



Capacity-building event

From ideas to applications:

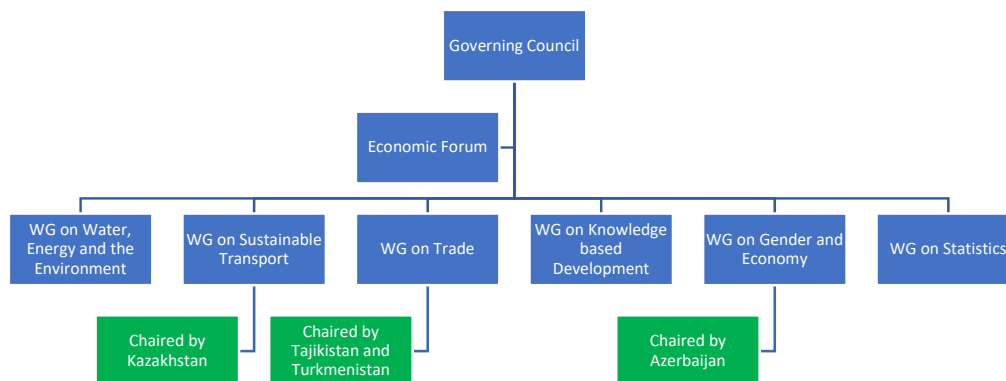
“Sharing best practices on incubators, science parks and technology transfer”

Moscow, 21-23 October 2019

Background

The UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was established in 1998 by the Tashkent Declaration as a UN special programme for economic cooperation and development among the five Central Asian Republics, which were joined later by Azerbaijan and Afghanistan. UNECE and UNESCAP were asked to support the programme. This commitment is confirmed by the General Assembly (A/62/7/Add.40 from 15 July 2008).

The institutional structure of the programme is overseen by the SPECA Governing Council and includes the SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (WG on KBD).



The SPECA WG on KBD has overseen a number of national policy reviews of SPECA countries – [UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews](#), which seek to make specific policy recommendations to Governments to strengthen innovation policy efforts to boost sustainable development at the national level.

Following a request from SPECA countries in December 2017 at the 12th session of the SPECA Governing Council to develop a SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development, the SPECA WG on KBD consulted SPECA countries on priority areas for cooperation on innovation policies to promote sustainable

development in the SPECA subregion. A draft outline of a SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development ([ENG/RUS](#)) was produced.

A key policy challenge consistently identified for SPECA countries has been how to apply new knowledge – both foreign and domestically created – more effectively to support economic growth and sustainable development. Industry-science linkages and an enabling system of intermediaries have been identified as the missing link.

Demand from the SPECA countries has been demonstrated in regular requests under the SPECA WG on KBD for additional policy guidance on technology transfer for sustainable development, and developing the required infrastructure in terms of technoparks, science parks and incubators. This is reflected in the draft outline of the [SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development](#) that, after extensive consultation with SPECA countries will include a significant pillar of capacity building activities on Technology transfer and support to innovative entrepreneurs.¹

The draft Strategy is to be updated with an additional proposal to consider establishing a SPECA network of innovation support institutions (business incubators, technoparks, etc.) before submission for adoption by the SPECA Governing Council in November 2019, and this event will already help establishing the know how and linkages to move forward with such efforts.

UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have also all identified the lack of an innovation infrastructure and intermediaries such as science parks, technoparks and incubators, as weaknesses in the national innovation systems.

Objectives

The overall goal of this capacity-building event will be to:

- Share best practices and foster networking between SPECA Government officials and technical experts on incubators, science parks and technology transfer;
- Provide insights from leading international experts on how to develop the necessary innovation infrastructure to ensure ideas translate into applications to support sustainable and knowledge-based development in SPECA countries; and
- Provide access, through site visits, to leading practitioners of incubators, science parks and technology transfer offices for discussion of practical steps to develop an effective innovation infrastructure.

Planned results

Improved understanding of SPECA participants on best practices in establishing an effective infrastructure of incubators, science parks and technology transfer offices to harness innovation for sustainable development.

¹ Activities D1-D5.

Location

An event on science parks in the Russian Federation was included under the intersessional implementation plan of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs for 2019-2020, subject to funding availability.²

Activities and Time Frame

The capacity building programme will be structured around events in Moscow on 21-23 October:

1. **21 October:** Plenary session jointly hosted by MGIMO and UNECE with senior SPECA Government officials and practitioners and international experts, followed by a visit to the MGIMO incubator project.
2. **22 October:** Visit to a “Strogino” technopark, with presentations by practitioners on challenges and best practices in establishing technoparks, followed by question and answer session.
3. **23 October:** Visit to Skolkovo, with presentations by practitioners on challenges and best practices in technology transfer, science parks and incubators, followed by question and answer session.

Outputs

Report on best practices on establishing incubators, science parks and technology transfer offices to support innovation for sustainable development.

² See Annex II, Paragraph II.13 of report of the 13th session of CICPPP, document [ECE/CECI/2019/2](#).