



UNECE Grants Committee Annual Report

2020

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 2020 UNECE Grants Committee was established in line with its approved General Procedures. The Committee members appointed by the Executive Secretary on 4 December 2019 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. Liliana Lopez Bello 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 three meetings during the year 2020.

4. Grants

Compared with the prior fiscal period, the number of grants reviewed and approved by the Committee decreased by 78%, from nine grants in 2019 to two grants in 2020. Similarly, the aggregate value of grants approved in the period decreased by 59%, from US\$ 244,986 in 2019 to US\$ 101,400 in 2020. The Environment Division and the Forestry, Land and Housing Division were the only clients of the Committee in the year. As grants awarded to implementing partners often involve the holding of capacity building trainings, workshops and roundtables within the UNECE region in support of technical cooperation activities, the uncertainty and related restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 global pandemic has led to a significant downturn in the number and value of grants awarded in 2020.

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.

On 1 January 2020, Umoja Extension 2 Implementing Partner Management module was deployed across the UN Secretariat and within UNECE, which has enabled the online management of the entire life cycle of all future grants out to end beneficiaries and implementing partners through the Umoja system.

5. Annexes

Annex I: Charts detailing grants issued in the year ending 31 December 2020

Annex II: Detailed list of UNECE Grants in the year ending 31 December 2020

Annex I

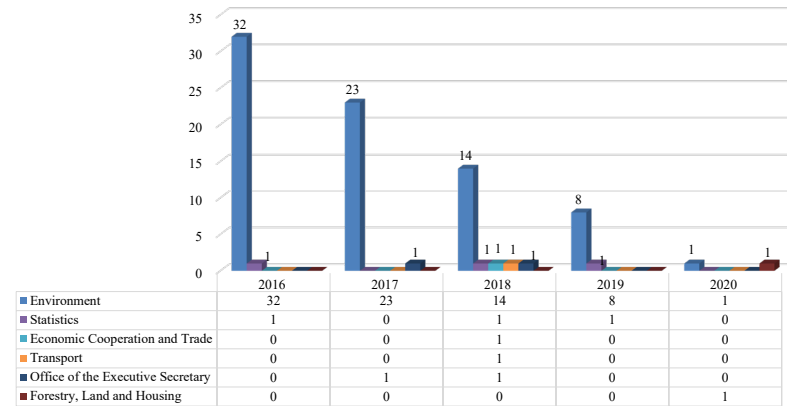
Number of Grants by Division	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	32	23	14	8	1	(7)
Forestry, Land and Housing	0	0	0	0	1	1
Economic Cooperation and Trade	0	0	1	0	0	0
Statistics	1	0	1	1	0	(1)
Transport	0	0	1	0	0	0
Office of the Executive Secretary	0	1	1	0	0	0
Total:	33	24	18	9	2	(7)

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2019 and 2020.

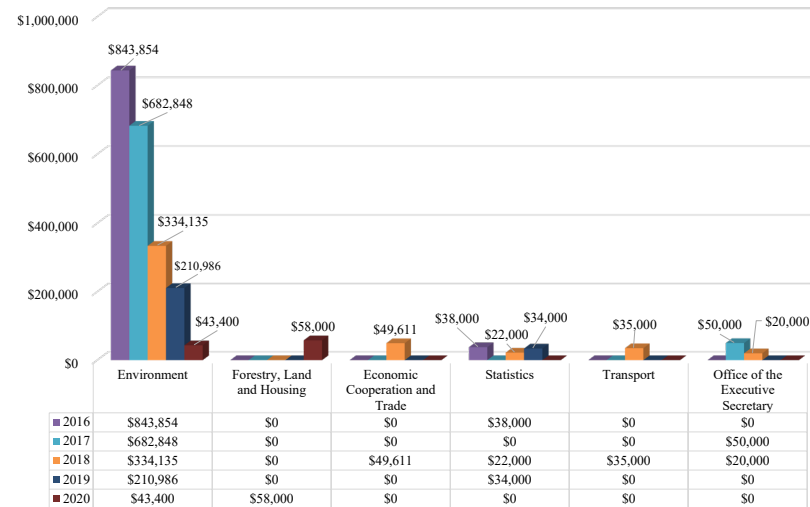
Grant Value by Division - USD Amount	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	\$843,854	\$682,848	\$334,135	\$210,986	\$43,400	(\$167,586)
Forestry, Land and Housing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$58,000	\$58,000
Economic Cooperation and Trade	\$0	\$0	\$49,611	\$0	\$0	\$0
Statistics	\$38,000	\$0	\$22,000	\$34,000	\$0	(\$34,000)
Transport	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office of the Executive Secretary	\$0	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$881,854	\$732,848	\$460,746	\$244,986	\$101,400	(\$143,586)

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2019 and 2020.

Number of Grants by Division 2016-2020



Grant Value in USD by Division 2016-2020



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	Project on supporting countries of Central Asia in strengthening the safety of mine tailings and mining operations, in particular TMFs, in Tajikistan and Central Asia	ECE/GC/2020/06/002	SB-001767	\$ 43,400	21 December 2020	Switzerland	Public Fund "Water Initiatives Center"	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	Claudia Kanke
2	Forests, Land and Housing	Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19	ECE/GC/2020/10/006	SB-015222	\$ 58,000	1 December 2020	United Nations Development Account	United Nations Capital Development Fund	Local governments	Gulnara Roll
Grand Total					\$ 101,400					