

Trade

Discover the World of Nuts and Dried Fruit

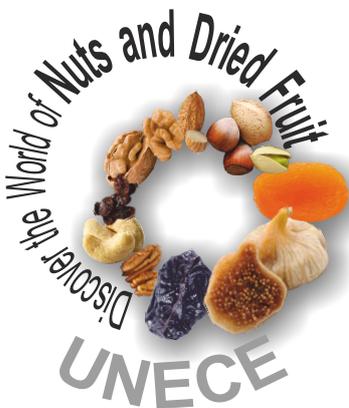
Production and international trade of nuts and dried fruit has grown tremendously over the past years. According to recent statistics from the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council INC (Global Statistical Review 2007-2012, January 2013), over the past seven years, the world value for tree nuts increased by 88% and by 40% for dried fruit, reaching a total supply value of over \$30 billion in 2012.

Nuts and dried fruit are also increasingly being recognized as having undeniable health benefits, with research highlighting their preventive effects on diseases and their potential for fighting hunger.

As a result of the increased international trade in nuts and dried fruit, more and more countries work with UNECE to develop quality standards for trading in these products. Before nuts and dried fruit arrive in international trade and, eventually, on supermarket shelves or in the food supply, they undergo screening, sizing and testing to ensure compliance with quality and food safety regulations. UNECE's standards play a major part in this quality control.

At the sixtieth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce from 17 to 20 June 2013, UNECE will be discussing and reviewing these standards. Delegates are notably expected to review standards on cashew kernels and to adopt a new standard for whole dried chilli peppers.

UNECE will also be holding a unique exhibition where visitors will be able to sample products and learn about production, processing, the health benefits of nuts and dried fruit, cooking recipes, as well as the value of UNECE's nut and dried fruit standards in international trade. □



INVITATION

Discover the world of Nuts and Dried Fruit

Exhibition

UNECE

Nuts and Dried Fruit Standards in International Trade

18 TO 20 June 2013

A UNIQUE EXHIBITION ON OUR WORK AND PRODUCTS

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Salle VIII

Opening 18 June at 9.30

Opening reception 18 June at 18:15

Snack and Learn events

Tuesday and Wednesday at 14:00

- Exhibition: Every day from 18 to 20 June 2013
Salle VIII, Palais des Nations
- Conferences: Snack and Learn: 18 and 19 June 2013 at 14:00
- Tuesday, 18 June 2013: Go nuts for health (Nuts, nutrition and health)
- Wednesday, 19 June 2013: From trees to your table (Behind the scenes – production, science and processing).

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=31890>
or contact Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab at: liliana.annovazzi-jakab@unece.org.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

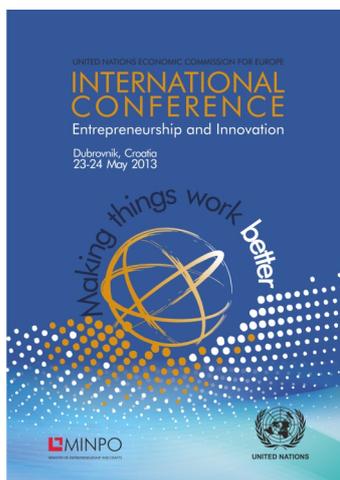
UNECE promotes innovative entrepreneurship in Southeast Europe

Innovation is a key driver of sustainable prosperity, and entrepreneurs are key driving forces behind innovation. To promote innovative entrepreneurship, particularly in Southeast Europe, UNECE and the Croatian Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts jointly organized an international conference on "Innovative Entrepreneurship – Making Things Work Better" in Dubrovnik on 23-24 May 2013.

Some of its key policy messages included:

- The importance of education and awareness initiatives to promote an innovation culture.
- Policy instruments to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation are most often based on the collaboration between the private and the public sector. The policy challenge is how to devise instruments that provide effective support but also do not distort incentives.
- Finance is often a problem but it is not the only problem. Initiatives to address financial issues are more effective when they are integrated into strategies to strengthen the innovation eco-system as a whole.

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- The power of entrepreneurship can be unleashed to address social and environmental issues. Entrepreneurship policies can contribute to achieving policy goals in other areas. Hence the importance of policy coordination.
- Cross-border policy learning (from the success of others but also from their failures) facilitates designing effective policies. But solutions cannot be automatically replicated and each country needs to use international experience in a way that suits its national context.

The conference, which is part of UNECE's program on knowledge-based development in transition economies, brought together over 100 experts from over 30 countries, as well as representatives of UNDP, UNESCO, the European Commission, OECD and OSCE.

In his opening remarks, UNECE Deputy Executive Secretary Andrey Vasilyev identified the policy environment, the innovation competence of research organizations and firms, and the quality of the linkages between them as three key factors determining success in innovation. He called for the transfer of knowledge, experience and best practices across countries in order to reduce the vast differences in the capacity of countries to generate innovations.

On behalf of Croatia, Dijana Bezjak, Deputy Minister of Entrepreneurship and Crafts, said that Croatia shares many of the innovation challenges faced by other EU member countries and beyond. The National Innovation Strategy 2013-2020 aims to orient Croatia's economy towards more knowledge-based activities and to boost productivity and international competitiveness by raising the innovation capacity of Croatian firms, improving the skill profile of the labor force and encouraging the interaction between industry and academia.

In a high-level panel and three sessions, the conference discussed how to effectively link the often disparate policies aimed at promoting entrepreneurship on the one hand, and innovation on the other; how to improve linkages and cooperation between the various innovation actors from the public and private sectors; and innovative social entrepreneurship, i.e. initiatives which bring to bear entrepreneurial approaches on problems which have traditionally been addressed in "non-entrepreneurial" ways either by government agencies or by charities and other NGOs. □

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32036>.

Water Convention

First meeting of the Implementation Committee of the UNECE Water Convention



The Implementation Committee under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) held its first meeting in Geneva on 5 June 2013. The Committee was established by the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Rome, 28–30 November 2012). It consists of nine members elected by the Meeting of the Parties to serve in their personal capacity.

Members of the Committee unanimously elected Attila Tanzi (Italy), Professor of International Law at the University of Bologna as Chair of the Committee, and Saghit Ibatullin (Kazakhstan), Chair of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, as the Committee's Vice-Chair.

The Committee discussed its role and mandate and encouraged Parties to the Water Convention and other stakeholders to come forward and seek its assistance, support and facilitation to address difficulties in implementing the Convention and in order to prevent water-related disputes.

The launch of activities of the Implementation Committee is an important contribution to the International Year of Water Cooperation (2013), declared by the United Nations General Assembly. A unique advisory procedure, which distinguishes this body from other similar mechanisms, enables the Committee to engage with countries seeking to resolve water issues in a non-confrontational manner and also provides opportunities for the involvement of non-Parties in the procedure upon their consent. □

For more information, please visit:
http://www.unece.org/env/water/implementation_committee.html
 or contact Iulia Trombitcaia at:
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Promoting the Protocol on PRTRs in South-Eastern Europe



"The real power of influencing doesn't come from the information you own, but from the information you share", said Michel Amand, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, at the two-day subregional workshop, "Get Your Right to a Healthy Community", held in Sarajevo on 28 and 29 May 2013.

The workshop brought together representatives from national authorities responsible for pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs), chemical and waste management, water, land, air and health, as well as representatives of industry, Aarhus Centres and non-governmental organizations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Israel, Kosovo (United Nations Security Council resolution 1244), Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Also attending were representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and experts working on PRTRs within different countries of the UNECE region.

The workshop promoted the Protocol's implementation and ratification by improving knowledge of its legal, institutional and technical requirements. It also facilitated the provision of more targeted support to the relevant authorities in the region in their efforts to introduce national PRTR systems. Through a range of specific thematic sessions, participants exchanged knowledge and best practices on how better to deal with the implementation of PRTRs at the national level with respect to creating the appropriate institutional and legal framework; managing data and its dissemination; assessing existing capacity-building activities and foreseeing future needs; and promoting public awareness through the active engagement of civil society and Aarhus Centres.

The workshop featured exercises where participants exchanged experiences, identified common capacity needs and explored the potential for bilateral and multilateral cooperation both between countries in the subregion and with other partners from the UNECE region and international agencies. It also demonstrated the need for an enhancement of the role of the Aarhus Centres as nodes for capacity-building activities and awareness-raising on the Protocol in the subregion.

Mirko Sarovic, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, underlined the importance of the Protocol as an expression of the international community's drive to address environmental pollution and strengthen public access to environmental information.

The workshop, which was jointly organized by UNECE and OSCE and hosted by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, reaffirmed the strategic partnership between the two organizations in promoting environmental governance in the UNECE region, and illustrated the great capacity-building potential offered by such synergies. □



For more information, please visit:
http://www.unece.org/prtr_see2013.html.

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