



UNECE Grants Committee Annual Report

2019

1. Foreword

The Grants Committee was established in December 2000 to provide recommendations to the Executive Secretary of UNECE on the use of voluntary contributions, or extra-budgetary resources, received from donors for grants to non-profit partner organisations in accordance with the Guidelines approved by the Office of the Controller of the United Nations.

The overall governance and approval processes were revised in coordination with, and under the direct approval of, the UN Controller. The Guidelines for the Grants Committee (“Guidelines”) issued in 2013 clearly articulate the requirements for all Grant proposals in UNECE. These revisions brought about a more consistent approach with regard to the application of UN procurement rules and principles to the grants approval process, in particular a focus on best value for money, fairness, integrity and transparency, and ensuring the interests of UNECE are maintained at all times.

2. Composition

The 2019 UNECE Grants Committee was established in line with its approved General Procedures. The Committee members appointed by the Executive Secretary on 17 December 2018 were as follows:

Chairperson:	Ms. Nicola Koch Chef de Cabinet, OES
Alternate Chairperson:	Ms. Polina Tarshis Economic Affairs Officer Programme Management Unit, OES
Legal:	Ms. Anne-Marie Burns Legal Officer, Geneva Registry, UNDT, UNOG
Alternate Legal:	Mr. Cornelius Andres Justin Fischer Associate Legal Officer, UNOG/HRMS
Financial:	Mr. Michael Sylver Executive Officer, Executive Office
Alternate Financial:	Mr. Alan Esser Administrative Officer, Executive Office

3. Meetings

The Grants Committee convened seven meetings during the year 2019.

4. Grants

Compared with the prior fiscal period, the number of grants reviewed and approved by the Committee decreased by 50%, from eighteen grants in 2018 to nine grants in 2019. Similarly, the aggregate value of grants approved in the period decreased by 47%, from US\$ 460,746 in 2018 to US\$ 244,986 in 2019. The Environment Division of UNECE remains the predominant client of the Committee, accounting for 89% of grants submitted, with the Statistics Division submitting one grant to the Committee during the year.

The UNECE Executive Office continued to exercise due diligence with respect to its review of all submissions and has held administrative outreach sessions with programme managers of UNECE divisions to provide guidance and clarifications regarding Grant Committee procedures, including the grant submission, grant management and grant closure processes.

In anticipation of the deployment on 1 January 2020 of the Umoja Extension 2 Implementing Partner Management module, which will allow for the online management of the entire life-cycle of all future grants out to end beneficiaries and implementing partners through the Umoja system, the Executive Office also began the work of data collection, validation, role mapping and workflow alignment, as well as providing regular updates to Programme Managers and Programme Assistants in preparation for the scheduled launch date.

5. Annexes

Annex I: Charts detailing grants issued in the year ending 31 December 2019

Annex II: Detailed list of UNECE Grants in the year ending 31 December 2019

Annex I

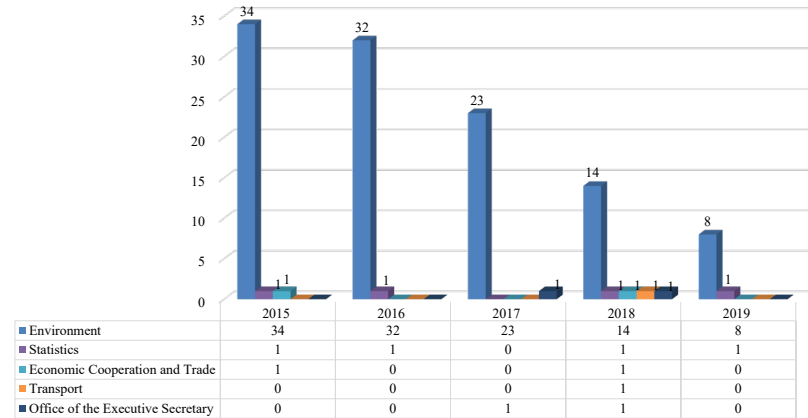
Number of Grants by Division	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	34	32	23	14	8	(6)
Economic Cooperation and Trade	1	0	0	1	0	(1)
Statistics	1	1	0	1	1	0
Transport	0	0	0	1	0	(1)
Office of the Executive Secretary	0	0	1	1	0	(1)
Total:	36	33	24	18	9	(9)

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2018 and 2019.

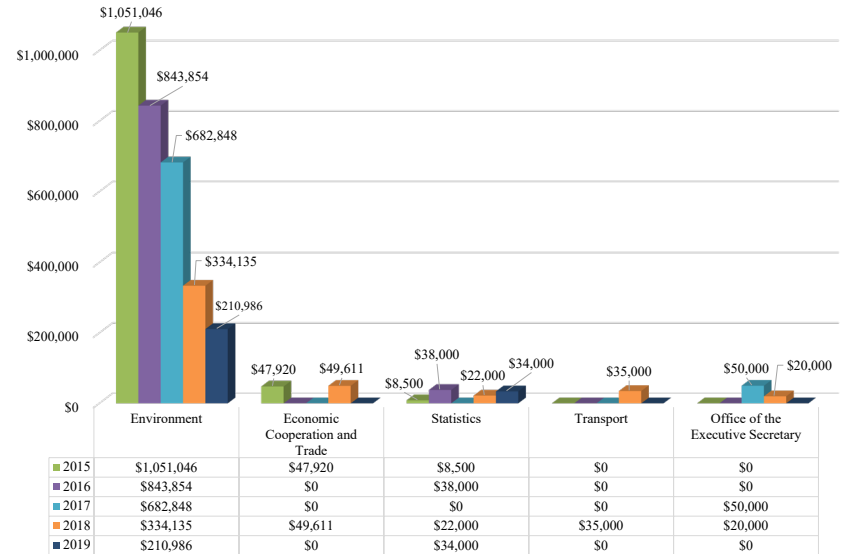
Grant Value by Division - USD Amount	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	\$1,051,046	\$843,854	\$682,848	\$334,135	\$210,986	(\$123,149)
Economic Cooperation and Trade	\$47,920	\$0	\$0	\$49,611	\$0	(\$49,611)
Statistics	\$8,500	\$38,000	\$0	\$22,000	\$34,000	\$12,000
Transport	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	(\$35,000)
Office of the Executive Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$0	(\$20,000)
Total:	\$1,107,466	\$881,854	\$732,848	\$460,746	\$244,986	(\$215,760)

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2018 and 2019.

Number of Grants by Division 2015-2019



Grant Value in USD by Division 2015-2019



Annex II

#	Division	Grant Title	Grant Number	Project Account Code	Grant Budget	Date of Approval	Donor	Grant Recipient	Beneficiary Country/Countries	Programme Manager
1	Environment	Support to sub-regional cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia	ECE/GC/2019/03/001	SB-008129	\$ 31,700	3 April 2019	Russian Federation	GEF Agency of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	Batyr Hajiyev
2	Environment	Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities (TMFs), in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia and Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular TMFs, in Tajikistan and Central Asia	ECE/GC/2019/04/002	SB-001767	\$ 26,085	3 May 2019	Switzerland	Public Fund "Water Initiatives Center"	Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan	Claudia Kamke
3	Statistics	Pilot testing in Tajikistan of the harmonized survey module for measuring migration and remittances	ECE/GC/2019/04/003	SB-006274	\$ 34,000	3 May 2019	World Bank	Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Andres Vikat
4	Environment	Support to the network of Russian-speaking water management organizations of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and organization of a Network Conference	ECE/GC/2019/05/004	SB-008130	\$ 33,245	19 June 2019	Russian Federation	The Scientific Information Centre, International Commission for Water Coordination, Uzbekistan, (SIC-ICWC)	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan	Batyr Hajiyev
5	Environment	Round table on improving the regulatory and institutional frameworks for ensuring the safety of hydraulic structures in Kyrgyzstan	ECE/GC/2019/05/005	SB-008129	\$ 7,633	19 June 2019	Russian Federation	National Water Partnership of Kyrgyzstan (PA "Vodnoe partnerstvo")	Kyrgyzstan	Batyr Hajiyev
6	Environment	Support to the 23 rd session of the SPECA Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment	ECE/GC/2019/06/006	SB-006061.02	\$ 20,005	18 July 2019	Russian Federation	The Executive Agency of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Tashkent, Uzbekistan	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Viktor Badaker
7	Environment	Improved River Basin Management (RBM) planning and water resources management by taking into consideration the outcomes of the developed Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Alazani/Iori River Basin Management Plan and improved national capacities on implementation of a SEA	ECE/GC/2019/07/007	SB-006642	\$ 47,080	17 September 2019	European Union	Georgia's Environmental Outlook (GEO)	Georgia	Christine Kitzler
8	Environment	Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook	ECE/GC/2019/08/009	SB-001765	\$ 29,018	21 November 2019	Switzerland and Hungary	University of Eastern Finland	Global	Annukka Lipponen
9	Environment	Promotion of ratification of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment by Tajikistan	ECE/GC/2019/10/010	SB-012577 & SB-001768	\$ 16,220	17 December 2019	Switzerland and Germany	Tajik Branch of the Central Asian Regional Ecological Center (CAREC)	Tajikistan	Elena Santer
Grand Total					\$ 244,986					