice through a presentation on management of transboundary waters, during a UNECE-OSCE workshop on the experiences of transboundary water projects; (ii) consultations with Swedish EPA on the implementation of the ECE project on transboundary water cooperation in SEE; Stockholm, 12-13 August	SEE countries

	(i) Provided advice through two presentations on air quality management during the Conference “Air pollution and its relations to climate change and sustainable development”; (ii) Consultations on the development of Dniester-II and Transboundary waters in SEE projects, and funding discussions with representatives of Swedish EPA; Stockholm, Göteborg, 12-14 March	EECCA countries
Ukraine	Provided advice to government officials on issues related to transboundary water cooperation, and implementation of a project on sustainable management of the Dniester River; Kiev, 18-19 January	Ukraine and Moldova
	Provided training in management of transboundary waters during the Workshop on Sustainable Management of the Dniester River; Chernivtsy, 23-24 February	Ukraine and Moldova
	Provided advice to government officials on the implementation of a project on sustainable management of the Dniester River; Kiev, 27-28 June	Ukraine and Moldova
Statistics		
France	Consultations on the development of a Reporting System on Donor Activities in the Field of Statistics during a meeting of a Task Team, established by the Coordination Committee on Statistical Activities of international organisations; Paris, 16 February, 18 May, 25 June	EECCA and SEE countries (beneficiaries of planned activities)
Germany	Provided advice on the advocacy activities on statistics and the use of statistical information in evidence-based decision making during the the High-Level Conference “Central Asia and Europe: a New Economic Partnership for the 21st Century” and the Second Session of the SPECA Governing Council; Berlin, 13-14 November	Central Asian countries
Kazakhstan	Provided training on the use of ICT in collecting and analyzing the census information during the Training Workshop on Census Technology; Astana, 7 – 8 June	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the UN Administered Region of Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
	Provided advice to government officials in the framework of the Global Assessment of the Statistical System of Kazakhstan; Astana, 15-20 October, 14-19 December	Kazakhstan
Luxembourg	Presentation of the results of the UNECE Survey on Donor Activities in the Field of Statistics in Central Asia during the 9 th meeting of the EC/Eurostat Management Group on Statistical Cooperation; Luxembourg, 26-27 March	EECCA and SEE countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Provided advice through a presentation on the dissemination of statistical information and its use in evidence-based decision making process during the Conference “MakInfo – Challenges, Opportunities, Next Steps”; Skopje, 27 September	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Moldova	Provided advice to government officials on the dissemination of statistical information and statistical databases development; Chisinau, 21 – 25 May	Moldova
Portugal	(a) Made a presentation during the biannual Conference on Statistics, organized by the International Statistical Institute; (b) Held consultations with representatives of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and PARIS21 on future joint capacity building activities; Lisbon, 24 – 29 August	EECCA countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
Russian Federation	Provided advice through a presentation during the meeting of the Coordination Committee on the Preparations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses; Moscow, 12-13 April	CIS member states
Slovenia	Provided advice to government officials on the dissemination of statistical information; Ljubljana, 29 – 30 October	Slovenia
Spain	Made a presentation on the development of a Reporting System on Donor Activities in the Field of Statistics during the Meeting of the Coordination Committee on Statistical Activities; Madrid, 9 – 11 September	
Tajikistan	Provided training on the preparation for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses during the Training Workshop on Census Questionnaire Design; Dushanbe, 12 – 16 March	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
Turkey	Provided advice to government officials on the census preparation activities and dissemination of statistical information; Ankara, 19-20 March	Turkey
Turkmenistan	(a) Provided training on census preparation activities during UNECE-UNFPA Training Workshop; (b) Provided advisory services to UNFPA office in Turkmenistan on the marketing and dissemination practices; Ashgabat, 30 April -11 May	Turkmenistan
Trade		
Austria	Consultations on future capacity building activities in the area of trade facilitation (Single Window and e-business) during the meeting of the eSEE initiative of the Stability Pact for SEE; Vienna, 30-31 January	SEE and countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
Belgium	Consultations with the EC and the World Customs Organisation on future joint capacity building activities in the area of international standards for data exchange and Single Window systems; Brussels, 8 June	SEE and EECCA countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Provided advice through a presentation on trade data element harmonization in SEE during the 24 th meeting of the Stability pact Working Group on Trade Liberalization and Facilitation; Sarajevo, 17-18 July	SEE countries

	Provided advice during the SEE Ministerial Meeting on the Information Society through a presentation on the guidelines for an e-business strategy in the eAgenda+ and the UNECE initiative for data harmonization in SEE; Sarajevo, 29-30 October	SEE countries
Bulgaria	Consultations with representatives of the government and international organisations on future ECE projects/activities in SEE; Bansko, Sofia, 13-14 and 17 December	SEE countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
Germany	Consultations with government representatives on the preparation for the SPECA Conference, Governing Council, and PWG on Trade meetings; Berlin, 28 September	SPECA countries (beneficiaries of the planned activities)
	Provided advice and training during the 2 nd session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Trade, organised by the Regional Adviser; Berlin, 12-14 November	SPECA countries
Georgia	Provided advice to government officials through a presentation of the Single Window concept and initiatives on trade data element harmonization in countries with economies in transition neighbouring the EU; Tbilisi, 13-16 May	Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan
Greece	Provided advice through a presentation on the strengthening of national trade and transport facilitation bodies during meetings of SECIPRO and the Business Advisory Council for SEE; Thessaloniki, 5 December	SEE countries
Kazakhstan	(i) Provided training in trade facilitation during the Seminar “Integrated Approach to Trade Facilitation and PPPs in Central Asia”; (ii) Provided advice on the planning and implementation of the 5 th tranche UNDA project on trade facilitation in Central Asia; Almaty, 24-28 June	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
	Provided training in the implementation of the SAD and data harmonization to senior government officials during the 2 nd UNECE-EurAsEC Conference on trade facilitation; Almaty, 14-17 October	Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Kyrgyzstan	Provided training during a seminar on trade facilitation organised by the Regional Adviser; Bishkek, 20-23 March	Kyrgyzstan
	Provided advice to government officials and made a presentation on the implementation of UNECE trade standards and recommendations during a seminar on the Single Window in Kyrgyzstan; Bishkek, 20 September	Kyrgyzstan

Lithuania	Provided advice through a presentation on trade data element harmonization during the conference “Single Window: Opening gate to trade facilitation”; Vilnius, 25-27 March	Belarus, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, Russian Federation
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Provided advice through a presentation on the data harmonization and Single Window initiative in SEE during an e-Governance Workshop; Skopje, 25-26 September	SEE countries
Serbia	Provided advice on trade data harmonization through a presentation during a meeting of SECIPRO; Belgrade, 11-12 June	SEE countries
	Provided training on data harmonization and building the environment for Single Window in SEE during the 2 nd regional SEE conference on data harmonization and Single Window, co-organised by the Regional Adviser and the host country; Belgrade, 20-21 November	SEE countries, and Azerbaijan
Ukraine	Provided advice through a presentation on trade facilitation instruments, Single Window, and national trade and transport facilitation bodies during the OSCE-UNECE regional seminar on border crossing facilitation; Kiev, 18-19 December	Ukraine and other EECCA countries
Uzbekistan	Provided advice to senior government officials on establishing a national trade facilitation body in Uzbekistan; Tashkent, 15-18 January	Uzbekistan
Transport ^{*1}		
Belarus	Provided advice through presentations on the Euro-Asian transport linkages (EATL) project, the main UNECE transport and trade facilitation legal instruments and their implementation during the National Workshop on Enhancing National Capacity for the Facilitation of Interregional Transport along Euro-Asian Transport Links; Minsk, 30-31 May	Belarus
Egypt	Provided advice through presentations on the transport networks and initiatives in the ECE region during the interregional Seminar on the Economic Assessment of International Transport Linkages and on Transport Facilitation; Cairo, 26-28 June	13 countries from the ECA and ESCWA regions
Kazakhstan	Provided advice through a presentation on the development of pan-European and Euro-Asian transport during the 6th Annual Conference of the IGC TRACECA; Astana, 12-13 December	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Ukraine
Moldova	Provided advice through presentations on the EATL project, the TEM and TER Projects and major UNECE transport-facilitating conventions during the National Workshop on Enhancing Capacity for Facilitation of Interregional Transport; Chisinau, 6-7 November	Moldova
Poland	Provided advice through a presentation on the progress and main results of the EATL project during the 17th Polish Economic Forum and the panel on “The Eurasian Silk Road - a corridor connecting China with Europe”; Krynica-Zdroj , 5-8 September	Central and Eastern European countries

Serbia	Provided advice through a presentation on the progress and recent developments of the EATL project and the TEM and TER master plans during the meeting of BSEC Working Group on Transport; Belgrade, 12-13 March	BSEC member countries
Spain	Provided advice through presentations on the role of seaports as major nodal points for international transport and supply chains during the first Interregional Workshop on Interregional Transport Linkages, Barcelona, 4-5 October	11 countries from the ECA and ECE regions
Tajikistan	Provided advice through presentations on the progress of the EATL project, as well as on the implementation of TIR and Harmonization Conventions in the SPECA region and the accession of SPECA countries to key UNECE legal instruments in the field of transport during the 12 th session of the SPECA PWG-TBC, Dushanbe, 13-14 March	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
Turkey	Provided advice through presentations focused on the review of the selected Euro-Asian routes for priority development during the meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport & Meeting of Ministers of Transport of BSEC Member States; Istanbul, 3-5 July	BSEC member states
U.A.E.	Provided advice through presentations on “lessons learnt, best practices and suggestions for the future” of the EATL project, the identified Euro-Asian transport networks and the results of the prioritization exercise along the Euro-Asian routes during the Seminar on the Interregional Transport Linkages, Abu Dhabi, 23-25 October	19 countries from the ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA and ECA regions
Ukraine	Provided advice through presentations on the progress of the EATL project, the TEM and TER Projects, and major UNECE transport-facilitating conventions during the national Workshop on Enhancing Capacity for Facilitation of Interregional Transport, Kyiv, 17-18 December.	Ukraine

*1 As the Regional Adviser position in Transport was vacant for most of the year, the 2007 regional advisory activities in Transport were carried out by regular staff of the Transport Division.

Acronyms

EECCA: Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).

EurAsEC: Eurasian Economic Community (member states - Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

SEE: South-East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey).

SPECA: UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (member countries - Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

Expenditures under the UNECE general and local technical cooperation trust funds, and other sources of funding for operational activities

Final Expenditures as at 31 December 2007¹

General Trust Funds

Sub-programme	Title of Trust Fund, Fund code and date established	Expenditures in US\$	
		2006	2007
1. Environment	"Environment for Europe", EIA, 19 November 1993	330,546	456,141
	EMEP Sub-account "Mobile Sources of Air Pollution", LPA, 19 January 1988	16,769	15,167
	Financing of the Implementation of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (EMEP), LRA, 11 November 1981	2,162,546	2,142,400
	EMEP Sub-account "Voluntary Contributions towards Funding of Effect-Oriented Activities under the Convention", LUA, 25 July 1997	456,290	713,265
5. Sustainable energy	Energy Efficiency 21 Project, EEA, 17 January 1991	46,559	3,892
6. Trade	Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), EAA, 12 February 1990	44,748	29,154
7. Timber and forestry	Long-Term Timber Trends and Prospects, LTA, 1 March 1991	30,706	92,939
8. Housing, land management and population	Human Settlements, EHA, 1 July 1975	103,605	58,589
	Supporting UNECE Regional Conferences and meetings, including for Global Conference, GFA, 22 November 1994	3,527	10,437
Office of the Executive Secretary	Follow-Up Activities of the Fourth World Conference on Women, WWA, 19 July 1999	0	9,550
	Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) ² , MEA, 25 September 1992	198,268	48,377
Total		3,393,564	3,579,911

Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds

Sub-programme	Title of Trust Fund, Fund code and date established	Expenditures in US\$	
		2006	2007
1. Environment	Environmental Performance Review Programme, EIC-E102, 1 December 2000	72,242	102,794
	Aarhus Convention Project, ECE-E104, 1 May 2001	608,682	846,844
	Industrial Accidents Convention Project, ECE-E106, 1 July 2001	223,305	290,301
	Promotion and implementation of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, ECE-E112, 1 January 2002	89,044	85,161
	ESPOO Convention, ECE-E115, 9 July 2002	179,704	264,262
	Environmental Monitoring, ECE-E118, 9 July 2002	190,641	73,463

	Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), ECE-E126, 1 January 2003	99,016	13,757
	Water Convention Project, ECE-E133, 1 April 2003 - 31 December 2006	181,769	334,854
	Inquiry Procedure Project under ESPOO Convention, ECE-E137, 14 February 2005 - 31 December 2005	148,033	9,145
	Generations and Gender Programme, E147, 1 January 2007	0	109,601
	Committee on Environmental Policy, E148, 1 January 2007	0	6,032
2. Transport	Monitoring of Radiologically-Contaminated Scrap Metal, ECE-E127, 13 January 2004 - 31 December 2007	111,700	40,276
	Trans-European Motorway (TEM) Master Plan Project, ZMB (E129), 9 September 2003	-1,754 ³	0
	Follow-up to General Assembly Resolution 58/289 of 14 April 2004 on improving Global Road Safety, ECE-E135 1 August 2004 - 31 December 2006	3,707	229,528
	Facilitation of participation of Central Asian and Caucasus Countries in the meetings of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and selected subsidiary bodies, ECE-E136 17 August 2004 - 31 December 2006	9,084	10,192
	Introduction of Digital Tachograph in non-EU countries, ECE-E142 12 July 2005 – 31 December 2006.	44,440	892
	Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM), ZMB (F101), 28 February 1992	95,946	117,772
	Trans-European Railway (TER), ZDB (F103), 23 April 1993	133,845	29,476
	Transport International Routier (TIR) (TIRBEX), ZLB (F116), 15 November 1998	770,371	952,193
	Inter-Regional Seminar on the Application of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in Countries in Transition, ECE-E110, 15 October 2001	-1,693 ³	0
3. Statistics	Capacity Building Program on Engendering National Statistical Systems for a Knowledge-Based Policy Formulation in CIS and SEE countries, E145, 1 July 2006	0	301,328
	Technical assistance to the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South Eastern Europe for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, E152, 18 September 2007	0	3,173
4. Economic cooperation and integration	Industry Structural Change and Development, ZVB-F104	145,194	145,757
	Improving Trade Finance and Investment for the Russian Timber Sector, ZKB (F106), 28 May 1996	44,672	26,846
	The UNECE Post-Transition Economic Policy Forum, ECE-E140, 1 February 2005-31 December 2006	13,221	0

5. Sustainable energy	Energy Security Forum, ECE-E124, 1 July 2004 - 31 December 2007	70,025	17,819
	Commission on Legal Empowerment for the Poor, ECE-E139, 22 February 2005 - 30 September 2007.	296,638	163,168
	Development of Coal Mine Methane Project in Central and Eastern Europe and CIS, ECE-E141, 1 April 2005 -31 December 2008	103,189	-11,637 ³
	Promotion and Development of a Market-Based Gas Industry in Economies in Transition (Gas Centre), EZB (F105), 15 Jul 1994	532,937	549,467
6. Trade	UNeDocs: Development of United Nations Electronic Forms for Trade Documents, ECE-E108, 2 August 2001	14,642	6,156
	International Forum on Trade Facilitation and Follow-Up, ECE-E111, 13 March 2002	7,019	90
	Training Regulators from South-East Europe and countries within the Stability Pact in using good practices in the preparation and implementation of technical regulations, ECE-E130, 15 October 2003 - 31 March 2005	381	-739 ³
8. Housing, land management and population	PAU: Microdata Census Samples, ZCB (F102), 1 November 1993	6,719	50,771
	Real Estate Advisory Project (REAP), ECE-E117, 15 July 2002	20,164	-5,948 ³
Office of the Executive Secretary	Regional Symposium on Mainstreaming Gender into Economic Policies, ECE-E132, 1 November 2003- 31 December 2004	0	1,982
Technical Cooperation Unit	Governance Systems for Environmental Protection in the South Caucasus, ECE-E109, 12 July 2002	1,928	-1,493 ³
Total		4,211,986	4,761,603

Other Sources of Funding for Operational Activities

Sub-programme	Title of Trust Fund, Fund code and date established	Expenditures in US\$	
		2006	2007
3. Statistics	Gender statistics workshop and training (UNFPA Project), ZIB-E138, 8 October 2004-31 March 2005	13,126	39,035
	Building Capacity and Statistical Literacy for MDG Monitoring, (UNDP Project) EBB-E143, 31 January 2006 – 31 December 2007.	91,342	63,385
5. Sustainable energy	Financing Energy Efficiency Investments - Climate Change Mitigation (UNFIP Project), QGA (A144-ECE-INT-04-318), 01 November 2006 - 31 December 2010	0	152,357
Total		104,468	254,777

¹ Inclusive of programme support costs.

² Trust Fund used to facilitate travel of participants and experts from countries with economies in transition to workshops, seminars and meetings organized under all substantive sub-programmes implemented by UNECE.

³ Refund of overestimates in a previous year.
