



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
with  
the support of the Government of Sweden

Study visit of Georgian officials to Norway  
*UNECE capacity-building programme on innovation-enhancing  
public procurement*

Dates: 14-16 September 2022

Venue: USN School of Business (Drammen) and Oslo Science Park  
(Oslo)

## Background

In the follow up to the [Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia](#), 2021, UNECE is supporting the Government of Georgia in the implementation of the I4SDR recommendations under the dedicated capacity-building programme. The programme is aimed at building the capacities of the Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) and the State Procurement Agency of Georgia (SPA) to promote and implement the concept of innovation-enhancing public procurement (IEP), drawing on the recommendations of Chapter 5 of the I4SDR as well as the national reform priorities of the Republic of Georgia. The activities under this programme will also be used to inform the chapter on IEP within the forthcoming Interim Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook being prepared by UNECE



In the context of its Association Agreement with the European Union, the Government of Georgia is making significant efforts in aligning its legislation with EU acquis. A recent example is the amendment to the Georgian legislation on public procurement. The legislation describes and introduces for the first time one of the public procurement procedures for innovation partnerships. This important positive reform outcome requires developing and amending the regulatory framework, including the so-called “soft law” (manuals and guidelines) on innovation partnerships, and building the capacities of the SPA and GITA to implement the new mechanism.

To this end, the UNECE developed a handbook on international best practices on IEP of goods with a focus on green and energy-efficient procurement. As a follow-up, this study visit will bring Georgian officials from SPA and GITA to Norway, a UNECE member State with a proven track record and good practices in IEP, for exchange of experience and peer learning.

## Objectives

This study visit will present the experience of IEP implementation in Norway to help guide reform efforts in this area in Georgia. Exchange of experience and the sharing of practical IEP cases and approaches to procurement in Norway and Georgia will be at the center of the programme. Also included will be an exchange with representatives of the Science Park in Oslo which hosts innovative start-ups taking part in IEP to incorporate private sector views on opportunities and challenges of the IEP.

## Participation

This study visit brings together four representatives of the Georgian State Procurement Agency and two representatives of Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency, the expert who led the development of the handbook on IEP good practices for Georgia, representatives of relevant Norwegian institutions involved in IEP, and the UNECE secretariat. The lead expert will also use the visit to gather information relevant to his assignment of drafting the sub-regional chapter on IEP of the UNECE Interim Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook. The study trip, its discussions and the information collected will in general will be leveraged for this upcoming publication.

## Contact information:

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## Draft programme

<b>TRAVEL - Tuesday, 13 September</b>	
Arrival to Oslo, train Oslo-Drammen	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgian delegation: GITA (2) and SPA (4) people</li> <li>• International expert: Mr. Jon Mikel Zabala</li> <li>• UNECE: Ms. Elif Kizildeli and Ms. Lyudmyla Tautiyeva</li> </ul>	
<b>Accommodation:</b> Quality Hotel River Station, Dr. Hansteins gate 7, 3044 Drammen Scandic Ambassadeur Hotel, Strømsø Torg 7, 3044 Drammen	
<b>DAY 1 - Wednesday, 14 September</b>	
<b>Venue: Room S6205 (6<sup>th</sup> floor)</b> <b>USN School of Business, Grønland 58, 3045 Drammen</b>	
<b>09:45</b>	<b>Meeting at the hotel lobby (TBC)</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Introduction to the study tour</b>  Welcome from the chairs and the host team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice-Dean of USN School of Business</li> <li>• Ms. Gillian Warner-Søderholm, Professor, Head of Department, USN School of Business</li> <li>• Representative UNECE Secretariat: background and the goal of the visit</li> <li>• Mr. Jon Mikel Zabala, PhD, Lecturer at the Department of Economics at the University of Deusto, Spain: structure of the visit and the issues to be covered</li> <li>• Representative USN School of Business: provision of basic on-site-information</li> </ul>
<b>Block 1: Strategic frameworks for innovation policy, innovation procurement and pre-commercial procurement</b>	
<b>10:30– 11:15</b>	<b>Norwegian strategic approach to innovation and innovation policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Jesper Bæverfjord Tangenes, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation of Norway: white paper on innovation in the public sector</li> </ul> <b>Q&amp;A</b>

11 :15- 12 :00	<p><b>Norwegian strategic approach to public procurement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Dag Strømsnes, Director, Procurement Division, Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ): presentation of the white paper on innovation in the public sector</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
12:00 – 13:30	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p> <p>Venue: USN cafeteria (ground floor)</p>
13:30– 15:00	<p><b>Norwegian strategic approach to innovation procurement and PCP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Ingebjørg Harto, Programme Manager, National Programme for Supplier Development, Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ) /online</li> <li>• Ms. Sunniva Fjelde, Head of innovative procurement, missions and societal challenges, Innovation Norway</li> <li>• Ms. Hanne Solgård-Øverlier, Special Adviser, Governance and the Public Sector, Norwegian Research Council</li> </ul>
15:00-15:30	Q&A
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-16:15	<p><b>Georgian strategic approach to innovation policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Annie Vashakmadze, Head of the International Relations Department, GITA</li> <li>• Ms. Nona Zubitashvili, Chief Legal Advisor, GITA</li> </ul>
16:15-16:30	<p><b>Georgian strategic approach to public procurement and introduction of innovation procurement approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Levan Razmadze, Chairman, SPA Georgia</li> <li>• Dr. Kakha Demetrashvili, Deputy Chairman, SPA Georgia</li> </ul>

16:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Debate and Q&amp;A</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Jon Mikel Zabala, PhD, expert on public procurement, University of Deusto, Spain</i></p> <p>Questions to guide the discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- How are policy priorities identified? Who participates?</li><li>- How are policies disseminated so as to “socialize” innovation policy and engage societal actors?</li><li>- How are supply-side policies related to demand-side policies?</li><li>- How are innovation procurement and PCP related to other policy instruments?</li><li>- Challenges and obstacles of innovation policy, its governance and coordination</li></ul>
19:00 – 21:00	<p><b>Dinner</b></p> <p><u>Venue:</u> Restaurant, Quality Hotel River Station (Dr. Hansteins gate 7, 3044 Drammen)</p>

DAY 2 - Thursday, 15 September	
Venue: Room S5620 (5 <sup>th</sup> floor) <i>USN School of Business, Grønland 58, 3045 Drammen</i>	
Block 2: Implementation of innovation procurement and pre-commercial procurement	
08:45	<i>Meeting at the Hotel Lobby (TBC)</i>
09:00-09:45	<p>Implementing innovation procurement in Norway – views, experiences and challenges/obstacles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Svend Boye, Partner, Oslo Economics</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
09:45-10:45	<p>Norwegian experience in the application of procedures and rules for innovation procurement; examples of innovation procurement and PCP in Norway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Johan Englund, Director, Directorate of Public Administration and Financial Management, Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ)</li> </ul>
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15- 12:00	<p>Treatment of IPR in innovation procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Johan Englund, Director, Directorate of Public Administration and Financial Management (Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management - DFØ)</li> </ul>
12:00-12:30	<p>Implementing of SPP and innovation procurement concepts in Georgia – views, challenges, next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Kakha Demetrashvili, Deputy Chairman, SPA Georgia</li> <li>• Mr. Zaza Nanobashvili, Deputy Chairman, SPA Georgia</li> </ul>
12:30-14:00	<p>Q&amp;A and discussion in groups</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Jon Mikel Zabala, PhD, expert on public procurement, University of Deusto, Spain</i></p> <p>Questions to guide the discussions in groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Which are the main challenges being faced by Georgia? How to overcome them?</li> <li>- Which are key procedures, tools, methodologies to be applied to make SPP and innovation procurement work?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Which are the barriers to their actual application / implementation?</li> <li>- Which are key areas in which innovation procurement initiatives could be undertaken in Georgia?</li> <li>- Which are the current/future needs?</li> </ul>
14:00-15:00	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p> <p>Venue: USN cafeteria (ground floor)</p>
<p><b>Block 3: Capacity building</b></p>	
15:00-15:45	<p><b>Norwegian experiences on capacity building for innovation procurement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Elisabeth Smith, Innovation Advisor, National Programme for Supplier Development, Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
15:45 -16:15	<p><b>Georgian experiences on capacity building for innovation procurement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Kakha Demetrashvili, Deputy Chairman, SPA Georgia</li> <li>• Mr. Zaza Nanobashvili, Deputy Chairman, SPA Georgia</li> </ul>
16:15-17:15	<p><b>Q&amp;A and discussion in groups</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Jon Mikel Zabala, PhD, expert on public procurement, University of Deusto, Spain</i></p> <p>Questions to guide the discussions in groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Which are key areas in which civil servants of the Georgian SPA and relevant contracting authorities require developing capabilities to make innovation procurement work?</li> <li>- Which are their current/future needs as far as their capabilities are concerned?</li> <li>- Which are the main experiences and programmes oriented to capacity building in innovation procurement either for public civil servants or private firms in Georgia?</li> <li>- How to assist the SPA's Training Center and GITA in order to create/develop and introduce new innovation procurement related training modules?</li> <li>- How to escalate afterwards the training activities?</li> <li>- How to promote relevant public awareness campaigns?</li> </ul>

17:15-17:30	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Gillian Warner-Söderholm, Professor, Head of Department, USN School of Business</li> <li>• Representative UNECE Secretariat</li> <li>• Mr. Jon Mikel Zabala, PhD, Lecturer at the Department of Economics at the University of Deusto, Spain</li> <li>• Georgian Delegation representative</li> </ul>
17:30	<p>Hotel check-out</p> <p>Travel Drammen -Oslo</p> <p>Oslo hotel check-in</p>
DAY 3 – Friday, 16 September	
10:00-12:00	<p>Visit to the Oslo Science Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sissel Kristin Hoel, Head of Department, Directorate for Administration and Financial Management, StartOff programme (20 min)</li> <li>• Start-up representatives</li> </ul>
PM	<p>Free time</p> <p>(Evening) Travel back</p>