Strengthening policies and regulatory frameworks of digital public services for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in North and Central Asia in support of the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway (APIS) Action Plan 2022-2026

Project Objectives

- ESCAP secretariat, with the support of the Russian Federation, started a two-year project in 2024.
- The project aims to strengthen the existing policies and regulatory framework of digitally enabled public services and platforms for SMEs in North and Central Asian countries.
- The project will benefit SMEs considering the needs of women entrepreneurs and businesses to digitalize their business models and processes and to create new digital platforms.

Outcomes

- Improved existing national policies and regulatory measures on digitally enabled public services and platforms for the digitalization of SMEs.

Activities

- Set up priority and monitoring in three pilot countries.
- Analysis and assessment of needs, the study of good practices and assessment tools for SMEs.
- Capacity building through online and offline meetings.
- Sharing and promoting digital products and outputs.

First subregional NCA (hybrid) workshop 26-28 June 2024, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Beneficiaries in North and Central Asia and in Mongolia

- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Uzbekistan
- Mongolia
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Russian Federation

External Partners

- APIS Bureau members
- UNDESA/UNPGA
- UNCTAD
- UNDP & UNRCOs
- UN ECE
- Islamic Development Bank
- International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC, Ulaan Batar)
- Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC) of Asian Development Bank
- KOICA

Pilot Country Focal Points

- Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Digital Development of Kyrgyzstan
- State Agency of Intellectual Property and Innovations under the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyzpatent)
- Ministry of Digital Technologies of Uzbekistan
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Uzbekistan
- Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation

Project Timeline

- 26-28 June 2024
  Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
  Subregional workshop

- 3-6 September 2024
  Astana, Kazakhstan
  Expert Group Meeting Side event at APMCDIT Exhibition Booth

- 14-15 November 2024
  National consultations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and subregional capacity building workshop
  Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- March 2024 - Apr 2025
  Regular discussions to kick-start a project, bilateral meetings for the project and the final regional meeting to promote project outcomes