



UNECE

Supporting innovative, high-growth enterprises in the SPECA sub-region

Online training for policymakers

15 and 17 February 2022

Bishkek/Nursultan
14:30-17:00

Tashkent/Dushanbe
13:30-16:00

Geneva
09:30-12:00

Baku
12:30-15:00

Tuesday, 15 February

*Scaling-up: the role of accelerators in
supporting growth of innovative
enterprises*

Thursday, 17 February

*Financing IHGEs: developing an investor
ecosystem*



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Supporting innovative high-growth enterprises in the SPECA sub-region

This online training is organized in the framework of the UNECE project “Enhancing the capacity of the SPECA countries to design, implement and monitor effective policies to support innovative high-growth enterprises to drive post-COVID 19 recovery and progress towards the circular economy”. The project aims to help officials from the countries of the United Nations Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to develop a better understanding of the nature of and policies and tools that enable and promote innovative, high-growth entrepreneurship to accelerate the Covid-19 recovery and progress towards sustainable development.

Rationale

In the SPECA sub-region, where economic and sustainable development challenges have been exacerbated and the fiscal space to address them further constrained by the slump induced by restrictions to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, IHGEs could be instrumental as agents trying out and scaling up ideas to accelerate the green and circular post-COVID recovery and progress towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Unlike the rest of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), IHGEs require different and well-targeted support measures for the countries to fully reap the considerable economic and social benefits they carry. While some governments across the ECE region have already put in place policies to effectively support the growth of innovative firms with high potential (e.g., United Kingdom, Estonia), the SPECA sub-region lacks similar mechanisms and could benefit from the sharing of best practices and peer experiences.

Objective and structure

Drawing on the principles, policy tools and practices provided in the draft UNECE handbook on “Supporting IHGEs in the SPECA sub-region”, the online training aims to inform and build the capacity of the SPECA stakeholders to design effective policies and institutions to enable and foster the potential of innovative, high-growth entrepreneurship for sustainable development and resilient COVID-19 recovery.

The online training will be structured in two sessions with a presentation of key concepts and guiding principles, based on the forthcoming handbook, followed by analysis of the case studies in smaller groups (via breakout rooms), a practitioner insight with example of what the experience has been elsewhere in the field, and a final brainstorming to reflect on lessons learnt and scope for potential implementation of the principles and tools discussed.

Session 1 : Scaling-up: the role of accelerators in supporting the growth of innovative enterprises

Session 2: Financing IHGEs: developing an investor ecosystem

Participants

The training targets government officials and advisors/experts from the SPECA sub-region (e.g. from incubators, business support agencies, innovation centres and parks, investment funds, business angel networks, etc.) who develop or implement policy to support innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups and existing small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with growth ambition.

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TUESDAY, 15 February

Session 1: Scaling up: the role of accelerators in supporting growth of innovative enterprises

Please, note time indicated below is in Bishkek/Nursultan time zone

- 14:00-14:30** **Access to the session**
Participants are recommended to join the meeting at least 15 minutes prior to its start.
- 14:30-14:40** **Opening remarks**
Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
- 14:40-15:10** **Framing presentation: The Why, Who, What and How of IHGE policy**
Mr. Alasdair Reid, European Future Innovation System Centre, Belgium
- The presentation will set out the guiding principles for designing and managing effective support for potential innovative high-growth enterprises. A specific focus will be given to the framework conditions for IHGEs and the steps SPECA countries need to take to improve the environment for IHGEs, including effective acceleration programmes.
- 15:10-15:30** **Practitioner insight: Acceleration programmes to support innovative enterprises**
Mr. Jerry Tran, Deputy Director, Scale-up, Enterprise Singapore
- Acceleration programmes have proven successful in countries at different levels of development as a means to support the development, financing and expansion of IHGEs. This presentation will provide insight on how to develop and manage accelerator programmes and give pointers on how to adapt them to the context of the SPECA countries.
- 15:30-15:35** **Break**
- 15:35-16:20** **Case study session**
**participants will be divided into two groups for this session*
Moderators: Mr. Alasdair Reid, Ms. Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, UNECE
- Based on an outline scenario, participants will be invited to work together to design an acceleration process that matches the capacities and potential of stylised business cases that reflect the potential and needs of IHGEs in the SPECA region.
- 16:20-16:55** **Report back from the session and wrap-up brainstorming**
- 16:55-17:00** **Closing**



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THURSDAY, 17 February

Session 2: Financing IHGEs - developing an investor ecosystem

Please, note time indicated below is in Bishkek/Nursultan time zone

14:00-14:30

Access to the session

Participants are recommended to join the meeting at least 15 minutes prior to its start.

14:30-14:40

Opening remarks

Mr. Anders Jönsson, Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE

14:40-15:10

Framing presentation: Mobilising finance for IHGEs – ensuring access to equity capital as a driver of growth

Mr. Alasdair Reid, European Future Innovation System Centre, Belgium

IHGEs require a mix and volume of financing adapted to each growth stage. This presentation will give an overview of the types of finance and the importance of developing an ecosystem of experienced 'serial' investors.

15:10-15:30

Practitioner insight: Lessons from the region on financing innovative high-growth firms

Mr. Adil Nurgozhin, Venture Partner, I2BF Global Ventures

This presentation will provide insight on effective tools to support IHGEs when it comes to financing as well as on how to build the investor ecosystem necessary for IHGEs to thrive. These lessons would provide guidance and ideas for potential adaptation in the context of the SPECA sub-region.

15:30-15:35

Break

15:35-16:20

Case study session

**participants will be divided into two groups for this session*

Moderators: Mr. Alasdair Reid and Ms. Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, UNECE

The participants will be presented with a 'fictional' case of an IHGE seeking investment to scale up and a mix of possible financing methods in order to explore the solutions available and provide an outline financing strategy taking into consideration the SPECA context.

16:20-16:55

Report back from the session and wrap-up brainstorming

16:55-17:00

Closing