

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SPECA PWG ON KBD FOR 2014-2015

The activities to be carried out by the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD) are demand-driven, focused on a limited number of priority topics and matched with available resources.

ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED FOR 2014-2015

1. Capacity-building activities on policies to promote knowledge-based development

Objectives:

To strengthen the national capacity of the SPECA countries to advance knowledge-based development by developing relevant substantive skills, increasing the organizational capacity of the institutions involved and promoting regional cooperation.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD, as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation will be financed from the UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Organization of a regional/subregional capacity-building event on knowledge-based development, possibly in conjunction with the annual session of the PWG on KBD (tentatively envisaged for 2014);
- (ii) Participation of experts from SPECA countries in UNECE policy-oriented meetings and capacity-building events on promoting knowledge-based development (Geneva, Switzerland and other locations); and
- (iii) Policy advisory services and other events promoting knowledge-based development at the request of Governments of SPECA countries, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding.

2. Capacity-building on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and development

Objectives:

To empower senior decision makers with relevant ICT policy knowledge and expertise in promoting innovation-based competitiveness and development.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation will be financed from the UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

Organization of a national/regional capacity-building event on ICT policy and regulatory frameworks for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and development (upon request).

3. Implementation of the UNECE project on innovation performance reviews of selected countries of the UNECE region**Objectives:**

To increase the role of innovation in promoting further economic development of the UNECE countries.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation will be financed from the UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

Undertaking Innovation Performance Reviews in selected countries of the SPECA region (envisaged for 2014 and 2015).

4. Implementation of the ESCAP project on expanding connectivity of North and Central Asia with the Asia-Pacific region through the development of ICT infrastructure**Objectives:**

To strengthen the capacity of SPECA countries by developing a knowledge base of the challenges and opportunities related to developing ICT infrastructure in the region.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation will be financed from the ESCAP extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Organization of a regional consultation on broadband infrastructure and regional connectivity (2014);
- (ii) Continued development of a detailed map of the regional fibre-optic backbone network in North and Central Asia (2014-2015);
- (iii) Participation of experts from SPECA countries in ESCAP meetings and capacity-building events (Bangkok, Thailand and other locations);

5. Enhancing national capacities to use ICT for socio-economic development

Objectives:

To enhance the capacities of policymakers, government officials and other relevant stakeholders to promote, adopt and utilize ICT for achieving national socio-economic development goals.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. The activities will be funded through the extrabudgetary resources of APCICT and co-funding mobilized through national and subregional partners.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Conduct capacity building workshops on APCICT's flagship ICT for development programmes.
- (ii) Development of localized versions of the APCICT training modules, targeted at SPECA member States.
- (iii) Conduct subregional training-of-trainers workshops. These workshops aim to strengthen the pool of national resource persons capable of delivering the various training modules.
- (iv) Cooperate with partners in Armenia to localize six ICT for development training modules. Workshops will be organized based on these localized modules.
- (v) Provide advisory services to SPECA member states in areas related to ICT for socio-economic development, subject to funding and resource availability.

6. Institutional capacity building for regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

Objectives:

To foster the development of mechanisms to facilitate greater cooperation between member States, particularly SPECA countries, in the area of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Rationale:

The project contributes to the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in the terms of reference, in particular to objective of knowledge-based disaster risk reduction and management. Implementation will be financed from the ESCAP extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Advocate the establishment of an instrument for regional cooperation that can utilize existing intergovernmental platforms.

(ii) Support an institution for regional cooperation oriented towards the need for disaster risk reduction in SPECA countries, such as the Central Asia Center for Disaster Risk Reduction and Response (Almaty Center), and build the capacity of the institution to perform this task.

(iii) Undertake capacity building in early 2014 as a basis for the development of a programme of action for the institution.

7. Capacity development on the utilization of ICT for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

Objectives:

Develop the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Management and Development as a knowledge-based tool for disaster risk management, and build resilience into development policy and planning of SPECA countries.

Rationale:

The project contributes to the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in the terms of reference, in particular to objective of knowledge-based disaster risk reduction and management. Implementation will be financed from the ESCAP extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

(i) Assist SPECA member States to access cooperation mechanisms such as RESAP and RIMES.

(ii) Support the development of the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Management and Development as a key knowledge-based tool for SPECA member States, including content development in the Russian language.

(iii) Conduct activities on measuring resilience.

SUMMARY TABLE

Area of Activity	Lead Executive Agency	Timeframe
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 policy options and practical instruments for promoting knowledge-based development	UNECE	2014-2015
Capacity-building on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and development	UNECE	2014-2015
Implementation of the UNECE project on innovation performance reviews of selected countries	UNECE	2014-2015
Implementation of the ESCAP project on expanding	ESCAP	2014-2015

connectivity of North and Central Asia with the Asia-Pacific region through development of ICT infrastructure		
Enhancing national capacities to use ICT for socio-economic development	ESCAP/APCICT	2014-2015
Institutional capacity building for regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation	ESCAP	2014-2015
Capacity development on the utilization of ICT for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation	ESCAP	2014-2015
