



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

СПЕКА SPECA

In February 2004 the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan wrote to the Presidents of the six countries which are members of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) – Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In his letter the Secretary-General reconfirmed the importance of SPECA and the United Nations commitment to it. He also suggested that the Executive Secretaries of UNECE and UNESCAP – the two United Nations entities jointly implementing the Programme – undertake high-level visits to SPECA countries to discuss with their leaders how to strengthen the programme. The first three visits will take place in May/early June 2004.

On 20-21 May Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, Executive Secretary of UNECE, and Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, visited Uzbekistan. This will be followed by visits to Turkmenistan (26-27 May) and Tajikistan (2-3 June). The Executive Secretaries will discuss the future of SPECA with the Heads of States or Governments of the Central Asian countries within a new strategic approach of the two regional commissions to Central Asia. It is expected that the visits will help to identify national and sub-regional priorities, modalities for effective follow-up to work already carried out, as well as areas for future cooperation.

For more information contact Andrey Vasilyev (andrey.vasilyev@unece.org).

Internet calls for higher security in statistics



Internet has opened up great possibilities in all areas of our lives. In statistics, it permits not only quicker publishing of figures and increasing their availability to a larger audience, but it also opens up new

methods of data collection from businesses, households and private individuals. However, the use of Internet also brings risks. The protection of individual data is one of the principles of official statistics and, therefore, statisticians agree that the security of statistical data should meet higher standards than is usual for electronic business. About 70 experts from Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand discussed these issues and exchanged experiences with pilot applications

at the Meeting on Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), 17-19 May. Experts made suggestions on how to ensure high security while making the data collection procedures less onerous and more user-friendly. The discussion also considered the use of open software. Several groups and consortia join national statistical offices to share the development of information systems and their components. The open source software used or produced by statistical offices will help to improve the efficiency of statistical production and ultimately to decrease the costs borne by taxpayers.



For more information see www.unece.org/stats/ or contact Juraj Riecan (juraj.riecan@unece.org).

Coming up soon ...

UNECE Plans Energy Efficiency Work As Oil Prices Rise

As crude oil prices rise above \$40 per barrel for the first time since 1990, the UNECE Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project (EE21) at its 15th session on 24-26 May will

complete plans for a new phase of work on energy efficiency and renewable energy investment project finance. Steeply rising oil crude prices could stunt economic growth in all UNECE member States, but

Not an official record - For information only

could also aggravate fuel poverty, adding to the strains of economic transition in eastern Europe. Vigorous energy conservation measures coupled with efficiency improvements are some of the few options policy makers have to alleviate wintertime fuel shortages should elevated oil prices continue to the end of the year. At the same time, energy efficiency investments are one of the only self-financing methods to reduce environmental pollution and help east European UNECE member States meet their international treaty obligations under the UNECE and the UNFCCC.

The Energy Efficiency 21 Project is designed to develop the skills of private and public sector experts at the local level to develop energy efficiency and renewable energy investment projects. It provides assistance to municipal

authorities and national administrations to introduce economic, institutional and regulatory reforms needed to support these investment projects. The project also provides opportunities for banks and commercial companies to invest in these projects through professionally managed investment funds established within the framework of the project. On 26 May a special working session will provide an opportunity to review the current status of renewable energy sources in the UNECE region, assess financing modalities for renewable energy investment project and consider the benefit of renewable energy sources within the Kyoto mechanisms.

For more information contact Gianluca Sambucini (gianluca.sambucini@unece.org).

Off the press ...

This CD is a compilation of games to show children that there is much more to the United Nations than diplomats meeting in grand conference rooms far removed from everyday life.



The foreword by Nane Annan points out the importance of explaining to children how the United Nations helps children and adults all over the world to "live better lives, in safety and dignity." The Games illustrate the work of the UN and its agencies towards making the world a better place – WHO and its work to eradicate disease, FAO and UNDP helping farmers grow better crops, UNHCR

which shelters refugees, UNICEF feeding poor children, UNEP and UNECE who work to protect the environment, and the UN Secretary-General who negotiates peace deals.

Players have a choice of 4 games at different levels. Also included are the texts of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The CD-Rom is available from the UN Sales and Marketing Section (unpubli@unog.ch), Sales N° GV.E/F/S.04.0.6.

Facts and figures:

School net enrolment ratio at secondary level¹ in new member countries of the EU

Country	2000		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Cyprus	92	96	94
Czech Republic	97.3	98.6	97.9
Estonia	91.4 ²	95.9 ²	93.6 ²
Hungary	80.3
Latvia	87.1 ²	88.4 ²	87.7 ²
Lithuania	88.3	89.1	87.7
Malta	79 ³	81 ³	80 ³
Poland	80.9	87.3	84
Slovakia	77.1 ⁴	80.5 ⁴	78.8 ⁴
Slovenia	93.9	95.5	94.7

Source: UNECE Gender Statistics Database

¹ Refers to the number of pupils of the official age group enrolled in secondary education as a percentage of the total population of secondary-school age according to national regulations.

² 2001

³ Source: UNESCO estimates

⁴ 1995

Also coming up ...

24-26 May
Steering Body of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project

24-26 May
Joint ECE/WHO/Eurostat Work Session on Health Statistics

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