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.

**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 Hybrid Meeting, 7 March 2024, Astana**

**Beneficiaries in North and Central Asia and in Mongolia**

**External Partners**
- APIS Bureau members
- UNDESA/UNPOG
- UNCTAD
- UNDP & UNRCOs
- Islamic Development Bank

- International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC, Ulaan Bator)
- 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 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 consultation

- **5-6 (tbd) September 2024**
  - Astana, Kazakhstan
  - Expert Group Meeting

- **17-18 (tbd) October 2024**
  - National consultations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and subregional capacity building workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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