

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

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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. According to the mandate referred to in a para 1 above, at its twenty-third session (14-17 November 2017) the CEP considered updating the criteria for financial support and took the decision by which the Committee “agrees ... to continue with the criteria for financial support as adopted by the Committee at its twenty-second session in January 2017 (using data for 2015) and, at the same time, asks the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to verify the availability of data for 2016 (e.g., in December 2017 and in February and May 2018) and, if available for all countries with economies in transition, to prepare revised criteria for financial support for approval by the Committee by email through a silent procedure”.
3. Throughout the year 2018 the secretariat has repeatedly examined the availability of the relevant data. The sufficiently comprehensive data has become available only in September, prior to the CEP Bureau meeting (September 26-27, Geneva).
4. The Bureau at its meeting has considered the matter and decided to update, with support from the secretariat, the criteria in accordance with the CEP decision as referred in the paragraph 2 above.
5. The CEP Bureau conducted electronic consultations of the revised and updated criteria during the first week of October 2018 and recommended submitting the criteria to the Committee as annexed to the present paper. Data (most recent financial data available) refers to year 2016.
6. The criteria contain lower and upper thresholds¹. It is proposed to maintain the thresholds at the same levels as adopted by the previous three sessions of the CEP:

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

(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;

7. The upper threshold (for full financial support) will be set to 5,500 in current US\$ of GDP per capita. Other approaches may be applied under projects where donors are earmarking their contributions with particular conditions.

8. On 30 October a revised draft was circulated among the Committee members and observers for approval by a silent procedure with a deadline of 14 November. As no objections were received by the deadline, the revised and updated criteria entered into force as of 15 November 2018.

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 full^a financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the 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 partial^b financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the CEP decision applies.
4. The present criteria entered into force as of 15 November 2018 after their approval by the CEP by a silent procedure with a deadline of 14 November.

List of countries eligible for financial support

Countries eligible for financial support, total: 13	
Eligible for travel expenses and DSA support, subtotal: 9	
<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita, 2016 US\$^c (in ascending order)</i>
Tajikistan	796
Kyrgyzstan	1144
Moldova, Republic of	1913
Uzbekistan ^d	2106
Ukraine	2188
Armenia	3524
Georgia	3866
Azerbaijan	3881
Albania	4132
Eligible for DSA support only, subtotal: 4	
<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita, 2016 US\$^c (in ascending order)</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4809
Belarus	5034
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	5189
Serbia	5426

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

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

^c 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 2016 figure for “GDP per capita at current prices, NCUs” onto the 2016 figure for “Exchange rate (XR), NCU per US\$”. Database was accessed on 27 September 2017.

^d Due to the incomplete ECE data for 2016 in the single case of Uzbekistan, the WB data is used instead (The World Bank Databank <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/home.aspx> accessed 27.09.2018).

^e 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 2016 figure for “GDP per capita at current prices, NCUs” onto the 2016 figure for “Exchange rate (XR), NCU per US\$”. Database was accessed on 27 September 2017.