Connecting countries
Driving progress
Improving lives

SPECA WG on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (ITSD)

3rd session
20 July 2022
Recent highlights from UNECE – SPECA WG on ITSD

UNECE Handbook on Business incubators for sustainable development in the SPECA subregion issued as an official UN publication

SPECA work on policy support to innovative high-growth enterprises (IHGEs), based on previous activities in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus

- Webinar: Challenges and opportunities for supporting innovative, high-growth enterprises in the SPECA countries, 23 December 2021
- Training for SPECA policymakers on supporting innovative high-growth enterprises in the SPECA sub-region, 15 & 17 February 2022
- Handbook for SPECA policymakers under development
Recent highlights from UNECE – SPECA WG on ITSD

- Work on “New approaches to innovation policy in the transition economies of the SPECA sub-region”
  - Integrates outcomes of previous work on a range of topics, including technological upgrading for sustainable development, business incubators and innovative high-growth enterprises
  - Webinar “New approaches to innovation policy in the transition economies of the SPECA sub-region”, 19 May 2022
  - A paper for SPECA policymakers is being developed on the topic, and will serve as a basis for future capacity building activities
Recent highlights from UNECE – SPECA WG on ITSD

• UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Uzbekistan

• In-depth national review of innovation policy to promote sustainable development, including chapters on innovation policy governance, innovation infrastructure and industry-science linkages

• Follows similar reviews of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

• Issued as an official UN publication on the UNECE website

• To be followed by targeted UNECE capacity building activities, in agreement with the national authorities and in support of the Strategy of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan 2022-2026
Recent highlights from UNECE – SPECA WG on ITSD

- Consultations on SPECA Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development (SPECA EGM, 19 July 2022)

- The Network aims to provide a platform for dialogue and exchange on issues, challenges, solutions, as well as best practices related to innovative entrepreneurship support through BI and BA; enable peer learning, provide training, facilitate cooperation among SPECA countries.

- Activities would include workshops, roundtables, trainings, study tours and other types of exchanges in the area of innovative entrepreneurship support and related policy areas, incl. drawing on UNECE tools in this area.

- SPECA countries called to designate one or more Focal Points (FPs) for the Network in each country. The FPs will ensure communication and coordination with the BI and BA in their country on the Network activities and should have appropriate experience of business incubation and acceleration, as either a policymaker or practitioner.

- UNECE financial support for pilot activities until end 2023; further autonomy and sustainability

Contributes to the implementation of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development (adopted in November 2019) and the corresponding Action Plan (approved by the SPECA Governing Council in November 2021).

Possible contributions to the 69th and 70th ECE sessions on support to circular economy and the green and digital transformations

Drawing on experience of the newly launched European Transformative Innovation Network (ETIN)
Programme of Work July 2022 - Dec. 2024

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<th>Area of Activity</th>
<th>Lead Executive Agency</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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<td>Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities.</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>July 2022-December 2024</td>
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<td>Capacity-building on policy options and practical instruments to promote knowledge-based development</td>
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<td>Implementation of the UNECE project on Innovation for Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>Reviews of selected countries</td>
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<td>Support to SPECA countries to foster innovation to deliver the SDGs</td>
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<td>Implementation of ESCAP activities in support to the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway action plan 2022-2026</td>
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<td>Enhancing national capacities to use ICT for socio-economic development and on e-resilience</td>
<td>ESCAP</td>
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<td>Capacity development on the utilization of ICT and GIS for disaster risk reduction</td>
<td>ESCAP</td>
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<td>Strengthen institutional capacity on integrating geospatial and statistical data, with a focus on drought monitoring and land accounts in Central Asia</td>
<td>ESCAP</td>
<td>July 2022-December 2024</td>
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<td>Capacity Development to reduce and mitigate disaster risks in endorheic (inland) water basins in Central Asia</td>
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Contact points

In case of questions, UNECE and ESCAP contact points:

Ms. Aida Karazhanova, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE

Thank you for your attention!