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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

# **7<sup>th</sup> Session of the SPECA PWG on KBD**

**Dushanbe, 17 June 2015**



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## Strengthening of SPECA – country responses

- Questionnaire circulated to Permanent Missions of SPECA countries
- Countries agreed thematic scope/priorities of SPECA correspond to needs
- Govts ranked proposed measures to strengthen SPECA ownership
  - Raise level of SPECA focal points in Govts
  - Raise level of participation in sessions of PWGs
  - Raise level of participation at SPECA Governing Council and Economic Forum
  - Change names and TORs of PWGs to reflect role in discussing policy issues
  - Place more strategic issues of regional concern on agenda of Economic Forum and Governing Council
- All countries: SPECA should provide regular input for established UN-wide discussions (e.g. climate change, land-locked countries)
- Support inviting broad group of UN agencies, regional organizations and development partners to support SPECA



## Strengthening SPECA – country responses ctd

- Strong support for closer coordination and cooperation between SPECA and CAREC (comprising the ADB, WB, EBRD, IMF, IsDB and UNDP)
- Mixed responses on increased in-kind and financial support to SPECA
  - Most accepted form of support is in-kind support
  - Mixed views on who should make increased financial contributions
- Potential role for monitoring and accountability in post-2015 development agenda. Top 3 potential priorities ranked (in order): trade; transport; innovation and investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, settlements and SMEs.
- Support inclusion of relevant SPECA activities in UN Development Account Frameworks (similar objectives)
- Countries (and possibly regional commissions) could play a more active role in donor coordination



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## Strengthening SPECA – country responses and next steps

Various additional proposals:

- Strengthen analytical work in areas such as removal of trade barriers, investment promotion, improved transit and business climate
- Participating countries should be more directly involved in development of project proposals and should work more actively with donors to improve funding for project implementation
- Need to increase number of projects implemented in SPECA framework

Next steps:

- Interagency consultations on strengthening SPECA to be held in association with 10<sup>th</sup> session of SPECA Governing Council and Economic Forum in Dushanbe, November 2015
  - To include UN agencies and other international organisations based in Dushanbe



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## Activities of SPECA PWG on KBD since its 6th session in Ashgabat (11 June 2014)

Innovation Performance Reviews - implementation



### Concept

Demand-driven, participatory policy advisory service (subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources)

### Aims

Recommendations and policy **options**:

- stimulate innovation activity in the country
- enhance innovation capacity
- improve the overall efficiency of the national innovation system

### Methods of work

- International team of experts
- Close collaboration with authorities and wide involvement of local experts



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## **Innovation Performance Reviews - Structure**

- 1. Recent economic and innovation performance**
- 2. National innovation system and innovation governance**
- 3. Framework conditions, innovation policies and instruments**
- 4. Knowledge transfer, generation and absorption**
- 5. Economy-science linkages and collaboration in the innovation process**
- 6. Entrepreneurship and the financing of innovative businesses**
- 7. Innovation and international economic integration**



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## **Innovation Performance Reviews implementation**

### **Outputs**

- Comprehensive assessment of current situation
- Detailed policy recommendations, elaborated in close collaboration with the countries' public institutions
- Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan carried out 2011-2012
- Recommendations have served as basis for range of capacity-building activities in Kazakhstan including on Regional Innovation Systems, Public Support to Venture Capital, and most recently “Strategy for International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovations and International Technology Transfer: Policies and Practices”, Astana, 29 October 2014
- A number of expressions of interest from other countries for future reviews



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## Innovation Performance Reviews implementation

### Outputs (continued)

- Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan in process.
  - Request from Tajikistan at eighth session UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration in Geneva, February 2014
  - Subsequent fund raising for Review implementation
  - Preliminary fact-finding mission in November 2014 to make contact with innovation stakeholders in Tajikistan
  - Main fact finding mission with UNECE secretariat and team of six international experts in March 2015
  - Peer review in Dushanbe June 2015 to influence final report and policy recommendations
  - Final review - official UN publication in early 2016
  - Launch event and subsequent support to implementation





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## Other programme implementation since the sixth session

Implementation of the UNECE project “PPP Readiness Assessments in Selected Countries of Central Asia”

- Consultations and dialogue on the PPP Readiness Assessment of Kazakhstan were organized by UNECE and the PPP Centre of Kazakhstan in Astana, Kazakhstan, 9 April 2014.
- PPP Readiness Assessments now completed for Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- Reports will be available online in English and Russian.
- Experts from SPECA countries contributed to other UNECE events, e.g. ninth session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, Geneva, Switzerland, 12-14 February 2014.



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## Upcoming activities

- Implementation activities and Innovation Performance Reviews in selected countries of the SPECA region, subject to:
  - Human resources
  - Extra-budgetary funding
- Seventh session of the Team of Specialists on Public-private partnerships (TOS PPP), London, 18 June 2015, held alongside PPP Days 2015
- Ninth session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-private Partnerships, 3-4 September 2015
- Eighth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS ICP), Geneva, 12-13 October 2015
- International Conference on Innovation Strategies for Sustainable Development, Jerusalem, Israel, Nov or Dec 2015



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## Work Plan 2016-2017

### **(1) Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments to promote knowledge-based development**

- Help develop substantive skills, organizational capacity of institutions
- Promote regional cooperation
- Foster investment in modern infrastructure
- Subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources

#### **Proposed activities:**

- Organization of regional capacity-building event on knowledge-based development, possibly alongside PWG on KBD
- Participation of experts from SPECA countries in relevant UNECE events
- Policy advisory services and other events promoting knowledge-based development at the request of Governments of SPECA countries.



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## Work Plan 2016-2017

### **(2) Implementation of the UNECE project on innovation performance reviews of selected countries**

- To increase the role of innovation in promoting further economic development of the SPECA countries
- Subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources

#### **Proposed activities:**

- Undertaking Innovation Performance Reviews and supporting implementation of policy recommendations in selected countries of the SPECA region (envisaged for 2016 and 2017).



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# Thank you!

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