



Fostering innovative entrepreneurship through educational curricula in the SPECA sub-region

Monday, 19 September 2022

10:00 – 12:30 (Geneva)/ 14:00-16:30 (Almaty, Bishkek)

Zoom (Russian /English interpretation)

Register [here](#)

Rationale

UNECE has been supporting countries in the SPECA sub-region to strengthen their capacities to implement innovation policy for sustainable development and enhanced regional cooperation, including in the area of innovative entrepreneurship. Recent work has included a [handbook on business incubators](#), online training and a handbook on innovative high-growth enterprises in the SPECA sub-region (*forthcoming*).

Building on strong interest from the SPECA countries on this topic and to support implementation of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development and its [Action Plan](#), the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development on 20 July 2022 welcomed a proposal to set up a [SPECA Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development](#).

This Network would be a platform for dialogue and exchange on issues, challenges and solutions, as well as best practices related to innovative entrepreneurship support through business incubators (BI) and accelerators (BA) in the SPECA sub-region. The Network will aim to enable peer learning and to strengthen the capacities of BI and BA to effectively support innovative firms in the sub-region. Pilot activities of the Network could include workshops, training activities and potential study tours, coordinated by a dedicated focal point in each of the SPECA countries.

Objective of this meeting

This webinar will be first of the activities of the Network and will focus on the promotion of entrepreneurial culture in the education system as a crucial element of innovative development in the SPECA sub-region, the importance of which has been highlighted by UNECE analytical work and by SPECA stakeholders.

The webinar will consider the project-based learning approach as a potential enabler of entrepreneurial skills and culture to ensure that innovation takes place in a systematic fashion across the economy, starting from the education system, including within university-based BI and BA. It will be an opportunity to feature international best practices from Georgia and other countries, and exchange on recent and upcoming policy initiatives in the SPECA countries.



Participants

The webinar targets policymakers 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, as well as representatives of the education system, including higher education institutions, involved in educational curricula development (e.g., scientific supervisors - employees of universities and of research institutions supervising projects of students of secondary educational institutions).

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

Draft Agenda	
<p>09:30 – 10:00 (Geneva) 13 :30 – 14 :00 (Almaty, Bishkek)</p>	<p>Access to the session</p> <p><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</p> <p>Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE</p> <p>Ms. Rakhat Kerimbaeva, Director of the State Agency for Intellectual Property and Innovation under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzpatent)</p> <p>Ms. Shahlo Turdikulova, Deputy Minister of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan</p>
<p>10:10 – 10:30 14:10 – 14:30</p>	<p>Framing presentation: Promoting entrepreneurial skills through the project-based learning (PBL) approach in education – best practices and lessons learned from the region and globally (Georgia, USA)</p> <p>Mr. Irakli Kashbadze, Innovation Policy Expert, CEO, Future Laboratory, Startup Central Eurasia</p>
<p>10:30 – 11:30 14:30 – 15:30</p>	<p>Discussion: Entrepreneurial skills development for promotion of innovation across the SPECA sub-region: policy challenges and solutions</p> <p>Mr. Vladimir Popov, Director, "KBTU Startup Incubator", Kazakhstan</p> <p>Mr. Yerbolat Orazbekuly, Director, Centre for commercialization of technologies, University of Turan, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Ms. Aisuluu Mustapakulova, Head of Innovations Division, Kyrgyzpatent</p> <p>Ms. Zhyldyz Isabekova, Acceleration Manager, "Accelerate Prosperity", Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Mr. Omurzak Mamayusupov, Founder of Boarding Lyceum, Nookat Bilimkanasy, Kyrgyzstan</p>



	<p>Ms. Madina Musurmankulova, Digital Transformation Manager, IT Park, Uzbekistan</p> <p>Representatives of other SPECA countries</p>
<p><i>11:30 – 12:15</i></p> <p><i>15:30 – 16:15</i></p>	<p><i>Putting the project-based learning approach into practice:</i> The creation of the linkage with the business and industry for problem-solving and innovative solution developments (Ideathons)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Irakli Kashibadze, Innovation Policy Expert, CEO, Future Laboratory, Startup Central Eurasia</i></p> <p>Interactive case studies and exercises to put into practice the PBL approach in the context of the SPECA countries, at the level of universities and schools.</p>
<p><i>12:15 – 12:30</i></p> <p><i>16:15 – 16:30</i></p>	<p>Closing and next steps</p> <p><i>Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE</i></p>