



2010-2011 Work Plan
(Ongoing, planned and possible UNECE and ESCAP 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.

On-going projects contributing to the implementation of the SPECA Strategy as well as being part of the Work Programme of the UNECE Water Convention in the region include work on water information, dam safety, development of cooperation on the Chu and Talas rivers and water quality.

The Program “Trans-boundary Water Management in Central Asia” was launched in 2008 by the German government. A Programme component “Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management” will be implemented by the UNECE. The Programme component will be implemented in 2009-2011 and include work on regional institutions, international water legislation and regional Guidelines/Principles for water management as well as development of monitoring and information exchange.

On-going activities under the UNECE Sustainable Energy Work Programme in the region contributing to the implementation of the SPECA Strategy include work on renewable energy development, financing energy efficiency for climate change mitigation, energy efficiency market formation and support to energy efficiency capacity building.

The project “Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in the Russian Federation and in CIS Countries: Prospects for Interregional Cooperation” was launched by UNECE in 2008. The Project will be implemented in 2009-2010 and include work on increasing the capacity of national and regional experts as well as preparation of the strategy to promote an enhanced investment climate for renewable energy technologies in the region.

The project “Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies” will be launched by UNECE in 2010 in cooperation with ESCAP and UNDESA). The Project will be implemented in 2010-2011 and include work on increasing interregional cooperation to overcome existing barriers to the investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies in Central Asia.

The Governing Council, which met in May 2006 in Baku, decided that the proposals for a Coordinated SPECA Energy System 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.

Though funding is still being sought for the SPECA Coordinated Energy System, some progress has been made in developing and implementing the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation. In November 2008, the PWG on Water and Energy Resources noted the recommendations from a Workshop on Energy Efficiency Opportunities in Central Asia including SPECA countries. These recommendations were to develop a regional concept on energy efficiency, to facilitate the establishment of a network of energy efficiency centers in Central Asia, and to develop a project promoting sustainable building practices in the region.

In 2009, ESCAP initiated two projects which began addressing two of these recommendations and is seeking funding for initiating the third. Specifically, projects *Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America* and the *Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment* included a component on sustainable building design and an initial study is being undertaken in Tajikistan. The project *Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Support Energy Efficiency in Selected Asian Countries* focuses on three subregions in Asia, one of which is Central Asia. The purpose of this project is to strengthen institutional capacity and develop policy options to support the promotion of energy efficiency.

In 2010 – 2011, 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		
Central Asia Regional Water Information Base (CAREWIB) Project (in cooperation with UNEP)	2005-2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US\$ 630,000 plus in-kind contributions from partners in the second phase 2007-2010 (Government of Switzerland)
Dam safety in Central Asia: capacity-building and subregional cooperation	2005-2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US\$ 400,000 for 2008-2010 (Government of Finland)
Second project phase “Development of Cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers” (in cooperation with OSCE)	2008-2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US\$ 140,000 for 2008-2010 (Government of Finland)
Water quality in Central Asia (in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia and other Agencies)	2009-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US\$ 443,000 for 2008-2010 (UN Development)

		Account)
Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management	2009-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US\$ 1,800,000 for 2009-2011 (Government of Germany)
Renewable energy in Central Asia “Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in the Russian Federation and in CIS Countries: Prospects for Interregional Cooperation” project (UNECE)	2008-2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ US\$ 150,000 for 2008-2010 (Government of the Russian Federation)
<p>“Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies” project (UNECE in cooperation with ESCAP and UNDESA)</p> <p>Financing energy efficiency for climate change mitigation (in cooperation with UNDP, EBRD)</p>	<p>2009-2011</p> <p>2007-2014</p>	<p>US\$ 630,000 for 2010- 2011 (UN Development Account)</p> <p>Kazakhstan is the only SPECA country eligible to participate: other SPECA member countries will be invited to training workshops and policy seminars as an outreach activity</p>
<p>Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Support Energy Efficiency in Selected Asian Countries (KEMCO) - Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America (Development Account) - Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (Kitakyushu Initiative) 	2009 - 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KEMCO (US\$50,000 approximately for Central Asia) • Development Account (US\$74,000 for Central Asia and Mongolia) • Kitakyushu Initiative (US\$25,000 for Central Asia and Mongolia) • Funding

		sought from Russian Federation for implementation of activities in 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding sought from GEF, Russian Federation and other donors for implementation of activities beyond 2011
Possible projects/activities in areas where ESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners		
Coordinated SPECA Energy System	2010 - 2015	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$500,000
Trans-Asian Energy System	2010 - 2015	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$500,000
Wind energy resources assessment and technology demonstration	2010 - 2011	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$648,900
English-Russian dictionary on trans-boundary water management	2010	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$80,000
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners		
Network of national energy efficiency centres in Central Asia (ECE in cooperation with ECSAP and CAREC)	2010 - 2012	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$200,000

TRANSPORT

The annual sessions of the Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing serve as an effective cooperation mechanism to address the specific problems of transit transport from, in and through SPECA member countries. Improvement of international transit transport infrastructure and services, as recognized in the Almaty Programme of Action, will facilitate further integration of SPECA countries into the world economy. The ESCAP resolution 63/9 on Implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme, Phase I (2007-2011) reiterated its support for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for the benefit of landlocked and transit developing countries. It also recognized that transport cooperation between countries with similar interests could be promoted through the operationalization of priority transport corridors where physical infrastructure and non-

physical issues are addressed comprehensively and requested the secretariat to undertake a study which defines priority corridors and good practices that could be implemented on the corridors and proposes specific measures that lead to the effective development of those corridors.

The 14th session of the SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on Transport and Border Crossing held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 17-18 March 2009 adopted its Programme of Work 2010-2011, which includes: organization of regular sessions of SPECA PWG-TBC and bilateral consultations on border crossing issues between SPECA member states; implementation of sub-regional project proposals of common interest to SPECA countries and development of SPECA Transport databases, identification and isolation of bottlenecks, establishment / strengthening of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms, enhancement of legal frameworks for transport facilitation and accession to multilateral agreements, investment promotion, operationalization of transport corridors, simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures, incl. through ICT, and road safety issues.

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		
UNECE project on developing Euro-Asian Transport Links (Phase II)	2009-2012	US\$ 180,000
Operationalization of international intermodal transport corridors in North-East and Central Asia	2008-2010	US\$ 187,600
Development of dry ports to facilitate intermodal and transit transport along the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, and promotion of logistics in the ESCAP region	2009-2012	US\$ 270,000
Operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway Network in North-East and Central Asia	2009 - 2011	US\$ 160,000
Policy advisory services to the interested SPECA member countries on implementation of the Busan Declarations on Transport Development / Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific, and UNECE infrastructure and transport-related conventions, standards and regulations	Upon request	UN Regular budget (RPTC)
Achieving road safety goals and targets for Asia and the Pacific: Decade of Action for Road Safety (2010-2020)	2009 - 2010	US\$ 150,000
Capacity building on road safety targets, including one peer review	2009-2011	US\$ 150,000
First meeting of the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway network and 1st session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport	2009 - 2010	US\$ 80,000
Assistance to SPECA Project Working	2010-2011	Estimated Budget

Group on Transport and Border Crossing		US\$ 60,000
Capacity-building in developing transit transport cooperation of landlocked and transit developing countries in Central Asia	2010-2011	Estimated Budget US\$ 200,000

TRADE DEVELOPMENT

The third session of the SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on Trade took place on 6 November 2008 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan participated by representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as representatives from ESCAP and UNECE, ADB, CAREC and the Deputy Secretary General of ECO.

Activities during 2007-2009 under the Work Plan have focused on projects for which funding is available or possible: (1) trade facilitation (5th and 6th tranche UNDA projects); (2) capacity building for agricultural product standards; (3) regional cooperation on WTO accession and regional trade agreements (RTAs), such as the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement; supply side capacity building, and other activities. The PWG emphasized the importance of creating synergies with other projects and agencies working in trade such as USAID and GTZ, and to strengthen the various projects under consideration, including in the area of standards and capacity building for export diversification.

In guiding the formulation of the Work Plan 2010-2011, the recommendations of the PWG with regard to Aid for Trade, are useful: (1) the need for information exchange among countries on technical and policy issues related to trade; (2) identification by individual countries of national priorities in the area of AFT and work together to identify commonalities; (3) the need for country ownership of Aft related activities. Under a proposal of Azerbaijan, a preparatory and consultative meeting on the Aid for Trade Road Map for SPECA was held in Bishkek in March 2009.

The fourth session of the PWG is scheduled to take place in Geneva in October 2009, and will be combined with a one day conference on WTO accession and negotiations issues, a Round Table on Aft issues; and a meeting of high-level negotiators of the SPECA countries in the WTO process with a view to coordinate activities, identify synergies and possibilities for combined actions and common positions. The Fourth session will adopt the Work Plan which is proposed as follows:

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		
Enhancing Trade Competitiveness of Least Developed Countries, Countries in Transition and Transit Countries through the Implementation of Single Window Facilities (UNDA 6 th Tranche Project). ESCAP is lead agency.	2008 - 2011	US\$763,000

<p>Strengthening capacities of SPECA member countries to use regional cooperation more effectively for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, with a special emphasis on effective integration into the multilateral trading system (UNDA 7th tranche project):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Strengthening planning and implementation capacities for regional cooperation (ECE lead agency) (b) Promoting effective integration of SPECA member countries into the multilateral trading system: trade component (ESCAP lead agency) (c) Promoting effective integration of SPECA member countries into the multilateral trading system: supply-side component (ESCAP lead agency) 	2010 - 2012	US\$900,000
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STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING

ESCAP is implementing a UN Development Account project on disability measurement (www.unescap.org/stat/disability). Kazakhstan is one of the six pilot countries participating in this project, supported in organizational issues also by the UNECE. The pilot countries conducted a cognitive field test of the Washington Group Extended Question Set for surveys in March 2009. Other Central Asian countries will be considered in the development of the action aimed at improving vital statistics in the region plan and be involved in the implementation of the project contemplated to begin towards 2010-2011.

ESCAP is currently conducting a comprehensive region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems to produce basic economic statistics and needs for support in this regard. On the basis of this assessment, ESCAP will formulate a minimum core set of economic statistics that each country in the region would be in a position to produce, taking into account the varying needs of countries and work on the development of economic statistics undertaken by specialized bodies and related organizations in the region. Subsequently, on the basis of the assessment and minimum core set of statistics, ESCAP will formulate a regional action plan for the improvement of economic statistics in the region. Concerning the sub-region of Central Asia, UNECE has expressed its readiness to participate in the planning and implementation activities. The plan will define clear deliverables and timelines for and costs of implementation, as well as delineate a fund-raising strategy, as well as provide the specifications of regional requirements for manuals, implementation guidelines and standardized training materials and learning modes for the global implementation strategy of the 2008 SNA to be designed by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts.

The Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) will continue providing statistical training to statisticians from the SPECA member countries. Participants from SPECA countries took 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, from 21 July to 18 September 2009.

In the field of Gender Statistics UNECE continues with enforced resources the project, commenced in 2007. A Manual on production, engendering and disseminating Gender Statistics has been produced in 2008-2009 and numerous multimedia presentations on the related topics have been produced and translated into Russian. The emphasis will be on disseminating the voluminous results of the project in 2010 as well as deepening the analysis and putting more emphasis on producing statistical materials on monitoring violence against women. This is additionally supported by a global UN Development Account project on the latter topic.

A new field of training activities will take place starting from the end of 2009 up to 2010, possibly including 2011 in the field of Short-term economic statistics and seasonal adjustment on production and price statistics by UNECE for Central Asian and a selected number of other CIS countries. This ESCIS project is based on funding, made available by a grant to UNECE from the TFSCB of the World Bank in the latter part of 2009.

A global project on developing Migration Statistics and other issues related to follow-up on migration processes, financed by the UN Development Account, has commenced in 2009 and will continue until the end of 2011. It is implemented by all the five UN Regional Commissions. In the part of the project UNECE is implementing a special focus of the project is given to statistics.

A stronger focus on improving monitoring progress on Millennium Development Goals will be promoted in the SPECA member countries through an ESCAP-lead project in which the responsibility for the statistical component of the project, focusing on disaggregation of the MDG Indicators will be implemented by the UNECE in 2009-2010. Another project, financed by the UN Development Account, will on the global level focus on reconciliation of the MDG Indicators produced by national statistical agencies and specialized UN and other international organizations in the years 2010-2011.

Also proactive dissemination of statistical information and developing environmental monitoring into more sustainable forms of follow-up by producing official environmental statistics on a more sustainable basis in the SPECA and other CIS countries as well as SEE countries are high on the future agenda of UNECE. Parts of these efforts are still subject to decisions of financing from the UN bodies or national donors.

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		
SPECA countries will participate in the Vital Statistics and Vital Registration Project which is expected to commence in early 2010.	2010-2011	
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.	2010-2011	UNDA project "Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment" with a budget of US\$ 800,000.

Improving Gender Statistics in SEE and CIS Countries by UNECE.	2007-2011	Cooperation project of the UNECE and the World Bank Institute with a budget of US\$ 250,000 for the year 2010.
Support for SPECA member countries and other CIS and SEE countries for the development of methods to monitor violence against women by a global project, implemented by UNECE, ESCAP and other UN Regional Commissions.	2009-2010	UNDA project “Enhancing Key Statistics and Indicators to Monitor Progress toward the MDGs and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals” with a budget of US\$ 736,000 (UNECLAC-lead agency). UNECE’s share is US\$ 145,000 and ESCAP’s share is US\$ 48,000.
UNECE Capacity Building Program on New Challenges in Economic Statistics in Central Asian and East European Countries (ESCIS) Focus on Short-term economic statistics and seasonal adjustment of production and price statistics.	2009 – 2011	The total budget US\$ 355,000. World Bank TFSCB grant to UNECE
Support by the UNECE for SPECA member countries for the development of disaggregated production, improved coordination and proactive dissemination of MDG-related indicators and statistical information.	2009 - 2010	UNDA project “Supporting Millennium Development Goals (MDG)-based development strategies through integrated regional action” with a budget of US\$ 593,000 (ESCAP –lead agency).
Support for SPECA member countries and other CIS and SEE countries for the development of Migration Statistics by UNECE, ESCAP and other UN Regional Commissions.	2009 - 2011	UNDA project “Enhancing Key Statistics and Indicators to Monitor Progress toward the MDGs and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals” with a budget of US\$ 1,193,000 (UNECLAC-lead agency). UNECE’s share is US\$ 148,000 and ESCAP’s share is US\$ 148,000. Subject to confirmation of the UN General Assembly in autumn 2009.
Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme. Kazakhstan is one of the pilot countries that will undertake the pilot test of the revised Washington Group Extended Question Set for surveys in September 2009, results of which will be presented at a	2007-2010	UNDA project with a budget of US\$ 628,000 (ESCAP-lead agency). This project started in 2007. The implementation in Kazakhstan and partly Mongolia is supervised and assisted by UNECE in

regional workshop towards mid 2010.		cooperation with ESCAP.
Advisory services in different fields of statistics.	Upon request	ESCAP and UNECE
Fund-raising for the Economic Action Plan, implementation subject to identification of funds.	2010-2011	ESCAP
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/ESCAP 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		
Support to SPECA member countries, other CIS and SEE countries for strengthening national and inter-institutional statistical capacities for monitoring Millenium Development Goals and reducing MDG Indicators' discrepancies between national and international sources by UNECE, ESCAP and other UN Regional Commissions.	2010 – 2011	UNDA project “Strengthening statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the MDGs and reducing indicators discrepancies between national and international sources” with a budget of US\$1,150,000 (UNECLAC-lead agency). UNECE’s share is US\$ 148,000 and ESCAP’s share is US\$ 148,000. Subject to confirmation of the UN General Assembly in autumn 2009.
Support to SPECA member countries, other CIS and SEE countries for strengthening national and inter-institutional exchange and dissemination of statistical information by UNECE, ESCAP and other UN Regional Commissions.	2010 - 2011	UNDA project “Enhancing Key Statistics and Indicators to Monitor Progress toward the MDGs and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals” with a budget of US\$ 782,000 (UNDESA-lead agency). Subject to confirmation of the UN General Assembly in autumn 2009.
Development of sustainable and regularly monitored Environmental Indicators in CIS and SEE countries.	2009-2010	UNECE Statistical Division has applied to receive US\$ 40,000 for the organization of and financing participation from NSIs in CIS and SEE countries in a second and possibly a third Work Session on the theme mentioned from a national donor. Additionally to this the UNECE Division on Environment, Housing and

		Land Management is already in the possession of a funding for inviting mainly specialists from line ministries of environment to participate in the development of the monitoring process mentioned.
Supporting the Statistical Capacity Building of Turkmenistan in the domains Price statistics, Business Registers and National Accounts.	2010-2011	UNECE Statistical Division has applied to receive US\$ 75,000 for the organization of and financing the planned support activities for the development of statistical capacity in Turkmenistan from a national donor.
Support for improved analyzing capacities of the data collected in the 2010 rounds of Population and Housing Censuses in the SPECA member countries by UNECE.	2010-2014	No funding available presently - but could be sought, if there are clear expressions of interest from the SPECA member countries.
Support for improved dissemination of statistical information materials, including setting up a Russian-speaking support group for service databases of NSIs with the aim of providing aggregated statistical information to end users and improving their service capacity by UNECE.	2010-2013	No funding available presently - but could be sought, if there are clear expressions of interest from the SPECA member countries.
Support for improved production capacities of different specialized satellite accounts, adjustments reflecting non-observed economy and implementing the UN Recommendation of SNA2008 into the systems of national accounts in the Statistical Systems of the SPECA member countries by UNECE; This activity can be easily integrated with the Fund-raising for the Economic Action Plan, implementation subject to identification of funds ESCAP intends to perform in 2010-2011 (see above).	2010-2014	No funding available presently - but could be sought, if there are clear expressions of interest from the SPECA member countries.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

Following the decision of the Governing Council at its second session (SPECA/GC/Dec/2007/4, Berlin, 14 November 2007), the Inauguration Session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD) was held on 12 November 2008 in Baku,

Azerbaijan. The Inauguration Session agreed to establish the PWG on KBD and adopted its Terms of Reference and Programme of Work for 2009. The PWG elected Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan as its Co-Chairs.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the PWG on KBD aims to support its member countries in developing subregional cooperation seeking to promote knowledge-based development and further integration of their economies into the world economy. To this effect, the PWG on KBD: (i) promotes and supports policies on KBD in the member countries; (ii) facilitates cooperation in the initiatives related to KBD between the member countries and other regional initiatives; (iii) supports and coordinates capacity-building and institutional strengthening activities and programmes related to KBD in the member countries; (iv) serves as a forum for discussion on issues related to KBD, including ICT related policy and regulatory issues.

With a view to achieving its objectives, the PWG on KBD supports capacity-building activities of its member countries in the following thematic areas: (i) ICT for development; (ii) promoting innovation and innovative development; (iii) supporting knowledge-based competitiveness; (iv) financing ICT infrastructure and innovative development; (v) commercialization and protection of intellectual property; (vi) private-public partnerships.

The activities to be carried out by the PWG on KBD are demand-driven, focused on a limited number of priority topics and matched with available resources.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT		
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		
Capacity-building on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and facilitating eCommerce	2010-2011	Supported by UNECE extrabudgetary resources
ICT policies and applications to achieve MDGs and WSIS goals	2010-2011	Supported by ESCAP budgetary resources
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/ESCAP 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		
Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments for promoting knowledge-based development	2010-2011	Supported by UNECE extrabudgetary resources
Capacity-building on ICT applications for disaster management	2010-2011	Supported by ESCAP extrabudgetary resources
Capacity-building on APCICT Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders - National Roll-Outs, and the APCICT Virtual Academy	2010	Supported by ESCAP extrabudgetary resources provided to APCICT
Inter-regional cooperation project on capacity-building in multi-hazard disaster management and socio-economic assessment of disaster impacts	2010	Supported by the World Bank, ECLAC, UNECE and ESCAP

GENDER AND ECONOMY

Gender equality objectives continue to be of great importance in the economies of Central Asia. Engendering economic policies makes economic sense from the perspective of innovation, employment and sustainable growth and it ever so timely in the context of the current economic crisis affecting the region. The SPECA Project Working Group on Gender and Economy is committed to support its member countries in developing gender-sensitive policy responses to economic challenges. In 2010 and 2011, this objective will continue to be pursued in particular, as agreed in the groups Terms of Reference, through (i) raising awareness among all stakeholders on gender and economy issues and exchanging good practices in mainstreaming gender into economic policies; (ii) developing pilot projects in selected areas such as financing and other support measures for women's entrepreneurship and gender budgets; and (iii) promoting cross-sectional linkages and synergies with other relevant areas of SPECA activities, such as statistics, trade and ICT.

The next meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on Gender and Economy is planned to be held on 4 November 2009 in Geneva. At this meeting, the Terms of Reference for the PWG will be reviewed and the Programme of Work for 2010 and 2011 will be adopted. Planned activities will be subject to the outcome of this review.

Proposals for specific activities as reflected in the current work plan will be further elaborated through partnership and consultations involving UNECE, ESCAP, UNDP, UNIFEM, OSCE, IOM, the Council of Europe, and other partners actively involved in Central Asia in the field of Gender and Economy area.

Ongoing activities which are planned to be further pursued during 2010 and 2011:

Building on the experience of previous activities and the expertise gained, the following activities are ongoing and will be continued in 2010 and 2011.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO ECONOMIC POLICIES

The key objectives of information sharing, advocacy and guidance on mainstreaming gender into economic policies which are pursued through the UNECE Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender will remain a strong priority of the PGW in 2010-2011. The Knowledge Hub will be further developed as an interactive platform to support networking between policy makers and experts across the region.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Building on the successful cooperation with the Government of Israel in capacity-building since 2006, training workshops in support of women's entrepreneurship in Central Asia will be continued to be provided in 2010 and 2011. The PWG's work in support of women's entrepreneurship in the region will draw on the insights gained from pilot studies on the assessment of the environment for entrepreneurship in the region in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In addition to the core areas of activity outlined above, and building on the core areas of expertise in UNECE and ESCAP the following proposed project areas are envisaged be pursued in 2010 and 2011 provided support by interested donors and partners is obtained.

Directions for possible future activities

1) INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT: MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Addressing economic challenges and sustaining growth for all through gender-sensitive policies in innovation and knowledge-driven development in SPECA countries. Project activities would build on the knowledge gained from pilot studies of the business environment for women entrepreneurs (cooperation project with ILO).

2) GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

Evaluating the gender implications of national economic policies in the region. Particular emphasis will be given to the promotion of gender impact assessments and gender responsive budgeting in core policy areas.

3) POVERTY AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION

Evaluating gender differentiated effects of the crisis on poverty and economic well-being via the channels of remittances and migration flows. Research and analysis would be undertaken to enhance understanding of the importance of migration policies and gender implications in the SPECA region.

4) GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Assessing the gender implications of climate change in the region: policy recommendations to mitigate potential adverse effects of changes to the environment on gender equality.

GENDER AND ECONOMY	
Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected.	
Mainstreaming Gender into Economic Policies	2010-2011
Further development of the Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender as a networking tool for policy makers across the region, information source on gender mainstreaming techniques as well as the sharing of good policy practices	
Capacity building activities	2010-2011
Training workshops on support systems for women in small business in Haifa, Israel to strengthen the business environment for women's entrepreneurship in Central Asia	2010 - 2011
Two training workshops on the use of information and communication technologies targeted at women entrepreneurs in Central Asia	2010 - 2011
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/ESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which envisage additional supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination	

with projects/activities listed above	
Gender-sensitive policies in innovation and knowledge-driven development	2010 - 2011
Gender Impact Assessments and Gender Responsive Budgeting in core policy areas	2010 - 2011
Analysis of poverty and well-being in the context of migration in SPECA countries	2010 - 2011
Gender equality in the context of climate change in Central Asia	2010 - 2011