



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

#### Fourteenth session

Geneva, 25-27 May 2022

Item 5 of the agenda

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

### **Proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance for 2021 of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. In its resolution A/72/266 “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations”, the General Assembly (GA) approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period, initially on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020.
2. Annex I provides an extract from the ECE proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6(Sect.20) related to subprogramme 4. The programme plan contained in the annex was reviewed by the ECE Executive Committee.

## Annex

### **Subprogramme 4 Economic cooperation and integration**

#### **Objective**

- 20.63 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships in the ECE region.

#### **Strategy**

- 20.64 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of three core interlinked functions in the subprogramme's two areas of work (innovation and competitiveness policies; and public-private partnerships): international policy dialogue; normative and analytical work; and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.
- 20.65 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) support member States in creating a conducive business environment by developing good practices to inform innovation policy reforms to drive sustainable development, including through on-request advisory based analyses of national innovation systems, policies and institutions; and through capacity-building workshops and seminars at the national and subregional levels;
  - (b) build capacity of member States in creating regulatory frameworks and public-private partnership project pipelines that can help to close the SDG infrastructure financing gap, including through:
    - (i) promotion of innovative modalities of financing, development and management of critical infrastructure;
    - (ii) development of international guidelines and standards to design public-private partnership projects and legal and regulatory frameworks;
    - (iii) the use, on-demand, of a methodology to evaluate and score public-private partnership projects in support of sustainable development ("People-first" public-private partnerships for the SDGs); and
    - (iv) develop cooperation with multilateral platforms for sustainable infrastructure (including SOURCE).
  - (c) focus some of its policy dialogues, analyses and recommendations, standards, and capacity-building on addressing crisis mitigation through innovation policies and public-private partnership infrastructure projects that can facilitate innovations and develop infrastructure to make economies more resilient and sustainable.
- 20.66 This work will help member States make progress to achieving SDGs 8, 9, 12 and 17 and contribute to promoting the transition to the circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources.
- 20.67 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) improved design of innovation-related policies and institutions in member States to harness the power of innovation for sustainable development, and support national innovation policy reforms, including options for policies and regulatory frameworks to support innovation in areas critical for resilience and COVID-19 recovery; and
  - (b) improved design and operations of public-private partnerships by member States that contribute to sustainable development and lead to more "People-first" projects, as well as in

strengthened member States' capacities for policy and project design and implementation, including better regulatory frameworks supporting investment in resilient and sustainable infrastructure related to COVID-19 recovery.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Improved capacity of United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia countries to support MSMEs in the use of innovation to achieve sustainable growth objectives

- 20.68 COVID-19 heightened the challenges faced by MSMEs: inflated transport costs and regional coordination challenges created downward pressures on MSMEs, with negative consequences for their resilience and future development prospects. Innovation can help MSMEs respond to these challenges: tapping into the potential for a sustainable recovery and transition to the circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources transition and supporting innovative high-growth enterprises are possible ways forward.
- 20.69 The subprogramme supported the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) countries in stakeholder consultations to develop and adopt a SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development that will support delivery on the above objectives. National gap assessments were carried out, culminating in an Action Plan for the SPECA Innovation Strategy. For example, the SPECA Handbooks on Business Incubators and on Support to Innovative High-growth Enterprises were developed and complemented by a working group, to support policy makers and MSME response to the COVID-19 induced economic challenges.
- 20.70 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see Table 20.8).

Table 20.8  
Performance measure

<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (actual)</i>
Adoption of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development at the 2019 session of the SPECA Governing Council	National gap assessments carried out for each SPECA country to identify shared challenges, validated at a sub-regional webinar	Action Plan of the SPECA Innovation Strategy approved by the SPECA Governing Council in 2021

## Planned results for 2023

### Result 1: people-first public-private partnerships to finance sustainable development

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 20.71 The subprogramme's work contributed to enhanced evaluation methodology for People-first public-private partnerships through testing and improvement, which met the planned target of at least 100 public-private partnership projects assessed using the evaluation methodology during its testing phase.
- 20.72 The progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see Table 20.9).

Table 20.9  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
The project team was set up and work on the project impact assessment tool commenced	Evaluation methodology endorsed by member States for piloting	100 public-private partnership projects assessed using the evaluation methodology	An additional 50 public-private partnership projects assessed using the evaluation methodology	An additional 75 public-private partnership projects assessed using the evaluation methodology

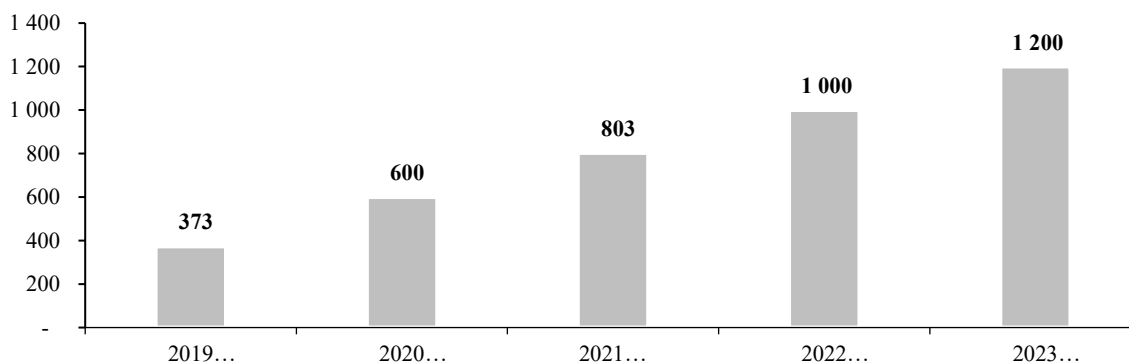
### Result 2: improved capacity of member States to use innovation to achieve their sustainable development objectives

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 20.73 The subprogramme's work contributed to a cumulative total of 803 policymakers and other innovation stakeholders from requesting countries benefiting from ECE capacity-building on innovation policy. The result exceeded the planned target of an increase of 200.
- 20.74 The progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see Figure 20.X).

Figure 20.X

#### Performance measure: number of policymakers and other innovation stakeholders from requesting countries that have benefited from Economic Commission of Europe capacity-building on innovation policy (cumulative)



### Result 3: Improved capacity of member States in the development of infrastructure projects in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the circular economy

#### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 20.75 The subprogramme develops public-private partnership policy instruments in support of the SDGs and the transition to the circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources. The subprogramme provides demand-driven capacity-building, assisting member States to improve their legal and regulatory frameworks, and strengthening pipelines of infrastructure projects. This responds to the challenges related to identifying/financing projects and mobilizing resources to unlock private-sector financing for infrastructure, in line with population needs including persons with disabilities.

- 20.76 The subprogramme has responded to these challenges by creating policy instruments, including the evaluation methodology on People-first public-private partnerships (PPPs) for the SDGs, assisting member States in prioritizing investments in infrastructure projects, and developing guidelines on waste-to-energy projects for the circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources.

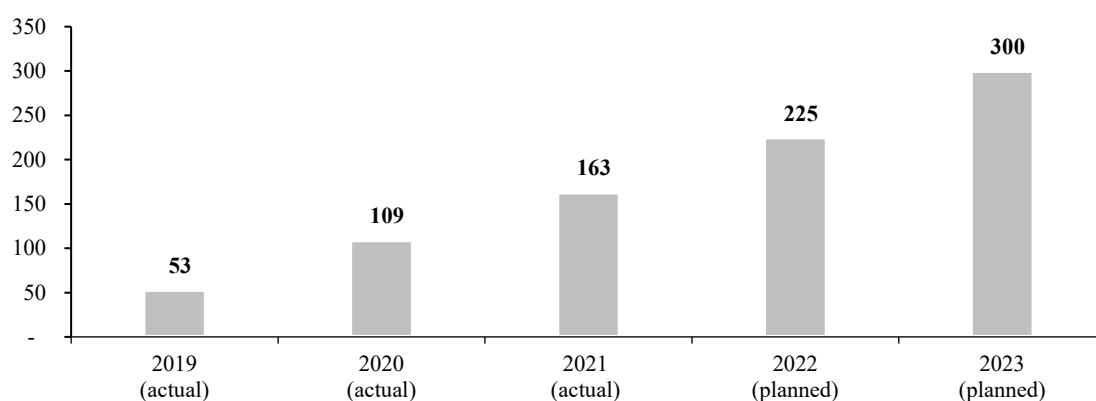
*Lessons learned and planned change*

- 20.77 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the impact of its delivery could be improved through the provision of targeted and project-focused capacity-building support to member States on strengthening the impact and performance of their infrastructure projects. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will support the requesting member States by delivering hands-on training on the application of ECE standards and guidelines on People-first PPPs to assess the extent to which national infrastructure projects meet the SDGs.

- 20.78 The expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see Figure 20.XI)

Figure 20.XI

**Performance measure: number of policymakers from member States that have used the ECE standards and guidelines on People-first public-private partnership for the SDGs to identify and prepare infrastructure projects aligned with the SDGs and the circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources (cumulative)**  
[Number of policymakers]



## Deliverables

- 20.79 Table 20.10 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 20.10

**Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory**

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies	18	18	18	18
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
2. Meetings of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, its subsidiary bodies and their Bureaux	18	18	18	18
3. Meetings of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development	1	1	1	1
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3</b>
4. Capacity-building for civil servants from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on innovation and competitiveness	1	1	–	–
5. Capacity-building for civil servants from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on public-private partnerships	1	1	–	–
6. Innovation and competitiveness policies	–	–	–	2
7. Public-private partnerships	–	–	–	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
8. Policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on innovation and competitiveness policies for sustainable development	8	8	8	8
9. Policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on People-first public-private partnerships	8	8	8	8
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
10. Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews	1	1	1	1
11. Comparative reviews on innovation policy and/or public-private partnership	2	2	2	2
<b>Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions</b> (number of missions)	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3</b>
12. Fact-finding missions for Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and public-private partnership needs assessments	–	–	–	3
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services under the Working Party on Public-Private Partnership and the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies reaching 30 government ministries and agencies and stakeholder entities.				

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<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
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**Databases and substantive digital materials:** database of people-first public-private partnership case studies from around 15 member States.

**D. Communication deliverables**

**External and media relations:** press releases and launch events for the above publications for regional, subregional and national access.

**Digital platforms and multimedia content:** website for regional access.

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