

2020 evaluation of subprogramme 4

**Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and sub-regional
Innovation Policy Outlook (October 2020)**

Progress report as of 31 December 2021

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date	Progress
1	<p>The coherence of collaboration with different entities could be further developed by means of organizing joint activities and events with participation of other UN agencies, including WIPO, international organizations, development partners, and stakeholders in the process of the review preparation and implementation of recommendations.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>For the next Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews (I4SDRs), which will be on the Republic of Moldova and on Uzbekistan, the secretariat will involve relevant UN agencies (including relevant ECE sub-programmes) and other development partners in the consultation processes, as authors or co-authors of individual chapters and in the peer reviews.</p> <p>For the follow-up capacity building with Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Armenia, the secretariat will explore the possibility of organizing events jointly with partners as a function of the topic and work programme agreed with these countries following review results and recommendations.</p>	<p>Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section</p>	<p>December 2022</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR) of Moldova As part of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews (I4SDRs) of Republic of Moldova, the fact-finding exercise included the engagement of international partners in the consultation process, such as IOM and UNDP in Moldova (projects on diaspora for development), as well as FAO representatives in Moldova (expertise on the case study of agri-food sector). The EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC), OECD, FAO, UN RCO and UN country team and other relevant international organisations were engaged in the peer review process of key findings and policy recommendations, along with the OECD, FAO, IOM and UNDP.</p> <p>Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR) of Uzbekistan Based on their ongoing projects on innovation policy in Uzbekistan, initial discussions were held with representatives from the World Bank and UNESCO, who participated in the initial stakeholder consultations conducted in Q1 2021. The UNESCO country profile on Uzbek science and research system, published in 2020, serves as the basis for the review. In the drafting process, other UNECE sub-programmes were consulted on the agricultural sector (box in chapter 1; WP.6) environmental sustainability (recently published UNECE</p>

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					Environmental Performance Review; Environment Division). Throughout the subsequent fact-finding exercise, UNECE held meetings with international partners such as the IMF, IFC, EBRD, UNDP Uzbekistan, GIZ and ADB as well as individual experts from the CAREC Institute. The World Bank, UNESCO, ADB, UNDP, WIPO and other relevant international organisations and (inter-)national experts were engaged in the peer review process of key findings and policy recommendations. The final publication will be launched in March 2022 at a high-level virtual launch meeting.
2	Include in the reviews a tentative timeline to facilitate the implementation process for the governments. Ensure that recommendations include concrete and practical measures to be implemented by non-academic professionals working in the area of innovation policy development.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The secretariat will:</p> <p>a) ensure in the upcoming reviews of the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan that recommendations are mutually consistent and as specific and actionable as possible, and add guidance on timing, importance, and responsible bodies;</p> <p>b) aim to present the recommendations in the form of a one-page, high-level reform road map;</p> <p>c) as part of the follow-up capacity building for Georgia develop action plans or road maps with timelines and further develop specific practical policy measures to facilitate implementation of those policy recommendations the Government wishes to pursue</p>	Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section	December 2022	<p>In progress</p> <p>a) The recommendations developed under the I4SDRs of the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan present clear and actionable items alongside an indication of timeframe and priority level for implementation.</p> <p>b) The recommendations constitute a high-level reform roadmap to help guide policy reform efforts of the national authorities of Moldova and Uzbekistan.</p> <p>c) For both Moldova and Uzbekistan, follow-up capacity building activities are in planning, for Moldova through a series of activities on a specific topic (same for Uzbekistan depending on XB funding).</p>
3	Widen the pool of relevant experts, including the local ones, for team set-up or emergency replacement. Special attention should be paid to the experts'	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>For the upcoming reviews of the Republic of Moldova and of Uzbekistan, the secretariat will</p> <p>a) engage at least one female expert as an author for each review;</p>	Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section	December 2022	<p>In progress</p> <p>As part of the review of Republic of Moldova:</p> <p>a) UNECE engaged one female expert as the author of a chapter, one female expert to conduct a case study on innovation in the agro-food sector, one female expert as</p>

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	<p>understanding of the context of the target countries, legal frameworks, private sector, and the link between innovations and sustainable development. Female experts should be encouraged to apply. Arrange interactive discussions with the member States governments, where they could validate the draft reports as peer reviewers do.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) improve gender balance among peer reviewers; c) engage at least one new expert or organisation as an author; d) provide detailed guidance to newly recruited experts on the expected structure of their respective chapters through a concept note explaining and aligning the approach to the subject matter based on desk research and agreement with beneficiary countries; e) continue the practice of interactive, regular discussions with beneficiary countries on the content of chapters, the analysis, and draft chapters and reviews. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) local consultant based in Moldova; b) UNECE ensured at least 30% participation of each gender among peer reviewers; c) engaged one new female expert as lead author of a chapter; d) concept notes and a draft chapter outline were developed by UNECE and provided to experts to facilitate the drafting process; e) consultations have been held with the beneficiary country to align understanding of the main concepts of and expectations for the chapters. A representative of the beneficiary country's lead ministry has been involved in the fact-finding exercise through participation in the consultations, as well as in the peer review process. <p>As part of the I4SDR of Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) One female expert was selected as the author of an elective chapter; b) UNECE ensured 30% participation of female peer reviewers; c) One new female expert was engaged as an author; d) Concept notes and drafted chapter outlines were provided by UNECE to experts for the drafting of respective chapters; e) Consultations were held with the beneficiary country to align expectations on the focus and content of chapters and ministry representatives have been closely involved in fact-finding meetings and the peer review process. <p>For the forthcoming I4SDR of Armenia (to be launched in Q1 2023), several additional steps will be taken towards standardising the process, especially to provide additional guidance and</p>

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					structure for chapter authors to ensure alignment and buy-in systematically.
4	Speed up the reviews production process via further structuration and standardization of the process, e.g., introducing concept notes and data collection questionnaires for the experts. Process optimization is a subject for an individual piece of work requiring deep analysis. The peer review practice could be further upgraded by making written peer reviews collection a standard procedure.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>For the upcoming reviews of the Republic of Moldova and of Uzbekistan the secretariat will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) circulate a questionnaire, using the IPO questionnaire as a basis, to the focal points to collect information from stakeholders to inform the brunt of parts I and II of the review; b) collect, as already done for Georgia, peer review comments in written form in addition to the peer review meeting; c) in the case of the Republic of Moldova build on the findings from the corresponding chapter of the IPO, aiming to complement and update these with strong focus on in-depth chapters in part III. 	Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section	December 2022	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a detailed background note based on the IPO questionnaire results identifying key gaps was developed by UNECE to guide the elaboration of questions for the fact-finding activities of the experts; b) peer review feedback was collected in written form to complement the peer review meeting; c) building on the main findings and recommendations of the IPO chapter on Moldova, elective chapters in Part III have provided in-depth analysis of topics agreed with the Government of Moldova. <p>As part of the I4SDR of Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) UNECE circulated a questionnaire to the focal points in Uzbekistan, based on the IPO questionnaire, to guide experts' elaboration of questions throughout the fact-finding process; b) Written peer review comments were collected; <p>Further steps in this direction are being taken for the review of Armenia, started in November 2021, including aligned structure of chapters, and detailed internal processes to guide the research process involving desk research, a series of bilateral consultations, and larger virtual and physical meetings. The process is being documented and expanded in detail to create a living internal manual.</p>
5	Pay more attention to special features and needs of individual countries. Private sector engagement	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>For the upcoming reviews of the Republic of Moldova and of Uzbekistan the secretariat</p>	Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section	December 2022	<p>In progress</p> <p>As part of the I4SDR of Moldova, IPO findings and fact-finding activities were used to identify options and to agree 3 priority sustainable development</p>

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	<p>should be strengthened. The IPO and the reviews should be regarded as independent streams of work that complement each other in terms of data and perspective, especially when they cover the same countries, but can be sequenced in any convenient order depending on circumstances.</p>	<p>will identify two to three topics which the requesting Governments consider priorities to be covered in separate chapters, following a similar approach already taken for the review of Georgia. The Republic of Moldova review will draw on the results of the IPO (see comments above).</p> <p>Private sector engagement is important, but our review beneficiaries and the subject of analysis is the nature of the innovation system and the role of governance, policies, instruments, and institutions in enabling and promoting innovation across the economy and society. While the Reviews have covered policies and mechanisms for governments to engage systematically with the private sector and have consulted with the private sector extensively during the review process, including visiting individual companies and talking to business associations and chambers of commerce to get their views on existing innovation policies and how they respond to private sector needs, the focus should clearly remain on governance.</p>			<p>topics for treatment in elective chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry-science linkages • Innovation and technology transfer infrastructure • Role of the diaspora in promoting innovation for sustainable development <p>Strengthened private sector engagement in the fact-finding process included focus groups with private sectors stakeholders in additional to bilateral interviews. In response to initial findings indicating policy challenges to be addressed in the agro-food sector, a sectoral case study is being included for the first time in an I4SD review.</p> <p>For the I4SDR Uzbekistan, the two selected elective chapters focus on enhancing industry-science linkages as well as on strengthening the innovation infrastructure, addressing priority policy issues for private sector development in Uzbekistan and included private sector engagement. The chamber of commerce, business associations and other private sector stakeholders have been consistently involved in the bilateral fact-finding meetings.</p> <p>For the IPO, experts, authors and findings from the I4SDRs of Georgia, Moldova, and Armenia have significantly contributed to the success of the IPO policy dialogue sessions that have been held since the release of the IPO publication.</p>

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6	Introduce a more streamlined approach to the follow-up (including capacity building) and incorporate it in funding proposals. Introduce webinars as a regular part of follow-up capacity building. Collect the information about follow-up activities at a single webpage and link it with the reviews programme webpage.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Funding for capacity building has already been included in the XB projects for the I4SDR of Georgia and for upcoming reviews of the Republic of Moldova and Armenia. As a good practice for all subsequent reviews, we will agree on a detailed capacity building programme around a specific planned or on-going reform effort in line with review recommendations with Georgia similar to the one carried out in 2019-2020 for Belarus. We will also revise the way information on the I4SDRs and on related capacity building is presented on our website.</p>	Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section	December 2022	<p>In progress</p> <p>Completed for Georgia, as a focus topic based on the Review recommendations and the detailed capacity building plan has been agreed with representatives of the Government. Thus, UNECE will support the development of innovation enhancing procurement in the country through production of a dedicated handbook and a study tour of Georgian public procurement officials to European country,</p> <p>Not initiated for Moldova and Uzbekistan as Reviews are still to be finalised, but in planning (see above) for 2022.</p>
7	Enrich the reviews with an individual chapter and practical advice for governments on how to mainstream gender equality, women empowerment, and disability inclusion in innovation development. Engage international and local experts to work in pairs on these subject matters.	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The secretariat accepts the objective of further mainstreaming gender equality, women's empowerment and disability inclusion (along with other aspects of inclusiveness from the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, such as poverty reduction or the closing of digital and urban-rural divides). However, this objective can be achieved not only with a separate chapter, but also by mainstreaming these topics, i.e. by covering these aspects within other chapters as part of the relevant narrative, as has already been done increasingly, especially in the Georgia review. Which approach works best will depend on the situation in the country and the needs and expectations of the requesting Government, which has to agree on the review content generally and the topics for the elective, in-depth chapters of Part III in particular.</p>	Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section	December 2022	<p>In progress</p> <p>In the framework of the I4SDR of Moldova and based on the topics of elective chapters agreed with the Government, gender aspects were mainstreamed across chapters 2, 4, and 6. These efforts were supported also by international experts through the peer review process.</p> <p>Within the framework of the I4SDR of Uzbekistan and based on the elective topics and in agreement with the Government of Uzbekistan, gender aspects are integrated in chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the I4SDR of Uzbekistan.</p>

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		<p>For the upcoming I4SDRs of the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan, the secretariat will consult with the Governments and propose different ways of addressing these topics, and will structure the reviews accordingly.</p>			