

## Project Concept Note

### Follow-up meeting of the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum

Ashgabat, 2011

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Measuring transport performance in SPECA countries based on a new UNECE developed methodology.</b>	
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>The pilot trials of the new measurement methodology by the UNECE will provide valuable information on the quality of the methodology and the necessary adjustments needed. SPECA countries will receive a first assessment of the quality of their transport services.</b>	
<b>Indicative Funding Requirements</b>	Total estimated budget:	150,000 US\$
<b>Potential Sources of Funding</b>	[Donor(s): [Development Bank(s)]: Other Resources:	IFIs like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
<b>Expected start date</b>	November 2011	
<b>Expected Duration</b>	12 months	
<b>Implementing Organisation(s)</b>	UNECE,	
<b>Country/Countries</b>	All SPECA countries	
<b>Submitted by</b>	UNECE Transport	
<b>Contact information</b>	Name: Miodrag Pesut Tel: +41 22 917 4136 Fax: +41 22 917 0039 Email: Miodrag.Pesut@unece.org Mailing Address: UNECE, Palais des Nations, Geneva	

## 1 Background

It is often taken for granted that transport plays an important role for national competitiveness. There is solid academic evidence that transport infrastructure investments promote economic development. However, both in academic and non-academic literature there is a missing consensus on how to measure the performance of transport systems. Moreover, there is a tendency that transport is measured by its traditional features which may not be sufficient to account for the modern role of transport. There is therefore a need to develop a systematic approach for measuring the performance of transport systems. It should be noted that there currently exists many assessment methods related to transport, but many of these lack transparency and a systematic foundation.

The UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) approved the proposal by the UNECE Transport Division secretariat to launch this project at its twenty-first session in September 2008. The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) confirmed this decision at its seventy-first session in February 2009. The project outline was discussed at the twenty-second meeting of WP. 5 in September 2009. The first step in the proposed outline of the project was a Round Table which the secretariat organized in December 2009. Following the feedback from the Round Table, the secretariat proposed a new time-line for the project which was approved by WP.5 at its twenty-third session in September 2010. According to this time-line the next step was the development of an audit report on the existing methodologies. At the seventy-third session of ITC the

audit report was presented and it was decided to establish a task-force to support the UNECE Transport Division secretariat in developing a new methodology.

A prototype version of the methodology is expected to be available in autumn 2011. An important step in the development of this methodology is the pilot-testing which will give valuable information on the quality of the methodology and how it should be adjusted.

## 2 Justification

The developed methodology should be globally available and be useful for all countries independent of economic development and geographic characteristics. The results should be meaningful and provide valuable information for policy makers and relevant stakeholders, both nationally and internationally.

The SPECA countries are perfectly suitable for trial-testing of this new methodology. The demographic and geographic characteristics are representative for a wide range of countries.

## 3 Expected Output(s)

The pilot-testing will involve a benchmark of the SPECA countries transport services performance. Workshops and information material on using and understanding this new tool.

### Project outputs:

- A publication with clear descriptions of the methodology.
- A publication explaining the results of the assessment of SPECA countries transport service performance.
- Workshops in understanding and use of the methodology.
- Survey on experiences with the new methodology.

## 4 Proposed Approach & Strategy, including Capacity Development Response

Once the development of a new methodology for assessing the performance of transport systems has been completed, the quality of these new instruments will be assessed on a selected number of countries. This is expected to take place in November 2011. Once the calculations have been carried out, clear and easily understandable information material on the methodology will be developed. This information material as well as the first preliminary results should be distributed among relevant stakeholders in the SPECA countries.

After the information material has been circulated, the UNECE Transport Division secretariat will carry out a number of workshops and training sessions that explains the objective, the methodology and the results. It will also assist policy makers and other relevant stakeholders in understanding the methodology and using the tools through advisory missions on request.

Finally the UNECE Transport Division will carry out a survey among the users of the methodology to gain information on how and where the methodology should improve.

## 5 Work Plan

PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				PLANNED BUDGET
	November 2011	December 2011	March 2012	May 2012	Amount (USD)
1. Activity: Publish documentation on methodology for SPECA countries	X				30 000
2. Activity: Publish material on understanding and using the results of the new methodology.	X				
3. Activity: Workshop on the use and interpretation of the new methodology and/or advisory missions to the countries to raise awareness and inform them on their inputs and expected outcome.		X	X		100 000
4. Activity: Survey among stakeholders on the quality of the new methodology.				X	20 000
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>150 000</b>