

Sustainable Development



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Pan-European perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have served as a broad framework for development work over the past 12 years, but they will expire in 2015. The United Nations member States and the entire United Nations system have therefore started preparations for the formulation of a new development framework after 2015. Efforts to shape this agenda are built on an inclusive and open consultative process with all stakeholders at the global, regional and national levels. The process should eventually lead to a single and comprehensive post-2015 United Nations development agenda with sustainable development at its core.

The United Nations system in Europe and Central Asia, under the joint leadership of UNECE as Chair of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and the United Nations Development Group for Europe and Central Asia (ECA UNDG), will shortly come up with a common vision on the post-2015 development agenda in the pan-European region.

On 29 April, directors of the European offices of 14 United Nations entities — UNECE, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, IAEA, ILO, UNAIDS, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIDO, UN WOMEN and WHO — met at the European offices of WHO in Copenhagen to discuss and agree upon key messages. These messages, in the form of a regional advocacy report and more detailed issue briefs, will serve as a contribution to discussions at both the regional and global levels.

During their meeting, the directors addressed both challenges and opportunities for the post-2015 development agenda. They agreed that for all countries of Europe and Central Asia building more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous societies remains a considerable challenge, and one that requires continued and strengthened attention. Reducing inequalities in the economic and social areas and in the consumption of environmental resources is a key priority throughout the region. The same is true for ensuring an enabling environment free of conflict, violence and instability.

While the challenges certainly differ in nature and extent among countries, and thus there can be no one-size-fits-all approach, they are centred around similar themes and policy choices and involve the simultaneous consideration of economic, social and environmental concerns. Many of those themes and choices resonate with the situation worldwide and the issues faced by the global "North" and "South".

More specifically, the regional report will address a wide range of issues relevant for the post-2015 agenda in the region, ranging from population dynamics to gender equality, the creation of jobs, quality health and education for all, transforming production and consumption patterns, governance, peace and security and partnerships.

The report and issue briefs are currently being finalized and will be submitted by the end of May as an input from the region to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly special event on MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda on 25 September.

The key messages of the report will be widely advocated at various venues during the next few months. They will be further discussed at a multi-stakeholder regional consultation meeting, jointly organized by UNECE and the ECA UNDG, in the first week of September. The government of Turkey has expressed interest in hosting this meeting. □

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Trade

UNECE and Eurasian Economic Commission recommend next steps in trade facilitation and the Single Window in the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) organized a second joint Conference on Trade Facilitation and the Single Window on 23-24 April, in Moscow. The Conference issued recommendations for action to EEC Member States.

Russian President Putin had criticized at the investment Forum Russia-2012 the current situation, where his country occupies the 120th place in the World Bank's Doing Business index. He has urged agencies to do their utmost to move the country to among the first 20. Trade facilitation and the Single Window for export and import clearance can help achieve this objective.



The Conference provided up-to-date information on the implementation of international standards for data exchange and the Single Window in the Customs Union.

Experts from the EEC and its Member States spoke on the development of the Customs Union's Integrated Information System for Mutual and Foreign Trade of the Customs Union. UNECE helps develop the project documents of this System, particularly for implementing international standards for trade-information exchange. Alexander Khotko, Deputy Director of the IT Department of the EEC and the person responsible for this System, noted that there should be three national Single Window projects, linked through the interface of the System. Kazakhstan was already on the right track with its Single Window project.

The Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation presented its work on the System for Interagency Electronic Interchange. This System is built on the principles of coordinating models of information exchange, legal systems and rules for security of data exchange.

Experts from UNECE, the European Commission, the World Customs Organization, the Finnish Portnet system, US Customs, UNCITRAL, and the Ukrainian Port Community System project in Odessa provided capacity-building on international experience in implementing Single Window and trade data harmonization.

The Conference was held in conjunction with the "TransRussia" exhibition. □

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32700> or contact Mario Apostolov at: mario.apostolov@unece.org.

Land Administration

Upcoming UNECE workshop in Sweden on land administration: "Collaborating for Secured Ownership"



Today, in almost all countries, people expect their public administrations to develop and offer e-government solutions. In what way can land administration be a part of this, and what does it take to really make a change? These issues will be addressed at a workshop organized by UNECE in Uppsala, Sweden, from 29 to 31 May.

Because it provides rules and information for the real property market, land administration is important to every country's economy. Real property – land with buildings and constructions – is one of the most valuable assets of any country. By managing this asset in the best possible way, and by and being able to quickly adapt to changes in demand, policymakers can have a great impact on the economy as a whole.

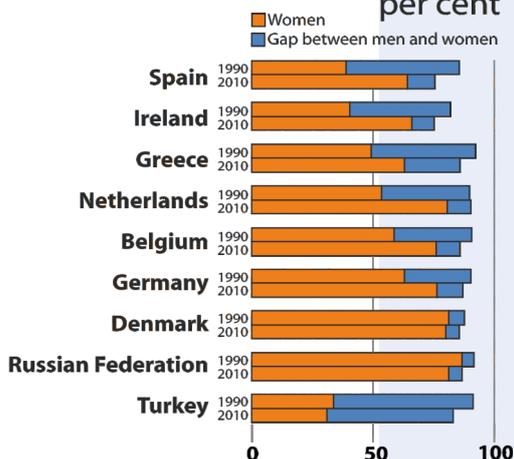
At the workshop, we will learn about and discussed developments in several countries in Europe and beyond. How can institutions ensure that the true demands and needs of citizens are met? We will also discuss good examples of how authorities have transformed themselves and their culture so as to meet citizens' demands for better services. And, we will have a look at how the information produced by land administration agencies is used and how it affects other processes in the economy.

Detailed information is available [here](#). □

Facts and Figures

The Gender Gap in Employment Has Narrowed in Most UNECE Countries

Employment rates of 25-49 year-old men and women, per cent



Whilst employment rates of women aged 25 to 49 years are generally lower than for men of that age, the gap between them is progressively narrowing in most UNECE countries.

For most of the countries displayed in the chart, the reduction of this gender gap is related to the increase in the employment rate for women. Progress has been particularly strong in those countries that started with low female employment rates in the nineties, such as Spain and Ireland. Countries that already had high female employment rates in 1990 subsequently experienced less narrowing of the employment rate gap, as Denmark, or even small increases, as the Russian Federation. In Turkey, female employment rates remain low and the gap between women and men large.

The employment rate is expressed as the proportion of the population that is employed. The age group 25-49 allows focusing the measure on the ages when most people have completed education and when commitment to childrearing can be a significant factor of the gender gap in employment. □

Source: UNECE Statistical Database.

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