

Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

UNECE Activity Report

UNECE PPP Initiative – Capacity Building International Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Countries in South-East Europe

As part of its capacity building programme, the UNECE Team of Specialists on public-private partnerships (PPP), in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) for South East Europe and the Croatian PPP Centre, organized a subregional PPP capacity building event. The event was attended by some 140 participants representing governments from 10 countries in South-East Europe, and by representatives from the private sector and multilateral agencies. Overall, economies in transition in South-East Europe lack the necessary capacity to implement PPPs effectively. The purpose of the event was twofold: (i) to integrate the region into the UNECE's capacity building programme; and (ii) to develop its own PPP capacity building strategy under the auspices of the RCC and the leadership of the Croatian PPP centre.

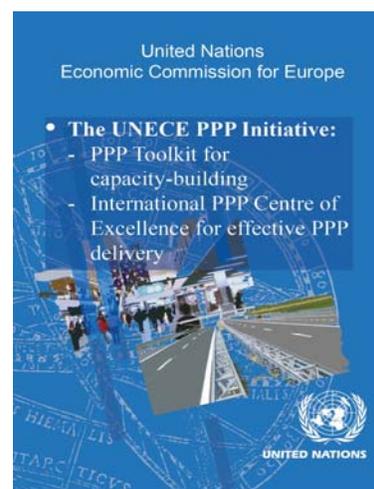
1. UNECE PPP Capacity Building programme

The UNECE – the only UN Regional Commission with an intergovernmental process on PPP with its Team of Specialists on PPP – has developed a PPP Initiative to promote PPP in the UNECE region targeting countries starting to implement PPPs. The Initiative is made up of two components: a PPP Toolkit for capacity building, and the International PPP Centre of Excellence. The Toolkit provides the necessary material for the UNECE's capacity building programme, which will be delivered through the Centre of Excellence. The enabling environment for PPP in SEE requires fine tuning in order to attract the necessary private sector interest to partner the public sector in embarking on a pipeline of PPP projects. For this reason, the PPP national readiness assessment has been developed as part of the Toolkit.

The readiness assessment is essentially a diagnostic tool that rates the country's performance, and it aims to provide an overview of the enabling environment in the country that focuses on the general investment climate and the level of its preparedness to undertake PPPs successfully, while it identifies potential pilot projects. So far, at least five countries in East and South-East Europe (and Central Asia) have expressed interest in undergoing this process, and it is expected that throughout 2011 the readiness assessment will be undertaken in three countries in the region.

2. Elaborating a PPP Strategy for South-East Europe

The challenge in the region is that the majority of countries in South-East Europe are too small to implement PPPs by themselves or to attract the large scale of investment that is required to improve their infrastructure and the quality of their public services. It is thus critical that if the PPP model is to become common place, the countries in question must improve their cooperation by working together, sharing experiences and best practices and also to cooperate on developing projects that can be delivered on a cross border, regional basis. The meeting successfully accomplished the first step: it brought this regional network together. Not only does this mean that these countries will make progress in creating an enabling environment in PPP, but also that organizations such as UNECE will commit to assisting the network to deliver real results in PPPs. To this end representatives from several countries belonging to the network will attend the third session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on PPP in Geneva in April 2011. However, the goal now is to identify some appropriate PPPs that can be developed on a regional basis based on this new found commitment to PPP regional cooperation



Thematic focus	Venue	Date	Total participants
UNECE PPP Initiative	Zagreb, Croatia	7-8 February 2011	140