

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

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Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme: overview of resources for environmental activities and criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events

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Countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events

Note by the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Bureau

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) at its nineteenth session (22–25 October 2013) “...took note of the assessment of criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events (ECE/CEP/2013/20), and approved the recommendations contained therein (see paras. 20 and 21)”. Paragraph 21 stipulates in particular that “(a) ... The CEP shall take decision at each regular session on either amending the present criteria, or extending them for another period; (b) The draft of a relevant decision of the CEP shall be based on the input from the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and its Chair, to be prepared and circulated beforehand ...”.
2. At its twentieth session (28–31 October 2014), CEP agreed with the recommendation by its Bureau and decided to keep the criteria for financial support as adopted by CEP at its nineteenth session (ECE/CEP/2013/2, annex I).
3. According to the mandate referred to in a para 1 above, updated draft criteria for financial support are presented in the annex to the current paper. Data (most recent financial data available) refers to year 2013. The criteria contain lower and upper thresholds¹.
4. It is proposed to set the thresholds to the following levels²:
 - (a) The lower threshold (for full financial support) will be set to 4,500 in current US\$ of the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita;
 - (b) The upper threshold (for full financial support) will be set to 5,500 in current US\$ of GDP per capita.
5. At its meeting in June 2015, the CEP Bureau considered the updated criteria for eligibility for financial support for participating in meeting and events. Given that in June 2015 the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita for ECE countries with economies in transition was available only for 2013, the Bureau recommended submitting the criteria to the Committee as revised by the secretariat (using GDP for 2013), unless in September 2015 the data on the GDP for 2014 were available (ECE/CEP/2015/3, para. 44).

¹ As defined in the document “Assessment of criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events” (ECE/CEP/2013/20).

² Thresholds’ levels are maintained the same as adopted by CEP-19, and CEP-20 (ECE/CEP/2013/2, annex I).

6. At the end of September, GDP per capita for 2014 were still not available for all countries with the economy in transition in the ECE region. Therefore, the version considered by the CEP Bureau is being submitted to CEP-21.
7. CEP will be invited to consider the criteria for financial support with a view to approving it. Other approaches may be applied under projects where donors are earmarking their contributions with particular conditions.
8. The present criteria will enter into force immediately after their approval by CEP.

Annex

Countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events

1. For the purposes of this paper, “partial financial support” includes Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) only; and “full financial support” includes DSA and travel expenses.
2. The lower threshold for financial support equals US\$ 4,500. Representatives of the member States with annual GDP per capita below the lower threshold are entitled to full³ financial support to participate in meetings and events to which CEP decision applies. Other approaches may be applied under projects where donors are earmarking their contributions with particular conditions.
3. The upper threshold for financial support equals US\$ 5,500. Representatives of the member States with annual GDP per capita between the lower and upper thresholds are entitled to partial⁴ financial support to participate in meetings and events to which CEP decision applies.

List of countries eligible for financial support, showing category of assistance, and GDP

<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita, 2013 (US\$)^a</i>	<i>Number of countries</i>
<i>Travel expenses and DSA</i>		
Tajikistan	1 036	
Kyrgyzstan	1 295	
Uzbekistan	1 962	
Moldova, Republic of	2 244	
Armenia	3 460	
Georgia	3 597	
Ukraine	4 017	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4 232	
Albania	4 465	
Subtotal		9
<i>DSA only</i>		
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	5 222	
Subtotal		1
Total		10

Note: Countries are listed above in ascending order of GDP.

^a Data source: Statistical Database of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Country GDP per capita in nominal US\$ has been calculated by dividing the 2013 figure for “GDP per capita at current prices, NCUs” onto the 2013 figure for “Exchange rate (XR), NCU per US\$”. Database was accessed on 12 October 2015.

³ Travel expenses and DSA, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.

⁴ DSA only, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.