



# UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 88 – 4-8 October 2004

## *It's just happened ...*

### **UNECE PPP Alliance meets at the World Urban Forum II in Barcelona**

The UNECE Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Alliance, a group of professionals from public and private sectors promoting the use of PPPs in infrastructure, held its third meeting on the occasion of UN-Habitat's II World Urban Forum, on 14 September in Barcelona, Spain. The meeting attracted 120 participants consisting of members of the PPP



Alliance and representatives from its partners organizations, such as the EU, ILO and EBRD. The meeting discussed the role of PPPs in urban regeneration. It agreed that experience in Spain, UK, France and elsewhere, showed how PPPs have contributed to urban regeneration and sustainable development. However, the further use of these instruments in other cities depends on establishing the clear legal and regulatory structure, the necessary political will and skills at

the municipal level, which takes time. The meeting also discussed its Guidelines on Governance in PPPs. It agreed that these guidelines would be an excellent tool to educate policy makers at both national and local levels. The PPP Alliance agreed to finalize its Guidelines in Canada at the end of November 2004, and to respond to the request from

the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation to cooperate in a series of awareness-raising seminars on PPPs in Moscow, St Petersburg and another commercial centre, beginning next year. Following its meeting, the PPP Alliance members participated in UN Habitat's global dialogues and networking events.

For more information, please contact Geoffrey Hamilton ([geoffrey.hamilton@unece.org](mailto:geoffrey.hamilton@unece.org)).

### **6<sup>th</sup> UNECE Intellectual Property Advisory Group Meeting**

The Group operates under the auspices of the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice (WP.5), with focused consultative visits that have achieved real change and improvements in the enforcement of intellectual property rights. The objective is to work with the governments in the region to identify the types of assistance and capacity-building programmes they want the UNECE's intellectual property group to provide. The Meeting, held on 27 September, reviewed its activities over the previous year, including events in Ukraine, Poland and in Croatia. The Group agreed to focus its work on the needs of the countries in transition which face severe economic difficulties. As transition issues recede

and the traditional issues of economic competitiveness become more important, the Group noted a number of new requests for cooperation from Governments on programmes concerning intellectual property valuation and commercial exploitation. The Group reelected Tim Trainer (US) and Nickolaus Thum (Switzerland) and elected for the first time as co-chair Mr. Phil Lewis from the UK Patent Office. The Group will undertake consultations in Romania in November and will work with Kazakhstan and the Republic of Moldova in 2005.

For more information, please contact Geoffrey Hamilton ([geoffrey.hamilton@unece.org](mailto:geoffrey.hamilton@unece.org)).

## US EPA and the UNECE announce new 3-year Project to promote CMM recovery in Eastern Europe and the CIS

On 23 September, the Coalbed Methane Outreach Program (CMOP) of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the UN Economic Commission for Europe announced a 3-year jointly sponsored programme to promote the implementation of coal mine methane projects in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). US EPA CMOP performs analytical and outreach services to promote the profitable use of coal mine methane (CMM). CMM is not only a greenhouse gas more than 20 times as potent as carbon dioxide, but it is also the cause of mine explosions – gas accidents at coal mines account for hundreds of fatalities per year in the transition economies. CMM recovery before coal mining can reduce the gas content in coal seams to be mined and mitigate the risk of coal and gas outbursts, so as to effectively prevent the methane accident and improve the production conditions at coal mines. Significant socio-economic benefits would come to these mining regions from the improved mine safety, improved regional air quality and increased employment



opportunities created by development of CMM projects. The goal of the project is to develop bankable CMM projects in Central and South-Eastern Europe and the CIS leading to additional emission reductions. The expected project outcomes include: (1) Three or more bankable project documents, which shall be considered by investment funds; (2) Lessons learned and disseminated to project developers from the Region and elsewhere on how to prepare the most effective bankable project documents for approval by financing organizations; and, (3) Elaboration of a roadmap for financing additional CMM projects in the region formulated by the end of the project period. A new Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, operating under the guidance of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, will be launched by the UNECE in December to facilitate and support implementation of this project. The UNECE is also exploring opportunities for parallel financing of this project from the UN Foundation.

For more information, please contact Charlotte Griffiths ([charlotte.griffiths@unece.org](mailto:charlotte.griffiths@unece.org)).

### Revision of economic classifications

The Regional Meeting on Revision of Economic Classifications, convened jointly by UNSD and UNECE, was held in Geneva from 29 September to 1 October 2004. The purpose of the Meeting was to inform the countries from the UNECE region about the ongoing revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), the Central Product Classification (CPC) and the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). It also aimed at getting countries' comments and feedback in particular

on the detailed draft of ISIC Rev.4 that was prepared by the UNSD and sent to the statistical offices. All Western Balkan and most CIS-countries attended, together with other UNECE member States, non-European OECD member States, ILO, Eurostat, WTO and CIS-Stat. The meeting provided opportunity for countries to directly influence the future shape of international statistical classifications.

### Coming up soon ...

4-6 October Task Force on Access to Justice, under the Aarhus Convention  
4-8 October Working Party on Lighting and Light-signalling  
5-8 October Joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission

**For further information please contact:  
Information Service  
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland**

**Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44  
Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05  
E-mail: [info.ece@unece.org](mailto:info.ece@unece.org)  
Web site: <http://www.unece.org>**