



UNECE

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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Istanbul, Türkiye





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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)



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



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

UNECE PPPs for the SDGs

Outcomes



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

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

from **35+** countries

200+ projects evaluated



Adopted by

2

MDBs



Access and Equity

1. Provide essential services.
2. Advance affordability and universal access.
3. Improve equity and social justice.
4. Plan for long-term access and equity.
5. Avoid/minimise and mitigate physical and economic displacement



Economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability

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.



Resilience and environmental sustainability

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.
14. Assess risk and prepare for disaster management.



Replicability

15. Encourage replicability and scalability.
16. Standardise PPP preparation and tender
17. Enhance government, industry and community capacity.
18. Support innovation and technology transfer.



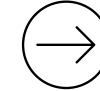
Stakeholder engagement

19. Plan for stakeholder engagement and public participation.
20. Maximise stakeholder engagement and public participation.
21. Provide transparent and quality project information.
22. Manage public grievances and end user feedback.

PIERS online

Basic features

<https://piers.unece.org/>



English ▾

English
Русский
Español
українська

Edit Profile

Please fill out the fields below with your updated information to update your profile.

NAME **E-MAIL**

Update first name and last name here. ↗

COUNTRY * **ORGANIZATION ***

EDIT PROFILE

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

AM Antonin Menega... ▾

Home Assessments Admin

FILTER ASSESSMENT

COUNTRY **PROJECT STAGE** **STATUS**

2726 Assessments

PROJECT NAME ▲ ▾	COUNTRY ▲ ▾	PROJECT STAGE ▲ ▾	STATUS ▲ ▾	CREATED ON ▲ ▾
A6 AS Wiesloch/Rauenberg to AK Weinsberg PPP Motorway	Germany	Implementation	COMPLETED	5 September 2023
Another test project	Angola	Identification	IN PROGRESS	31 August 2023

PIERS online

Initial questions

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

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Home Assessments

Test project (demo)
Switzerland

PERFORMANCE: Good | STATUS: COMPLETED

Project Overview Access and Equity Economic Effectiveness and Fiscal Sustainability Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Replicability Stakeholder Engagement Overall Results

Important: Please read the introduction to PIERS here. [↗](#)

Initial questions
(* Mandatory)

LOCATION OF INVESTMENT * Switzerland

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTINGS * All other environmentally unspecified areas

PROJECT STAGE * Identification

VERIFIABLE AND MEASURABLE DATA * Yes

STATEMENT OF INTENT * Yes (basic statement)

Project information

NAME OF THE PROJECT *
Test project (demo)

PROJECT SECTOR *
Renewable Energy

VALUE OF THE PROJECT (USD)
\$10,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / OVERVIEW *
This is a test

TESTIMONIAL OF THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT (HOW THE PROJECT IS OR IS PLANNING TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON PEOPLE'S LIVES)
The project contributes to the SDGs

PIERS online Guidance (initial)

Introduction to PIERS

This online platform is an easy-to-use tool that presents the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS) in a simplified format. PIERS provides an indicative PPP for the SDGs score as well as qualitative feedback to assist projects improve PPP for the SDGs outcomes. The qualitative feedback is generated automatically based on responses provided in the PIERS online tool.

Where does PIERS apply?

PIERS applies to all types, sizes, and PPP models^[1], anywhere around the world, in any sector. A PPP can be defined as:

- A physical infrastructure which is the support of a public service designed, financed, built or rehabilitated and operated by a commercial company selected by way of competitive bidding and operating the service in accordance with the provisions of a contract, entered into with the public authority in charge of delivering such a service.
- The contract, based on functional specifications and performance criteria, provides for a compensation of the company by the public authority or by the end users (or a combination of both). The service is rendered for a time period calculated in such a way that the company may amortize all costs and make a reasonable profit.
- At the expiry of the term, the infrastructure is transferred in good operating conditions to the public authority, generally without compensation unless, such a compensation is provided for the contract.
Example PPPs include:
 - Economic infrastructure^[2] such as transportation facilities and utility networks (e.g., water, sewage, communications, electricity);
 - Social infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, libraries, parks and other amenities, public housing; or
 - Green infrastructure / community-based PPPs.

Who should use PIERS?

PIERS is intended to provide a common language for or basis of understanding PPPs for the SDGs. It is intended to be used by governments, the private sector, civil society organisations, academia and international organisations who work together to achieve PPPs for the SDGs.

When to use PIERS?

The background interface shows a sidebar with 'Development Kyrgyzstan', 'Project Overview', and 'Initial question: (* Mandatory)'. The main content area includes 'LOCATION OF INVESTMENT: Kyrgyzstan', 'PROJECT STAGE *: Identification', and 'STATEMENT OF INTENT: Yes (comprehensive)'. The top right corner displays 'STATUS COMPLETED' and 'Overall Results'.

PIERS online Indicators

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

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Home Assessments

Test project (demo)
Switzerland

PERFORMANCE: Good | STATUS: COMPLETED

Project Overview | Access and Equity | Economic Effectiveness and Fiscal Sustainability | Environmental Sustainability and Resilience | Replicability | Stakeholder Engagement | Overall Results

Access and Equity

Across the 17 SDGs, a key focus is improving access to critical public services for social development and poverty eradication, recognizing that depriving access to one service can have huge negative impacts on people's livelihoods and wellbeing.

Equity could be broadly defined as equal access to the infrastructure and PPP project outputs/services, and that proactive measures are employed, where necessary, to ensure that all citizens interested by the service with due regard to the economically disadvantaged and those who suffer from social exclusion have access to the service in an equitable manner.

AE1 - Provide Essential Services
75%

AE2 - Advance Affordability and Universal Access
70.8%

AE3 - Improve Equity and Social Justice
100%

AE4 - Plan for Long-Term Access and Equity
62.5%

AE5 - Avoid/Minimise and Mitigate Physical and Economic Displacement
91.7%

Access and Equity
80.8%

Performance: Excellent

Intent
Provide new or improved access to essential services to people.

Metric
The extent to which the project provides new or improved access to essential services

Description | **Applicability**

AE1.1 - Is the project identifying and taking into account the real needs of the people by reference to their economic and social situation as established through the stakeholder engagement process?

5 - Excellent 4 - Very Good 3 - Satisfactory 2 - Marginal 1 - Unsatisfactory

(* Mandatory)

AE1.2 - Is the project contributing in an organised manner to the expansion and improvement (for example including but not limited to circular economy processes) of essential services?

5 - Excellent 4 - Very Good 3 - Satisfactory 2 - Marginal 1 - Unsatisfactory

AE1.3 - Is there evidence that stakeholder lives will be / have been / are being transformed as a result of the project providing new or improved access to essential services?

5 - Excellent 4 - Very Good 3 - Satisfactory 2 - Marginal 1 - Unsatisfactory

AE1.4 - Is the project avoiding, eliminating, mitigating, and/or offsetting impacts to existing essential services?

5 - Excellent 4 - Very Good 3 - Satisfactory 2 - Marginal 1 - Unsatisfactory N/A

SAVE & NEXT

PIERS online Guidance (indicators)

The screenshot displays the PERS online interface. On the left, a list of indicators is visible, including:

- AE1 - Provide Essential Services
- AE2 - Advance Affordability and Universal Access
- AE3 - Improve Equity and Social Justice** (highlighted)
- AE4 - Plan for Long-term Sustainability
- AE5 - Avoid/Minimize Adverse Impacts and Economic Displacement

The main content area shows the 'Intent' for AE3: 'Ensure equity and social justice considerations are included within project processes and decision making.' A 'Performance: Good' indicator is also visible.

A 'Indicator Guidance (AE3.1)' pop-up window is open, providing detailed instructions:

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).

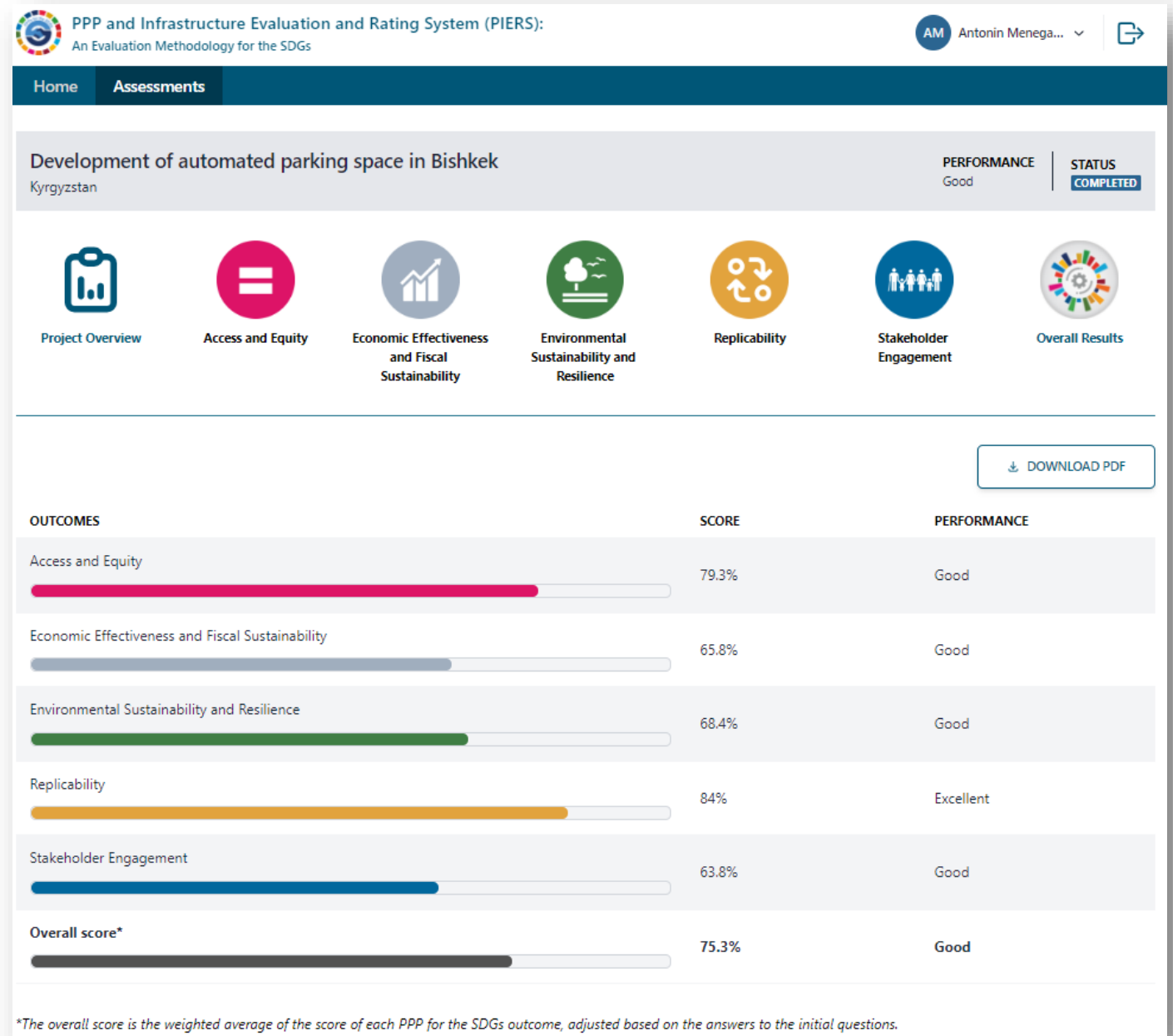
This assessment goes beyond the assessments conducted with respect to affordability and access per criterion AE2 Advance Affordability and Universal Access. This criterion requires the team to consider the historic context of social equity and justice which needs to take into account a wide range of 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.

At the bottom right, a 'SAVE & NEXT' button is visible.

PIERS online

Overall results



PIERS online

Qualitative comments

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.
- ...

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



PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS)

An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs

Overall results

Development of automated parking space in Bishkek Kyrgyzstan		PERFORMANCE Good
Outcomes	Score	Performance
Access and Equity	79.3%	Good
Economic Effectiveness and Fiscal Sustainability	65.8%	Good
Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	68.4%	Good
Replicability	84%	Excellent
Stakeholder Engagement	63.8%	Good
Overall score*	75.3%	Good

*The overall score is the weighted average of the score of each PPP for the SDGs outcome, adjusted based on the answers to the initial questions.

Note: UNECE is not responsible for the use of the score given by this tool. The score is only an information of a project compliance with the PPP for the SDGs outcomes and is based on the answers given by the user.

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.
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- 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.
- The level of service provided by the project has identified and addressed the accessibility needs of the people the project intends to serve over the life cycle of the project and taking into account various economic development scenarios, such that the service provided by the project is accessible by all users, including those most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- The project has taken into account the real needs of the people by reference to their economic and social situation.
- The project has implemented the stakeholder engagement and public participation plan(s) throughout the project's lifecycle in an effective, timely, and inclusive fashion.

- The project has generally followed or adhered to the UNECE Standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP Procurement (ZTC) or the principles contained therein.
- For a concessions PPP: the service provided by the project is and can be expected to remain reasonably affordable for the users including if necessary, through special rules for those most vulnerable and disadvantaged. For a government-pay PPP: the costs of the service provided by the project can be accommodated within the available public sector budget.
- The project has created a significant number of new local jobs during project identification, development, and implementation.
- Opportunities for the transfer of knowledge/know-how, technologies, and skills from the private party to the public party and/or local community stakeholders have been assessed and/or successfully implemented.
- Quality and pertinent information about the project relative to the PPP for the SDGs outcomes is readily available to all stakeholders, including members of the public, and provided in a transparent, timely, understandable, and accessible fashion and is incorporated in the PPP contract.
- The project generates positive "value-for-money" meaning the costs net of benefits of the selected PPP contractual model are lower vs. a modern public procurement model.
- The project has conducted an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) (or initial environmental assessment (IEE) for category B projects).
- The project is implementing one or more innovative methods, technologies, or processes that eliminate or substantially reduce significant problems, barriers or limitations, and/or create scalable and transferrable solutions.
- The project has quantified the number of people who will have new or improved access to one or more essential services as a direct and/or indirect result of the project who previously had no or unsatisfactory access to these services.
- The project has implemented all measures possible to ensure members of the public, including environmental defenders, are able to express their views and participate freely without fear of being penalised, persecuted or harassed for their involvement.
- The project is creating quality jobs that are in line with the ILO Decent Work Indicators.
- The project is increasing government capacity and/or project/industry capacity.
- The project is developing and implementing an environmental management plan (EMP) to avoid, mitigate impacts to, or restore the impact area.
- The project is developing a plan/identifying strategies to improve the energy efficiency/reduce energy consumption of the project.
- The project is including a transfer of technology (e.g. to enable a circular economy) or know-how that contributes to inclusive growth, service quality, sustainability and replicability.
- A stakeholder engagement and public participation plan has been developed for the project that takes into account the specific needs of each stakeholder and considers the broad range of project issues, as related to the PPP for the SDGs outcomes, that need to be addressed.
- The physical and economic displacement process as a result of the project has followed the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement.
- The project has developed a plan/identified strategies to reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the project.
- The project is maximising development impact and facilitating women's empowerment throughout the stages of the PPP (identification, development, and implementation).

Areas of Improvements

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

Resources

Using PIERS



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



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.

Documents	EN	FR	RU
PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS): An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs	pdf	pdf	pdf
PIERS Self-Assessment Tool	xls¹		xls
User's Guide to the Self-Assessment Tool	pdf		pdf
Video	video		

Stay in touch



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Thank you!

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Economic Cooperation and Trade Division

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



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