



United Nations

UNECE Weekly

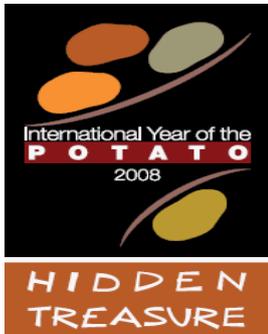
Economic Commission for Europe

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UNECE seed potatoes standard is promoted

An International Workshop on Seed Potatoes is being organized in Kislovodsk, Russian Federation, 8-12 September, to promote the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes in the Russian Federation and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The workshop is intended to prompt these countries to harmonize their national standards with the UNECE standard, improve seed production and seed certification infrastructure.



The use of certified seed potatoes increases the yields and quality of consumption potatoes and limits the spread of harmful organisms.

The workshop is being organized by UNECE in partnership with several government institutions of the Russian Federation (Ministry of Agriculture, Agency on Technical Regulation, Seed Inspection, Federal Quarantine Centre and others) and with the private sector.



Photo: Greenvale AP (UK)

The workshop will be held at the seed-potato-producing enterprise “Meristime systems” during the harvest period to allow for both scientific discussion and the possibility of seeing how seed potato varieties are maintained, multiplied, graded, packed and certified in practice. Participants will visit the fields, production, storage, grading, testing and other facilities at the Meristime systems enterprise, which is the only important producer of seed potatoes in the CIS region.

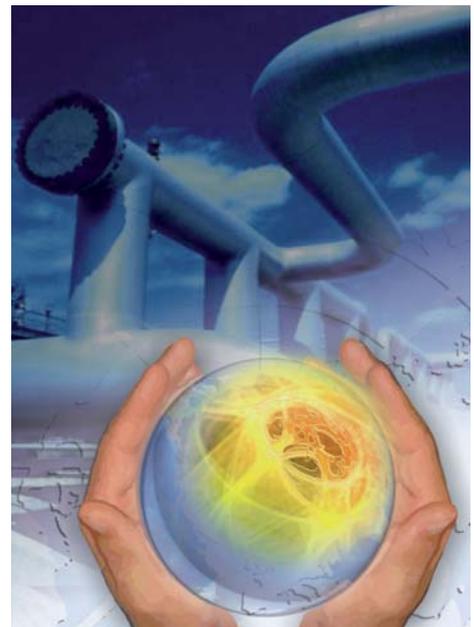
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Investing in energy security

During the 60th anniversary session of the Economic Commission for Europe held in April 2007, the special working session on “Sustainable Energy Policies: the Key to Energy Security” called on the Committee on Sustainable Energy to undertake a broadly shared intergovernmental expert dialogue on energy security, including on infrastructure investment and financing.

In view of the current range of energy prices and with the present technology, it is estimated that conventional reserves of crude oil and natural gas would be capable of meeting cumulative world demand for the next forty years or more. Resource depletion per se is not of major concern. The problem, however is whether existing and potential new reserves will be financed and developed in an efficient and timely manner. In order to respond to this challenge, a new UNECE energy security dialogue focusing on energy infrastructure investment and financing was launched during the 16th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in November 2007.

Following this a new publication on ‘Investing in Energy Security Risk Mitigation’ (ECE Energy Series No. 34) has been prepared based on the proceedings, deliberations, conclusions and recommendations emanating from the dialogue. It will be presented during the forthcoming session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy’s dialogue on energy security entitled ‘Strategic Alliances for Energy Security’ to be held at the Palais des Nations, 19 to 21 November 2008. This publication is the successor to “Emerging Global Energy Security Risks” issued in November 2007.



For more information on UNECE’s energy security dialogue and/or the upcoming event 19-21 November contact *Sead Vilogorac* (sead.vilogorac@unece.org).



Not an official record - For information only

Ratifications ... Accessions ...

(UNECE Multilateral Treaties deposited with the Secretary-General)

Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), Geneva, 5 July 1978

Accession: **Belarus (29 July 2008)**

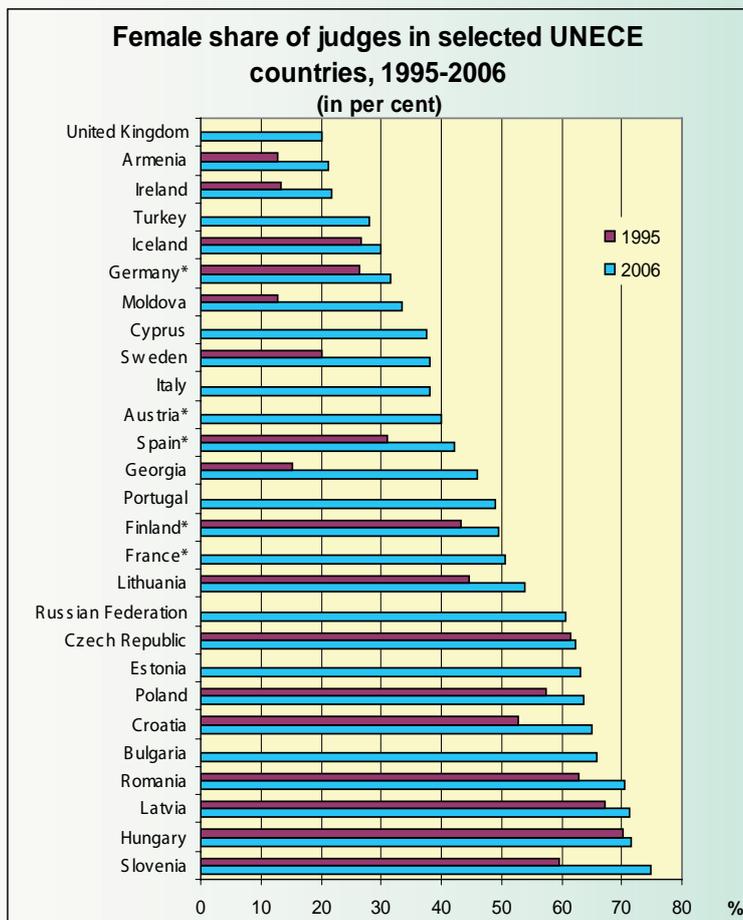
The CMR Convention fixes the conditions for the contract for the carriage of goods by road between the forwarder and the carrier. In particular, it provides for the use of the consignment note and establishes the conditions for liability, for example in the case of loss of the goods or delays.

Facts and Figures

Growing share of women among judges in the UNECE region

Over the last couple of decades there has been a clear trend of women taking a more active role in a number of important professional and socio-political areas in the UNECE region. This tendency has also been apparent across the judiciary system, in particular with regard to judges, as the chart attests.

During 1995-2006, the proportion of women among judges continued its steady rise in the majority of UNECE countries. By the end of this period, women accounted for more than 50% of all judges in nearly half the countries depicted in the chart. Their proportion now exceeds 70% in Hungary, Latvia, and Slovenia. In fact, the highest proportion of women judges is observed in the East and Central European countries, where already in 1995 women accounted for a sizeable share. At the other end of the scale, in spite of a rising share, in the United Kingdom, Armenia and Ireland women judges barely account for 20% of the total.



Source: UNECE Gender Database (www.unece.org/stats/data)

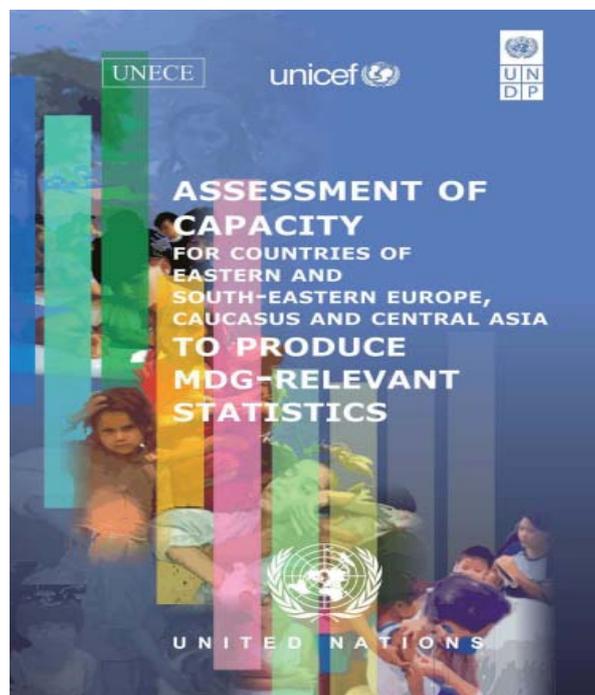
* Data refer to 2004 instead of 2006.

Assessment of Capacity to Produce MDG-relevant Statistics

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) framework, with its list of policy issues and targets, has set priorities in the development agenda at the global and national level. Since its inception, the MDG framework also represents an opportunity for statistical authorities to guide their work and produce more and better data.

In countries of South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), the MDG indicators framework has become an important reference tool to improve sustainable household survey programmes, to make more effective use of available sources, to progressively adopt international standards and definitions, and to improve accessibility and usability of statistical data and products.

However, many challenges still remain to make national statistical systems more responsive to information needs of policymakers and other users of MDG data and indicators. To monitor progress towards the MDGs, countries need a well-functioning statistical system that is able to reproduce accurate, complete, timely and accessible data.



This publication provides an assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems to produce and disseminate such data. It also identifies the statistical areas where further work is needed and makes a set of recommendations to address such challenges.

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