



70th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSFORMATIONS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE REGION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
VIRTUAL SIDE EVENTS | 3 - 5 APRIL 2023



THE FUTURE OF REGULATION IN THE PAN-EUROPEAN REGION: HORIZON-SCANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE

Virtual side events in the lead up to the seventieth session of the Commission
Wednesday, 5 April 2023, 09:30 a.m. – 04:30 p.m. (CEST)

Convened via the Zoom platform

Outline and objective:

Multiple crises, from conflicts to the continuing pandemic, from increasing environmental concerns to worsening natural disasters, are transforming the Pan-European region and changing the outlook for the future. Now more than ever, it is evident that we must learn from the present and prepare for the trends that are likely to impact the region in the next 25 years, which will align with UNECE's 100th anniversary and the timeline of the UN SG's [Our Common Agenda](#) and the [2050 net-zero horizon](#).

Throughout history, crises have often served as catalysts for the development and distribution of new technologies, innovations and new societal organisational forms. While crises can distract the focus away from innovation towards immediate basic needs, the powerful impetus to solve pressing problems and the increased focus on research and development during times of crisis can create a fruitful environment for the development of new solutions and products.

Looking forward, it is important to identify opportunities to help reshape the very way that economies and societies operate, thereby creating a fertile ground for processes of transformation. A key component in this effort is shaping smart regulations to drive sustainable, equitable innovation while mitigating related risks. The key challenge is identifying future trends and ways for new regulatory arrangements to support and accelerate a sustainable transformation instead of impeding it.

There are multiple models which are intrinsically forward-looking and necessary components of the sustainable ecosystem of the future that UNECE envisions. For instance, [platform economies](#) can help disrupt traditional business models, create new opportunities for growth, sustainable transitions, monitoring environmental concerns and demands for new skills, and make the region more resistant to crises. Platforms such as car-sharing services or peer-to-peer lending platforms can help reduce waste and increase the efficiency of resource use. Similarly, enhancing multi-stakeholder cooperation on using [Artificial Intelligence](#) (AI) in a manner that is human rights-based, ethical and sustainable can prove to be a unique opportunity for sustainable and green development for the future. However, an unregulated and unequal development of these technological capabilities can pose various challenges including concerns around data privacy and management, transparency, accountability and potentially exacerbated inequalities.

In addition, understanding the future of climate conditions and thorough environmental assessments will be integral in designing technological solutions, which will also impact [regional transport and connectivity infrastructure](#) and energy and resource use for the region. In this context, it will be vital to propel advances in smarter resource management, reuse and recycling of resources, Resource as a Service, and development of new energy technologies, as well as to redefine the relationship between transport, telecommunications and energy networks to better meet the needs of the future.

Above all, it is critical to develop strategic foresight and horizon-scanning as important tools for long-term, resilient and "future-ready" policymaking, which in turn can help build empowered, more equal, and resilient societies. Alongside, we must also explore ways in which policymaking can become faster and more effective,



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with a more agile approach to governance which is adaptive, inclusive and sustainable, and able to match the speed of at which the world is changing. Such analysis will also help us develop future-ready tools and competencies, inform development of effective regulations and policies and strengthen multilateral cooperation, while fostering UNECE's potential to be creative and fit for the future.

Specifically, objectives of today's side-events include:

- To present and analyse possible trends that are likely to impact the Pan-European region in the next 25 years, at UNECE's 100th anniversary, and aligned with the timeline of the UN SG's Our Common Agenda and the 2050 net-zero horizon;
- To identify ways in which UNECE can better support its member States to develop and implement future-ready norms and conventions;
- To build knowledge and expertise across sectors to anticipate and prepare for projected polycrisis as well as the opportunities for a sustainable and equitable economic development in the region.

Audience:

Speakers and participants will include representatives from member States, UN entities, the private sector, youth organisations and academia, among others.

Format and language:

The meeting will be held in the form of virtual sessions and convened via the Zoom platform. Interpretation will be available in English, French and Russian. After the high-level opening session, the following side-events would gather 3-5 panelists and consist of a talk, moderated by the panel chair, and a Q&A session. The audience would be able to submit questions to the panelists via Zoom or raise their hand to ask the question directly to the panelists. To allow for a lively and informative discussion, UNECE will ensure balanced gender and geographic representation as well as diversity in the backgrounds and views represented by the roundtable participants.

SETTING THE STAGE

09:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (CEST)

This session will look at the macro picture of the future. How should the region be looking at the next 25 years? What mega-trends we need to factor in? Is there anything constant in discussing such a time-horizon? This discussion is meant as a conceptual, big-picture scene-setter, meant to provoke the participants and stimulate discussion.

Moderator: *Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE*

- **EXPECTATIONS FROM UNECE MEMBER STATES**
 - Interventions from Member States representatives
- **KEYNOTE**
 - **Catarina Zuzarte Tully**, *Co-Founder and Director, School of International Futures, United Kingdom*



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SESSION 1A: HORIZON-SCANNING FOR UNECE: STRATEGIC FORESIGHT IN THE AGE OF THE POLYCRISIS

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (CEST)

Sessions 1A and 1B will look at the horizon for UNECE region with a medium- to long-term perspective, in the context of the polycrisis. It will focus on some of the experiences of UNECE member States that have made thinking about the future part of their government's strategy. It will also feature expert voices in fields related to the UNECE mandate (evolution of the underlying economic model, addressing gender bias in foresight studies, the future trends in the resource base and the effects of climate change on planning mobility, among others).

Moderator: *Mariagrazia Squicciarini, Director a.i. for Social Policies, UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector and Global Hub, UN Futures Lab Network*

EXPERIENCES FROM THE REGION

- **Katri Vataja**, Director, Foresight, Insight and Strategy, Finnish Innovation Fund
- **Gevorg Mantashyan**, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of High-Tech Industry, Armenia
- **Marcus Scheiblecker**, Senior Economist, Austrian Institute of Economic Research
- **Thomas Hemmelgarn**, Head of Unit, EU Policy Lab: Foresight, Design & Behavioural Insights, Joint Research Centre European Commission
- **Rafal Kierzenkowski**, Senior Counsellor for Strategic Foresight, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

DISCUSSION AND Q&A

SESSION 1B: HORIZON-SCANNING FOR UNECE: THE FUTURE OF GREEN TRANSITION

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (CEST)

Moderator: *Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, UN-ESCAP*

EXPERT VOICES

- **The future of where we live and how we move – will climate change it all?**
Stephanie Hänsel, Head, Precipitation Monitoring Unit, Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD), Germany
- **Economies in transformation: how to prepare for an equitable future while leaving no one behind**
Tatiana Vedeneva, President at Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development, Kyrgyzstan
- **The future of sustainability in the Western Balkans through a youth perspective**
Ania Sauku, Climate Activist and 2021-2022 Youth Delegate of Albania
- **The future of resource management and the challenges of resource scarcity: what will be “critical” in 25 years?**
Paul Ekins, Professor of Resources and Environment Policy, UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources

DISCUSSION AND Q&A



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SESSION 2A: FUTURE-READY COMPETENCIES FOR SHIFTING ECONOMIC PARADIGMS: IDENTIFYING COMPETENCIES TO PREPARE FOR THE WORLD AHEAD

02:00 p.m. – 03:00 p.m. (CEST)

Sessions 2A and 2B focus on identifying which competencies are needed to prepare for future challenges in the Pan-European region in the areas of UNECE's mandate, including improving resilience to climate change, addressing the human cost of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and ensuring faster, accountable and flexible decision making, and how to go about building these competencies.

Moderator: *Lejla Sadiku, Team Leader, Innovation, UNDP Europe and Central Asia*

▪ EXPERT VOICES

- **Coordinating complexity: identifying competencies for developing regulations for the future**
Anders Wijkman, Club of Rome
- **Unleashing youth and skills to be future ready – looking ahead in the aftermath of COVID-19**
Sophie Howe, Former Future Generations Commissioner, Wales, UK
- **Identifying competencies for a sustainable and equitable development**
Marijeta Barjaktarović Lanzardi, Acting General Director for Innovation and Technological Development, Ministry of Science and Technological Development, and National Coordinator for Smart Specialization, Montenegro
- **The future of economy – platforms?**
Peter C. Evans, Chief Strategy Officer McFadyen Digital, Co-Chair MIT Platform Strategy Summit
- **The future of the private sector – challenges and opportunities for skills development**
Christa Gyori, CEO, Leaders on Purpose

▪ DISCUSSION AND Q&A

SESSION 2B: FUTURE-READY COMPETENCIES FOR SHIFTING ECONOMIC PARADIGMS: HOW TO BUILD COMPETENCIES FOR THE REGULATIONS OF THE FUTURE

03:00 p.m. – 04:00 p.m. (CEST)

Moderator: *Jakub Samochowiec, Senior Researcher, Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute, Switzerland*

▪ EXPERT VOICES

- **Applying gendered innovations in foresight to prepare for an inclusive and equitable future**
Londa Schiebinger¹, Director, Gendered Innovations in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering and Environment Project, Stanford University
- **Artificial intelligence – addressing the human cost of AI**
Sasha Luccioni, Ethical Artificial Intelligence Expert
- **Rethinking the future of work: developing skills to flourish in the decades ahead**
Ekkehard Ernst, Chief, Macroeconomic Policy Unit, International Labour Organization
- **Building competencies for future policymakers: challenges and opportunities**
Manana Ratiani, Academic Expert, Georgia, and observer to UNECE Steering Committee on ESD
- **Building competencies for the future: lessons from the UNECE Youth Dialogue 2022**
Simon Herteleer, Youth Focal Point, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

▪ DISCUSSION AND Q&A

¹ Pre-recorded intervention



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CLOSING SESSION:

REFLECTIONS AND MOVING FORWARD

04:00 p.m. – 04:30 p.m. (CEST)

Moderator: Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE

- **WRAP UP FOR THE DAY**
 - Reflections from representatives of UNECE Member States on the day's sessions

- **CLOSING SESSION FOR THE SIDE-EVENTS OF THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**
 - ***Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE***

Kindly register to participate in the side events by completing this [registration form](#) by 31 March 2023. More information will be shared with registered participants in the coming days and also made available on the following [link](#).