



UNECE Grants Committee Annual Report

2015

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 Guidelines for the Grants Committee (“Guidelines”) and its related approval process were revised in coordination with, and under the direct approval of the UN Controller in 2013. 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 time.

In 2015, the ECE Grants Committee further amended the Guidelines, the Memorandum of Understanding and the Terms of Reference templates, to ensure their compliance with OIOS recommendations and IPSAS standards

2. Composition

The UNECE Grants Committee for 2015 was established in line with the approved General Procedures. The Committee members had been appointed by the Executive Secretary on 1 January 2015 as follows;

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

Prior to October 10, 2015:

- **Financial:** Ms. Leslie Cleland,
Executive Officer, Executive Office

Alternate Financial: Mr. Michael Sylver,
Administrative Officer, Executive Office
and
Mr. Joon Kong Tay,
Senior Budget Assistant, Executive Office

From and after October 10, 2015:

- **Financial:** Mr. Michael Sylver, Acting Executive Officer
Alternate Financial: Mr. Joon Kong Tay, Senior Budget Assistant

3. Meetings

There were twelve grants committee meetings held during the year 2015.

4. Grants

The number of grants reviewed by the committee has increased by 9%: from 33 in 2014 to 36 in 2015. The funding for the grants has increased by 15%: from US\$ 965,694 in 2014, to US\$ 1,107,466 in 2015. The most significant increase in funding was observed in the Environment Division: an increase by US \$ 345,255 or 49% compared to 2014. The number of grant recipients has increased from 33 in 2014 to 36 in 2015. Eight of them were new grantees which received grants for the first time. Five of them were returning grantees who received two or three grants in 2015. Four were continuing grantees: they have received numerous grants over the last number of years. These include: Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC), International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), International Sava River Commission and Zoi Environmental Network which have established long-term strategic partnership with UNECE and proved to be reliable partners in implementation of grants.

The quality of grant submissions varied despite classroom-led and face-to-face trainings given by the EO with PMU and the availability of training material and tools (guidelines, templates and forms) on the EO Intranet. Many grant proposals lacked clarity in formulating the purpose, expected 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 and/or unsubstantiated. As a result, most of the grant proposals were approved only after their substantial revision.

To address these concerns, the Grant Committee will (i) provide additional details in the TOR and Grant Proposals templates; (ii) upload the samples of the TOR and Grant Proposals on the EO Intranet and (iii) request EO, in collaboration with PMU to provide additional training to project managers in 2016. In addition, the

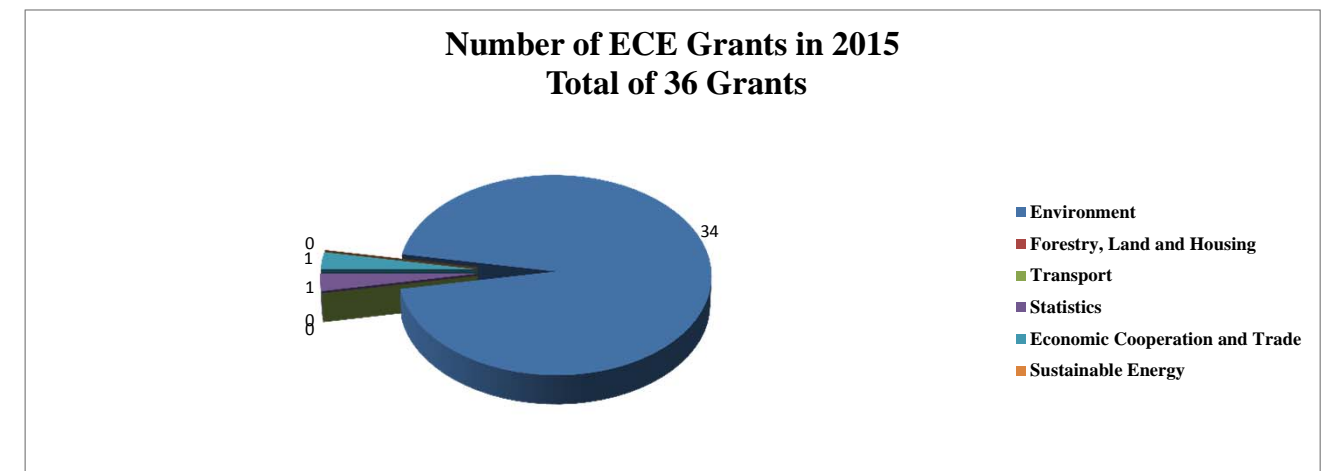
Grant Committee will be revising its Guidelines, to (i) ensure more transparent and competitive selection process of grantees and (ii) prevent any conflict of interest in awarding grants in the future.

5. Annexes

Annex I: Charts detailing grant performance during the reporting period

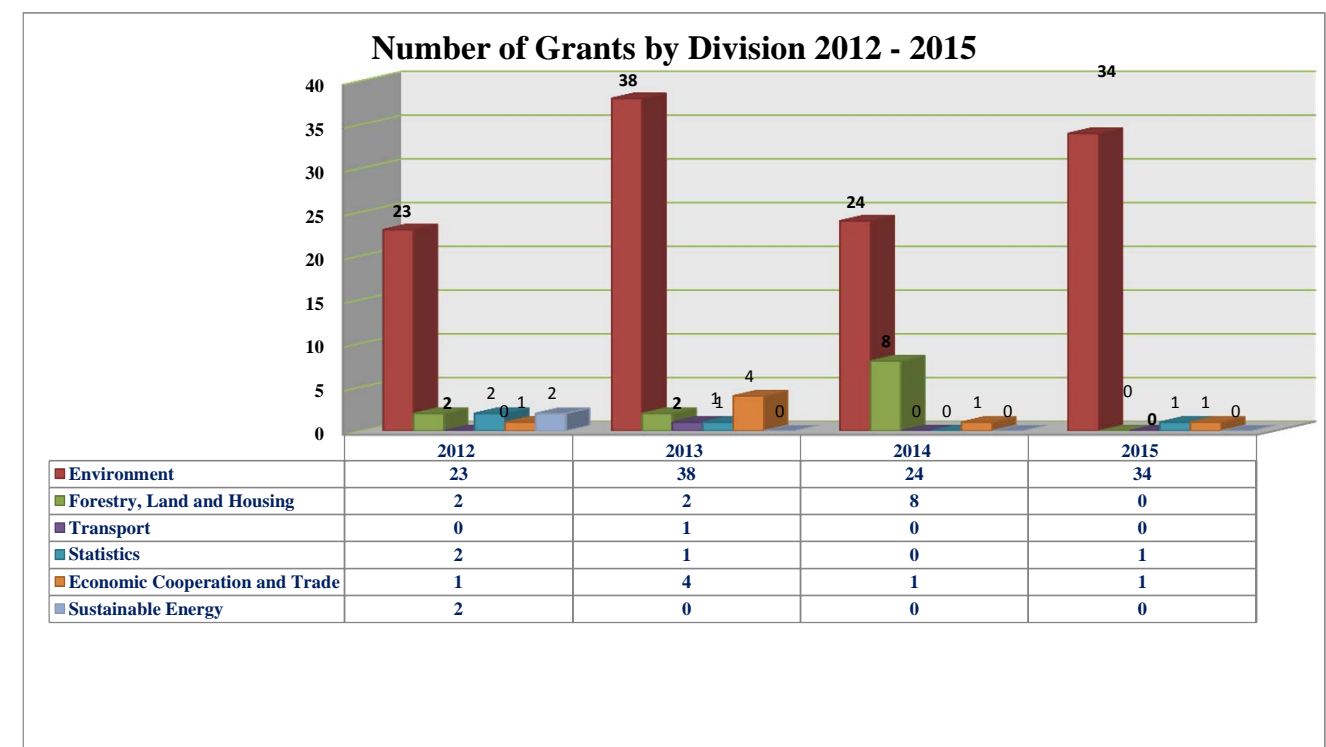
Annex II: Detailed list of UNECE Grants for the year 2015

Division	# of Grants 2015
Environment	34
Forestry, Land and Housing	0
Transport	0
Statistics	1
Economic Cooperation and Trade	1
Sustainable Energy	0
Total:	36

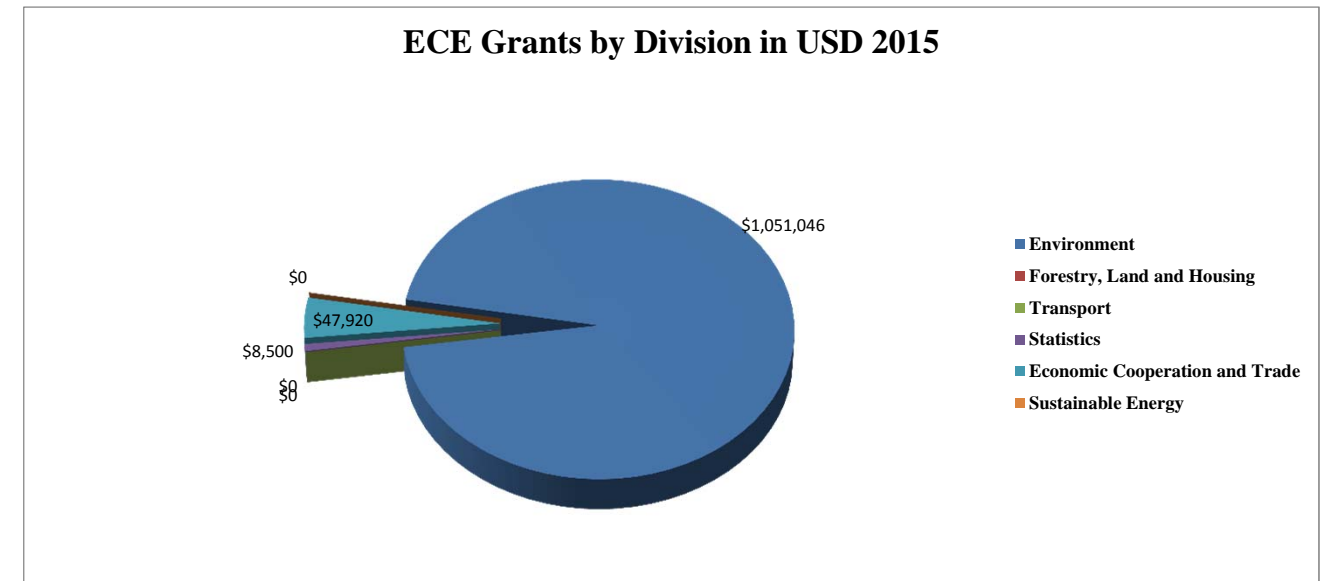


Division - # of Grants	2012	2013	2014	2015	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	23	38	24	34	10
Forestry, Land and Housing	2	2	8	0	-8
Transport	0	1	0	0	0
Statistics	2	1	0	1	1
Economic Cooperation and Trade	1	4	1	1	0
Sustainable Energy	2	0	0	0	0
Total:	30	46	33	36	3

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2014 and 2015.

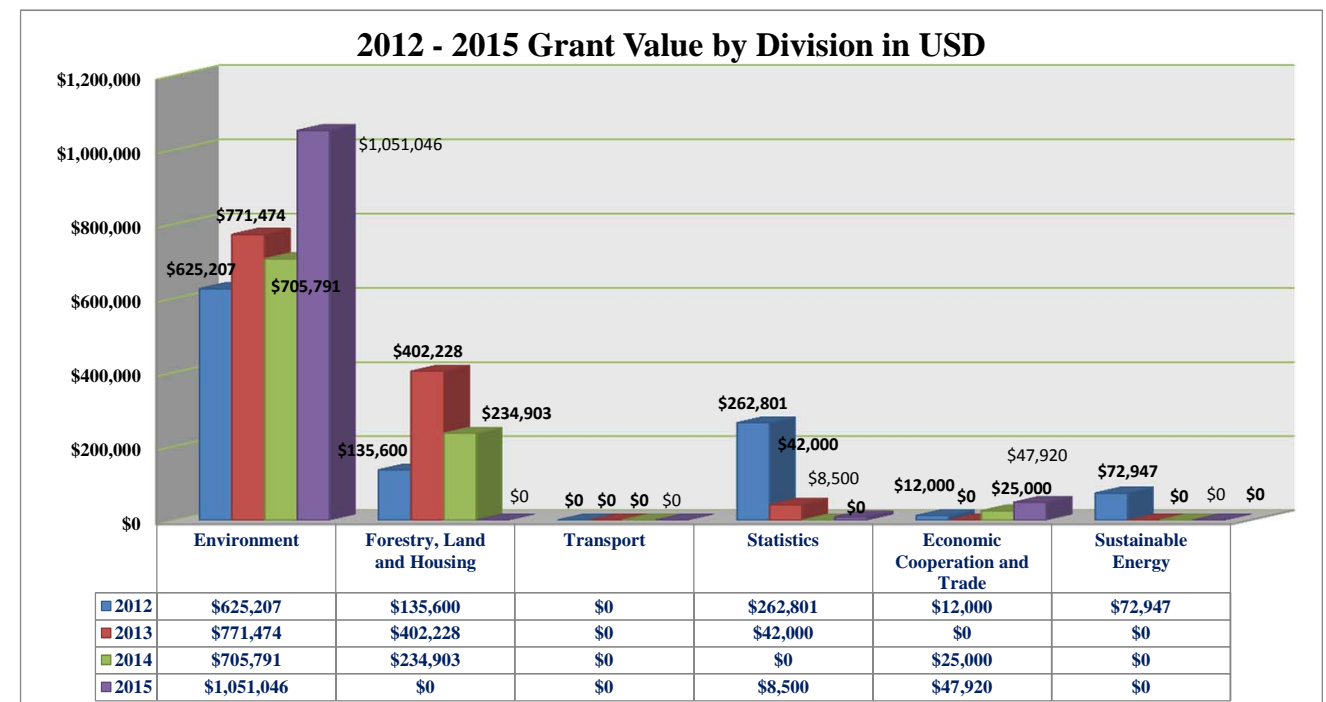


Division	USD Amount 2015
Environment	\$1,051,046
Forestry, Land and Housing	\$0
Transport	\$0
Statistics	\$8,500
Economic Cooperation and Trade	\$47,920
Sustainable Energy	\$0
Total:	\$1,107,466



Grant Value by Division - USD Amount	2012	2013	2014	2015	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	\$625,207	\$771,474	\$705,791	\$1,051,046	\$345,255
Forestry, Land and Housing	\$135,600	\$402,228	\$234,903	\$0	(\$234,903)
Transport	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Statistics	\$262,801	\$42,000	\$0	\$8,500	\$8,500
Economic Cooperation and Trade	\$12,000	\$0	\$25,000	\$47,920	\$22,920
Sustainable Energy	\$72,947	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$1,108,555	\$1,215,703	\$965,694	\$1,107,466	\$141,772

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2014 and 2015.



Division	Grant Title	Grant Number	Budget Account Code	Grant Budget	Date of Approval	Donor	Grant Recipient	Beneficiary Country/Countries	programme Manager
Environment	Workshop on hazard and crisis management in Moldova	ECE/GC/2015/01/001	2015-ECE-0872-E106-2109-220100	\$42,419	30-Jan-15	The Governments of Germany & Finland	State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova	Moldova	Nikolay Savov
Environment	Strengthen capacity of Moldova under the Protocol on Water and Health	ECE/GC/2015/02/002	2015-ECE-0872-E150-2142-220100	\$46,074	24-Mar-15	Government of Switzerland	International Water Association	Moldova	Nataliya Nikiforova
Environment	Analysis of access to water and sanitation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	ECE/GC/2015/03/005	2015-ECE-0872-E150-2142-220100	\$39,697	31-Mar-15	Government of France	Journalists for Human Rights	Macedonia	Chantal Demilecamps
Environment	Cooperation on hydrology and environment between Afghanistan and Tajikistan	ECE/GC/2015/03/006	2015-ECE-0872-E220-2142-220100	\$44,000	31-Mar-15	Russian Federation	Zoi Environment Network	Tajikistan and Afghanistan	Bo Libert
Environment	Support to Moldova under the Protocol on Water and Health	ECE/GC/2015/03/009	2015-ECE-0872-E150-2142-220100	\$41,400	29-Jun-15	Government of Switzerland	Solidaritate Europeană pentru Apă în Moldova NGO (SEAM)	Moldova	Nataliya Nikiforova
Environment	Support to Moldova under the Protocol on Water and Health	ECE/GC/2015/02/003	2015-ECE-0872-E150-2142-220100	\$18,500	24-Mar-15	Government of Switzerland	Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)	Moldova	Nataliya Nikiforova
Environment	Develop recommendations on irrigation technologies for Kyrgyzstan	ECE/GC/2015/04/013	2015-ECE-0872-E174-2142-220100	\$20,600	12-May-15	European Commission	Institute "Vodavtomatika and Metrologiya"	Kyrgyzstan	Peep Mardiste
Environment	Strengthen the capacity of Armenia under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	ECE/GC/2015/04/011	2015-ECE-0872-E196-2111-220100	\$6,000	12-May-15	European Commission	Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment	Armenia	Albena Karadjova
Environment	Strengthen the capacity of Kazakhstan under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	ECE/GC/2015/04/014	2015-ECE-0872-E196-2111-220100	\$9,000	12-May-15	European Commission	"Greenwomen" Analytical Environmental Agency	Kazakhstan	Albena Karadjova
Environment	Workshop on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus on the Sava River, and publish the report	ECE/GC/2015/05/016	2015-ECE-0872-E133-2142-220100	\$19,086	28-May-15	Government of Germany	International Sava River Basin Commission	Sava River Basin countries	Annukka Lipponen
Environment	Strengthen cooperation and capacity on dam safety in Central Asia	ECE/GC/2015/03/007	2015-ECE-0872-E240-2142-220100	\$42,000	31-Mar-15	Russian Federation	The Institute "Vodavtomatika and Metrologiya", Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan	Bo Libert
Environment	Field exercise in Giurgulesti, Republic of Moldova	ECE/GC/2015/03/017	2015-ECE-0872-E106-2109-220100	\$25,196	31-Mar-15	Government of the Netherlands	State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova	Moldova, Romania and Ukraine	Nikolay Savov
Environment	Draft two subordinate acts for implementation of EU Water Framework Directive	ECE/GC/2015/05/018	2015-ECE-0872-E174-2142-220100	\$15,000	28-May-15	European Commission	National Water Partnership of Georgia	Georgia	Peep Mardiste
Environment	Strengthen capacity of Moldova under the Protocol on Water and Health	ECE/GC/2015/03/009	2015-ECE-0872-E150-2142-220100	\$41,400	17-Jun-15	Government of Switzerland	Solidaritate Europeană pentru Apă în Moldova NGO (SEAM)	Moldova	Nataliya Nikiforova
Environment	Strengthen cooperation and capacity on dam safety in Central Asia	ECE/GC/2015/06/020	2015-ECE-0872-E240-2142-220100	\$48,000	30-Jun-15	Russian Federation	International Fund for the Saving the Aral Sea, Almaty, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	Bo Libert
Environment	Subregional conference on integration of SEA procedures	ECE/GC/2015/07/015	2015-ECE-0872-E200-2142-220100 2016-ECE-0872-E244-2112-220100 2015-ECE-0872-E115-2110-220100	\$68,119	28-Jul-15	European Commission	Georgia's Environmental Outlook (GEO)	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Ukraine.	Elena Santer
Environment	SEA pilot project for the national green economy action plan	ECE/GC/2015/07/019	2015-ECE-0872-E200-2112-220100 2016-ECE-0872-E200-2112-220100	\$34,524	28-Jul-15	European Commission	Public Association EcoContact	Moldova	Elena Santer
Environment	Strengthen capacity of Georgia on Strategic Environmental Assessment	ECE/GC/2015/06/008	2015-ECE-0872-E150-2142-220100 2016-ECE-0872-E200-2112-220100	\$24,296	30-Jun-15	European Commission	Georgia's Environmental Outlook (GEO)	Georgia	Elena Santer
Environment	Oganise workshop in Bucharest, Romania	ECE/GC/2015/07/012	2015-ECE-0872-E106-2109-220100	\$35,365	28-Jul-15	The Governments of Germany & Finland	Terra Millenium III Foundation	Moldova, Romania and Ukraine	Nikolay Savov
Environment	Implement national SEA project for the Armenia	ECE/GC/2015/07/021	2015-ECE-0872-E200-2112-220100 2016-ECE-0872-E200-2112-220100	\$42,674	28-Jul-15	European Commission	REC Caucasus Armenia	Armenia	Elena Santer
Environment	Strengthen capacity of Armenia to integrate Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedures	ECE/GC/2015/02/004	2015-ECE-0872-E200-2112-220100	\$10,079	09-Mar-15	European Commission	Eco-Globe	Armenia	Elena Santer
Environment	Strengthen capacity of Georgia to increase the forest sector in greening its economy	ECE/GC/2015/022(Amendment of ECE/GC/2014/007)	2015-ROA-3634-2944-6875-3908	\$46,750	31-Mar-15	UN Development Account	Environmental Centre for Georgia	Georgia	Elina Warsta
Environment	Facilitate exchange of information and experience in the water management and environmental sectors	ECE/GC/2015/09/023	2015-ECE-0872-E221-2142-220100	\$21,980	15-Oct-15	Russian Federation	SIC-ICWC	Countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	Bo Libert
Environment	Raise capacity on international water legislation and transboundary water cooperation in Kazakhstan	ECE/GC/2015/09/024	2015-ECE-0872-E244-2142-220100	\$10,000	15-Oct-15	European Commission	Green Academy	Kazakhstan	Bo Libert
Environment	Develop regulations and guidelines on Service on Hydrotechnical Facilities Supervision	ECE/GC/2015/09/025	2015-ECE-0872-E174-2142-220100 2016-ECE-0872-E172-2112-220100	\$31,960	15-Oct-15	European Commission	Development Partner Association-Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Peep Mardiste
Environment	Studies of transboundary rivers of Kazakhstan	ECE/GC/2015/09/026	2015-ECE-0872-E244-2142-220100 2016-ECE-0872-E244-2142-220100	\$47,110	15-Oct-15	European Commission	Water Initiatives Center-Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Peep Mardiste
Environment	Developing national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in Kazakhstan	ECE/GC/2015/10/027	2015-ECE-0872-E244-2142-220100 2016-ECE-0872-E244-2142-220100	\$37,397	08-Dec-15	European Commission	Water Initiatives Center-Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Peep Mardiste
Environment	Strengthening cooperation on water quality management in Central Asia	ECE/GC/2015/11/028	2015-ECE-0872-E133-2142-220100	\$49,500	18-Jan-16	Government of Finland	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia	Countries in Central Asia	Peep Mardiste
Environment	Building capacities on transboundary water cooperation in Lebanon and Jordan	ECE/GC/2015/11/029(A1)	2015-ECE-0872-E133-2142-220100	\$26,320	15-Oct-15	Government of Switzerland	Global Water Partnership Mediterranean	Jordan and Lebanon	Chantal Demilecamps
Environment	Organisation of capacity-building activities of the ECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the Russian Federation	ECE/GC/2015/10/032	2015-UNA-0872-6471-7202	\$13,568	Not Approved	UNDESA	WWF Russia	Russian Federation	Elena Santer
Environment	Analysis of equitable access to water and sanitation in Armenia	ECE/GC/2015/11/031	2015-ECE-0872-E150-2142-220100	\$30,588	18-Jan-16	Government of France	Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment	Armenia	Chantal Demilecamps
Environment	Strengthen capacity of Armenia to integrate Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedures	ECE/GC/2015/11/033	2015-ECE-0872-E200-2112-220100	\$10,879	18-Jan-16	European Commission	REC Caucasus Armenia	Armenia	Elena Santer
Environment	Implement next stages of Chu river basin management plan	ECE/GC/2015/11/034	2016-ECE-0872-E174-2142-220100	\$32,145	18-Jan-16	European Commission	Institute Vodavtomatika and Metrologiya	Kyrgyzstan	Peep Mardiste
Environment	Revising national water and health targets in Georgia	ECE/GC/2015/11/035	2016-ECE-0872-E174-2142-220100	\$19,420	18-Jan-16	European Commission	National Water Partnership of Georgia	Georgia	Peep Mardiste
Environment Subtotal				\$1,051,046					
Statistics	Test new survey tools for measuring entrepreneurship from the gender perspective	ECE/GC/2015/06/010	2015-ZZG-0884-E903-6875-3908	\$8,500	30-Jun-15	UN Development Account	National Bureau of Statistics-Moldova	Moldova	Vikat
Statistics Subtotal				\$8,500					
ECTD	Maintenance and update of the UN Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG)	ECE/GC/2015/09/030	2015-ECE-0892-E248-2049-2201	\$47,920	15-Oct-15	Government of Sweden	ITC-ILO	All UN countries	Khan Salehin
ECTD Subtotal				\$47,920					
Grand Total				\$1,107,466					