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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Seventh session

Geneva, 16–17 October 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh session¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 16 October 2014

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and Election of Officers
2. Substantive segment: Smart Specialization – Strategies for Sustainable Development
3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the sixth session
4. Implementation plan for work to be undertaken in the remainder of 2014 and in 2015
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the Report of the Session

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should register online at <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=Sd3WvP>. Prior to the session, delegates (with the exception of delegates from the Geneva-based Missions) are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14 for the issuance of an identification badge. Additional information for delegates, including a map of the premises, is available on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Documentation: ECE/CECI/ICP/2014/1

1. The Team will adopt its agenda.
2. The objectives of the seventh session are to:
 - (a) Discuss and address topical, substantive issues related to the programme of work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP);
 - (b) Review the outputs and activities carried out since the sixth session;
 - (c) Review the implementation plan for the remainder of 2014; and
 - (d) Make proposals for 2015.
3. The Team may elect officers to its bureau as required and in accordance with the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies (E/ECE/1468, Annex III para.V.8. p. 18). The term of office of any newly elected officers will begin at the end of this session.

2. Substantive segment

4. In accordance with a proposal made at the Team's seventh session on 10-11 October 2013, the substantive segment of this session will be an Applied Policy Seminar on "Smart Specialization – Strategies for Sustainable Development". The Seminar will provide a platform for international knowledge-sharing and policy-learning in this area.
5. At its 69th session starting in September 2014, the General Assembly of the United Nations will discuss the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth figures prominently in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda. Innovation can make an important contribution towards advancing this agenda, as it drives increases in productivity, economies in the use of scarce resources and changes in production and consumption patterns from unsustainable to sustainable.
6. Smart specialization is a – relatively new – approach to innovation policy and to economic development. It is a strategy in which governments design and deploy their policy instruments on the basis of market signals in order to leverage existing capabilities, assets and competences in the enterprise sector with the objective of promoting innovation and generating new comparative advantages. Implementing smart specialization strategies involves analyzing the regional context and innovation potential; generating participation and ownership by all stakeholders; developing a shared vision of the future development path; identifying sectoral priorities; implementation through a coherent policy mix; and monitoring and evaluation to create a feedback loop and to learn from experience.
7. The purpose of this applied policy seminar is to lay the groundwork for developing good practices and policy recommendations for smart specialization strategies that are relevant for countries and regions facing a variety of development challenges. The conclusions may also serve as a contribution to the implementation of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level. Issues for discussion include:
 - Analyzing the potential for smart specialization at the local, regional or national level based on existing strengths and weaknesses;

- Identifying priority areas for allocating public resources in order to leverage existing competencies and to strengthen market-driven innovation;
- Developing strategies that create and maximize synergies between policies for innovation, enterprise development and human capital formation;
- Building successful partnerships between government, business and knowledge institutions;
- Linking regions within and across borders;
- The role of clusters of excellence;
- The contribution of smart specialization strategies to sustainable economic development in the UNECE region.

3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the sixth session

8. TOS-ICP members will be briefed on key outcomes and highlights of the work carried out since the sixth session, including:

- (a) Policy Document: “Good Practices and Policy Recommendations on Aligning Entrepreneurship and Innovation Policies” (ECE/CECI/2014/9).
- (b) Policy Document: “Innovation in the public sector” (ECE/CECI/2014/3);
- (c) Innovation Performance Review of Armenia (ECE/CECI/21);
- (d) Guidebook on “Innovation in the Public Sector” (ECE/CECI/22);
- (e) Completion of the UNDA project “Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation”, together with the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships;
- (f) Training materials on “Fostering Innovation for Climate Change Adaptation: Options for Central Asia and Azerbaijan”. The training materials incorporate findings from the above UNDA Project “Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation”. The training materials have been used and validated at the High-level Policy Seminar on Promoting the Introduction of Green Technologies in Haifa, Israel in December 2013 (cf. paragraph (k) below).
- (g) Joint National Seminar and Stakeholder Meeting on the Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, Astana, Kazakhstan, 23-25 October 2013, organized in cooperation with the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships;
- (h) Roundtable on the European Experience in Supporting Innovative Enterprises, organized as part of the Novosibirsk Venture Fair, Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, 14-15 November 2013;
- (i) Regional Meeting on the Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 19-20 November 2013, organized jointly with the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-private Partnerships and in cooperation with the Government of Kazakhstan as an expert segment of the 2013 SPECA Economic Forum;
- (j) Workshop on innovation in the public sector, Minsk, Republic of Belarus, 26 November 2013, organized together with State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus;
- (k) High-level Policy Seminar on Promoting the Introduction of Green Technologies, Haifa, Israel, 17-19 December 2013, jointly with the Government of Israel.

(l) Policy advisory workshop on public support to venture capital financing, Astana, Kazakhstan, 28 May 2014, jointly with the National Agency for Technological Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(m) High-level workshop on innovation policy and environmental challenges, Minsk, Belarus, 19 June 2014, jointly with the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus.

9. Members of the Team will be invited to take stock of past activities and to discuss effective means for the dissemination of the Team's outputs.

4. Implementation plan for work to be undertaken in the remainder of 2014 and in 2015

Documentation: Programme of Work of the Subprogramme on Economic Cooperation and Integration for 2014 – 2015 (ECE/CECI/2014/2, Annex III)

10. The secretariat will inform the Team of the main outcomes of the eighth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration held on 10-12 February 2014.

Implementation Plans 2014

11. The secretariat will inform the Team of the implementation plan for work in the remainder of 2014 in accordance with the 2014-2015 programme of work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation (ECE/CECI/2014/2, Annex III), including:

(a) Finalization of the two policy documents listed under para.8 (a) and (b) above (documents ECE/CECI/2014/9 and ECE/CECI/2014/3). These documents were submitted to the eighth session of CECI in February 2014, where Member States took note of them and concluded that they should "be circulated to member States and other stakeholders for further elaboration by means of interactive electronic discussions". The two documents will be revised in light of comments received from the Team before and during its seventh session. The revised versions will be submitted to the forthcoming session of the sectoral Committee overseeing the work of the Team;²

(b) A document on good practices and policy recommendations on "Smart Specialization Strategies". This document will be prepared on the basis of the results of the substantive segment of the seventh session of the TOS-ICP and will be submitted to the forthcoming session of the sectoral Committee overseeing the work of the Team;

(c) Presentation and launch of the Innovation Performance Review of Armenia in Yerevan;

(d) Subject to availability of extrabudgetary funding, work on Innovation Performance Reviews for Azerbaijan and Tajikistan could be initiated.

(e) Subject to availability of extrabudgetary funding, capacity building and policy advisory activities in requesting countries.

² There is currently a discussion among member States on whether or not to merge the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration with the Committee on Trade. A decision will be made before the end of 2014. In the event of a merger, the new Committee would be overseeing the Team's work. All results of the Team's work in the remainder of 2014 and in 2015 will be submitted to the next session of the responsible Committee.

Implementation Plans 2015

12. The Team will discuss proposals for work to be undertaken in 2015. Following consultations with the Bureau of the Team, proposals include:

(a) A document on good practices and policy recommendations on a selected topic under the common theme, "Policies for Innovation and Knowledge-based Development in the 21st Century" on the basis of an applied policy seminar to be held at the 2015 session of the Team;

(b) A Guidebook or Comparative Review under the theme, "Policies for Innovation and Knowledge-based Development in the 21st Century" based on the policy discussions to be organized at the annual session of TOS-ICP in 2015;

(c) Subject to availability of extrabudgetary funding, completion of any Innovation Performance Review(s) initiated in 2014;

(d) Subject to availability of extrabudgetary funding, work on Innovation Performance Reviews for Belarus and Kyrgyzstan could be initiated;

(e) An international conference to take stock of the lessons learned from the Innovation Performance Reviews conducted so far, and to discuss how to move forward the programme of Innovation Performance Reviews as the Team embarks on a second cycle of reviews;

(f) Capacity-building activities and policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Innovation Performance Reviews subject to demand from member States in which reviews have been conducted and subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources;

(g) Sub-regional capacity-building and knowledge sharing conferences and workshops on policies for promoting innovative, knowledge-based development, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary funding. Participants are encouraged to bring to the session any expressions of interest by UNECE Member States or other stakeholders for delivering or hosting capacity-building activities in areas related to the work of the Team;

(h) The Newsletter on Knowledge-based Development;

(i) Any additional proposals received from Team members before or at the session.

13. The Bureau will introduce a conference room paper with options for creating working groups, task forces and editorial boards from within the membership of the Team to facilitate the implementation of the work plan. The purpose of these would be to (i) leverage the expertise of the Team to further increase the number and quality of activities and outputs that can be delivered; (ii) further increase ownership by the Team of its work; and (iii) give more visibility and recognition to the Team members who contribute most actively to the work.

14. The Team is invited to discuss these options. Team members are invited to consider contributing to any groups, task forces and editorial boards to be established.

15. Participants are encouraged to express any intentions by UNECE member States and other stakeholders to provide extra-budgetary support (such as funds or in-kind contributions, including the organization of seminars, twinning schemes or networking initiatives) to the above activities.

16. The Team is invited to consider and agree on the implementation plans for its work in the remainder of 2014 and in 2015. The decision will be subject to the UNECE Executive Committee's approval of the programme of work of CECI.

5. Other business

17. At its sixth session the Team adopted its revised Terms of Reference (ECE/CECI/ICP/2013/2, annex II). At its eighth session, the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration agreed to submit these revised Terms of Reference for approval to the Executive Committee. The Secretariat will inform the Team that the Executive Committee of UNECE has approved these Terms of Reference.

18. The Team will decide on the date for its eighth session. The secretariat proposes 12 - 13 October 2015.

6. Adoption of the Report of the Session

19. The Report will be adopted at the end of the session.

Annex

Provisional timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
Thursday, 16 October 2014	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers Item 2. Substantive segment “Smart Specialization – Strategies for Sustainable Development”
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 2. Substantive segment “Smart Specialization – Strategies for Sustainable Development” (continued)
Friday, 17 October 2014	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 2. Substantive segment “Smart Specialization – Strategies for Sustainable Development” (continued)
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the sixth session Item 4. Implementation plan for work to be undertaken in the remainder of 2014 and in 2015 Item 5. Other business Item 6. Adoption of the Report of the Session