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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

111th meeting

Geneva, 5 October 2020

Item 3(a) of the provisional agenda

Update on Special Procedures during COVID-19 period: decisions taken under silence procedure from June to September 2020

Decisions related to the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Background

1. Further to the special procedures during the COVID-19 period and the arrangements for the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (ECE/EX/2020/L.4), the Chair of the Committee was authorized to circulate a draft decision on the inter-sessional implementation plan 2020–2021, to the members of the Committee for adoption under a silence procedure.
2. On 29 July 2020 the secretariat on behalf of the Chair of the Committee circulated a draft decision on the inter-sessional implementation plan 2020–2021, incorporating the results of the written procedure, to the members of the Committee, through the Permanent Missions in Geneva for adoption by silence procedure.
3. As the silence was not broken, the decision on the inter-sessional implementation plan 2020–2021 was considered adopted on 10 August 2020 and is submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.
4. The Executive Committee is invited to approve the Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2020–2021 of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships as contained in the annex.

Draft Decision

5. The Executive Committee hereby approves the Inter-sessional Implementation Plan of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships for 2020–2021 as contained in the annex.

Annex

Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2020–2021 of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

I. Introduction

1. The present document is based on the programme of work of the Committee for 2020 (ECE/CECI/2019/10). It provides additional information on activities planned and proposed for the period between the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Committee. To facilitate discussion, this document presents activities grouped by the main thematic areas covered by the Committee, i.e. Innovation and Competitiveness, and Public-Private Partnerships.
2. The plans and proposals reflect demand expressed by member States as well as the resources available to the secretariat at the time of writing. Delegates are invited to bring additional proposals and requests to the session.

II. Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Events

3. The thirteenth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held in Geneva on 27-28 October 2020. As part of the session, an international policy conference will provide an opportunity for experts from across the ECE region to exchange experiences on innovation policy. The bureau of the Team will decide on the specific topic in consultation with the Team members. The thirteenth session will decide on the date for the fourteenth session to be held in 2021.
4. The 2020 session of the Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs) will be organized together with UNESCAP. A policy conference will be organised back-to-back with the session.

National Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews

5. The national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia will be finalized in cooperation with the Government based on the results of the peer review and will be launched in Georgia. The fact finding and research for a new review of Moldova will be carried out in close cooperation with the Government. Reviews of Armenia and Uzbekistan will be initiated in 2021.

Innovation Policy Outlook

6. The pilot sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook will be finalized in close cooperation with participating Governments. It will be launched in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Innovation Policy Principles and Strategy

7. A task force convened by the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will initiate work on draft high-level policy principles on selected aspects of innovation for sustainable development. A broad multi-stakeholder consultation process will be initiated.

Capacity building

8. In line with the agreement with the Government of Belarus on capacity building to support reforms in line with the recommendations of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review, a final event will present and discuss the results of the task force formed to develop a roadmap for piloting a public-private venture capital mechanism for innovative projects in Belarus, in co-operation with the State Committee on Science and Technology.

9. An agreement of similar scope will be developed with the Government of Georgia for a duration of two years, with two initial events planned for 2020 and the first quarter of 2021.

10. A follow-up sub-regional event on policies for innovative, high-growth enterprises will be organised in the fall of 2020 or in the first quarter of 2021 depending on travel restrictions, in co-operation with the OECD. ECE, in co-operation with OECD, will develop a policy handbook on the topic, to be published in Russian and English.

11. Following up on the study tour to the Russian Federation on technology parks and incubators in October 2019 and building on additional expert work on the topic, ECE will develop a policy handbook on incubators for the SPECA member countries, to be published in Russian and English.

12. To support implementation of the SPECA strategy on innovation for sustainable development, ECE and ESCAP will develop an initial gap analysis covering SPECA member states. The results will be discussed at a sub-regional event in 2020.

13. A sub-regional training seminar on selected aspects of innovation policy will be organized jointly with UNCTAD and other interested UN agencies in the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development in Serbia.

Other activities

14. A significant substantive contribution will be made to a publication on ECE's Smart Sustainable Cities nexus.

III. Public-private Partnerships

15. The focus of the work on PPPs is on developing international PPP standards, recommendations, guidelines and best practices in support of the SDGs and facilitate their implementation in countries through demand-driven national, regional, and international capacity-building activities to assist member States in improving their legal and regulatory framework and develop pipelines of infrastructure projects.

Events

16. The fourth session of the Working Party on PPPs will be held in Geneva on 1-2 December 2020;

17. The fifth edition of the International People-first PPP Forum will be co-organised by the UNECE and the Economic Commission for Africa in 2020;¹

18. The sixth edition of the International People-first PPP Forum will be organised by the UNECE in April 2021;

19. The second PPP dialogue for Belt and Road countries will be organised in Geneva in 2020, subject to extrabudgetary resources; and

¹ This activity was scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa on 5-7 May 2020 but was postponed *sine die* due to COVID-19.

20. Regular coordination meetings of the network of the International PPP Specialist Centres of Excellence affiliated to the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence will take place in 2020.

Standards, recommendations, guidelines and best practices

21. International standards on PPPs in health policy, in water and sanitation and in urban rail will be finalized during 2020;

22. Work on the People-first PPP/concession model law and commentary will be finalised in 2021;

23. The guidelines on PPPs in waste to energy projects will be finalised in 2020; and

24. The work on guidelines for the People-first PPP outcomes in accordance with the ten Guiding Principles on People First PPPs adopted by the Committee in 2019 will be launched in 2020.

Capacity building

25. An International Forum on People-first PPPs will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in 2020;²

26. An event in 2020 to convene a number of cities in Barcelona, Spain to adopt a declaration on People-first PPPs in smart and sustainable cities in support of the SDGs. This work will be led by the Barcelona City Council; and

27. A capacity building initiative for countries within the Belt and Road initiative, based on three pillars of cooperation (policy dialogue, national capacity-building and transformational projects) will be implemented in 2020 subject to extrabudgetary resources.

People-first Projects

28. An evaluation methodology as an implementation tool to score infrastructure projects against the people-first PPP criteria will to be completed in 2020; and

29. The campaign to reach 500 people-first PPP case studies will continue to be promoted, and additional case studies will be collected and presented at the next International PPP Forum.

² This activity was scheduled to take place on 21-22 April 2020 but was postponed *sine die* due to COVID-19.