



2008-2009 Work Plan

(Ongoing, planned and possible UNECE and UNESCAP activities in support of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA))

WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

In light of a large degree of interdependence of most of the SPECA member countries, efficient use of water and energy resources on mutually agreed and beneficial terms is critical for economic and social development in the region and meeting basic human needs of its populations. The theme of Water and Energy was among the initial work areas of SPECA and was addressed through the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources. This work resulted in the elaboration of the Strategy for the Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia.

The Governing Council, which met in May 2006 in Baku, decided that the proposals for a coordinated SPECA energy and the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation be submitted to the Project Working Group (PWG) on Water and Energy Resources for consideration and reporting to the next Coordinating Committee. The SPECA Coordinating Committee met in December 2006 in Dushanbe, following the PWG, which reviewed the two proposals extensively and recommended the approval of those projects. The SPECA Coordinating Committee subsequently endorsed the recommendations of the PWG. Further it approved the recommendations of the PWG on strengthening dam safety.

Integrating environmental concerns into key economic sectors is a key condition for sustainable development and ensuring the well-being of people in the SPECA region, which currently faces a range of environmental problems some of which are trans-boundary in nature. These include such problems as air pollution, wastes including hazardous wastes, land degradation and desertification, fragile ecosystems, management of water resources in the subregion, and the problem of the Aral Sea, among others. The Central Asian countries require active support and technical assistance from the international community to enable to effectively address these problems and to ratify and implement relevant international legal instruments, such as the UNECE Environmental Conventions. Implementation of such Conventions would need considerable effort in the promoting environmental, water and energy cooperation between the countries in Central Asia.

The proposals endorsed by the SPECA Coordinating Committee will contribute towards enhanced energy security of the SPECA region, as well as shifting towards a sustainable development path.

In 2008-2009, the following projects and activities are envisaged:

WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities.		
Central Asia Regional Water Information Base (CAREWIB) Project	2005-2009	US\$ 274,200 plus in-kind contributions from partners in the first phase – 2007, US\$ 630,000 plus in-kind contributions from partners in the second phase 2007-2009
Dam safety in Central Asia: capacity-building and subregional cooperation	2005-2009	Pilot phase in 2006 60,000 EURO. Funding for a 3-year phase is being raised. Estimated budget 300,000 EURO
Second project phase “Development of Cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers” (with OSCE)	2007-2009	Funding partly available, funding gap for 2008-2009 100,000 EURO
Water quality in Central Asia (with UNDP and others)	2008-2009	Funding from UN Development Account (USD 443,000)
Elaboration of a feasibility study on establishing International Water and Energy Consortium for Central Asia	2008-	Funding is being raised. Estimated budget – US\$ 260,000
Environmental impact assessment in a trans-boundary context: implementation of pilot project for Central Asia	2006-2008	Funding from the Government of Norway, 100,000 EURO
Financing energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation (in cooperation with UNDP, EBRD)	2007-2014	Kazakhstan is the only SPECA country fully allegeable to participate: other SPECA member countries will be invited to training workshops and policy seminars as an outreach activity
Policy advisory services in the areas of energy efficiency, as well as implementation of UNECE Environmental Conventions	Upon request	UN Regular Budget (RPTC)
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/UNESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above.		
Coordinated SPECA Energy System	2008-2012	Funding is being raised. Estimated budget US\$500,000

Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation	2008-2012	Funding is being raised. Estimated budget US\$ 500,000
Capacity-building for improving energy efficiency and energy conservation in the SPECA member countries through management, networking and partnerships		Estimated budget US\$ 380,000 (to be integrated into the proposal on Baku Initiative)
Trans-boundary power exchange in the SPECA region		Estimated budget US\$ 320,000 (to be integrated into the proposal of Coordinated SPECA Energy System)
Trans-Asian Energy System	2008	Estimated budget US\$ 100,000 per annum
Wind energy resources assessment and technology demonstration	2008	Estimated budget US\$ 300,000
English-Russian dictionary on trans-boundary water management	2008	Estimated budget US\$ 80,000

TRANSPORT

Development of transport linkages is recognized as a priority for subregional cooperation for the SPECA member countries. As noted in the Almaty Programme of Action for Transit Transport Cooperation, the improvement of international transit transport infrastructure and services will help them overcome some of the challenges they face as landlocked countries and facilitate their integration into the world economy. The Ministerial Conference on Transport held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2006 also recognized the special needs of landlocked developing countries and noted some examples of the close collaboration that existed between landlocked and neighbouring transit countries, including joint implementation of transport projects. The Conference noted that transport integration between countries with similar interests could be promoted through a corridor-based approach that could address weaknesses in the transport chain and make them more efficient and requested the secretariat to conduct such studies in the period from 2007 and 2011.

The 12th session of the SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on Transport and Border Crossing held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 13-14 March 2007 adopted its Programme of Work for 2008-2009, including: (1) organization of regular sessions of SPECA PWG on Transport; (2) bilateral consultations on border-crossing issues between SPECA member countries; (3) development and implementation of subregional project proposals of common interest to SPECA countries; (4) establishment and maintenance of SPECA Transport databases; (5) preparation of the SPECA Guide on road wayside facilities; (6) identification and isolation of major bottlenecks impeding smooth and efficient international transport in the SPECA region; (7) establishment or strengthening of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms for improved collaboration between all stakeholders involved in international transport from the public and private sectors; (8) enhancement of legal frameworks for international transport to reflect suitable legal regimes for international land transport facilitation; (9) accession to multilateral agreements on infrastructure including AGR, AGC, AGTC, Intergovernmental agreements on Asian Highway and Trans-Asian

Railway Networks to prioritize infrastructure development of international importance; (10) promotion of demonstration runs of container block-trains and international train services operating in the SPECA region; (11) increased collaboration and interactions at the regional and national level to address transport issues in and across the SPECA region and to promote investment in transport infrastructure; (12) simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures and documentation for international transport and the application of new technologies, including information and communication technology; (13) increased awareness and understanding of road safety issues and potential interventions, and improved collaboration in the SPECA region. In 2008-2009, the following projects and activities are envisaged:

TRANSPORT		
Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities		
Technical assistance to development of the intergovernmental Agreement of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member States on facilitation of international road transport	2005-2009	US\$ 630,000 (US\$ 500,000 from ADB and US\$ 130,000 from UNESCAP)
Promotion of demonstration runs of container block trains and international train services operating in the SPECA region (in collaboration with OSJD and UIC)	2001-2009	US\$ 100,000
Assistance to SPECA member countries in acceding to multilateral agreements on infrastructure including AGR, AGC, AGTC, IGA on AH and IGA on TAR to prioritize infrastructure development of international importance	2008-2009	US\$ 100,000
Operationalization of international intermodal transport corridors to and from SPECA countries	2008-2009	US\$ 200,000
Promotion of investment and strengthening of PPP for the development and upgrading the AH and TAR networks, including those networks within the SPECA region and those linking to neighbouring countries.	2008-2009	US\$ 100,000
Policy advisory services to the interested SPECA member countries to implement UNECE transport-related conventions, standards and regulations	Upon request	UN Regular Budget (RPTC)
Joint project on developing Euro-Asian transport links (phase II)	2008-2011	US\$ 610,000 Funding is being raised
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/UNESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above.		
Assistance to the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border-Crossing (PWG on Transport)	2008-2009	Estimated budget US\$ 60,000

Capacity-building in developing transit transport cooperation of landlocked and transit developing countries in Central Asia	2006-2009	Estimated budget US\$ 750,000
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TRADE DEVELOPMENT

The 1st session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Trade (PWG on Trade) was held on 14 December 2006 in Dushanbe. The PWG finalized its Terms of Reference and endorsed its Work Plan. The PWG deliberated on issues related to trade policy issues, in particular on implementation and harmonization of free trade agreements and heard presentations on ESCAP Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database (APTAD) and the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and on advantages of reinforcing a subregional market by UNECE. It also discussed a project on accession to WTO and implementation of WTO commitments, notably, UNECE technical assistance to WTO negotiators from the SPECA member countries on trade facilitation, and networking of trade research institutions, in particular with reference to ARTNeT and SNERI. The 2nd session of the PWG on Trade will be held on 12 November 2007 at the Ministry of Economics and Technology of Germany in Berlin. At its 2nd session, the Project Working Group will review progress made since its 1st session and discuss the way forward.

The PWG, at its 1st session, also discussed trade facilitation issues and ongoing projects and activities by UNESCAP and UNECE. A project on trade facilitation for the SPECA member countries, financed by the Fifth Tranche of the UN Development Account, was successfully launched at a seminar in Almaty in June 2007, organized in close cooperation with EurAsEC and various donor agencies in Central Asia. The PWG will support the implementation of UNECE norms, standards and tools for trade and transport, undertaken under this UNDA project. UNECE and UNESCAP provided assistance to the countries on the implementation of UNECE and UNCEFACT Trade Facilitation Recommendation 4 on National Trade and Transport Facilitation Bodies. In addition, a project on support for agricultural exports from Central Asian countries by UNECE was launched. The PWG was further informed of UNESCAP projects on subnational innovation systems and supply-side capacity-building for the SPECA member countries. Finally, interagency coordination mechanisms were discussed. Statements were made by ADB, ECO and ITC. ADB in particular warned against possible duplication of the work of the PWG and CAREC programme in trade and stressed that synergies between the two Programmes should be worked out.

TRADE DEVELOPMENT*

Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities		
Capacity-building in support of trade integration with emphasis on integrated trade information flow management and trade facilitation in the SPECA region	2006-2010	US\$ 385,000 from UNDA (5 th Tranche) starting from 2006

Support for a Project Working Group on Trade in Central Asia, which is aimed at providing political support for trade-related projects in the SPECA member countries. The first meeting was organized in Dushanbe in December 2006, and the second one will take place in Berlin in November 2007	2006-2010	US\$ 44,000 (part of the above US\$ 385,000)
Enhancing trade competitiveness of least developed countries, countries in transition, and transit countries through the implementation of single window facilities	2008-2009	US\$ 763,000 (UNDA 6 th Tranche)
Enhancing the integration of landlocked developing countries into the global and regional economies	2008	US\$ 194,925 expected from Kazakhstan (to be initiated in 2007)
Building the capacity of the SPECA member countries in their accession to WTO, post-accession negotiations and implementation of WTO agreements and commitments, as well as establishment of an informal WTO Forum within SPECA	2008-2009	US\$ 800,000 per year. Funding is being raised.
Policy advisory services to the interested SPECA member countries to implement international trade-related standards, recommendations and regulations	Upon request	UN Regular Budget (RPTC)
Assistance to the EurAsEc countries in improving the quality of their agricultural produce and developing exports in this area, the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, its four specialized sections and the secretariat work to involve their partners in Central Asia in the development and promotion of UNECE commercial agricultural quality standards		US\$ 125,000 from UNDA (6 th Tranche) starting from 2008
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/UNESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above.		
Promotion of regional trade integration through regulatory and standardization convergence	2008	Estimated budget US\$ 300,000
Harmonization of trade and transport documents and documentary procedures in the SPECA member countries: integrating the management of trade information flows	2008	Estimated budget US\$ 600,000
UNECE-EurAsEC initiative on data harmonization (first seminar took place in Moscow, in October 2006, with financing from the 4 th Tranche of the UN Development Account (www.unece.org/trade/workshop/moscow_oct06/welcome.htm) and the second - in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 15-16 November 2007	2006-2008	US\$ 14,000 multi-donor

Expansion of APTA Membership to selected SPECA member countries	2008-2009	Estimated budget US\$ 10,000. Funding expected from ROK
SPECA Forum on Trade, Investment and Business Development	2008-2013	Estimated budget: US\$ 5 million (multi-donor)
Asia-Pacific Forum for Efficient Trade	2008	Estimated budget: US\$ 100,000 launching costs
Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan have received technical assistance, notably, training courses on the implementation of trade facilitation standards and instruments in the Central Asian countries, Prague and Geneva. Assistance to countries in Central Asia for the establishment of national trade and transport facilitation bodies and implementing international tools for trade facilitation and electronic business, notably through the UNECE-Czech Republic technical assistance project. Beneficiary countries: Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.	Continuous	UNECE-Czech Republic joint technical assistance project. US\$ 50,000 per year

* Projects and activities in the area of Trade will be carried out in coordination with activities in the area of Transport.

STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING

There is a strong need for monitoring economic and social change in the SPECA member countries and to assess progress achieved in integration and cooperation efforts. To this end, countries will have to produce reliable and timely statistical data on a wide range of economic and social areas, with special emphasis on indicators related to the Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs). Reliable and timely statistical data is also of great importance to raise the level of foreign investments to the SPECA member countries and for receiving funding from international financial institutions. Since more than a decade, national authorities and the international community have devoted significant efforts to statistical capacity-building in the SPECA member countries. However, there is still progress to be made, and both UNECE and UNESCAP are planning to develop a programme of work in cooperation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the CIS Interstate Statistical Committee.

There will be further collaboration between UNECE and UNESCAP in their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in producing health statistics, including disability statistics, among Central Asian countries. A Training Workshop on Disability Statistics for SPECA member countries was organized by UNECE in Bishkek in December 2006. A Training Workshop on the Implementation of Regional and International Standards in Measuring the Health State of the Population will be organized by UNECE for Central Asian countries in Tashkent (tentative venue) in February 2008. The UNDA project on disability statistics led by the Statistics Division of UNESCAP will include as least one SPECA country in the pilot study and, to the extent possible, include other countries in the planned regional workshops.

In April 2008, a second Training Workshop on Non-Observed Economy for the SPECA member countries will be organized in Geneva, providing also a possibility for Central Asian participants to participate in the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting on National Accounts in the end of the same week. UNESCAP, United Nations Statistics Division, and the ECO Secretariat will jointly organize the Workshop on Economic Statistics and Informal Sector on 10-13 November 2007 for ECO member States (all SPECA countries are also members of ECO). The workshop will cover the following topics: Overview of the update of the SNA; Integrated Economic Statistics; Data Collection Programme on Business Statistics; and Measurement of the Informal Sector.

The Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) will continue providing statistical training to statisticians from the SPECA member countries. Six participants from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are currently taking part in the 2-month Area Focused Training Course (with translation in Russian) in Collection and Analysis of Official Economic Statistics for Central Asian Countries in Chiba, Japan, which began on 17 July and will end on 14 September 2007. In addition, another eighteen participants from the SPECA member countries; including three participants from Afghanistan have attended various SIAP courses/workshops during 2007. The 2-month Area Focused Training Course (with translation in Russian) in Collection and Analysis of Official Economic Statistics for Central Asian Countries will be conducted again in Chiba from July-September 2008 and from July-September 2009. About the same number of participants will be trained annually in the coming two years as during this year, 2007.

STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING		
Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities		
Strengthening the statistical capacity of the countries of Central Asia to produce indicators for the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, The UNECE led project focuses on capacity-building in the fields of: - Population and Housing Censuses of the 2010 Round; - Measurement of the Health State of the population; and - Measurement of the Non-Observed Economy. The Project plan also envisages a number of advisory missions to take place on the themes mentioned in the years 2007-2008 as well as a project evaluation in 2008-2009.	2006-2009	US\$ 385,000 from UNDA starting from 2006
The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the United Nations Statistics Division and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) are planning to jointly organize a three-day workshop covering Economic Statistics and Measurement of the Informal	2006-2007	

<p>Sector on either 23-25 October 2007 or 13-15 November 2007.</p> <p>The workshop will cover the following 4 topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the update of the 1993 SNA; • Integrated economic statistics; • Data collection programme on business statistics; and • Measurement of the Informal Sector. <p>The workshop participants will come from all ten ECO countries, including the six SPECA countries Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.</p>		
<p>A number of SPECA countries will be invited to a regional workshop on measurement of informal sector and informal employment and implementation of best practices and methodologies for measuring informal sector's contribution to the GDP.</p>	2008-2009	Development Account Project 0607A entitled Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment with a budget of US\$ 800,000 which is currently being implemented
<p>Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme</p>	2007-2009	US\$ 628,000 from UNDA starting from 2007
<p>Global Assessments of the Statistical System in a number of Central Asian countries. First Central Asian country: Kazakhstan</p>	Upon request	UN Regular Budget (RPTC)
<p>Policy advisory services in different fields of statistics</p>	Upon request	UN Regular Budget (RPTC)
<p>Advisory services in different fields of statistics</p>	Upon request	UN Regular Budget (RPTC)

ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Information, communication and space technologies play a vital and growing role in economic and social development. This was reconfirmed in the outcomes of the Bishkek Conference on Information Society and Sub-Regional Cooperation on ICT for Development (November 2004), which considered the involvement of the SPECA members countries in the Asia-Pacific Regional Plan towards the Information Society and discussed ways and means of broadening the use of various ICT applications, taking into account experiences and ongoing work at the international level, in particular in the UNECE region.

The participants of the Bishkek Conference, apart from highlighting the role of ICT as a strong enabler of economic growth, underscored their commitment to fostering regional and interregional cooperation through the development of regional and subregional action plans, harmonization of

national legislation, and exchange of experiences and best practices. Several SPECA member countries proposed to establish a SPECA Working Group on ICT. Following the proposal, SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on ICT for Development was officially created in December 2005 at the inauguration session in Baku, with a co-chairperson from Azerbaijan. The PWG adopted the Terms of Reference and the Programme of Work for 2006-2007 at the session.

ICT development is a key condition for bridging the digital divide and can offer effective solutions to economic and social development, in particular in the remote and mountains regions of the SPECA member countries. It can also help to overcome some of the problems related to their landlocked status.

Azerbaijan came up with an initiative to establish, on the basis of one of its national institutions, a Specialized Regional Training and Research Centre on Public Regulation of Economy and E-Governance, which could be used for relevant capacity-building activities for policymakers on economy and ICT and practitioners from the SPECA member countries. Discussions are under way regarding possible financial support to this Centre from Switzerland, the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organization for the Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

UNECE organized a capacity-building seminar on ICT Policy and Legal Issues in Dushanbe in 2007, and UNESCAP will organize a capacity-building seminar on ICT policymaking in Baku in late 2007.

<i>ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT</i>		
Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in a mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities.		
Improving business opportunities through ICT access points	2008–2009	US\$ 200,000
Capacity-building on ICT Policymaking for legal reforms	2008–2009	US\$ 50,000
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/UNESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above.		
ICT Strategy, Policy and Regulatory Framework for Knowledge Economy Development in Central Asia	2008–2009	US\$ 200,000
ICT Infrastructure Development and Investment Requirement in Central Asia	2008–2009	US\$ 200,000
Mobile Economy Development in Central Asia	2008–2009	US\$ 200,000
Closing the gap in planning and implementation of e-government in Central Asia	2008–2009	US\$ 200,000
Development of e-Business Strategy for SMEs in Central Asia	2008–2009	US\$ 200,000

GENDER AND ECONOMY

Programme of work for 2007-2008 will include promoting gender-sensitive economic policies under the MDG framework through policy-oriented studies and building stronger linkages between gender equality and National Development Strategies, further work on gender indicator in economic area, establishment of a knowledge hub, and two international training workshops. The Programme of work for 2008-2009, fully funded by the UN Development Account (US\$ 200,000), is presented below. In the capacity-building area, two international training workshops will be conducted in 2008 where 60 people will be trained.

GENDER AND ECONOMY		
Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured. These activities would be implemented in a mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities.		
Mainstreaming Gender into Economic Development	2007-2008	US\$ 200,000 (UNDA)
Assessment of business environment in pilot countries (jointly implemented with International Labour Organization (ILO) in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)	2008	
Preparation of Manual on Gender Budgets (in cooperation with the Council of Europe)	2008	
Further work and preparation of recommendations on MDGs related indicators in gender and economy area	2008	
Establishment of a knowledge hub – a platform for interaction, advocacy and information sharing in the area of gender and economy	2008	
Final Report/Publication “Gender Gap, Economic Policies and MDGs in Central Asia”, based on stocktaking study, policy-oriented research and work on statistical indicators	2008	
Interregional workshop to share regional findings and to establish the linkages among regional knowledge hubs, organized by UNESCAP at the end of the UNDA Project	2008	
Capacity-building activities	2006-2008	US\$ 210,000. Funding from the Government of Israel
Two 14-day training workshops on support systems for women in small business and use of information and communication technologies (Haifa, Israel)	2006	US\$ 70,000

Two 14-day training workshops for women entrepreneurs (Haifa, Israel)	2007	US\$ 70,000
Two 14-day training workshops for women entrepreneurs (Haifa, Israel)	2008	US\$ 70,000
TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE	2006-2008	US\$ 410,000
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/UNESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above.		
Extending the assessment of business environment for women entrepreneurs based on the pilot countries for other SPECA member countries (Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan)	2008-2009	Estimated budget – US\$ 60,000
Pilot studies on gender budgets (municipality/region within the country)	2008-2009	Estimated budget – US\$ 40,000

OTHER AREAS OF WORK

In the 2006-2007 period, UNECE invited and provided financial support to participants from SPECA member countries in a number of capacity-building activities organized as part of the work programme of UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. This included:

Two meetings of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property (Geneva, 23-24 November 2006 and 27 July 2007);

International Conference on Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Transforming Research and Development Outputs into Intangible Assets in Economies in Transition (Geneva, 25-26 July 2007);

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (Geneva, 8-9 March 2007);

The Meeting of Experts on Financing for Innovative Development organized in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (Geneva, 3-4 May 2007);

International Conference on Knowledge Sharing and Capacity-Building on Promoting Successful Public-Private Partnerships in the UNECE Region, which included site visits to PPP projects, organized in cooperation with the Government of Israel (Tel Aviv, 5-8 June 2007); and

International Conference on “Reducing Barriers to Entrepreneurship and Encouraging Enterprise Development: Policy Options” (Geneva, 18-19 June 2007).

In light of growing interest from SPECA member countries in capacity-building activities in such areas, as (i) promoting innovation and innovative development; (ii) supporting knowledge-based competitiveness; (iii) financing innovative development; (iv) commercialization and protection of intellectual property (v) private-public partnerships, it is proposed to the SPECA Governing Council to broaden of the mandate of the Project Working Group on ICT for Development and transform it into the Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development (PWG on KBD) which could cover the issues referred to above along with matter related to ICT for development.

If the Governing Council agrees with the suggested course of action, the PWG on KBD could hold its first meeting in 2008 to agree on projects and activities to be included in its programme of work in addition to projects and activities on ICT for Development already included in this Work Plan for 2008-2009. The Governing Council could also invite UNECE and UNESCAP to prepare proposals on such projects and activities for consideration by the PWG at its first meeting.