



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 April 2022

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Fifteenth session

Geneva, 25-27 May 2022

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work, Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2022–2023, and Outline of key components of the programme of work for 2024

Draft Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present document is based on the programme of work of the Committee for 2022 (ECE/CECI/2021/9). It provides additional information on activities planned and proposed for the period between the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Committee. To facilitate discussion, this document presents activities grouped by the main thematic areas covered by the Committee, that is, Innovation and Competitiveness, and Public-Private Partnerships.
2. The plans and proposals reflect demand expressed by member States as well as the resources available to the secretariat at the time of writing. Delegates are invited to bring additional proposals and requests to the session.

II. Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

3. The work on innovation and competitiveness focuses on promoting a policy environment supportive of innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness. Activities include policy dialogue, policy recommendations and good practices, analytical reviews, and capacity-building, including workshops and seminars at national and sub-regional levels.

Events

4. The fourteenth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held in Geneva on 14-15 November 2022. As part of the session, an international policy conference will provide an opportunity for experts from across the ECE region to exchange experiences on innovation policy. The Bureau of the Team will decide on the specific topic in consultation with the Team members.
5. The 2022 session of the Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) will be organized together with UNESCAP. A policy conference will be organised back-to-back with the session. The precise location and date remain to be decided.

National Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (ISDRs)

6. The Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Moldova will be published. Two additional national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews, of Armenia and Ukraine, will be carried out.

Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO)

7. Regular policy dialogue meetings of the network of Innovation Policy Outlook national focal points will be organized to exchange good policy practices and build government capacity to implement policy recommendations from the Outlook. A follow-up publication analysing 3 select policy issues in-depth will be published in 2022 under the guidance of the network.

Innovation Policy Principles

8. The Task Force on Innovation Policy Principles will continue its work on draft high-level policy principles on selected aspects of innovation for sustainable development under the auspices of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies. The Task Force will hold periodic meetings to advance its work and will initiate a broad multi-stakeholder dialogue on the draft principles.

Capacity building

9. In follow-up to the national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia, ECE will complete the capacity building programme for Georgia on the topic of innovation-enhancing procurement, as per agreement with the Government. A handbook on innovation-enhancing procurement based on international best practices will be finalized and translated in Georgian. A study tour for six Georgian officials will take place in Austria in June 2022.

10. In follow-up to the national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Moldova, a capacity building programme will be agreed with the Government and carried out in the second part of 2022.

11. Under the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development, capacity building activities will be carried out according to the Action Plan of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development adopted at the sixteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council in November 2021. Additional national capacity building will be provided upon request to SPECA countries on the basis of a recently issued Handbook on business incubators to promote sustainable development in the SPECA sub-region. Handbooks on supporting innovative high-growth enterprises in the SPECA sub-region, and on new innovation policy for transition economies, will be produced and provide the basis for additional national capacity building activities upon request from SPECA countries. These activities will be implemented with the support of the UN Development Account project “Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

12. ECE will continue contributing to the capacity building workstream of the UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

13. Building on the Committee’s existing work on innovation for the circular economy and on innovation-enhancing procurement, and in cooperation with ECE’s Trade subprogramme, ECE will support selected member States on request in developing road maps or action plans for the circular economy transition in selected relevant fields.

14. Subject to extra-budgetary funding, work will be initiated on developing policy for and building the capacities of the UNECE Member States to strengthen innovation ecosystems that can harness disruptive and transformative innovation and digital technologies for sustainable development.

III. Public-Private Partnerships¹

15. The focus of the work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is on developing international PPP standards, recommendations, guidelines, tools and best practices in support of the SDGs and facilitate their implementation in countries through demand-driven national, regional, and international capacity-building activities to assist member States in improving their legal and regulatory framework and develop pipelines of infrastructure projects. The ECE Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs for the SDGs provide the normative basis for the work on PPPs.

Events

16. The sixth session of the Working Party on PPPs will be held in Geneva on 1-2 December 2022;

17. The seventh edition of the International PPP Forum will be organised by the ECE in May 2023;²

18. A PPP Forum organised by the Annemasse Agglomération, France and UNITAR with the support of the UNECE will take place in the second half of 2022;³ and

19. A virtual launch event for the People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs will be organised in the second half of 2022.⁴

Standards, recommendations, guidelines and best practices

20. Work on standards and guides on green and sustainable PPP procurement and on digital transformation in PPPs for sustainable development will be decided by the Working Party on PPPs at its next session in December 2022 based on proposals by its Bureau and on existing resources;⁵

21. The Guidelines on promoting People-first PPP Waste-to-Energy Projects for Non-Recyclable Materials in the Transition towards the Circular Economy will be finalised in 2022 based on comments from stakeholders; and

22. A guide on how PPP projects could be better designed, developed and implemented in order to contribute to the circular economy agenda will be prepared in 2022.⁶

Capacity building⁷

23. A capacity building project in Ukraine⁸ to strengthen the capacity of public officials to develop and implement People-first PPP projects in line with the SDGs will be implemented in 2022;

¹ The PPP activities were reviewed and endorsed by the Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs on 4 March 2022.

² A competition for the best PPP infrastructure projects that contribute to the circular economy agenda and the SDGs will be organised by the secretariat at the Forum, and a letter of recognition will be given to the winners. The competition will contribute to expanding the database of case studies and to promote the use of the Evaluation Methodology.

³ Paragraphs 39 and 40 of the report of the fifth session of the Working Party on PPPs (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/2).

⁴ Subject to approval of the People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs by the Committee at its 15th session and to resources.

⁵ The Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs recommended that such proposals should take into account the work done in other multilateral institutions, and integrate, as applicable, the work on ongoing PPP standards, including that on health policy, water and sanitation and urban rail.

⁶ Decision 2021 – 4.2 by the Working Party on PPPs at its fifth session in November 2021 (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/2).

⁷ The capacity building is provided to support member States in implementing the Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs for the SDGs

⁸ The activities are part of the project “Developing and implementing the People-first PPP model for sustainable development in Ukraine” approved by the Executive Committee in 2020.

24. A capacity building project in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan to promote effective partnerships between the public and the private sectors through People-first PPPs⁹ will be implemented in 2022 and 2023;
 25. Provide support to Governments in self-assessing at least 30 PPP projects using the People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs; and
 26. The campaign to reach 500 People-first PPP case studies will continue to be promoted, and additional case studies will be collected and presented at the seventh International PPP Forum in May 2023.
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⁹ The project is part of a larger capacity building project from the 13th tranche of the Development Account with other implementation agencies (the Regional Commissions, UNCTAD and UN DESA) in coordination with the Resident Coordinators' Offices and UNDP. The secretariat has received requests for this PPP support from the Governments of Belarus and Kyrgyzstan.