



SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA
(SPECA)

**Seventh Session of the SPECA Project Working Group
on Knowledge-Based Development**

(Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 17 June 2015)

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SPECA PWG ON KBD
FOR 2016-2017**

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 2016-2017

1. Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments 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, promoting regional cooperation and fostering investment in modern infrastructure.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation is subject to the availability of UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Organization of a regional/subregional capacity-building event on knowledge-based development, possibly in conjunction with annual session of the PWG on KBD (tentatively envisaged for 2016);
- (ii) Participation of experts from SPECA countries in UNECE policy-oriented meetings and capacity-building events on promoting knowledge-based development for policymakers and practitioners; and

- (iii) Policy advisory services and other events promoting knowledge-based development at the request of Governments of SPECA countries.

2. Implementation of the UNECE project on innovation performance reviews of selected countries

Objectives:

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

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation is subject to the availability of UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

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

3. Implementation of ESCAP activities in support to the Asia-Pacific information superhighway initiative

Objectives:

To strengthen the capacity of SPECA countries to contribute to regional discussions in the Working Group on the Asia-Pacific information superhighway.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation is subject to the availability of ESCAP extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Participation of experts from SPECA countries in a regional capacity-building event on the Asia-Pacific information superhighway's principle and norms, in parallel to one of the sessions of the Working Group on the Asia-Pacific information superhighway;
- (ii) Development of a repository of cross-border infrastructure projects susceptible to host fiber optic cables co-deployment; and
- (iii) Preparation of a policy tool-kit on good practices in terms of co-deployment of fiber optic cables along other utilities infrastructure.

4. 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 sustainable 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 countries;
- (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) Provide advisory services to SPECA countries in areas related to ICT for socio-economic development, subject to funding and resource availability; and
- (v) Conduct capacity-building workshops on the application of ICT tools for renewable energy resource assessments at the national level in SPECA countries, subject to funding and resource availability (APCTT).

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

Objectives:

Develop knowledge-based tools 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 countries to access cooperation mechanisms such as RESAP and RIMES;
- (ii) Conduct activities on measuring resilience; and
- (iii) ESCAP provides continued support on DRR and climate change adaptation in the context of the Ministerial Regional Conference on disaster risk reduction.

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 to promote knowledge-based development	UNECE	2016-2017
Implementation of the UNECE project on innovation performance reviews of selected countries	UNECE	2016-2017
Implementation of ESCAP activities in support to the Asia-Pacific information superhighway initiative	ESCAP	2016-2017
Enhancing national capacities to use ICT for socio-economic development	ESCAP	2016-2017
Capacity development on the utilization of ICT for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation	ESCAP	2016-2017