



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

#### Sixteenth session

Geneva, 31 May-2 June 2023

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

#### **Programme of Work, Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2023–2024, and Recommendations on key components of the Programme of Work for 2025**

### **Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2023-2024**

#### **Note by the secretariat<sup>1</sup>**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The present document is based on the programme of work of the Committee for 2023 (ECE/CECI/2022/5). It provides additional information on activities planned and proposed for the period between the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Committee. To facilitate discussion, this document presents activities grouped by the main thematic areas covered by the Committee, that is, Innovation and Competitiveness, and Public-Private Partnerships.

2. The plans and proposals reflect demand expressed by member States as well as the resources available to the secretariat at the time of writing. Delegates are invited to bring additional proposals and requests to the session.

#### **II. Innovation and Competitiveness Policies**

3. The work on innovation and competitiveness focuses on promoting a policy environment supportive of innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness in support of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Activities include policy dialogue, policy recommendations and good practices, analytical reviews, and capacity-building, including workshops and seminars at national and sub-regional levels.

##### *International policy dialogue and development of good policy practice*

4. The fifteenth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held in Geneva on 23 and 24 November 2023. As part of the session, an international policy conference will provide an opportunity for experts from across the ECE region to exchange experiences on innovation policy. The Bureau of the Team will decide on the specific topic in consultation with the Team members. A policy document synthesizing international good practice on the topic will be submitted to the seventeenth session of the Committee for adoption.

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

5. The 2023 session of the Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) will be organized together with UNESCAP. A policy conference will be organised back-to-back with the session. The Government of Uzbekistan has offered to host the event in Tashkent. The precise date remains to be decided.

#### ***National and subregional policy analysis and recommendations***

##### *Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDRs)*

6. The Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews of Armenia and Ukraine will be completed. Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan have requested UNECE to carry out I4SDRs. These requests may be met subject to available resources.

##### *Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO)*

7. Work may begin in 2023 on an IPO for Central Asia, with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as beneficiaries, subject to available funding.

#### ***Capacity building***

8. Regular policy dialogue meetings of the network of Innovation Policy Outlook national focal points will continue to be organized to exchange good policy practices and build government capacity to implement policy recommendations from the Outlook.

9. A policy handbook on New Innovation Policy for the Transition Economies of Central Asia will be finalised.

10. In follow-up to the national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Uzbekistan, the Government of Uzbekistan has requested follow-up capacity building to help implement the recommendations of the Review, highlighting a particular interest in the topic of innovation for the green and circular transition. UNECE staff and experts will undertake a mission to Tashkent in May 2023 in this context and will offer further capacity building support throughout the rest of 2023.

11. Further capacity building activities to support implementation of recommendations from existing policy analyses at the national level may be undertaken upon request and subject to available resources.

12. Under the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development, UNECE will continue to implement sub-regional capacity building activities with funding from the UN Development Account project “Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Based on strong interest from the SPECA participating countries, study tours, policy dialogues and trainings will continue to be organized under the SPECA Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development. These activities aim to strengthen the capacity of policymakers, entrepreneurs, educators and business support institutions to promote innovative entrepreneurship in line with the 2030 Agenda.

13. UNECE will continue contributing to the capacity building workstream of the UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development as appropriate.

14. Building on the Committee’s existing work on innovation for the circular economy and on innovation-enhancing procurement, and in cooperation with UNECE’s Trade subprogramme, the secretariat may support selected member States on request in developing road maps or action plans for the circular economy transition in selected relevant fields.

15. Work on developing international good practice on transformative innovation policy and on building the capacity of national innovation agencies on this topic will continue under the auspices of the ECE Transformative Innovation Network (ETIN) launched at the 2022 session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.

### III. Public-Private Partnerships

16. The focus of the work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is supporting ECE member States' use of PPPs to address a range of issues in the context of relevant cross-cutting Commission themes, sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction, corruption in PPPs, pandemic preparedness and response, food security, women's empowerment, and accelerating achievement of the SDGs in the ECE region. The ECE Guiding Principles on PPPs for the SDGs provide the normative basis for the work on PPPs.

#### *International policy dialogue*

17. The seventh session of the Working Party on PPPs will be held in Geneva on 30 November and 1 December 2023.

18. The eighth edition of the International PPP Forum will be organised by UNECE in May 2024.

#### *Standards, recommendations, guidelines and best practices*

19. The work on standards and practical guides on green and sustainable PPP procurement; digital transformation in PPPs for sustainable development; sustainable finance; and economic recovery and reconstructions that was launched in early 2023, will continue to be developed throughout 2023 and in 2024 based on existing resources.<sup>2</sup>

20. The standard on PPP/Concession Legal Framework in support of the SDGs and its commentary/accompanying guide will be published as a UNECE publication in 2023.

21. The initiation of work on new topics for future standards and practical guides agreed by the Working Party on PPPs at its last session will be prioritised by the Working Party at its next session, on the recommendation of its Bureau.<sup>3</sup>

#### *Capacity building*

22. Capacity building projects<sup>4</sup> to promote effective partnerships between the public and the private sectors through PPPs for the SDGs will continue to be implemented in 2023 and 2024.

23. Support will be provided to requesting Governments in self-assessing PPP and infrastructure projects using the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS): An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs.

24. The campaign to reach 500 PPPs for the SDGs case studies will continue to be promoted, and additional case studies will be collected and presented at the eighth International PPP Forum in May 2024.

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<sup>2</sup> Decision 2022 – 5.2(3) by the Working Party on PPPs at its sixth session in December 2022 ([ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/2](#)).

<sup>3</sup> Decision 2022 – 5.2(2) by the Working Party on PPPs at its sixth session in December 2022. The 12 topics for new policy documents approved by the Working Party on PPPs are included in Annex II of document [ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/2](#).

<sup>4</sup> Projects funded by the UN Development Account and/or from extrabudgetary resources approved by the ECE Executive Committee.