



SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA
(SPECA)

**Tenth Session of the SPECA Working Group
on Knowledge-Based Development**

(Baku, Azerbaijan, 5 July 2018)

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SPECA WG ON KBD
FOR JULY 2018 - DECEMBER 2019**

The activities to be carried out by the Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (WG on KBD) are demand-driven, focused on a limited number of priority topics and matched with available resources.

ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED FOR July 2018 - December 2019

1. Capacity-building on policy options and practical instruments to promote knowledge-based development

Objectives:

To strengthen the national capacity of the SPECA countries to advance knowledge-based development by developing relevant substantive skills, increasing the organizational capacity of the institutions involved, promoting regional cooperation and fostering investment in modern infrastructure.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the WG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation is subject to the availability of UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Organization of a regional/subregional capacity-building event on knowledge-based development, possibly in conjunction with the annual session of the WG on KBD (tentatively envisaged for 2019);
- (ii) Participation of experts from SPECA countries in UNECE policy-oriented meetings and capacity-building events on promoting knowledge-based development for policymakers and practitioners; and

- (iii) Policy advisory services and other events promoting knowledge-based development at the request of Governments of SPECA countries.

2. Implementation of the UNECE project on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews of selected countries

Objectives:

To increase the role of innovation in promoting further economic development of the SPECA countries.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the WG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation is subject to the availability of UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

Undertaking Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and supporting implementation of policy recommendations in selected countries of the SPECA region (envisaged for 2018 and 2019).

3. Support to SPECA countries to foster innovation to deliver the SDGs

Objectives:

Policy advisory support to SPECA countries to stimulate the private and public sector innovation required to deliver the SDGs.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the WG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation is subject to the availability of UNECE extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

Capacity building activities upon request from SPECA countries, for example on integrating innovation policies into national strategies for sustainable development and supporting participation of SPECA countries in wider UN initiatives in support of Agenda 2030.

4. Implementation of ESCAP activities in support to the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative

Objectives:

To enhance regional cooperation and strengthen connectivity through implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the WG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation is subject to the availability of ESCAP extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Participation of stakeholders (policymakers, senior officials and private sector) from SPECA countries in a development account subregional workshop for fact-finding and develop gaps analysis for integrated, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable infrastructure development along selected SPECA countries. ;
- (ii) Based on country requirements and situation analysis produced from subregional workshop, further conduct 1) a multi-sectoral assessment of transport, energy and ICT infrastructure, including co-deployment, along the selected regional connectivity corridors and identify financing options and 2) a multi-sectoral assessment of underserved urban areas and rural communities access to local, national or regional networks/markets through regional connectivity corridors to propose inclusive access to such infrastructure.

5. Enhancing national capacities to use ICT for socio-economic development

Objectives:

To enhance the capacities of policymakers, government officials and other relevant stakeholders to promote, adopt and utilize ICT for achieving national sustainable development goals.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the WG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. The activities will be funded through the extrabudgetary resources of APCICT and co-funding mobilized through national and subregional partners.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Conduct of capacity-building workshops for government leaders and civil servants in SPECA countries on the use of ICT for sustainable development, subject to funding and resource availability;
- (ii) Conduct of capacity-building workshops on the use of ICT for women entrepreneurship in SPECA countries (e.g. launch of the Women ICT Frontier Initiative - APCICT's ICT training programme for women entrepreneurs - in Uzbekistan, tentative envisaged for September 2018);
- (iii) Development of localized versions of the APCICT training modules, targeted at SPECA countries;
- (iv) Provide or support advisory services to SPECA countries in areas related to ICT for socio-economic development, subject to funding and resource availability; and
- (v) Conduct capacity-building workshops on the application of ICT tools for renewable energy resource assessments at the national level in SPECA countries, subject to funding and resource availability (APCTT).

6. Capacity development on the utilization of ICT for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

Objectives:

Develop knowledge-based tools for disaster risk management, and build resilience into development policy and planning of SPECA countries.

Rationale:

The project contributes to the objectives of the WG on KBD as specified in the Terms of Reference, in particular to objective of knowledge-based disaster risk reduction and management. Implementation will be financed from the ESCAP extrabudgetary funds.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Assist SPECA countries to access cooperation mechanisms such as RESAP and RIMES;
- (ii) Conduct activities on measuring resilience; and
- (iii) ESCAP provides continued support on DRR and climate change adaptation in the context of the Ministerial Regional Conference on disaster risk reduction.

7. Support to SPECA countries to use space technology applications and geospatial data for the SDGs

Objectives:

Assist SPECA countries to enhance knowledge and capacity in using space technology applications and geospatial data in support of the implementation of SDGs.

Rationale:

The project is in line with the objectives of the WG on KBD to support the use of innovative technologies and data for knowledge building as specified in its Terms of Reference.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Organize a regional workshop around September 2018, consisting of around 15-20 government officials from SPECA countries and regional experts from UN entities and regional organizations to discuss on how to use statistical geospatial data and space technologies to monitor the status and progress of the implementation of the SDGs, focusing on disaster risk reduction as a pilot.

SUMMARY TABLE

Area of Activity	Lead Executive Agency	Timeframe
Ongoing and planned projects/ activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/ activities.		
Capacity-building on policy options and practical instruments to promote knowledge-based development	UNECE	2018-2019
Implementation of the UNECE project on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews of selected countries	UNECE	2018-2019
Support to SPECA countries to foster innovation to deliver the SDGs	UNECE	2018-2019
Implementation of ESCAP activities in support to the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative	ESCAP	2018-2019
Enhancing national capacities to use ICT for socio-economic development	ESCAP	2018-2019
Capacity development on the utilization of ICT for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation	ESCAP	2018-2019
Capacity building in using statistical geospatial data for monitoring and reporting SDGs implementation	ESCAP	2018-2019
