

# Report by the Chair of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP)

Mr. George Katapodis, Greece  
Chair

*UNECE Executive Committee, 130<sup>th</sup> session  
Geneva, 9 October 2023*



# Strategic objective of the Committee



***“To promote a policy, financial and regulatory environment for sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness”***

*in its two main areas of work: innovation and competitiveness policies, and Public-Private Partnerships*

*More relevant than ever in today's poly-crisis:*

- Innovation and infrastructure development have a key role to play in accelerating productivity growth and strengthening resilience to economic, social and environmental shocks, and in getting on track on the SDGs*
- Large & growing demand for Committee's work => developing a **new fund raising strategy***

# Committee structure



## Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs

**Chairperson: George Katapodis (Greece)**

**Vice-Chairs: Georgia, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Portugal, and Türkiye**



### Subsidiary Body

**Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships**



### Subsidiary Body

**Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies**

# Strategic approach of the Committee



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## International Policy Dialogue

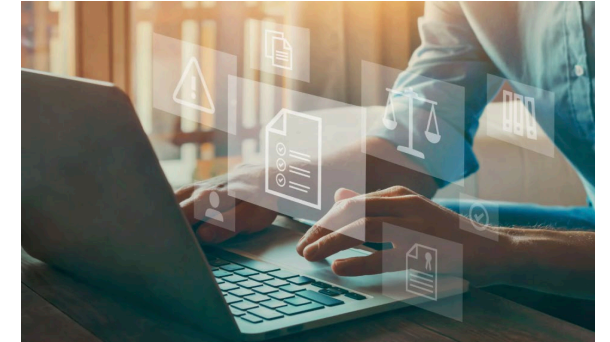
- Identify relevant policy issues and develop best practices/guidelines/standards

## Policy & Project Assessments

- National & sub-regional policy & project assessments on request

## Policy Advice & Capacity Building

- Targeted capacity-building activities to facilitate implementation of recommendations, guidelines and standards



# Achievements since previous session: PPPs



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## Evaluation Methodology (PIERS)

- PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS): An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs to score infrastructure projects against the PPP for the SDGs criteria launched and endorsed by CICPPP

## Guidelines and Standards

- Guidelines on PPPs for the SDGs in Waste-to-Energy Projects for Non-Recyclable Waste: Pathways towards a Circular Economy
- Guidelines on promoting Circular Economy in PPPs for the SDGs
- Standard on PPP/Concession Legal Framework in support of the SDGs

## Policy Advice and Capacity Building

- Increased capacity of policy makers and PPP units in all the 17 programme countries to manage PPP projects for the SDGs

## 7<sup>th</sup> UNECE International PPP Forum (Athens, Greece)

- Policy dialogue and exchanges of experience on the role of PPPs for the SDGs as catalysts for digital and green transformations in support of sustainable development, economic recovery and reconstruction

## Case Studies on PPPs for the SDGs

- Expanded evidence base on PPP projects for the SDGs; 200 case studies collected so far



PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS)  
An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs

# Achievements since previous session: Innovation and Competitiveness



## International Policy Dialogue

- New policy document on "Exploring the Power of Transformative Innovation " adopted by CICPPP
- 8 regional & sub-regional policy dialogues on selected innovation policy topics, including on: digital and green transformations and as part of the new ETIN

## Policy Assessments

- Specific recommendations for innovation policy reforms in
- Armenia (15) and
- Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus (10)

## Policy Advice and Capacity Building

- Georgia – state-of-the-art legal framework for innovation-enhancing procurement
- Republic of Moldova – new roadmap on technology transfer included in new national program on research & innovation
- Kyrgyzstan – opened a nat'l innovation center and 30 university business incubators
- Kazakhstan – new policy framework, innovation council and venture fund

## SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development

- Capacity built for members of the SPECA Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators
- 2 new policy handbooks on Supporting Innovative High-Growth Enterprises and on New Innovation Policy for Transition Economies



# Major activities planned for 2023-2024: PPPs



## Evaluation Methodology (PIERS)

- Support Governments in self-assessing their PPP and infrastructure projects using the PIERS methodology to attract sustainable finance
- Facilitate the use of PIERS through an online platform

## Guidelines

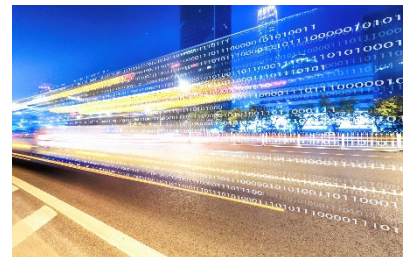
- Develop practical guidelines on PPPs for the SDGs in: digital transformation; sustainable and green PPP procurement; sustainable finance; economic recovery and reconstruction; and other focus areas as agreed by the CICPPP

## Policy Advice and Capacity Building

- Deliver national, regional, and sub-regional activities in a number of countries
- Organise the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum (8-10 May 2024)

## Case Studies on PPPs for the SDGs

- Continue campaign to collect 500 case studies on PPPs for the SDGs



# Major activities planned for 2023-2024: Innovation and Competitiveness



## International Policy Dialogue

- At CICPPP, ToS-ICP, IPO focal points group, ETIN, SPECA (as part of Tashkent Inno Week)
- On transformative innovation, digital and green transformations

## Policy Assessments

- Complete and launch I4SD Review of Ukraine
- S.t. XB funding: Initiate I4SDRs; demand i.a. from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan
- S.t. XB funding: Initiate IPO for Central Asia or South East Europe

## Policy Advice and Capacity Building

- Deliver capacity building in follow-up to the I4SDRs of Uzbekistan and Armenia
- Deliver sub-regional and national capacity building to implement the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development





# Cooperation with other UNECE bodies & international organizations



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- Contributions to the 2024 European Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- Follow-up to OIOS evaluation & chairs' breakfast: exploring cooperation w/in UNECE w/ Trade, Energy, Environment, Urban Development
- For IPO and I4SD reviews, continued and growing partnership with, e.g. **WIPO**, **EC (JRC, Horizon Europe)**, **OECD**, **IOM**, **UNRCO** offices and **UNDP**
- Cooperation with **ESCAP** in framework SPECA (e.g. Action Plan of SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development)
- Cooperation with the UN: **UN Inter-Agency Task Team on Science Technology and Innovation**
- Cooperation with other four **Regional Commissions**, **UN DESA**, and **UNCTAD** in a capacity building project to promote effective partnerships between the public and private sector in countries
- Cooperation with other **Regional Commissions** to train public officials in member States and self-assess PPP and infrastructure projects using the PIERS methodology to ensure their sustainability and contribution to the SDGs



ECLAC



UN DESA

## *The Executive Committee is invited to...*

### **Approve**

- (a) the programme of work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme for 2024, as contained in document ECE/CECI/2023/5; and
- (b) the renewal of the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies for 2024–2025.



**Thank you!**

**Mr. George Katapodis**

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Greece

*More information is available on the UNECE website:*

<https://unece.org/economic-cooperation-and-integration>

