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**Economic Commission for Europe****Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships****Seventeenth session**

Geneva, 24-26 June 2024

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the Programme of Work – Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies****Progress on the Innovation for Sustainable Development  
Review of Ukraine****Note by the secretariat<sup>1</sup>****I. Background**

1. ECE has an extensive track record of supporting innovation policy reforms in Ukraine, starting with an inaugural national review in 2012 and culminating in Ukraine's participation in the inaugural ECE Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook: Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus<sup>2</sup> in 2020 and a subsequent Interim Innovation Policy Outlook in 2022.

2. These analyses confirmed the potential of Ukraine for knowledge-based, innovation-driven development and acknowledged the progress the Government had made in supporting critical elements of an effective national innovation system. At the same time, considerable gaps remained in innovation governance, institutions, and policies relative to international good practice.

3. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has set the country back years on its path towards sustainable development. Like the economy overall, innovation capacity has been damaged severely by the war. The innovation system has experienced a large loss of human capital. The business sector has experienced a significant loss of R&D capacity. Many potential innovators have experienced a dramatic loss in their ability to bear risk. A significant part of the innovation infrastructure has been destroyed. Local innovation eco-systems have been displaced. Nonetheless, innovation will have a key role to play in the economic, environmental, and social reconstruction of Ukraine as a key driver of long-term sustainable development.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This document has not been formally edited.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2021), [Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook 2020: Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus](#), New York-Geneva.

<sup>3</sup> Ukraine Global Innovation Vision 2030 – A Strategy to Win the Peace ([WINWIN. UKRAINIAN GLOBAL INNOVATION VISION](#)).

## II. Status of the project

4. The Review focuses on (i) providing context by drawing on relevant case studies from other major conflicts, (ii) identifying options for effective innovation policy making under the current, very challenging circumstances, and (iii) developing scenarios for policies promoting innovation for reconstruction and, ultimately, sustainable development.
5. ECE developed a draft mapping of innovation policy stakeholders in Ukraine as well as of key international partners, together with the national focal points for the Review.
6. ECE also carried out desk research on the impact of the war on the country's national innovation system and has drafted an overview chapter for discussion with the national project focal points and the wider innovation policy stakeholder community. ECE has also drafted a chapter on innovation policy monitoring and evaluation.
7. Online fact-finding consultations between the secretariat, the international expert team and innovation policy stakeholders from the business community, the academic community and civil society were concluded.
8. The secretariat carried out a mission to Kyiv from 29 to 31 May 2024. During this mission ECE co-organized a seminar on "Improving the monitoring of scientific, technical and innovation development processes in Ukraine" jointly with the National Academy of Science. At the seminar, ECE presented good international practices and the initial findings from a desk review of innovation policy monitoring and evaluation in Ukraine.
9. Also during this mission, the secretariat held consultations with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Digital Transformation, the Intellectual Property and Innovation Agency, the National Academy of Science, and the National Research Foundation.
10. The secretariat also met with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and with selected bilateral development partners, including the European Union, Horizon Europe, the Swedish International Development Agency, the German International Cooperation Agency, and the United States Agency for International Development, and explored synergies between the ECE review and other existing support initiatives, as well as opportunities for cooperation going forward.
11. ECE participated in the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024 in Berlin on 11 and 12 June. Ahead of the Conference, ECE Executive Secretary Tatiana Molcean visited Kyiv from 4 to 6 June to discuss ECE support for the country's reconstruction and recovery, including innovation policy support, with Ukrainian government officials, the United Nations Country Team, the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, and other international partners.

## III. Way forward

12. Based on the above consultations, ECE will
  - provide written comments to the draft Innovation Strategy, the draft Intellectual Property Strategy, and the draft Strategy of the Ministry of Education and Science until 2027.
  - complete the Review with a focus on findings and recommendations on whole-of-government coherence and coordination; engaging diaspora and internally displaced scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs; and evidence-based policy making, and monitoring and evaluation.
14. The secretariat will present findings and recommendations to the 2024 session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.
15. Accompanying Ukraine in its efforts to maximize the benefits of innovation for a resilient, sustainable reconstruction is a long-term endeavour. ECE's consultations with the Government of Ukraine have identified the following priority issues for follow-on policy advisory and capacity building support:

- Innovation infrastructure and science-business linkages
- Innovation procurement
- Innovation financing
- Sectoral innovation policy
- Place-based innovation eco-systems.

ECE will seek additional extra-budgetary funding for follow-up analysis and support of innovation policy reforms in 2025 and beyond.

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