

Peer Learning Round Tables



Cluster 2: Prosperity

Building back innovative, inclusive and sustainable economies and providing decent and productive jobs for all

Session 2-1

Recovering from COVID-19: a sustainable and human-centred approach to the future of work

Thursday, 11 March 2021, 10:00 – 12:00

Guiding questions for round table

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| Question 1 | Which factors help ensure that analytical work is successfully translated into policy dialogue and decisions at national level? |
| Question 2 | What does the COVID-19 crisis show us about vulnerabilities (including gender inequalities) in the labour market and how can policy makers and other stakeholders address the diverging impact on vulnerable or disadvantaged people in this context? |
| Question 3 | What is the role of social partners (business groups and workers' organisations) to balance the need for structural change, innovation and growth with the imperative need of protecting workers, integrating, and building the right skills among the most vulnerable, especially those with precarious or temporary employment? |
| Question 4 | What are the longer-term implications and trends that will shape the future of work? |
| Question 5 | How can lessons learned during the COVID-19 crisis help create sustainable, innovative and inclusive economies and leave no one behind? |
| Question 6 | How can innovation, trade facilitation and Public-Private Partnerships contribute to Build Back Better and advance the achievement of SDG 8? |

Policy actions for discussion

Policy action 1	Rapid Labour Market Assessment – Country Case Study Portugal
Presenter 1	Mr Miguel Cabrita, Secretary of State for Labour, Vocational Training and Deputy to the Minister Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, Portugal
Policy action 2	Rapid Labour Market Assessment – Country Case Study North Macedonia
Presenter 2	Mr Angel Dimitrov, President of the Organization of Employers, North Macedonia
Policy action 3	Rapid Labour Market Assessment – Country Case Study Uzbekistan
Presenter 3	Mr Makhmudjon Isaev, Head of the Socio-Economic Department, Federation of Trade Unions, Uzbekistan
Policy action 4	SPECA ¹ Trade Facilitation Strategy and Principles for Sustainable Trade – The Experience of Tajikistan
Presenter 4	Mr Abdurakhmon Abdurakhmonov, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
Policy action 5	Innovation Policy for Sustainable Development – The Experience of Georgia
Presenter 5	Ms Annie Vashakmadze, Head of Donor Relations and International Relations Department, Georgia Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), Georgia
Policy action 6	People-first Public-Private Partnerships – The Experience of Ukraine
Presenter 6	Ms Iryna Novikova, Deputy Minister of Economy, Ukraine

Moderator

Moderator	Ms Elisabeth Tuerk Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division UNECE
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Background

Efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted economies, including labour markets and trade patterns in the ECE region. They have slowed down investment into and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, also from a gender perspective.

At this peer learning session policy makers will exchange experiences on how they are advancing towards SDG 8, bearing on the challenges of COVID-19 recovery, and what measures they envisage to build innovative, sustainable and inclusive economies based on a human-centred approach to the future of work, including gender responsive recovery practices.

¹ The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

Participants will review the immediate labour market impact of COVID-19 in the ECE region. They will present and discuss country case studies ([Portugal](#), [North Macedonia](#) and [Uzbekistan](#)) to show how analytical work was successfully leveraged for generating policy dialogue and action at the national level, involving policy makers, business groups, and workers' organisations.

Policy makers will also take a longer-term perspective and explore the impact on the future of work in the context of broader trends, such as globalisation, servitisation, digitisation, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. They will exchange experiences and present case studies on how innovation policy, trade facilitation and Public-Private Partnerships contribute to the achievement of SDG 8.

Organizers

Lead organizer	UNECE/ECTD ILO
Contributors	FAO UN Women UNPFA