



**United Nations**

# UNECE Weekly

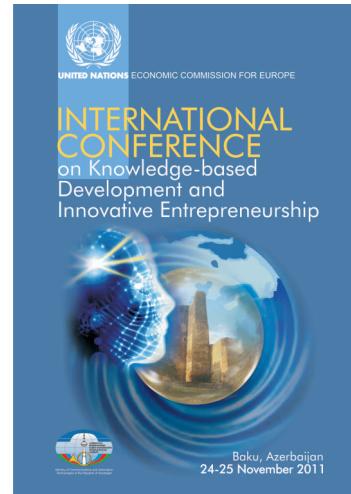
**Economic Commission for Europe**

Issue N° 453 — 21 - 25 November 2011

## **UNECE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL DISCUSS INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP 24-25 NOVEMBER, BAKU**

Rapid technological change has transformed the global economy and made possible new business practices and ways to access the markets by entrepreneurs. However, traditional barriers to entrepreneurship are still an obstacle to the development of knowledge-intensive entrepreneurial activities in many countries. Policymakers, representatives of the business community, researchers and other experts will meet in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 24 and 25 November to exchange experiences and discuss policy aspects related to the promotion of knowledge-based development and innovative entrepreneurship, including the creation of a supportive infrastructure. A particular emphasis will be made on the opportunities and challenges faced by countries with economies in transition.

The role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a driver of innovation and a source of entrepreneurial opportunities will receive special consideration during this International Conference. This will include a discussion of the ways in which the government and the private sector can collaborate in developing the ICT infrastructure through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).



The International Conference on Knowledge-based Development and Innovative Entrepreneurship is being organized by UNECE in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, within the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). It will be opened by Mr. Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the UNECE, and by H.E. Mr. Ali Abbasov, Minister of Communications and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan. □

**For further information, please visit:**  
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=26235>.

## **EU/US/JAPAN TO WORK ON COMMON REGULATION FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES UNDER WP29**



The 155<sup>th</sup> session of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) was held from 15 to the 18 of November in Geneva. Following a joint proposal by Japan, the EU and US, the process

leading to the creation of two informal working groups on electric vehicles was initiated during the meeting.

The first group will address the safety aspects of electric vehicles and their components, including the battery. It will cover the safety of occupants against electric shocks in-use, while recharging and after an accident. The second group will focus on environmental aspects of regulations applied to electric vehicles.

The work of the groups will build upon the dispositions already laid down in Regulations No. 100 on the safety of

electric vehicles, adopted by WP. 29 in March 2010 under the 1958 Agreement, as well as Regulations No. 11 and Regulations No. 94 & 95 on the protection of occupants against collisions.

The European Commission, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the US and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan will take an active role in these working groups. However, as it is the case for all the work of WP. 29, they will naturally be open to all countries that are contracting parties to the 1998 Agreement, including India and China.

The working groups will be formally constituted after the next meeting of WP. 29 in March 2012. The objective is that their work be finalized by the end of 2012 with a view to adopting a new Regulation with a world-wide application in 2014. □

**For more information please visit:**  
<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/main/wp29/WP29-155-38e.pdf>.

## **25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SANDOZ ACCIDENT CALLS FOR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTAL WATER POLLUTION**

UNECE and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany organized a seminar on 8-9 November 2011 in Bonn to commemorate 25 years since the Sandoz accident. The seminar attracted a broad range of stakeholders from across the UNECE region to reflect on the work carried out and progress achieved in the past 25 years.

The accident at the Sandoz agrochemical storehouse in Schweizerhalle, Basel, Switzerland, on 1 November 1986 caused one of the most severe man-made environmental disasters in the history of Europe. The accident resulted in tons of pollutants entering the Rhine and significantly destroying its biological life. This terrible disaster, however, triggered a number of positive developments aimed at improving the safety at industrial facilities and protecting international rivers and lakes. In particular, the accident led to the adoption of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and underlined the need for transboundary cooperation that was then responded by the adoption of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Participants discussed the achievements of the past 25 years: the adoption of relevant national legislation, strengthened transboundary cooperation through the



river basin commissions, the development and exchange of inventories of hazardous industrial facilities, improved contingency planning, etc.

However, the debates also highlighted some remaining deficiencies in the area of prevention of accidental water pollution in the UNECE region, namely risks coming from shipping, micropollutants, the risk of complacency, the lack of capacity for the enforcement of procedures and safety standards and cross-border communication.

During the panel discussions the seminar participants focused on the way forward to address the identified challenges and agreed on a number of concrete recommendations to the UNECE member states. Guidance for improved preparedness to accidents during the transportation of hazardous goods, building trust in the riparian countries and awareness raising campaigns to address the risk of complacency were seen as the top priorities. □

**For further information please visit:**  
[http://www.unece.org/sandoz25\\_seminar.html](http://www.unece.org/sandoz25_seminar.html).

## **REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION STATISTICS ANTALYA, 26-27 OCTOBER**



Harmonized approaches to collecting data on migration, the establishment of the UNECE Clearinghouse on migration statistics and the use of statistics for evidence-based migration policy making were among the subjects discussed during the Regional Workshop on Migration Statistics that took place on 26-27 October 2011 in Antalya, Turkey.

The workshop was organized jointly by UNECE and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) within the framework of the Development Account project "Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: Maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact". It was the third and last event of this type organized by UNECE within this project, following two workshops organized in February 2010 in Bishkek and in December 2010 in Istanbul.

The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to produce and disseminate high quality and comparable statistics on international migration, and use them for policy making. The workshop brought together specialists from national statistical institutes, state migration services,

ministries of labour and economy of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Various international organizations implementing in the region projects related to migration were represented, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Department for Social and Economic Affairs (UN DESA), the Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) and the World Bank.

The workshop provided the opportunity to present the Practical Guide on Migration Statistics for countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, prepared by UNECE and addressed to everyone interested in migration or working with migration statistics in the region (the guide is available in English and Russian).

The participants at the workshop agreed on the need for continuous collaboration with other countries in the region and international organizations, in order to further improve the production and dissemination of migration statistics, also through the development of new sources such as administrative registers. □

**For more information, please visit:**  
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2011.10.migration.html>.