



JOINT LAUNCH WEBINAR

UNECE SUB-REGIONAL INNOVATION POLICY OUTLOOK 2020: GEORGIA

UNECE INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE REVIEW OF GEORGIA

16 December 2020, 13:00-15:30 (Tbilisi time), 10:00-12:30 (Geneva CET), Zoom

Background

Tackling the complexity of sustainable development and overcoming challenges, including those resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, requires robust legal frameworks, strong institutions and evidence-based, effective policies and interventions. This imperative is particularly pronounced for innovation and related policy areas, which can play a crucial role by driving the exploration of ideas that could underpin long-term, sustainable, inclusive growth in Georgia.

Recognising the need to maintain the momentum created by massive reforms over recent decades and the central role of innovation to lead the process of restructuring and upgrading the economy on a sustainable footing, Georgia has shown strong political commitment to this issue in recent years. As part of its efforts to put this commitment into practice, Georgia has worked actively with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on the Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO) and the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia (IASDR). This webinar brings together UNECE, experts, and Georgian stakeholders to present, elucidate, and discuss the findings and recommendations in these two forthcoming UNECE publications.

The *UNECE Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO) 2020*, a pilot initiative and flagship publication, supports efforts in the EESC region¹ through a systematic, comprehensive, and comparative assessment of the scope, quality, and effectiveness of innovation policies, institutions and processes. The IPO complements composite indices, such as the Global Innovation Index of the World Intellectual Property Organisation and the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum, by looking more closely at the role that policies and institutions play in promoting innovation and by focusing on a group of countries with shared economic, structural, legacy and institutional features. The results can inform policy dialogue, reform processes, joint initiatives, donor-funded programming, investment and support the transition to a circular economy.

The *UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia* takes a deeper, country-specific look at the actors and dynamics of the innovation system, mechanisms for innovation governance, and the range and effectiveness of support mechanisms in place or underway. This includes both a broad overview and an in-depth examination of specific areas: industry-science linkages, innovation-enhancing procurement, and private sector dynamics. On this basis, the review provides a detailed set of recommendations for policy

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

and institutional reform and innovation, including measures to further mainstream a broad sustainable development perspective across policy areas related to enabling and promoting innovation.

We express our gratitude to the Government of Sweden, which has provided the extra-budgetary resources that made these initiatives possible.

Participation

This event brings together Georgian innovation stakeholders, international experts, international organisations and the UNECE secretariat. After the opening, the UNECE secretariat will present the main findings and recommendations of the Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO) and the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia followed by an open discussion among participants.

Please note that the times indicated below are based on local Tbilisi time.

AGENDA

12:30-13:00

REGISTRATION AND LOG-IN ON ZOOM

MODERATOR: Annie Vashakmadze, Head of Donor Relations and International Relations Department, Georgia's Innovation & Technology Agency (GITA)

13:00 – 13:20

OPENING

- Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE
- Ms. Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia
- Mr. Avtandil Kasradze, Chair, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA)
- Ms. Tina Genebashvili, Embassy of Sweden in Tbilisi, Georgia

13:20 – 13:30

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND OF THE IPO AND THE NATIONAL REVIEW

- Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

13:30 – 14:15

CORE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OUTLOOK AND REVIEW

- Mr. Anders Jönsson, Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE
- Mr. Jakob Fexer, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE
- Mr. Ralph Heinrich, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE
- Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky, European Alliance for Innovation

14:15 – 15:00

PANEL DISCUSSION: RECENT POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANNED REFORMS

Moderator: Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE

Statements by:

- Mr. Avtandil Kasradze, Chair, GITA
- Mr. Alexander Khvtisiashvili, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Kakha Demetrashvili, Deputy Chairperson, State Procurement Agency
- Other stakeholders in the national innovation system

Expert commentary: IPO and Review authors

Mr. Rafis Abazov, UN Development Programme, **Ms. Hana Daoudi**, Economic Affairs Officer, Market Access Section, UNECE; **Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky**, European Alliance for Innovation; **Mr. Jakob Fexer**, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE; **Ms. Yelena Kalyuzhnova**, Director, the Centre for Euro-Asian Studies, University of Reading; **Mr. Dmitry Plekhanov**, UNECE consultant; **Mr. Slavo Radosevic**, Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, University College London

15:00 – 15:15

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

15:15 – 15:30

SUMMARY AND CLOSING BY UNECE SECRETARIAT AND GITA

- Ms. Annie Vashakmadze, Head of Donor Relations and International Relations Department, Georgia's Innovation & Technology Agency (GITA)
- Mr. Anders Jönsson, Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE

REGISTRATION

To register for the webinar, please click [here](#).

Link to join the webinar:

<https://undp.zoom.us/j/87445275409?pwd=b2V4UDNYMERsUlpMazFaK1RUWGZtUT09>

For further information, please contact: Immanuela Badde at Immanuela.Badde@un.org