

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

135th meeting
Geneva, 9 September 2024

Item 5 of provisional agenda

Informal Document No. 2024/28

Extrabudgetary project

**Shaping environmental policy in the pan-European region through
applying foresight methodologies**

(for approval)

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

Project title: Shaping environmental policy in the pan-European region through applying foresight methodologies		
Expected timing/ duration: September 2024 – December 2025		
<p>Objective and brief summary of the project: The project builds on outcomes of the 70th session of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the 28th session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP). It aims to develop foresight in the Environment Subprogramme to meet both internal and external commitments in a fast-changing world and to increase UNECE's and its member States' anticipatory capacity to build coherence among future policies and help set priorities for environmental policies in the pan-European region assisting the definition of priorities for the next Environment for Europe Conference. To achieve this, the project will facilitate science-policy dialogue and provide technical advice to pan-European environmental policy development by applying a futures- (foresight) oriented approach. The objective of the project is to identify an array of unexpected events, weak signals of change, megatrends, and emerging issues that are not yet on the policy radar but might have significant implications for the pan-European environment. The project will support the selection of priority issues to be discussed at the next regular sessions of the Committee on Environmental Policy and identify potential topics for the next Environment for Europe (EfE) Conference. The objective of the project will be achieved by implementing the following activities:</p> <p>A1.1. Define the scope of the project with policy stakeholders, CEP Bureau and UNECE Secretariat; A1.2. Conduct a horizon scan and prepare a summary with 20-25 scans of emerging issues; A2.1. Conduct an online capacity-building workshop to gain familiarity with horizon scanning and sensemaking activities (October 2024); A2.2. Define priority issues and policy responses with UNECE constituency, including through organisation of structured discussions at a one-day sensemaking workshop (alongside the CEP session, 5 November 2024); A3.1. Develop policy recommendations for consideration of the CEP in light of the EfE Ministerial Conference, including through organised discussions at online validation meetings.</p>		
Link to the SDG targets: SDG 2 (target 2.1, 2.4.), SDG 3 (3.2,3.3, 3.8, 3.9, 3d), SDG 5 (5.1, 5.4, 5.5,5.6), SDG 6 (6.1-6.6, 6a, 6b), SDG 7 (7.1, 7.2, 7a), SDG 9 (9.1, 9.2, 9.4), SDG 11 (11.1-11.7, 11 a-b), SDG 12 (12.4), SDG 13 (13.1, 13.2), SDG 15 (15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.8), SDG 16 (16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16 a-b), SDG 17 (17.6, 17.9, 17.14, 17.18, 17.19)		
<p>Expected results of the project: EA1. Improved understanding of the emerging issues by the CEP constituency; EA2. Capacity built in applying horizon scanning as a foresight tool across the CEP constituency and experience exchange on application of foresight in policymaking; EA3. Since-based policy advice provided to inform the anticipatory planning under the CEP and EfE process and the programme of work of the UNECE Environment Subprogramme.</p>		
<p>Target group and beneficiaries of the project: The target groups are policymakers, regulators, academia, non-governmental organisations, academia and other experts dealing with the development of anticipatory environmental policies and strategies. Beneficiary countries are UNECE member States.</p>		
<p>Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work: The project directly contributes to the objective of Subprogramme 1 "Environment" "to improve environmental governance and performance for safeguarding the environment and health" of the UNECE programme budget for 2024. It also addressed the request of CEP at its 28th session (Geneva, 1-3 November 2023) to prepare a proposal on how to develop and implement strategic foresight at the subprogramme level to be discussed by the Committee at its 29th session (Geneva, 6-8 November 2024).</p>		
Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff): 2 months/ P3; 0.5 month/ P5; 5 days/D1		
Estimated extra budgetary resources:		
Donor	Amount (CHF)	
Cranfield University (in-kind)	64,635	
Project Manager: Zaal Lomtadze	Section/Division: Environment / Environment for Europe Section	
12.08.2024		
Cleared by Programme Management Unit: Nicolas Dath-Baron	Approved by EXCOM¹	09.09.2024
12.08.2024		
Due diligence conducted on 22.08.2024		

¹ See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

Annex
Results-based budget for the extrabudgetary project

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (CHF)
EA1. Improved understanding of the emerging issues by the CEP constituency;	A1.1. Define the scope of the project with policy stakeholders, CEP Bureau and UNECE Secretariat; 2 senior researchers x 6 days x CHF 425 1 junior researcher x 5 days x CHF 240	3,750 2,550 1,200
	A1.2. Conduct horizon scan and prepare a summary with 20-25 scans of emerging issues; 2 senior researchers 10 x days x CHF 425 1 junior researcher x 10 days x CHF 240	6,650 4,250 2,400
EA2. Capacity built in applying horizon scanning as a foresight tool across the CEP constituency and experience exchange on application of foresight in policymaking;	A2.1. Conduct online capacity-building workshop to gain familiarity with horizon scanning and sensemaking activities (October 2024); 2 senior researchers x 10 days x CHF 425 1 junior researcher x 10 days x CHF 240 1 consultant x 2 days x CHF 1,340 Contractual services to host one online capacity-building workshop x CHF 8,125 Interpretation x 2 interpreters x CHF 1,000	19,455 4,250 2,400 2,680 8,125 2,000
	A2.2. Define priority issues and policy responses with UNECE constituency, including through organisation of structured discussions at a one-day sensemaking workshop (alongside the 2024 CEP meeting, 5 November 2024); 2 senior researchers x 10 days x CHF 425 1 junior researcher 15 days x CHF 240 Travel of 20 participants to a one-day workshop x CHF 600 Interpretation x 2 interpreters x CHF 1,000 1 mission x 2 researchers to run the sense-making workshop x 600 CHF	23,050 4,250 3,600 12,000 2,000 1,200
EA3. Since-based policy advice provided to inform the anticipatory planning under the CEP and Efe process and the programme of work of the UNECE Environment Subprogramme.	A3.1. Develop policy recommendations for consideration of the CEP in light of the Efe Ministerial Conference, including through organised discussions at online validation meetings. 2 senior researchers x 10 days x CHF 425 1 junior researcher x 15 days x CHF 240 1 consultant x 2 days x CHF 1,340 1 mission x 2 researchers to attend CEP meeting in 2025 to present the recommendations x CHF 600	11,730 4,250 3,600 2,680 1,200
Total		64,635