

*Connecting countries
Driving progress
Improving lives*

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public- private Partnerships

CICPPP
4 June 2021



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Agenda item 4(b)
**Team of Specialists on Innovation and
Competitiveness Policies (TOS ICP)**

Innovation and Competitiveness Policies



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Report of 12th session TOS ICP (ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/2)

Smart and Sustainable Cities: The Role of Governance and Innovation Policy (ECE/CECI/2021/3)

Building Back Better: Using Platforms to Enable Sharing and Progress towards the Circular Economy (ECE/CECI/2021/4)

Building Back Better: Innovation-enhancing Procurement for Sustainable Development (ECE/CECI/2021/5)

Results and policy recommendations of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia (ECE/CECI/2021/6)

Results and policy recommendations of the subregional Innovation Policy Outlook (ECE/CECI/2021/7)

Chair's conclusions on the informal consultations of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (ECE/CECI/2021/8)

Recommendations from the external evaluation of the programme of national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (ECE/CECI/2021/INF.2)

Status of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews of Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, and Uzbekistan (ECE/CECI/2021/INF.3)

The subregional Innovation Policy Outlook – the way forward (ECE/CECI/2021/INF.4)

Innovation and Competitiveness Policies



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Critical role for innovation if we are to build back better after COVID-19 and accelerate the transition towards a circular economy.

To support member States, ECE has a range of tools to support policy development, including:

Policy documents on selected topics

Innovation for Sustainable Development (I4SD) Reviews

Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO) benchmarking tool that has been implemented with 6 countries in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus.

TOS ICP – international policy dialogue



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12th session included applied policy seminar: “Smart and Sustainable Cities: The Role of Governance and Innovation Policy” (ECE/CECI/2021/3).

Webinars on “Building Back Better: Using Platforms to Enable Sharing and Progress towards the Circular Economy” and “Building Back Better: Innovation-enhancing Procurement for Sustainable Development” were held as part of the informal consultations of TOS ICP (October 2020)

Webinar on diasporas to promote I4SD on 31 May 2021 and provided the basis for sharing of experiences between countries and experts

Following policy dialogue and supporting analytical work, following studies forthcoming: a handbook on policies for Innovative High Growth Enterprises for Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus; a policy handbook on incubators for the SPECA countries, and a collection of good policy practices developed by the Team of Specialists in recent years.

TOS ICP – national I4SD reviews



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I4SD review of Georgia:

- fact-finding mission (November 2019)

- draft chapters

- virtual peer review process (summer 2020)

- launch event December 2020

- evidence-based recommendations on improving innovation policy in Georgia (ECE/CECI/2021/6)

- issued as an official UN publication

Work on I4SD reviews of Moldova and Uzbekistan ongoing, with review of Armenia planned for 2022 (ECE/CECI/2021/INF.3).

Independent evaluation of the programme of national I4SD reviews (ECE/CECI/2021/INF.2).

Interest expressed by Ukraine under agenda item 2 in undertaking an I4SD review

TOS ICP – innovation policy outlook



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The subregional Innovation Policy Outlook 2020: Eastern Europe and South Caucasus published. Presented at a high-level online launch event and at six national launch events.

Plans to begin work on an interim Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO) and relevant follow-up activities to IPO 2020 in close cooperation with participating Governments.

TOS ICP – innovation policy principles



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Mandate given to the Team by the Committee at its twelfth session to launch a task force under the guidance of its bureau

UNECE Task Force on Innovation Policy Principles met for the first time on 27 May 2021, with outcomes of the discussion presented under agenda item 2 (Annex I)

Task Force will develop the structure, preamble and justification of the principles and report progress to TOS ICP in November 2021

Secretariat invites further members to join the Task Force

Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia



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11th Session of the SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development held alongside a regional workshop on Innovation and Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 26-27 June 2019

Study trip “From ideas to applications: Sharing best practices on incubators, science parks and technology transfer” was held for the SPECA countries on 21-23 October 2019, Moscow, Russian Federation

SPECA Governing Council approved change in name to SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (WG on ITSD) and new TORs. Also adopted SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development

First annual session SPECA WG on ITSD in virtual mode on 30 July 2020, chaired by Kazakhstan.

Sub-regional webinar 26 November 2020 on STI gap analyses carried out for the SPECA countries, work on new industrial policy for technological upgrading and work on Business incubators for sustainable development in the SPECA sub-region that will form the basis of a handbook (forthcoming). Activities were carried out with the support of the UNDA project “Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2020-2023).

Sub-regional and national capacity building (1)



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- (a) Regional Capacity Building workshop “Promoting Innovative High Growth Enterprises in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus”, Minsk, Belarus on 5-6 March 2019 with OECD
- (b) Regional training “Innovation for sustainable development” with UNCTAD in Geneva on 28 March 2019
- (c) National capacity building “Science, technology, innovation policy and risk: access to finance for innovative business – bottlenecks and challenges” was organised in Minsk, Belarus on 29 May 2019
- (d) Regional training seminar on selected aspects of innovation policy was organized jointly with UNCTAD and other interested UN agencies in the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development in Belgrade in November 2019

Sub-regional and national capacity building (2)



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- (e) Online event on UNECE-Belarus Task Force for developing a roadmap for piloting a public-private venture capital mechanism for innovative projects in Belarus, in cooperation with the State Committee on Science and Technology in September 2020
- (f) Regional capacity building on Innovative High Growth Enterprises for Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus region organized through 2 on-line events on 15 and 17 September 2020, one focusing on institutional and policy support mechanism and the second on access to finance
- (g) A high-level online launch event and a series of national launch events for the sub-regional innovation policy outlook were held in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in webinar format during the period November 2020 – February 2021
- (h) Handbook “Supporting Innovative High-Growth Enterprises in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus” (forthcoming) and a series of three on-line trainings on the Handbook on “Supporting Innovative High-Growth Enterprises in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus” for policy makers in the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus region on 16, 18 and 22 May 2021



Agenda item 4(d)

Joint activities

Joint activities



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Importance of partnerships and the cross-cutting nature of innovation and PPPs to all SDGs, as ES highlighted in her opening, including circular economy

ECI systematically explores partnerships and synergies within ECE, within the UN system, with IOs, and think-tanks in all our activities, including:

- o Cooperation within the Inter-Agency Task Team on STI;
- o Substantial contribution exploring innovation and PPP angles to the four nexus areas of ECE: SSC, smart connectivity, monitoring SDGs, including the SSC and SC flagship publications;
- o Several peer learning and side events on circular economy and other relevant areas at the 2019, 20, and 21 ECE regional forums for sustainable development; such as joint side event with ILO on the future of work post-covid;
- o Active contribution to the 68th and 69th sessions of ECE, the latter on the circular economy;
- o Joint events at HLPF, including a roundtable on innovation and the circular economy at the 2019 HLPF.

Diasporas to promote innovation for SD



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Some insights from the policy dialogue

Trends and patterns of migration in ECE region were considered, and the factors that make diaspora instrumental to boost innovation for sust devt.

Role of remittances in boosting investment and economic development in the home country. In addition, social capital, knowledge of the markets, regulation and the language, affinity for the country of origin, higher trade and investment ratios, were also identified as channels through which diasporas can contribute to the SDGs.

Members of the diaspora are not only consumers, but also international talent, entrepreneurs, investors and innovators. They diffuse innovation, transfer best practices and knowledge; their networks, knowledge, and engagement offer fast lanes for business development with local legitimacy.

Experts and countries shared their experiences.

Policies discussed included: communication and outreach, policy coherence and institutional coordination, dedicated training, diaspora engagement in economic policymaking, access to international supply chains, incentives to invest, access to finance tackling regulatory barriers to investment.

Thank you!



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