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## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

### Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships

#### Fourth session

Geneva, 1-2 December 2020

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the work since the third session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 3-4 December 2019**

### **Enhance the People-first Public-Private Partnerships Evaluation Methodology and make it fully usable by the end of 2021**

#### **Note by the Bureau**

##### *Background*

This document contains an Action Plan to enhance the draft People-first Public-Private Partnerships Evaluation Methodology for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2020/3/Rev.1) with a list of actions to be undertaken in 2021 and make it fully usable. It consists of two interrelated workstreams that will be undertaken in parallel.

The document is submitted by the Bureau to the Working Party for approval.

## I. Goal

Enhance the People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter the Methodology) to help Governments achieve the Guiding Principles on People-first PPP and the SDGs and make it fully usable by the end of 2021.

The focus of the Methodology is primarily government officials in charge of infrastructure project preparation in their respective country, and especially PPPs. It provides an easy-to-use tool for identifying whether projects are in alignment with the Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs and as such is a contribution to achieving the SDGs. The focus on People-first PPPs in the Methodology is intended as *supplement* to the traditional methodologies for *ex ante* infrastructure project preparation (e.g. Cost Benefit Analysis, Value for Money etc.) and to other *ex post* infrastructure project evaluations.

## II. Action Plan

The following actions to achieve this goal will be undertaken in 2021 set out in twin tracked approach below and carried out in parallel, subject to extrabudgetary resources (sequencing and prioritisation to be decided).

1. Improving the Methodology:
  - a. Make the Methodology more inclusive by *inter alia*:
    - i. Referencing the research and best practices of the Specialist Centres of Excellence endorsed by the Working Party, and
    - ii. Clarifying the role of the Methodology amongst related other traditional evaluation methodologies used in public infrastructure and PPP projects.
  - b. Clarify when in the project development cycle the Methodology can be used in a simple and efficient manner in countries.
  - c. Clarify the conditions for marketing the Methodology and for engaging reliable and independent consultants to implement the Methodology when necessary.
  - d. Undertake a survey among primarily the Government users to obtain their views on the Methodology.
  - e. Use the results of the survey and the testing to further improve the Methodology and revise, as appropriate, the indicators, benchmarks, scoring and weighting with a view:
    - i. To have a more balanced distribution amongst the five People-first outcomes.
    - ii. To avoid overlaps by consolidating benchmarks and indicators.
  - f. Revisit the term “benchmarks” with a more appropriate term such as “criteria”.
  - g. Conduct a sensitivity analysis across the scoring and weighting systems: for example, three different scoring systems could be tested on the same set of projects.
  - h. Use the results and revise accordingly the draft User’s Guide on the Methodology.
  - i. Advance the future implementation framework in cooperation *inter alia* with the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation (SIF) for disseminating through the multilateral platform SOURCE.

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<sup>1</sup> As contained in ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2020/3.Rev1.

2. Testing the Methodology in accordance with a testing protocol and mobilising interest:<sup>2</sup>
  - a. Develop a testing protocol that includes:
    - i. A detailed template on how the testing is conducted and the inputs submitted to the secretariat, and
    - ii. The identification of partners responsible for some of the testing (e.g. the UNECE-affiliated Specialist Centres of Excellence in their area and sector of expertise) under the coordination of secretariat.
  - b. Identify projects in different sectors, PPP models and countries to be evaluated/tested in 2021 through the testing protocol.
  - c. Test the Methodology by evaluating a significant number of projects (e.g. at least 30 projects).
  - d. Ensure that the Governments and PPP Units that indicated their desire to use the Methodology to score their projects fully participate in the testing of the Methodology.
  - e. Consult with the private sector, e.g. construction contractors, involved in delivering PPPs and public service for the purpose of testing the Methodology.

### III. Timeline

- 31 March 2021: (in time for the International PPP Forum)
  - Mid-term review of progress on the improvement of the Methodology.
  - Mid-term review of progress on testing: Testing protocol developed.
  - A prototype self-assessment tool available online.
  - Initial results of some (e.g. 10) infrastructure PPP projects evaluated/tested.
- 31 July 2021: (in time for the preparations of the revised Methodology to be submitted to the Working Party)
  - Overall testing results are presented, with several (e.g. 20) infrastructure PPP projects evaluated/tested.
  - Improved version of the Methodology, including the adapted version of the User's Guide and of the self-assessment tool available online.
- 31 December 2021:
  - Overall testing results of the enhanced Methodology, with more projects tested (e.g. at least 30 infrastructure PPP projects evaluated/tested).

### IV. Resources

- Expert team to contribute to the above-mentioned action points:
  - Volunteers will be needed: existing members of the Project Team, interested members of the Bureau, the heads of the UNECE-affiliated Specialist Centres of Excellence and SIF.
  - Team members will be identified to lead on particular tasks.
- Partnering with existing funded programmes.
- The secretariat to explore extrabudgetary resources for the rolling out of the improved version of the Methodology.

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<sup>2</sup> An initial testing of the Methodology was done in the summer of 2020 which resulted in an improved version of the Methodology.

## **V. Marketing and Governance**

- Identifying different types of demand (e.g. for Governments evaluating their national infrastructure strategies) and tailoring the Methodology to meet the demand and thereby permitting the maximum amount of dissemination as possible.
- Making the title more attractive to facilitate the marketing of the Methodology.
- Ensuring good governance in the rolling out of Methodology in awarding the people-first status through the Recognition Scheme (impartiality, transparency, fairness, checks and balances, redress mechanism etc.).

## **VI. Implementation and Monitoring**

- Responsibility for implementation and monitoring of this Action Plan is with the secretariat working closely with the Project Team, the UNECE-affiliated Specialist Centres of Excellence and other experts.
  - Regular reports on implementation of the Action Plan will be provided by the secretariat to the Bureau.
  - Priority will be given in January 2021 to the development of a testing protocol with a roadmap to the testing.
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