



Methodology for national science, technology and innovation (STI) gap assessments of the SPECA countries

**Rumen Dobrinsky
European Alliance for Innovation**

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Background



- The SPECA countries have repeatedly reiterated their resolve to attain the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and assign high policy priority to STI in these efforts
- These topics have featured prominently at several high level expert meetings (such as SPECA Economic Forum in 2017 and 2019) and are reflected in the decisions of high-level intergovernmental meetings such as the SPECA Governing Council (in 2017, 2018 and 2019)

Background (contd.)



- The SPECA Government Council approved at its 14th session (Ashgabat, Nov. 2019) the SPECA Innovation Strategy for SD and encouraged SPECA countries and partners to support its implementation
- Also in 2019, the UNDA approved the project “Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for SD”, to be jointly supported by UNECE and ESCAP
- The project aims to support the SPECA countries to design and implement innovation policies for sustainable development – and hence to support implementation of the SPECA Innovation Strategy

Background (contd.)



- One of the first activities of the project is to develop a sub-regional STI gap analysis covering the 7 SPECA countries to inform the first Action Plan for the SPECA Innovation Strategy
- The sub-regional STI gap analysis will be based on national STI gap assessments of the SPECA countries undertaken by national experts using common methodology
- These assessments will be summarised and the outcomes will be presented to the Governments of the SPECA countries for further action

Methodology for the national STI gap assessments



- **Part A. Overview of some main aspects of national STI governance** (*analytical text based on factual information and its critical assessment*):
 - National STI priorities
 - Key STI policy documents
 - STI governance structure
 - STI policy formulation
 - STI policy instruments, policy implementation and coordination
 - Covid-19 and innovation activity

Methodology ... (contd.)



- **Part B. Key challenges and problems in fostering innovative development**

(Will be based on the results of a stakeholder survey with key national innovation stakeholders covering all main stakeholder groups):

- Opinion about the sectors with high innovation potential
- Effectiveness of STI policy and the policy instruments supporting STI development
- Appraisal of the framework conditions and business environment in the country
- Opinion about the key existing problems hindering innovative development in the country
- Opinion about the most important policy changes that need to be introduced in order to invigorate innovative development

Outline of the sub-regional SPECA STI gap analysis



- Comparative benchmarking of SPECA countries' STI performance in an international perspective
 - Based on available analytical and statistical publications produced by international organizations*
- Current state of STI governance and policy making in the SPECA countries
 - Based on the national STI gap assessments for the SPECA countries*
 - Part A. Overview of national STI management
 - Part B. Key challenges and problems in fostering innovative development
- Main conclusions and recommendations
 - Will contain policy options and recommendations about possible long-term and short-term solutions and policy measures for closing or reducing the existing STI gaps*



Thank you!

Rumen Dobrinsky

**rumen.dobrinsky@eai.eu
rumen.dobrinsky@gmail.com**