UNECE PPP for the SDGs and PIERS evaluation methodology

UNECE Masterclass
“Understanding and Leveraging the UNECE PPPs for the SDGs approach through Standards, Tools and Guides for Sustainable Infrastructures”

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Introduction. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Part 1. The UNECE and its PPP programme in support of the SDGs
- The UNECE PPPs for the SDGs approach
- Flagship practical UNECE tools

Part 2. The UNECE PIERS sustainability methodology
- UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS): An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs
  - Demo
  - Case studies

Part 3. Sharing experience: using PIERS to assess actual projects
Part 2. The UNECE PIERS sustainability methodology
5 desirable outcomes that derive from the SDGs as it concerns infrastructure

- Increase access to essential services and reduce social inequality and injustice
- Improve economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability
- Enhance resilience and environmental sustainability
- Promote replicability and the development of further projects
- Fully involve all stakeholders in the projects
PIERS
Measuring infrastructure projects against the SDGs

**What?**
- Methodology to score infrastructure projects against the SDGs & the 5 PPPs for the SDGs outcomes
- Self-Assessment Tool (available online and in Excel)

**How?**
- Developed by 100+ experts
- Officially launched in 2022
- Used in over 220 projects from more than 55 countries

**Features**
- 22 criteria and 95 indicators
- Weighting and scoring system
- Flexible and adaptable to all countries, PPP and infrastructure projects irrespective of size and sector

200+ projects evaluated from 35+ countries

Adopted by 2 MDBs from 35+ countries
1. Provide essential services.
2. Advance affordability and universal access.
3. Improve equity and social justice.
5. Avoid/minimise and mitigate physical and economic displacement.
6. Avoid corruption and encourage transparent procurement.
7. Maximise economic viability and fiscal sustainability.
8. Maximise long-term financial viability.
9. Enhance employment and economic opportunities.
10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency.
11. Reduce waste and restore degraded land.
12. Water consumption and wastewater discharge.
13. Protect biodiversity.
15. Encourage replicability and scalability.
17. Enhance government, industry and community capacity.
18. Support innovation and technology transfer.
20. Maximise stakeholder engagement and public participation.
21. Provide transparent and quality project information.
22. Manage public grievances and end user feedback.

22 criteria to assess projects
PIERS online
Basic features
https://piers.unece.org/
PIERS online
Initial questions
PIERS online
Guidance (initial)
PIERS online

Indicators
PIERS online Guidance (indicators)

**Indicator Guidance (AE3.1)**

To rate this indicator as “5—excellent”, the user needs to undertake a preliminary assessment of the historic context of equity and social justice within the project’s host and affected communities (i.e., the project’s service area), with special consideration being given to the needs and issues of sovereign peoples, especially indigenous peoples (if applicable).

This assessment goes beyond the assessments conducted with respect to affordability and access per criterion AE2 Advance Affordability and Universal Access. This criterion requires the team to consider the historic context of social equity and justice which needs to take into account a wide range of demographic data, gender equality, health data, income rate, education, level of historic infrastructure investment and any other relevant factors. To undertake such an assessment, formal community planning documents, and/or other socio-economic and demographic information/data or other related reports (such as those produced by governmental and/or non-governmental organisations) could be reviewed and analysed. In the absence of the availability of existing documentation, the user could undertake this assessment on their own for the project, in consultation with stakeholders (including the public). Such an assessment of social equity and justice considerations could be done as part of a larger “Stakeholder Needs Assessment” or “Environmental and Social Impact Assessment”. The focus should not be on the title of the report or assessment, rather, the focus should be on its content, which is understanding the historic context of equity and social justice in the project service area to avoid exacerbating equity and social justice concerns and to identify any potential opportunities to rectify historical injustices.

This preliminary assessment should be included in the project PPP development strategy, concept document, prefeasibility study or equivalent documentation. The user should take care to compile any source documents or other reference materials used to undertake this assessment.
PIERS online
Overall results
Strengths

- The project's private sponsor/shareholder is of adequate technical, financial and reputational standing to successfully finance, implement, operate and maintain the project over its life, including having access to necessary resources to fulfil its contractual obligations under various economic scenarios and to adapt the services provided to the potentially evolving needs.

- The project has developed a well-articulated risk reduction and mitigation strategy for the project involving a response and recovery coordination mechanism being put in place with the host and the affected communities.

- The project delivers "value-for-people" meaning the project offers net tangible and intangible benefits to society by providing services to a consistently and verifiably higher standard over the life of the project.

- The project has investigated the potential to utilise unwanted waste and/or excess resources from another local project or by finding local destinations for the beneficial use/reuse of its unwanted waste and/or excess resources.

- The project has undertaken a stakeholder mapping exercise to determine all stakeholders that are directly and indirectly affected by and/or interested in the project.

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Areas of Improvements

- Consider assessing the fiscal sustainability of the PPP contract and creditworthiness of the public authority.

- Consider undertaking an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment to assess and mitigate the range of direct and indirect social impacts (e.g., direct impacts on cultural, historical, recreational, or other resources and services resulting from the project and associated activities; impacts from independent secondary development or actions that may occur as a result of the project; indirect impacts on cultural, historic, recreational or other resource or services that are important to the local community) the project will have on host and affected communities (i.e., the project service area).
PIERS online Certificate
Resources available on the UNECE website *(in English and Russian)*

https://unece.org/ppp/em

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

The UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS) is a new assessment platform that puts people and sustainable development front and centre.

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Stay in touch

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Thank you!

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