



New approaches to innovation policy in transition economies of the SPECA sub-region

Thursday, 19 May 2022

10:00 – 12:00 (Geneva)/ 14:00-16:00 (Almaty, Bishkek)

Zoom (Russian /English translation)

Register [here](#)

Rationale

UNECE has extensively worked with the transition economies of Central Asia to support governments in the successful use of innovation policy for increased economic competitiveness, sustainable development, as well as to contribute to the digital and circular economy transition. The socio-economic challenges, opportunities, and institutional legacy among these transition economies share distinct features of innovation policy governance, innovative entrepreneurship support, investment in innovation, industrial policy, as well as demand and supply side tools of innovation policy more broadly. The innovation policy in this sub-region therefore calls for a different approach that is more adapted to the transition context and takes into consideration the above distinct features.

Building on its work under the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), in particular the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development and the corresponding Action Plan (2021); the Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews of Kyrgyzstan (2019), Tajikistan (2015) and Uzbekistan (2022); the work on innovative high-growth enterprises, the sub-regional science, technology and innovation (STI) gap analysis and the handbook on business incubators, UNECE has developed a draft publication on new innovation policy for transition economies of the SPECA sub-region. The publication outlines the key innovation policy challenges common to SPECA countries and points to possible policy solutions, taking into account the specificities of the sub-region and experience from other economies that have successfully underwent the transition to knowledge-based market economies.

Objectives

This webinar will provide an opportunity to present the main findings of the publication “New innovation policy for transition economies of the SPECA sub-region” and discuss them with the SPECA stakeholders. The feedback received would be reflected in the finalised version of the publication. In addition, this webinar will be used to gather SPECA stakeholders’ views on themes they would like to see covered in the upcoming UNECE training on effective support to innovative enterprises. The initiative will be part of the effort to establish a SPECA business incubator and accelerator network.

Participants

The webinar targets government officials and advisors/experts who develop or implement innovation policy, including aspects related to support of innovative enterprises (business incubators and accelerators) in the SPECA countries.

For more information, contact Lyudmyla Tautiyeva at Lyudmyla.tautiyeva@un.org.

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<p>09:30 – 10:00 (Geneva) 13 :30 – 14 :00 (Almaty, Bishkek)</p>	<p>Access to the session <i>Participants are recommended to join the meeting at least 15 minutes prior to its start.</i></p>
<p>10:00 – 10:10 14 :00 – 14 :10</p>	<p>Welcome and opening remarks <i>Mrs. Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE</i></p>
<p>10:10 – 10:30 14:10 – 14:30</p>	<p>Industrial policies to support innovative development of the SPECA sub-region <i>Mr. Slavo Radosevic, Ph.D., Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, University College London, United Kingdom</i></p>
<p>10:30 – 11:30 14:30 – 15:30</p>	<p>New innovation policy in transition economies of the SPECA sub-region: policy challenges and solutions <i>Mr. Kris Boschmans, Senior Researcher, European Future Innovation System Centre, Belgium</i></p> <p>The presentation will be structured around 4 sessions, each followed by Q&A</p> <p>Comment by Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky, Director for Strategy, European Alliance for Innovation</p> <p>Comments by SPECA representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Aisuluu Mustapakulova, Head of innovation and strategic development division, Kyrgyzpatent • Mr. Yuriy Aronskiy, Chairman, National Public Association Union of Economists of Turkmenistan • Mr. Vladimir Popov, Director, Startup Incubator of the Kazakh-British Technical University, Kazakhstan • Mr. Erbolat Orazbekuly, Director, Centre for Commercialization of University of Turan, Kazakhstan <p>Polls</p>



<i>11:30 – 11:50</i> <i>15 :30 – 15 :50</i>	<i>Poll and discussion on SPECA stakeholders' interest in the topics of the upcoming UNECE training on effective support to innovative enterprises in the sub-region.</i>
<i>11:50 – 12:00</i> <i>15:50 – 16:00</i>	Next steps <i>Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE</i>