



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 January 2013

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

International Conference

Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Making Things Work Better

Dubrovnik, Croatia, 23-24 May 2013

Information Notice

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. During the seventh session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, the delegation of Croatia proposed the organisation of an International Conference on Entrepreneurship and Innovation. This proposal was reflected in the updated programme of work for 2013 (ECE/CECI//2012/2).
2. Following a series of consultations, it was agreed to hold the International Conference “Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Making Things Work Better” in Dubrovnik on 23-24 May 2013.
3. The Conference will be an integrated policy-oriented event which will address several thematic areas of the programme of work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, including innovation and competitiveness policies, entrepreneurship and financing for innovative development. The Conference will provide a platform for knowledge sharing and discussion of policies and good practices on how government policy can promote innovation by creating a better environment for entrepreneurship and facilitating the access of entrepreneurs to relevant knowledge, skills and resources. The International Conference will create opportunities for networking among a wide range of stakeholders. The discussions will also involve learning components, thus making a direct contribution to capacity-building.
4. This Information notice provides some details regarding the organization and participation in the upcoming Conference.

II. Objectives and format

5. The main objective of the International Conference “Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Making Things Work Better” is to provide a platform for discussion and a

broad exchange of experiences and lessons learned among policy-makers, representatives of business and academia and other experts and practitioners. Participants will consider how entrepreneurship policies can contribute to the promotion of innovation.

6. The Conference will start with a High-level Segment where political and business leaders would introduce strategic policy issues and make keynote statements on the role of entrepreneurship in innovation promotion.

7. The remaining part of the programme of the Conference will be structured into several thematic sessions, which will be introduced by leading experts in the corresponding thematic area. This will be followed by presentations of national experiences and a general discussion of these experiences.

8. The Conference will consider several clusters of issues related to the role of entrepreneurship in promoting innovation, including:

(a) “Innovative entrepreneurship: the links between innovation and entrepreneurship policies”, which would introduce the existing trends on SMEs development and their contribution to innovation, the integration of entrepreneurship and innovation policies and the significance of knowledge institutions in promoting innovative entrepreneurship, among other topics;

(b) “Collaboration and innovative entrepreneurship”, which would discuss policies facilitating linkages and alliances in support of innovative entrepreneurship and the collaborative arrangements between the public and private sector to overcome financial and other barriers to entrepreneurship development; and

(c) “Social entrepreneurship: making a difference”, which would consider how entrepreneurship can drive the necessary changes to address environmental and societal needs in different fields, the opportunities opened to investors and how policy can facilitate sustainable social innovation through entrepreneurship support.

III. Organization and venue

9. The International Conference is being organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts of Croatia, under the auspices of the Government of Croatia. It will take place from 23 to 24 May 2013 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

10. The Conference venue will be the Hotel Dubrovnik Palace.

IV. Participation

11. Participation is open to interested parties from UNECE member countries and other Member States of the United Nations, representatives of United Nations specialized agencies and international organizations participating in the activities of UNECE. Broad participation of government officials and experts, representatives of the business and academic communities as well as the civil society is welcome.

12. Governments are invited to inform national entities and institutions, business and industry associations, academic institutions and other relevant organizations about the upcoming Conference and encourage participation of experts.

V. Passports and visas

13. All participants should be in possession of a valid passport, with an entry visa (if required) which can be obtained from the diplomatic representation of Croatia in their

country of residence. It is advisable to make such visa applications well in advance of the date required.

VI. Preliminary registration

14. Interested parties are invited to fill in and submit the attached Registration Form (Annex) by 30 April 2013 at the latest.

VII. Documentation

15. Participants are invited to prepare papers and presentations relating to topics to be addressed at the Conference as indicated in item 9 above.

16. Papers to be presented at the Conference should be submitted in English to the UNECE secretariat by 30 March 2013 in electronic format (Word for Windows), preferably by e-mail, at the address given in paragraph 25 below.

17. When submitting papers, participants are requested to indicate, in which of the Conference sessions specified in item 9 above they would like to present.

18. The Secretariat will prepare a detailed provisional programme which will be circulated to the participants one week before the Conference.

VIII. Language and visual aids

19. All communications and presentations will take place in English. Facilities for electronic presentations (e.g. Power Point) and for projecting slides will be provided.

IX. Travel and hotel reservations

20. Participants are requested to make their own travel arrangements to and from Dubrovnik.

21. There will be preliminary agreements with several hotels in Dubrovnik, offering special rates for conference participants. Participants wishing to avail themselves of this option should contact Mr. Ralph Heinrich (see paragraph 25 for contact details).

22. Alternatively participants can make their own hotel arrangements.

X. Further information

23. Further information on the International Conference can be obtained from:

Mr. Ralph Heinrich
ECID/UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 917 12 69
Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 0178
E-mail: ralph.heinrich@unece.org

Annex

Registration form

This form should be filled in and returned as soon as possible and not later than 30 April 2013 to:

Mr. Ralph Heinrich
ECID/UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 0178
E-mail: ralph.heinrich@unece.org

(Please type or write in block capitals in English)

Family name (Mr., Ms.):

.....

First name:

.....

Nationality:

.....

Professional position:

.....

Affiliation and professional address:

.....

.....

Telephone (please include country and city codes):

.....

Telefax (please include country and city codes):

.....

E-mail address:

.....
