



UNECE Grants Committee Annual Report

2016

1. Foreword

The Grants Committee was established in December 2000, to provide recommendations to the Executive Secretary of UNECE on the use of voluntary contributions or extra-budgetary resources received from donors for grants to non-profit partner organisations in accordance with the Guidelines approved by the Office of the Controller of the United Nations.

The overall governance and approval processes were revised in coordination with, and under the direct approval of the UN Controller. The Guidelines for the Grants Committee (“Guidelines”) issued in 2013 clearly articulate the requirements for all Grant proposals in UNECE. These changes brought about a more consistent approach to the UN procurement rules of the grants approval process, in particular to focus on best value for money, fairness, integrity and transparency, and ensuring that the interests of the UNECE are maintained at all times.

In 2016, the UNECE Grants Committee amended the Guidelines, the Memorandum of Understanding, the Grant Proposal and the Terms of Reference templates, to ensure their compliance with OIOS recommendations and IPSAS standards.

2. Composition

The UNECE Grants Committee for 2016 was established in line with the approved General Procedures. The Committee members had been appointed by the Executive Secretary on 8 January 2016 as follows;

- **Chairperson:** Ms. Zamira Eshmambetova,
Director, Programme Management Unit,
Office of the Executive Secretary
- **Alternate Chairperson:** Mr. Serhii Yampolskyi,
Programme Officer, Programme Management
Unit
- **Legal:** Mr. Markus Schmidt,
Senior Legal Adviser, UNOG
- **Alternate Legal:** Ms. Stephanie Cochard,
Legal Officer, UNOG
- **Financial:** Mr. Michael Sylver,
Executive Officer, Executive Office

Alternate Financial: Mr. Joon Kong Tay,
Senior Budget Assistant, Executive Office

3. Meetings

The grants committee held eleven meetings during the year 2016.

4. Grants

The number of grants reviewed by the Committee has decreased by 9%: from 36 in 2015 to 33 in 2016. The funding for the grants has decreased by 26%: from US\$ 1,107,466 in 2015 to US\$ 881,854 in 2016. The Environment Division remains the predominant client of the Committee, accounting for 97% of grants submitted. However, the decrease in funding was observed in the grants submitted by the Division: a decrease of US\$ 207,192 or 25% compared to 2015.

Overall, during the reporting period, there were four new grantees; three grantees received one grant each and one grantee received two grants. There were six returning grantees; four grantees received one grant each and two grantees received two grants. There were 15 continuing grantees; ten grantees received one grant each and five grantees received two grants. Several of the continuing grantees, such as the Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC), the Development Partners Association (DEPAS) and the Public Water Initiatives Centre continued to benefit from long-term strategic partnerships with UNECE and proved to be reliable partners in the implementation of grants. These continuing grantees accounted for 18% of grants approved in 2016.

In 2016, issues arose that may give rise to a conflict of interest under the UNECE Directive 18 on the Establishment of Agreements and Management of Extrabudgetary Resources. To address this issue, the UNECE Executive Office provided guidance and instruction to program managers and Division Directors, instituted a new training package as a requirement for all program managers effective January of 2017, and sought further guidance from the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). The package of documents required for submission and presentation of a grant was revised to address these issues, and the grant documents, including the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by the Grantee, were modified. The Grants Committee is awaiting further advice from OIOS, and ad interim is exploring further adjustments to the package to further strengthen and enhance the process.

The quality of grant submissions remained varied during the reporting period. Higher quality submissions were expected during this period given that the UNECE Executive Office with the Programme Management Unit provided classroom-led and face-to-face trainings and made available training materials and tools (guidelines, templates, and samples of the documents) on the Executive Office

Intranet. Many grant proposals lacked clarity in formulating the impact, purpose, outcomes and outputs, and in detailing the assignments and specifying performance indicators. The benchmark rates used to justify the value of services requested were often excessive or unsubstantiated. As a result, most of the grant proposals were approved only after substantial revisions.

To address these concerns, the Grant Committee will (i) provide additional grant training in the first quarter of 2017, and again in the second half of the year; (ii) require proof of completion of mandatory training courses by grant applicants prior to grant submission; (iii) provide optional on-line training for the grants process in lieu of classroom-led training; (iv) and further update, where necessary, samples of the TOR and Grant Proposal on the Executive Office Intranet.

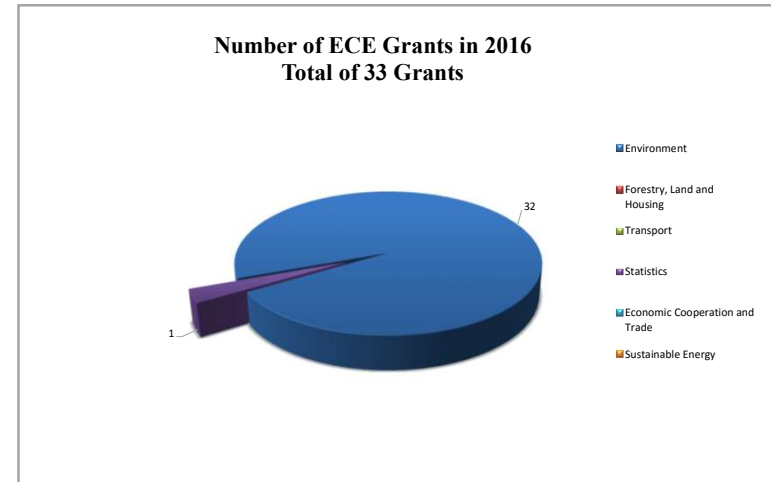
5. Annexes

Annex I: Charts detailing grant performance during the reporting period

Annex II: Detailed list of UNECE Grants for the year 2016

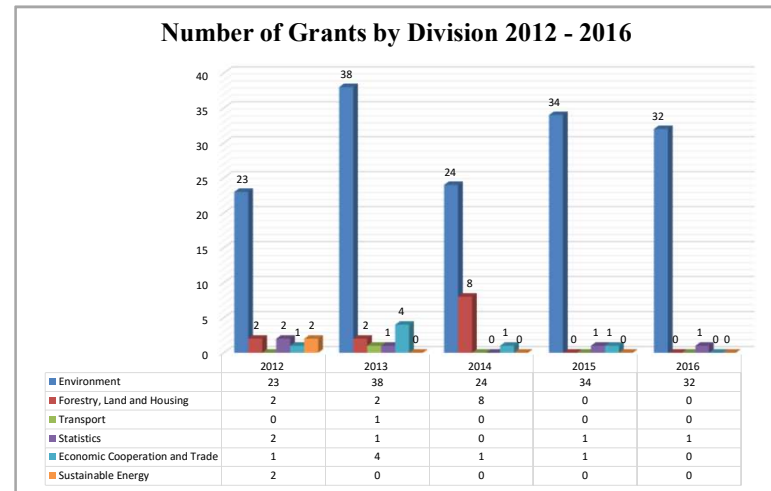
Annex I

Division	# of Grants 2016
Environment	32
Forestry, Land and Housing	0
Transport	0
Statistics	1
Economic Cooperation and Trade	0
Sustainable Energy	0
Total:	33



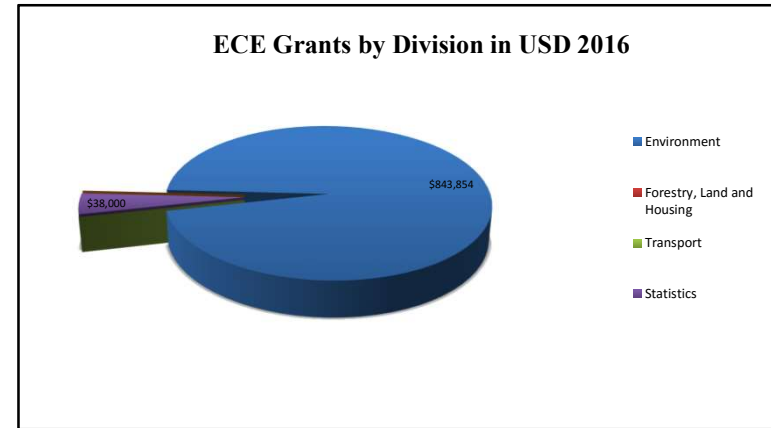
Division - # of Grants	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	23	38	24	34	32	(2)
Forestry, Land and Housing	2	2	8	0	0	0
Transport	0	1	0	0	0	0
Statistics	2	1	0	1	1	0
Economic Cooperation and Trade	1	4	1	1	0	(1)
Sustainable Energy	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	30	46	33	36	33	(3)

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2015 and 2016.



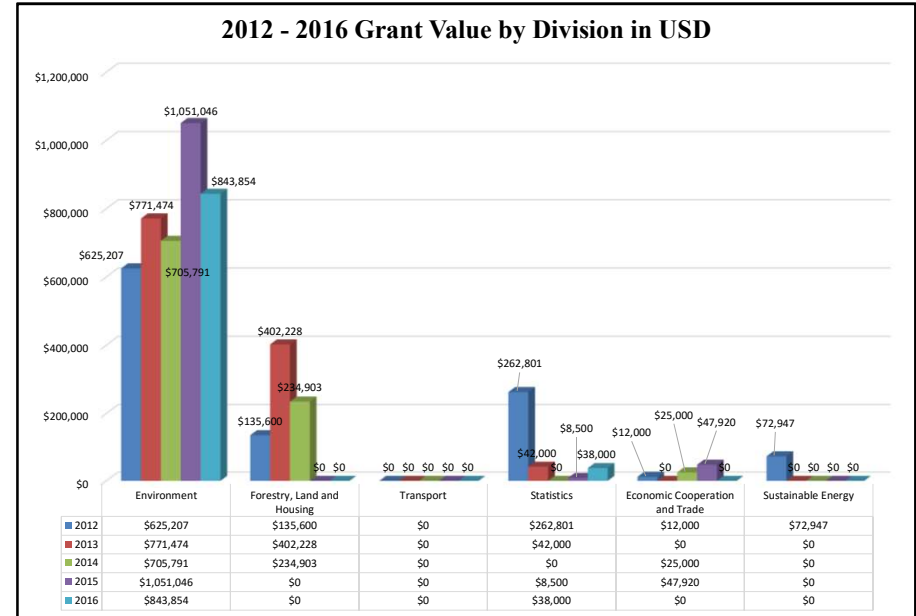
Annex I

Division	USD Amount
Environment	843,854.00
Forestry, Land and Housing	\$0.00
Transport	\$0.00
Statistics	\$38,000.00
Economic Cooperation and Trade	\$0.00
Sustainable Energy	\$0.00
Total:	881,854.00



Grant Value by Division - USD Amount	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	\$625,207	\$771,474	\$705,791	\$1,051,046	\$843,854	(\$207,192)
Forestry, Land and Housing	\$135,600	\$402,228	\$234,903	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transport	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Statistics	\$262,801	\$42,000	\$0	\$8,500	\$38,000	\$29,500
Economic Cooperation and Trade	\$12,000	\$0	\$25,000	\$47,920	\$0	(\$47,920)
Sustainable Energy	\$72,947	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$1,108,555	\$1,215,703	\$965,694	\$1,107,466	\$881,854	(\$225,612)

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2015 and 2016



Annex II

Division	Grant Title	Grant Number	Project Account Code	Grant Budget	Date of Approval	Donor	Grant Recipient	Beneficiary Country/Countries	Programme Manager
Environment	Provide expert assistance and analytical support for the assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Drina Basin	ECE/GC/2016/01/001	SB-001765	\$32,744	9 February 2016	The Governments of Italy and Finland	Royal Institute of Technology	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia (Drina), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan (Syr Darya)	Ms. Annukka Lipponen
Environment	Organize two NPD Steering Committee meetings in Tajikistan to discuss water and health targets	ECE/GC/2016/01/004	SB-001769	\$17,720	9 February 2016	The Government of Finland	Development Partners Association	Tajikistan	Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova
Environment	Elaborate norms and standards for small-scale water supply and sanitation systems in the Republic of Moldova	ECE/GC/2016/02/002	SB-001769	\$8,685	7 March 2016	The Government of Switzerland	Women in Europe for a Common Future	Republic of Moldova	Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova
Environment	Provide support to the project on the Implementation of targets and target dates set under the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova	ECE/GC/2016/02/003	SB-001769	\$28,905	7 March 2016	The Government of Switzerland	Solidaritate Europeană pentru Apă in Moldova NGO	Republic of Moldova	Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova
Environment	Strengthen implementation of UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/GC/2016/02/005	SB-001890	\$12,400	7 March 2016	Russian Federation	Federal State Budget Scientific Institution "Institute for Engineering and Environmental Problems in Agricultural Production"	UNECE Member States in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia	Ms. Alina Novikova
Environment	Strengthen cooperation on hydrology and environment between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya basin	ECE/GC/2016/02/007	SB-001809	\$44,000	7 March 2016	Russian Federation	Zoi Environment Network	Tajikistan, Afghanistan	Mr. Bo Libert
Environment	Build capacity of academic staff in Kazakh universities that have curricula on water resources management	ECE/GC/2016/02/008	SB-001776	\$49,500	7 March 2016	European Commission	German Kazakh University	Kazakhstan	Mr. Bo Libert
Environment	Drina River Basin Nexus Assessment and process support	ECE/GC/2016/03/006	SB-001765	\$28,283	7 April 2016	The Government of Italy	International Sava River Basin Commission	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia	Ms. Annukka Lipponen
Environment	Carry out capacity building of specialists to ensure safety of hydrotechnical installations	ECE/GC/2016/03/009	SB-001777	\$17,000	7 April 2016	European Commission	The Corporate Foundation "International Training Centre for the Safety of Hydrotechnical Constructions (ITC)	Kazakhstan	Mr. Bo Libert
Environment	Implement water & health targets in Kyrgyzstan	ECE/GC/2016/03/010	SB-001769	\$9,050	7 April 2016	The Government of Finland	Global Water Partnership	Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Peep Mardiste
Environment	Finalize water and health targets in Tajikistan	ECE/GC/2016/03/011	SB-001769	\$7,732	7 April 2016	The Government of Finland	CAREC - Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Mr. Peep Mardiste
Environment	Organize capacity-building activities to support the implementation of UNECE Protocol on SEA in Georgia - Phase IV	ECE/GC/2016/03/012	SB-001777	\$36,487	7 April 2016	European Commission	Georgia's Environmental Outlook	Georgia	Ms. Elena Santer
Environment	Prepare the recommendations for application of SEA in Azerbaijan and to raise awareness of the national stakeholders about the UNECE Protocol on SEA	ECE/GC/2016/04/013	SB-001777	\$23,254	12 May 2016	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	Sustainable Development Society	Azerbaijan	Ms. Elena Santer
Environment	Prepare recommendations for application of SEA in Azerbaijan and raise awareness of national stakeholders about the UNECE Protocol on SEA	ECE/GC/2016/04/014	SB-001777	\$8,227	12 May 2016	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	Law-Making and Information Technologies Institute	Ukraine	Ms. Elena Santer
Environment	Support review and development of recommendations for the Kazakh system of supervision and control of hydro-technical infrastructure	ECE/GC/2016/04/017	SB-001776	\$14,000	12 May 2016	European Commission	Executive Board of the International Fund for the Saving the Aral Sea, Almaty, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Mr. Bo Libert
Environment	Organize the workshop "Get your right to a healthy community" - to promote the implementation and ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs	ECE/GC/2016/05/018	SB-001764 & SB-001773	\$55,150	13 June 2016	Parties and Signatories through the Protocol on PRTRs and the European Union	RUE Belarusian Scientific & Research Center "Ecology"	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan	Mr. Kristof Dueot, Ms. Alina Novikova
Environment	Support establishment of national SEA system in Kazakhstan	ECE/GC/2016/06/016	SB-001776	\$28,117	27 June 2016	European Commission	Green Academy	Kazakhstan	Ms. Aphrodite Smagadi
Environment	Strengthen capacity of Kyrgyz Government to achieve the targets established under Protocol on Water & Health	ECE/GC/2016/06/023	SB-001769	\$23,000	27 June 2016	The Government of Finland	Institute "Vodavtomatika and Metrologiya"	Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova
Environment	Strengthen capacity of Tajik Government to achieve the targets established under the Protocol on Water & Health in the upper Amu Darya basin	ECE/GC/2016/06/024	SB-001765 & SB-001769	\$19,231	27 June 2016	The Government of Finland	CAREC - Tajikistan	Tajikistan, Afghanistan	Mr. Peep Mardiste

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Division	Grant Title	Grant Number	Project Account Code	Grant Budget	Date of Approval	Donor	Grant Recipient	Beneficiary Country/Countries	Programme Manager
Environment	Organise capacity-building activities to support the implementation of UNECE Protocol on SEA in Ukraine	ECE/GC/2016/07/015	SB-001777	\$20,381	28 July 2016	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	Law-Making and Information Technologies Institute	Ukraine	Ms. Elena Santer
Environment	Organize comprehensive studies on hydrological and economic conditions in basins of 2 transboundary rivers (Ural and Kigac)	ECE/GC/2016/07/025	SB-001776	\$40,202	28 July 2016	United Nations Development Programme (Kazakhstan Office)	Public Fund Water Initiatives Center	Kazakhstan, Russian Federation	Mr. Peep Mardiste
Environment	Develop necessary background documents for formal ratification process and organize a stakeholder meeting and the 5th NPD Steering Committee meeting	ECE/GC/2016/07/026	SB-001776	\$20,455	28 July 2016	United Nations Development Programme (Kazakhstan Office)	Public Fund Water Initiatives Center	Kazakhstan	Mr. Peep Mardiste
Environment	Strengthen capacity of officials & water experts in Kazakhstan in the area of transboundary water cooperation	ECE/GC/2016/07/027	SB-001776	\$11,413	28 July 2016	United Nations Development Programme (Kazakhstan Office)	Green Academy	Kazakhstan	Mr. Bo Libert
Environment	Support the development of a national equitable access action plan in Armenia	ECE/GC/2016/09/020	SB-001311	\$16,400	6 October 2016	United Nations Development Account	Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment	Armenia	Ms. Chantal Demilecamps
Environment	Support the development of local equitable access action plans in Skopje, Veles, and the six municipalities of Kumanovo	ECE/GC/2016/09/021	SB-001311	\$15,700	6 October 2016	United Nations Development Account	Journalists for Human Rights	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Ms. Chantal Demilecamps
Environment	Provide expert assistance and analytical support for the assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the North West Sahara Aquifer System	ECE/GC/2016/09/022	SB-001765	\$32,120	6 October 2016	The Government of Sweden	Royal Institute of Technology	Algeria, Libya, Tunisia	Ms. Annukka Lipponen
Environment	Assist Tajik Government to implement the targets established in context of the Protocol on Water and Health	ECE/GC/2016/10/030	SB-001769 & SB-001812	\$33,480	14 November 2016	The Governments of Finland and Russian Federation	Development Partners Association	Tajikistan	Mr. Peep Mardiste
Environment	Develop 2 sets of teaching materials and to organize trainings for trainers on aspects of integrated water resources management	ECE/GC/2016/10/033	SB-001776	\$49,900	14 November 2016	European Commission	German Kazakh University	Kazakhstan	Mr. Bo Libert
Environment	Prepare and organize workshop on the nexus and the benefits of transboundary cooperation in the Drina River Basin	ECE/GC/2016/11/031	SB-001765	\$25,403	14 November 2016	The Government of Italy	World Organization for Nature	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia	Ms. Annukka Lipponen
Environment	Support the organization of annual conference and collection of scientific papers and exchange information & experience in water management in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/GC/2016/11/036	SB-001810	\$22,000	14 November 2016	Russian Federation	SIC-ICWC	The Caucasus and Central Asia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan	Mr. Bo Libert
Environment	Provide support to regional meeting and other dam safety activities in Central Asia	ECE/GC/2016/12/032	SB-001812	\$43,000	1 December 2016	Russian Federation	Executive Board of the International Fund for the Saving the Aral Sea, Almaty, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Mr. Bo Libert
Environment	Update and further develop the Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries	ECE/GC/2016/12/034	SB-001768	\$49,915	1 December 2016	The Government of Switzerland	CAREC - Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Ms. Tea Aulavuo
Environment Sub-Total				\$843,854					
Statistics	Provide logistics and local coordination for the organisation of the Seminar	ECE/GC/2016/09/029	SB-005305	\$38,000	6 October 2016	Russian Federation	Information and Publishing Centre Statistics of Russia	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Mr. Andres Vikat
Statistics Sub-Total				\$38,000					
Grand Total				\$881,854					