



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2017

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Tenth session

Geneva, 20-22 March 2017

Item 7 (b) of the agenda

Intersessional Activities for 2017-2018

Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2017-2018

I. Introduction

1. The present document is based on the programme of work of the Committee for 2016-2017 (ECE/CECI/2015/9). It provides additional information on activities planned and proposed for the period between the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Committee. To facilitate discussion, this 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 eleventh session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held at Geneva on 19-20 October 2017. 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. The bureau of the Team will decide on the specific topic in consultation with the Team members. The eleventh session will decide on the date for the twelfth session to be held in 2018.

4. The Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan will be completed. The fact finding mission will be held at the beginning of April 2017. A peer review will be held in Bishkek at the end of June.

5. A launch event for the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus will be held in Minsk back-to-back with a follow-up policy advisory mission.

6. Expressions of interest for follow-up policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of policy recommendations from earlier reviews have been received from Kazakhstan, on the promotion of science and techno parks, and Ukraine. Similar events will be organized in 2018 subject to demand from member States and available resources.
7. A new Innovation for Sustainable Development Review will be carried out in 2018 subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funding. The secretariat will follow up on expressions of interest for second-round innovation for sustainable development reviews received from Armenia and Kazakhstan.
8. An “Ideas4Change” Start-up Competition will be organized as a side event of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on 25 April to showcase the power of innovative entrepreneurship for achieving sustainable development priorities. The winners of the competition will be given the opportunity to receive mentoring by two leading business accelerators (MassChallenge Israel and IP4 Politecnico di Torino).
9. A workshop will be organized together with the Russian Venture Capital Association at the Novosibirsk Venture Fair on 20-22 June 2017.
10. The SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in the last week of June 2017, subject to final confirmation by the Government.
11. The 2017 SPECA Economic Forum, which will be held in conjunction with the 12th session of the SPECA Governing Council, will be organized with a focus on innovation for sustainable development in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in October or November 2017, subject to final confirmation by the Government.
12. A panel on Sustainable Development Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation will be held jointly with the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development at the Second annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum), New York, 15-16 May.
13. A book on Innovation in the Public Sector will be published, reflecting the results of an earlier policy conference.

III. Public-private Partnerships

14. The focus of the work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is on developing international PPP standards and best practices in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementing their standards and best practices in countries through demand-driven national, regional, and international capacity-building activities as well as through policy advisory services carried out by the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board.
15. The following meetings of the Business Advisory Board (BAB) with senior policy makers in member States are planned in the coming months. Additional BAB meetings will be organized, both in 2017 and 2018, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary resources:
 - i. Tbilisi, Georgia, June 2017
 - ii. Brasilia, Brazil, July 2017
16. Capacity-building workshops will be organized in Shenzhen, China in August 2017 and in Moscow, Russian Federation in November 2017. Additional workshops will be

organized, both in 2017 and 2018, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

17. Two International PPP Forums will be held, to further advance the work on international PPP standards, one in Hong Kong, on 9-11 May 2017, and one in Qingdao China in July 2017.

18. International standards on PPPs in health policy, in water and sanitation, in renewable energy, and in transport (roads, rail, urban rail and airports) will be finalized during 2017 and 2018.

19. The inaugural session of the Working Party on PPPs, replacing the Team of Specialists on PPPs, will be held in Geneva on 21-22 November 2017.

20. The revised version of the guiding principles on people-first PPPs for the UN SDGs will be ready in the first semester of 2017, and will be presented to other UN agencies and the World Bank as part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda framework.

21. The people-first PPP case studies will continue to be collected and evaluated according to the people-first criteria. The next batch of the case studies will be presented at the second UNECE International people-first PPP Forum in Hong Kong on 9-11 May 2017