

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events

Information paper No. 21

15 October 2019

Countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events

Note by the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Bureau

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) at its nineteenth session (22–25 October 2013) “...took note of the assessment of criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events (ECE/CEP/2013/20), and approved the recommendations contained therein (see paras. 20 and 21)”. Paragraph 21 stipulates in particular that “(a) ... The CEP shall take decision at each regular session on either amending the present criteria, or extending them for another period; (b) The draft of a relevant decision of the CEP shall be based on the input from the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and its Chair, to be prepared and circulated beforehand ...”.

2. According to the mandate referred to in a para 1 above, at its twenty-fourth session (29–31 January 2019) the CEP considered updating the criteria for financial support and took the decision by which the Committee “approves the revised criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events as presented in the Information paper No. 10 and asks the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to periodically verify the availability of data for 2017 and, if available for all countries with economies in transition, to prepare revised criteria for financial support for approval by the Committee by email through a silent procedure”;

3. Throughout the year 2019 the secretariat has repeatedly examined the availability of the relevant data. The sufficiently comprehensive data has not been available until after the CEP Bureau meeting (September 19-20, Lisbon). The Bureau at its meeting has considered the matter and asked the secretariat to update the criteria in accordance with the CEP decision as referred in the paragraph 2 above as soon as the data would become available.

4. As soon as the data became available the secretariat has updated the criteria for the consideration of the Bureau. The CEP Bureau conducted electronic consultations of the revised and updated criteria during the second decade of October 2019 and recommended submitting the criteria to the Committee as annexed to the present paper. Data refers to year 2017 (most recent financial data available¹).

5. The criteria contain lower and upper thresholds². It is proposed to maintain the thresholds at the same levels as adopted by the previous three sessions of the CEP:

(a) The lower threshold (for full financial support) will be set to 4,500 in current US\$ of the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita;

¹ As for October 11, 2019, the data for 2018 has not yet been complete for all member States concerned.

² As defined in the document “Assessment of criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events” (ECE/CEP/2013/20).

6. The upper threshold (for full financial support) will be set to 5,500 in current US\$ of GDP per capita. Other approaches may be applied under projects where donors are earmarking their contributions with particular conditions.
7. The Committee will be invited to consider the criteria for financial support with a view to approving it. Other approaches may be applied under projects where donors are earmarking their contributions with particular conditions.
8. The present criteria will enter into force immediately after their approval by CEP.

Annex

Countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events

1. For the purposes of this paper, “partial financial support” includes Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) only; and “full financial support” includes DSA and travel expenses.
2. The lower threshold for financial support equals US\$ 4,500. Representatives of the member States with annual GDP per capita below the lower threshold are entitled to full^a financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the CEP decision applies. Other approaches may be applied under projects with donor contributions on certain conditions.
3. The upper threshold for financial support equals US\$ 5,500. Representatives of the member States with annual GDP per capita between the lower and upper thresholds are entitled to partial^b financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the CEP decision applies.

List of countries eligible for financial support

Countries eligible for financial support, total: 11	
Eligible for travel expenses and DSA support, subtotal: 8	
<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita, 2017 US\$^c (in ascending order)</i>
Tajikistan	802
Kyrgyzstan	1274
Uzbekistan	1541
Ukraine	2641
Moldova, Republic of	2703
Armenia	3869
Georgia	4045
Azerbaijan	4152
Eligible for DSA support only, subtotal: 3	
<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita, 2017 US\$^d (in ascending order)</i>
Albania	4533
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5156
North Macedonia	5442

^a Travel expenses and DSA, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.

^b DSA only, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.

^c Data source: Statistical Database of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Country GDP per capita in nominal US\$ has been calculated by dividing the 2017 figure for “GDP per capita at current prices, NCUs” onto the 2017 figure for “Exchange rate (XR), NCU per US\$”. Database was accessed on 11 October 2019.

^d Data source: Statistical Database of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Country GDP per capita in nominal US\$ has been calculated by dividing the 2017 figure for “GDP per capita at current prices, NCUs” onto the 2017 figure for “Exchange rate (XR), NCU per US\$”. Database was accessed on 11 October 2019.