



14th session

UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Exploring the power of transformative innovation

14 - 15 NOVEMBER 2022 | ROOM XVIII | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA & ONLINE

Item 3

Review of work since the thirteenth session

Innovation for Sustainable Development Review

- **Assesses national innovation governance; provides concrete suggestions for improvement**
- **The Review looks at three dimensions:**
 1. Economic development and innovation performance
 2. The national innovation system and innovation governance
 3. Topics of importance to the country (e.g. science-industry linkages, innovation in specific sectors, innovation-enhancing procurement, start-up support, and diaspora engagement)
- **Value added:**
 - Structural reform based on international best practices
 - Primary research and large-set of interviews
 - Concrete reform recommendations



Capacity building follow-up to I4SDR – Georgia



Topic requested by Government of Georgia:

- Innovation-enhancing procurement (IEP)

Beneficiaries:

- State Procurement Agency of Georgia
- Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency

Activities:

- Handbook on IEP for Georgia
 - Translated into GEO
- September 2022: Study visit to Norway
 - Thank you Norwegian partners!



Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews – Republic of Moldova

February 2022

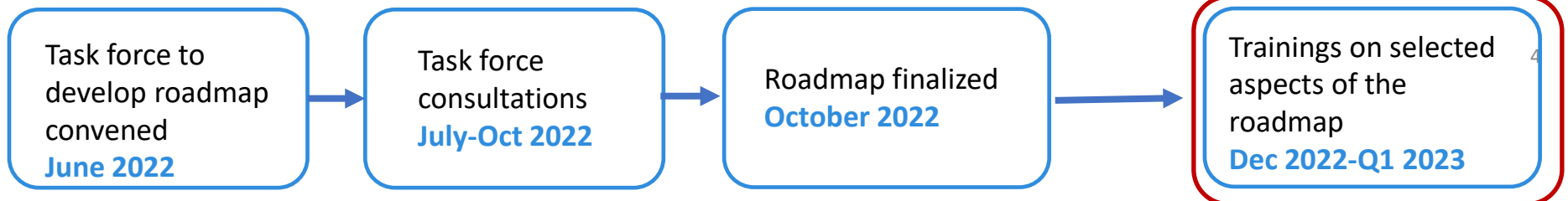


Selected recommendations:

- **Reform institutional and legislative framework** for innovation policy
- **Enhance policy coordination & alignment** across all levels of government, to improve targeting and effectiveness of policy actions
- **Improve linkages**
 - **between PROs & private sector,**
 - **between IT sector & existing “pockets of excellence” & the higher educational institutions**
- **Develop sector-specific TT and innovation infrastructure,**
 - **Link to national development priorities & Smart Specialization efforts**
- **Flexible infrastructure** for diaspora engagement

Follow-up capacity-building:

- Focus: Develop **Roadmap on Innovation & Tech Transfer**, to be included in new **National Programme for Research and Innovation (2024-2027)**



Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews – Uzbekistan

March 2022



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Selected recommendations:

- Clarify & streamline **mandates of regional departments**
- Define strategic frameworks of **innovation centres & incubators**
- Expanded consultation services on **financing for innovation**
- A **more flexible, dynamic model of SIL** that builds on the opportunities afforded by trade and investment openness
- Strengthened capacities of firms as well as PROs, a stronger role of foreign technology providers as well as a greater intermediary role of PROs for **knowledge transfer and upgrading** in the private sector

Next Steps:

- Leverage **SPECA innovation strategy** to implement recommendations
- **Follow-up capacity building** with UNDA support
- Explore future, more comprehensive cooperation



Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews – Armenia

Ongoing



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Q1-Q2 2022: With the support of the I4SDR coordination group, UNECE conducted **extensive desk and background research** for the first chapters of the publication

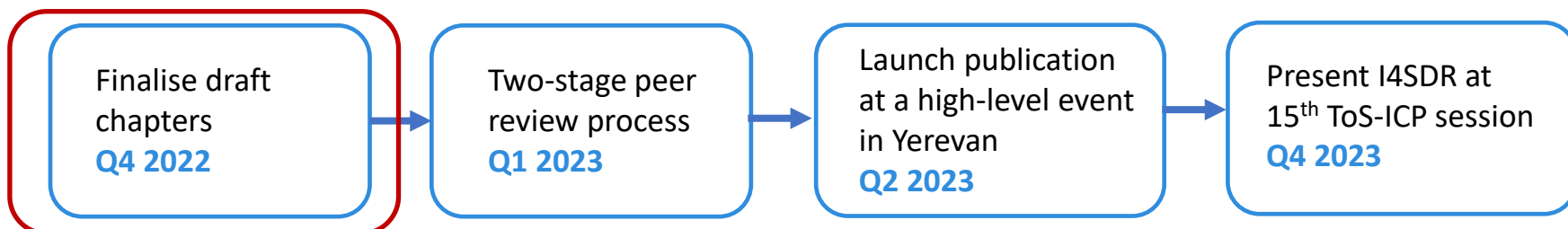
Q3 2022: UNECE and experts conducted **in-person fact-finding meeting to Yerevan**, meeting with around **100 public and private sector representatives**



Initial findings:

- Clear need to **strengthen national innovation system**, introducing the right incentives and mechanisms to ensure synergies, alignment, and complementarity of innovation policy across all levels of government
- Strategies and policies are developed in isolation, causing a **fragmented and sometimes incoherent policy environment for innovation**
- **Policy processes and institutional capacities**, such as stakeholder dialogue and effective monitoring and evaluation throughout the policy cycle, **are not fully effective**. This inhibits inclusive and impactful policy delivery

Next steps:



Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews – Ukraine

Ongoing



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Background:

- Review preparations launched in early February 2022
- The initially discussed timelines have become untenable due to the current situation.
- Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has confirmed interest in continuing I4SDR
- Initial meetings have been held with the national focal point and MESU to discuss focus areas and the way forward.

Progress:

- One in-depth chapter chosen by the Government: *“Innovation policy monitoring and evaluation”*
- Desk research completed by a leading international expert

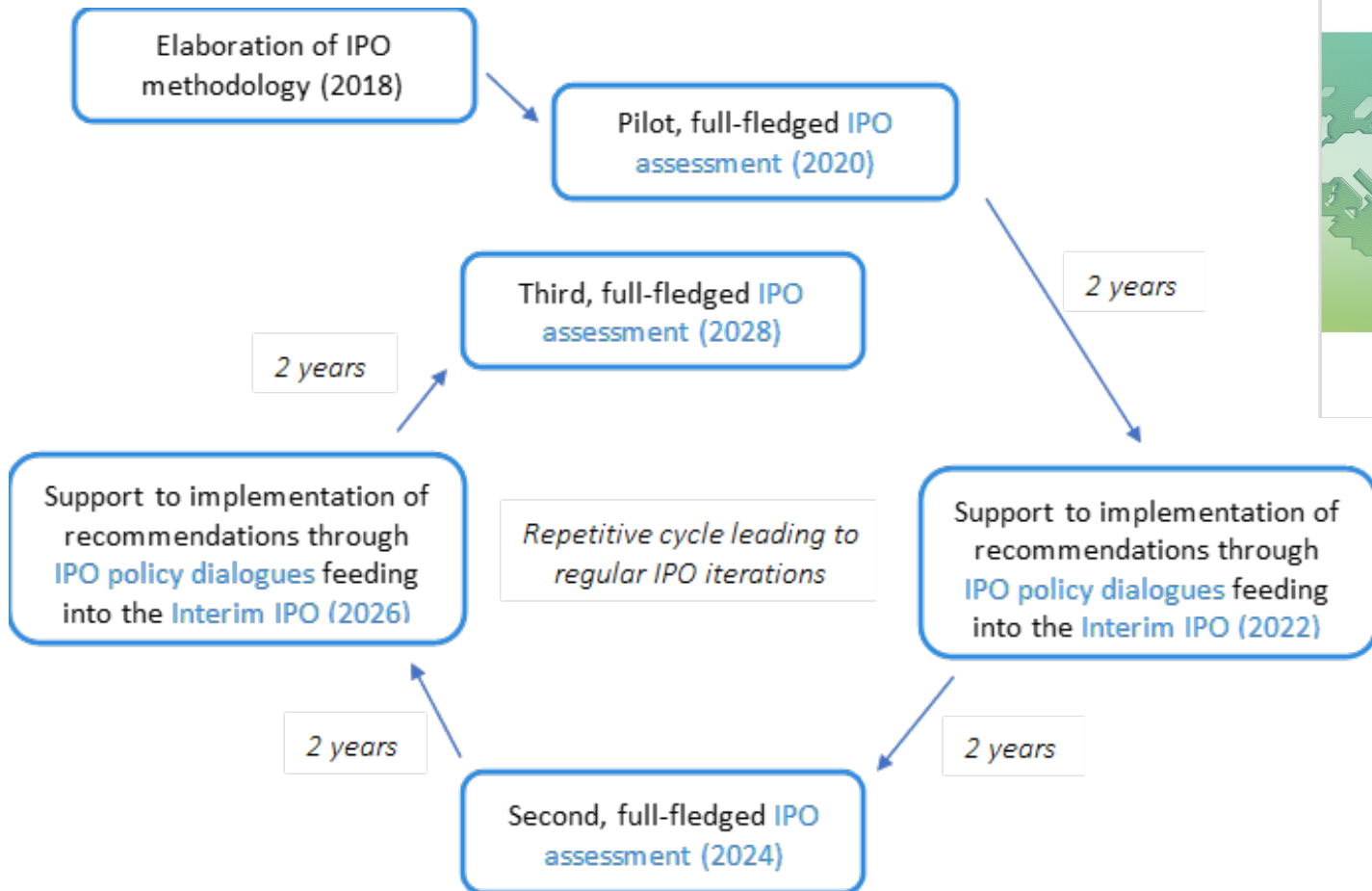
Next Steps:

- UNECE and Ukraine to maintain continuous dialogue, to agree on a revised timeline and structure

Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO)



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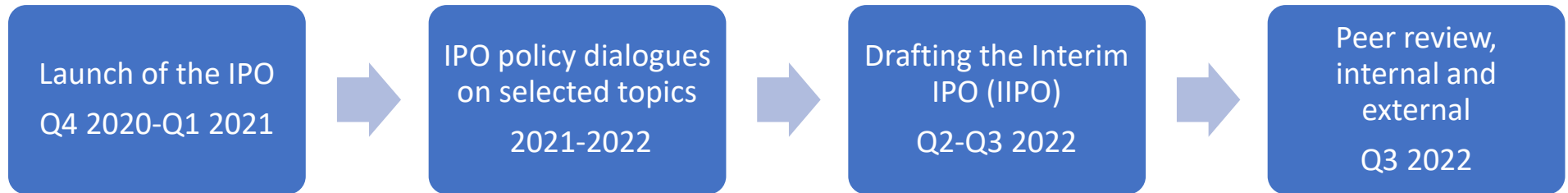


IPO Policy Dialogue and the Interim Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook



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IPO process overview 2020-2022:



Selected initial findings of the IIPPO (2022):

- Recent crises, threatening global health, trade and security, and deepened existing inequalities → Important to find new ways of creating value
- Imperative to increase resilience and address structural weaknesses of EESC economies, e.g., high reliance on commodity exports, remittances
- Need to enhance absorptive capacity of private sector; increase R&D investments; and strengthen collection, reporting and analysis of innovation data to feed into national innovation strategies and support
- Domestic PROs would benefit from R&D capabilities to address the needs for technology upgrading, and incentives and support mechanisms for SBL
- IEP useful for advancing societal goals as a demand-side policy instrument → helps public sector overcome market failures by facilitating the diffusion of certain goods and services, and ensuring a sufficient critical mass to encourage R&D investments.



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UN-ECE Transformative Innovation Network (ETIN)

Background:

- ETIN core activity under new xb project

“Reinforcing the innovation ecosystem in the UNECE region to promote innovation and digital technologies for sustainable development and for the circular economy transition”

- Financed by the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)**
- Two workstreams:
 - Understanding** the promise and peril of **transformative innovation**,
 - Strengthening** the role of government and agencies promoting transformative innovation

Initial activities:

- First meetings with prospective members in May & June 2022
- UNECE Innovation Matters podcast: 8 episodes released, 9 upcoming

Official launch:

- 14 November 2022: At 14th session of the UNECE Team of Specialists
- on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

SPRIN-D



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Task Force on Innovation Policy Principles

Background:

- Task Force established in spring 2021, mandated by
- 12th session of ToS-ICP
- Purpose:
 - Articulate & consolidate ToS-ICP expertise
 - Increase visibility
 - Strengthen dissemination and application

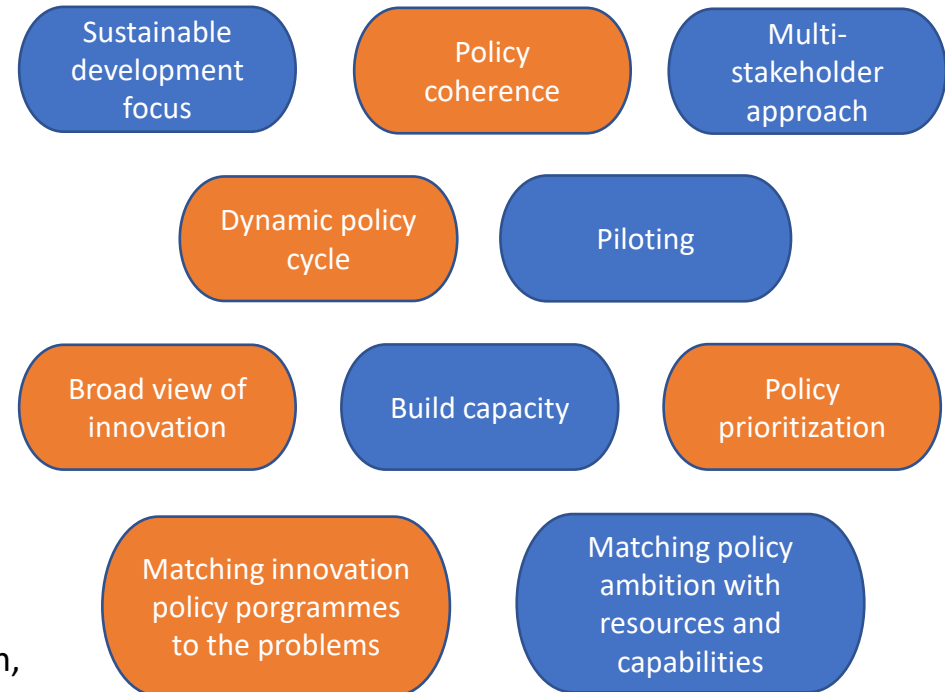
Current status:

- First draft of the Principles produced and revised
- 11 strategic guiding principles

Next steps:

- More discussion needed on:
 - Sustainable development and mission-driven innovation,
 - The innovation policy needs of transition economies,
 - Strategy for disseminating the principles etc.

11 strategic guiding principles



Request Bureau to guide on the way forward, taking into account similarities with ETIN



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SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development

UNDA project: “Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”:

- **Supporting Innovative High-Growth Enterprises in the SPECA sub-region** → Online training (Feb 2022), policy handbook (upcoming)
- **New Approaches to Innovation Policy in the Transition Economies of the SPECA Sub-region** → Webinar (May 2022), policy paper (upcoming)
- **Initiation of a SPECA Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development**, with webinars/online trainings on:
 - Fostering innovative entrepreneurship through education (Sep 2022)
 - Online Training: Effective operation and development of a business incubator and start-up accelerator (Sep 2022)

Annual session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development with ESCAP (July 2022)



Policy Document: “Leveraging Innovation for the Circular Economy”

75



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✓ ToS-ICP 13th session outcome (November 2021)
“Leveraging Innovation for the Circular Economy”:
policy paper with good practices (ECE/CECI/2022/3)

✓ **CICPPP decision (May 2022) :**

The Committee endorsed the policy recommendations on “Leveraging Innovation for the Circular Economy” (ECE/CECI/2022/3) and requested the secretariat to electronically disseminate them and to make use of their conclusions in future capacity-building activities and policy advisory work, including in the context of the UNDA project “Accelerating the transition towards a Circular Economy in the ECE region”.



“Accelerating the transition towards a circular economy in the ECE region”



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Circular STEP

Multi-stakeholder knowledge sharing network on the circular economy

2021 -
2024

"Sustainable and Innovation-Enhancing Public Procurement for the Circular Economy and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources"

Regional Policy Dialogue (15 November 2022) & Policy Paper

6 pilot
countries

MSME Support: Innovations & Circular Economy

Webinars (25 May & 1 June 2022)

8+
priority
areas

Support the design & implementation of national policies, programmes, & strategies for promoting a circular economy



Thank you!



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