



## Implementation of recommendations of the UNECE Innovation Performance Review of Belarus

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The Innovation Performance Review of Belarus, carried out in 2010, was the first in this series of participatory policy advisory services provided by the UNECE to its member States. The recommendations contained in the Review became an input for the plans and activities of the Government and the State Committee on Science and Technology, who was the main partner in this project, to improve framework conditions for innovation, develop national innovation policy and design the instruments necessary for its implementation. Despite challenging economic conditions in 2011-2012, important decisions to promote innovation have been adopted, and the necessary steps to implement these have been taken.

The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the state innovation policy and innovation in the Republic of Belarus", which takes account of international experience of innovation policies, includes a broad concept of innovation policy and recognizes the importance of entrepreneurship in state promotion of innovation. This is in line with the recommendations made in the Review.

The adoption of the Law "On amendments and additions to certain laws on the legal protection of intellectual property" addressed the recommendation made in the Review to assign clearly defined property rights to R&D performing organizations and inventors. The Review also recommended that the system of public support for innovation activities in Belarus should accept increased levels of risk and be more tolerant of possible failure of individual projects. In line with this recommendation, Presidential Decrees No. 503 of 8 November 2012 and No. 357 of 7 August 2012 introduced changes in the system of public financing for innovation. The resources of the Belarusian Innovation Fund (BIF) were increased, including budgetary funds for science and innovation and revenues from exits from venture capital projects. In addition, the BIF developed new directions of activity related to the financing of venture capital projects. The system of sectoral innovation funds was also revamped.

Work is also taking place in other areas highlighted by the Review's recommendations. Financial support is being provided in the early stages of development of technoparks and centres for technology transfer, with the aim of reinforcing the innovation infrastructure and strengthening regional links. New forms of state support for innovative entrepreneurship are being established. There are multiple initiatives encouraging the development of mutually beneficial international linkages regarding innovation, the promotion of Belarusian technology in world markets and the transfer of foreign technology. A clear example of regional cooperation in the field of innovation, as recommended in the Review, is the establishment of the EurAsEC Center for Innovative Technologies by the Belarusian Innovation Fund and partners from Russia and Kazakhstan.

The work jointly carried out by the experts mobilized by the UNECE and their Belarusian colleagues in the preparation of the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus made possible an objective assessment of innovation activities in the country, identified measures to improve the national innovation system and initiated practical work to carry out these actions. Collaboration with UNECE has continued, and regular activities are planned each year in Belarus to support the implementation of recommendations made in the Review.