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Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

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Item 8 of the agenda

Programme of Work

Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2015-2016

I. Introduction

1. The present document is based on the programmes of work of the Committee for 2014-2015 (ECE/CECI/2014/5) and 2016-2017 (ECE/CECI/2015/9). It provides additional information on activities planned and proposed for the period between the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee. To facilitate the discussion at the ninth session, the document presents activities grouped by the main thematic areas covered by the Committee, i.e. Innovation and Competitiveness, and Public-Private Partnerships.

2. The plans and proposals reflect demand expressed by member States as well as the resources available to the Secretariat at the time of writing. Delegates are invited to bring additional proposals and requests to the Session.

II. Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

3. The ninth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held at Geneva on 12-13 October 2015. As part of the session, an international policy conference will provide an opportunity for experts from across the UNECE region to exchange experiences on innovation policy. Among the topics under discussion in the bureau of the Team are: Advances in the measurement of innovation performance and policy evaluation; Innovation policies for sustainable development; Innovation diffusion.

4. The Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan will be finalized and published in English by the end of 2015 and in Russian in the first quarter of 2016. A launch event with a policy conference will be organized in Tajikistan at the end of the first quarter 2016.

5. It is planned to hold a preparatory mission for a second Innovation Performance Review of Belarus (following the Review carried out in 2011) in the fourth quarter of 2015 and to carry out the Review in the first half of 2016. The goal of this second review is to assess progress made in the five years since the first review and to identify additional

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options for improving innovation performance. The exact timing will depend on the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

6. Expressions of interest for Innovation Performance Reviews have also been received from Azerbaijan and the Kyrgyz Republic. The timing of these reviews will depend on the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

7. Policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of policy recommendations will be held in follow-up to the Innovation Performance Reviews of Armenia and Kazakhstan in October and November together with the respective national counter-parts of the Reviews.

8. A conference taking stock of the experience with the first five Innovation Performance Reviews will be organized in Belarus in November 2015 in order to validate and improve the methodology of the reviews, to compare findings and policy recommendations across countries, and to further explore the role these reviews might be able to play in promoting and monitoring progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

9. A high-level international policy conference will be organized together with the Government of Israel in Jerusalem in December 2015 on the role of innovation policy in advancing sustainable development.

10. An official UN publication on Innovation in the Public Sector will be published in English October 2015 with subsequent Russian translation.

11. An official UN publication on Smart Specialization Strategies will be published in English in early 2016 with subsequent Russian translation.

III. Public-private Partnerships

12. The focus of the work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is on developing international PPP standards and best practices in preparation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementing them in countries through demand-driven national, regional, and international capacity-building activities and policy advisory services carried out by the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board.

13. The following meetings of the Business Advisory Board (BAB) with senior policy makers in member States are planned in the coming months. Additional expressions of interest for BAB meetings will depend on the availability of extra-budgetary resources:

- i. Belarus (September 2015);
- ii. Russian Federation (October 2015);
- iii. Moldova (November 2015);
- iv. Poland (December 2015);
- v. Ukraine (December 2015);
- vi. Brazil (January 2016);
- vii. Georgia (first quarter 2016); and
- viii. Cuba (first quarter 2016).

14. An international forum on the promotion of PPPs for sustainable development at the sub-national level will be organized together with UNITAR and the city of Annemasse, France, in Annemasse on 29 - 30 October 2015.
 15. A conference to conclude the PPP capacity-building project in Belarus, funded by the European Union, will take place in Minsk on 6 November 2015. The conference is expected to review all the work carried out in Belarus on PPP project preparation and improvements in the enabling environment over the past two years.
 16. A conference to launch the International PPP Specialist Centre of Excellence on Smart and Sustainable Cities located in Spain will be held in Barcelona in November 2015 as part of the Smart City Expo World Congress. The Centre is expected to develop international PPP best practice guides over the coming months.
 17. A charter on zero tolerance to corruption in PPP procurement will be published in December 2015. The charter will be accompanied by a mechanism for voluntary compliance by public agencies, including PPP units, in member States. The PPP Unit of Belarus will be the first public entity to be evaluated in 2015.
 18. An international standard on PPPs in health policy is expected to be published in English in December 2015 with subsequent Russian translation.
 19. A publication on the proceedings of the International Conference on PPPs in Water and Sanitation, held in Geneva in October 2014, where a number of case studies were presented from the UNECE region and beyond, will be published in English and Russian in the first quarter of 2016.
 20. An international standard on PPPs in water and sanitation is expected to be published in English in the second quarter of 2016 with subsequent Russian translation.
 21. An international standard on PPPs in renewable energy is expected to be published in in English the second quarter of 2016 with subsequent Russian translation.
 22. International standards on transport (roads, rail, ports and airports) are expected to be published in in English the second quarter of 2016 with subsequent Russian translation.
 23. The 6th session of the Team of Specialists on Public Private Partnerships (ToS PPP) will be organized in the first half of 2016, on a date to be agreed by the Bureau of ToS PPP.
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