



# Knowledge - Based Development Newsletter

Entrepreneurship - Financing - Innovation - Intellectual property

The UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration promotes the knowledge-based economy and innovation. This newsletter provides a platform for disseminating its results and dialogue within its stakeholder community.

## Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Sustainable Production and Consumption



Ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns is one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To fully achieve this goal countries will have to transition to the circular economy.

As a cross-cutting means of implementation of the entire 2030 agenda, innovation is a key enabler also for the transition to sustainable consumption and production. At the 2017 session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, experts from 17 member States discussed how Governments can promote innovations that support the transition to the circular economy. The topic will also be taken up by the upcoming Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Geneva on 1-2 March 2018. [\[Read more\]](#)

## New UNECE Publication on Innovation in the Public Sector



The public sector plays a very significant role in modern economies. As in the business sector, innovation can be a major source of productivity growth, cost savings and improvements in service quality in the public sector; benefits which then also positively affect businesses and citizens who rely on an efficient and effective public sector.

The ability of the public sector to innovate is therefore a critical element of economy-wide innovation performance. However, innovation policies relating to the public sector are less developed than those targeting the business sector. There are important differences between the public and the private sector which have a profound impact on how innovation is carried out and how policy can support it. This publication discusses the policy lessons learned in this area, drawing on the experiences of different countries. [\[Read more\]](#)

## SPECA Economic Forum calls for Regional Strategy for Innovation in Support of the SDGs



The Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), on recommendations from the Economic Forum, held in Dushanbe on 5-6 December, agreed to elaborate a regional innovation strategy to support the

achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meetings, held on an unprecedentedly high level of participation of experts from all SPECA countries, representatives of observer countries, development partners and civil society, underscored the importance of innovation as a driver for sustainable development. It is increasingly recognized that technological, economic, and institutional innovation is necessary to achieve the SDGs set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNECE is supporting SPECA countries in this endeavour through its program of Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews, under which Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have received tailored policy advice. [\[Read more\]](#)

## UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan: outcomes and challenges

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has invited UNECE to undertake a national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review with them. The findings and policy recommendations were presented at the 2017 session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness. Kyrgyzstan is in the process of aligning its national development strategies with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The National Innovation System as a whole is still at an early stage of development. Kyrgyzstan being a small and relatively open economy in rapid transition, international linkages and collaboration, as well as readiness to absorb and apply knowledge developed abroad are critical. Expenditure on R&D, remains so small that complementary policy tools are needed to generate positive impact on the economy. While there are islands of innovative enterprises, capacity constraints limit integration in local and international supply chains. Support to innovation activities should be strengthened, the business sector should be consulted in the formulation policies, e.g. through foresight exercises. [\[Read more\]](#)

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**Recent events** Tenth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, Geneva, Switzerland, 19-20 October 2017  
SPECA Economic Forum "Innovation for Sustainable Development", Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 5-6 December 2017

**Upcoming events** Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, Geneva, Switzerland, 26-28 March 2018