



Webinar Report

“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)

Join the event [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 was the 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 considered 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 was also 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 gathered 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).

Main highlights

- The SPECA countries representatives informed about the recent developments in the area of innovation policy, including the initiatives on developing the innovation support infrastructure (e.g., 11 innovation centres, 26 incubators, 8 technoparks in Uzbekistan; the establishment of 11 business incubators based at universities, the Innovation Center, launching the initiative 40 regions and 40 innovative projects, and the initiative on scientific supervisors - employees of universities and of research institutions to be supervising projects of students of secondary educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan; establishment of the Association of the Business Incubators and Accelerators based at the Universities in Kazakhstan to better coordinate and support innovative ideas. This highlights Kazakhstan's, Kyrgyzstan's and Uzbekistan's commitment to fostering innovation as a driver of sustainable economic development.
- Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan representatives highlighted the importance of supporting innovative ventures at the local level through targeted actions at regional level to foster innovation (e.g., continue to develop regional innovation support infrastructure and form relevant staff), as well as integrating a comprehensive approach to innovation activity that would cover policy actions at the level of secondary and tertiary education (e.g., through integration of entrepreneurship course into the curriculum and project-based approach to learning).
- The potential of business incubators based at the universities has been assessed as very high with strategic policy efforts in this regard needed. These efforts could include systematic introduction of entrepreneurship into the curriculum, applying project-based learning approach, provision of trainings to staff of the business incubators and support to networking and exchange of experience with incubators from the sub-region and beyond.
- The webinar contained an interactive part where participants had to brainstorm on solutions to a problem thus putting into practice elements of the project-based learning. The problem was posed after several real-life case studies (problem-solution) of companies have been presented in detail (e.g., Palo Allo Delivery, Phubber). Participants have appreciated the exercise that they found useful for work with start-ups.



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. Shahlo Turdikulova, Deputy Minister of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan</p> <p>Mr. Islambek Moidinov, First Deputy Director of the State Agency for Intellectual Property and Innovation under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzpatent)</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 Kashibadze, 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. Bibinur Alibayeva, Business Development Manager, "Accelerate Prosperity", Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Mr. Melisbek Muzulmanov, Director, Boarding Lyceum, Nookat Bilimkanasy, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Ms. Madina Musurmankulova, Digital Transformation Manager, IT Park, Uzbekistan</p>
<p>11:30 – 12:15 15:30 – 16:15</p>	<p>Putting the project-based learning approach into practice: The creation of the linkage with the business and industry for problem-solving and innovative solution developments (Ideathons)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Irakli Kashibadze, Innovation Policy Expert, CEO, Future Laboratory, Startup Central Eurasia</p> <p>Interactive case studies and exercises to put into practice the PBL approach</p>



	in the context of the SPECA countries, at the level of universities and schools.
<i>12:15 – 12:30</i> <i>16:15 – 16:30</i>	Wrap up Ms. Lyudmyla Tautiyeva , consultant, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE



Participants

Last name	First name	Position	Organisation	Country
Abazov	Rafis	Manager and director	Institute for green and sustainable development at KazNARU University	Kazakhstan
Abdrakhmanova	Venus	Teacher	TalSU	Kyrgyzstan
Abdukarimova	Aigul	Dean	International University of Central Asia, Tokmok	Kyrgyzstan
Abdybekova	Nurmira	Vice-Rector for HP	KGAFKiS	Kyrgyzstan
Abdykadyr kyzy	Nurzada	Graduate student	Kyrgyz State Academy of Physical Culture and Sports	Kyrgyzstan
Abdyraimova	Gulgaaky	Teacher	Kochkor-Ata College named after B.Osmonov	Kyrgyzstan
Abilova	Feruza	Teacher	Lyceum-boarding school "Nookat bilimkanasy"	Kyrgyzstan
Akbaeva	Kunduz	Teacher	Lyceum "Nookat bilimkanasy"	Kyrgyzstan
Akbarbek uulu	Sagynbek	Teacher	Tash-Kumyr Engineering and Pedagogical Faculty of Jalal-Abad State University named after B.Osmonov	Kyrgyzstan
Akbyukov	Murat	Senior Lecturer	Jalal-Abad State University named after B.Osmonov	Kyrgyzstan
Alamanova	Chinara	professor	Kyrgyz-European Faculty of Kyrgyz National University named after J.Balasagyn	Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
Alibayeva	Bibinur	Business Development Manager	Accelerate Prosperity	Kyrgyzstan
Alimbayeva	Gulbaira	Teacher	College of Medicine	Kyrgyzstan
Aliyev	Medetbek	Teacher	Jalal-Abad State University named after B. Osmonov	Kyrgyzstan
Aliyeva	Elmira	Teacher	Issyk-Kuyla State University named after K. Tynystanov.	Kyrgyzstan
Almanbetova	Chinara	Chief Specialist	Republican Scientific and Methodological Center under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic	Kyrgyzstan
Alymkulov	Begizhan	Director of the Center for Business Support and Development	Jalal-Abad State University named after B.Osmonov	Kyrgyzstan
Amanbaeva	Chynara	Senior Lecturer	Adam University	Kyrgyzstan



Amanturova	Elnura	Bazarkulovna	KGAFKiS	Kyrgyzstan
Amatov	Sharabidin	Head of Educational Department	Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K.I. Scriabin	Kyrgyz Republic
Amirova	Nargiza	Director	Uzbek-Japanese Youth Center of Innovations	Uzbekistan
Amirova	Nodira	Assistant professor	Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry	Uzbekistan
Aronskiy	Yuriy	Chairman	The Union of Economists of Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan
Arzymatov	Swamps	Innovation Specialist	Issyk-Kul State University	Kyrgyz Republic
ASANALIEVA	Aikanym	Teacher	KGAFKIS	Kyrgyzstan
Asangaziev	Nurbek	Head of the comit. Youth Affairs	KNAU Kyrgyz National Agrarian University Version	Kyrgyzstan
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Atabaev	Hemra	Youth Capacity Development Programme Coordinator	USAID YDA Project, member of the Union of Economists of Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan
Atasheva	Sogdiana	project manager	Astrum IT Academy	Uzbekistan
Azelkhanov	Ilyas	Project Manager	Almaty Management University	Kazakhstan
Baimaganbetov	Azamat	Head of Technology Entrepreneurship Programs	Baishev University	Kazakhstan
Baizhigitova	Nasykat	Senior Lecturer	Talas State University	Kyrgyzstan
Baktybekov	Tilek	BP Manager	KAI named after I. ABDRAIMOV	Kyrgyzstan
Beknazarov	Zhakshylyk	Business Incubator Manager	Salymbekov University	Kyrgyzstan
Beshkempirovp	Venus	Senior Teacher	TalMU	Kyrgyzstan
Bimbetov	Alyzhan	Head of International Cooperation of NGPI	Nukus GPI	Uzbekistan
Chekirgozova	Gulbara	Teacher	JAGU	Kyrgyzstan
Chymyrov	Akylbek	Head of Geodesy and Geoinformatics Department	Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I.Razzakov	Kyrgyzstan
Dautova	Zubida	Teacher	K.Tynystanov ISU	Kyrgyzstan, Karakol
Davlyayev	Maratbek	Teacher	Korea Institute in Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan
Davlyayev	Maratbek	Teacher	Korea Institute in Central Asia	Kyrgyz Republic
Dosymkhanov	Aset	Managing Partner	Most Holding	Kazakhstan
Drobysheva	Love	Head of Technology	NJSC "Kokshetau	Kazakhstan



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Duishobaev	Kaldybek	Lecturer of the Department	Talps State University	Kyrgyzstan
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Guseva	Julia	Vladimirovna	KRSU College	Kyrgyzstan
Halov	Dovran	Entrepreneurship Development Trainer	Union of Economists of Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan
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Irakli	Kashibadze	CEO	Future Laboratory	Georgia
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Isamiddinova	Barno	Entrepreneur	Learning Center	Uzbekistan
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Toymat kyzy	Zyinat	Senior Lecturer	ICR	Kyrgyzstan
Tsoy	Vladimir	Director	C.A.T.Science Accelerator	Uzbekistan
Tukhtabekov	Murodbek	Head of Department	State Committee for Ecology of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan
Tungatarov	Lancer	Urmatbekovich	BSU AI. K. Karasayeva	Kyrgyz Republic
Umarov	Saibidine	Associate Professor of the Department of BUiA	Osh Technological University	Kyrgyzstan
Uzakbayeva	Venus	Deputy Dean	Kyrgyz Aviation Institute named after I. Abdraimov	Kyrgyzstan
Yemtsova	Hope	Chemistry Teacher	K.Tynystanov ISU	Kyrgyzstan
Yoldoshev	Oybek	Talaba	Qarshi irrigatsiya va agrotexnologiyalar instituti	Uzbekistan
Zhakypov	Lancer	Teacher	Kyrgyz Aviation Institute named after I. Abdraimov	Kyrgyz Republic
Zhamasheva	Gulbara	Senior Lecturer	Jalal-Abad State University	Kyrgyzstan
Zhanuzakova	Ziyash	SNA, Patent Scholar	KTU	Kyrgyzstan
Zhumagulova	Farida	Senior English Teacher	Issyk Kul State University	Kyrgyzstan
Zhumamatova	Gulmira	Kaimovna	International University of Innovative Technologies	Kyrgyzstan
Zhusupova	Moimol	Head of the Department of History and Social Sciences, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor	Talsu	Kyrgyzstan
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			Innovative Technologies	
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