

Subprogramme 4. Economic cooperation and integration

<i>Implementing entity:</i> ECE, Economic Cooperation and Integration Division		<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
<i>Relationship to the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013:</i> programme 16, subprogramme 4, expected accomplishments (a) and (c)		<i>2008-2009 expenditure</i>	<i>2010-2011 appropriation</i>	<i>2012-2013 estimate</i>
<i>Objective:</i> To strengthen subregional economic cooperation and integration among countries with economies in transition, with special emphasis on those participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).	General temporary assistance	525.3	611.6	632.2
	Consultants	62.6	11.5	3.2
	Travel of staff	73.1	100.1	91.8
	Participants in seminars	39.6	98.0	71.5
	Total	700.6	821.2	798.7
<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Activities/outputs/projects^a</i>		
(a) Enhanced knowledge of best practices and guidelines related to economic integration issues, particularly those covered by SPECA	(a) Percentage of countries assisted that had used information provided by advisory missions 2008-2009: 5 per cent Estimate 2010-2011: 6 per cent Target 2012-2013: 6 per cent	<p>SPECA aims to promote subregional cooperation in Central Asia and facilitate its integration into the world economy. The biggest challenge in this regard is to preserve the status of SPECA as a neutral, impartial and professional United Nations entity for resolving very complex and often highly sensitive issues of subregional economic and environmental cooperation.</p> <p>Given the transboundary nature of these issues, the implementation of the Programme requires the systematic involvement of high-level policymakers who, through the SPECA governing bodies, provide regular strategic guidance to six project working groups, taking into account the strategic priorities and needs of the member countries.</p> <p>Responding to these needs in a timely manner requires an effective resource mobilization strategy, including mobilization of extrabudgetary funding of bilateral and multilateral donors, voluntary financial and in-kind contributions of member States and the use of the Development Account resources, in addition to the regular programme for technical cooperation resources. A significant increase of available resources has been registered and is expected to continue in all three sources of funding.</p> <p>Technical cooperation activities under this subprogramme will be focused on (a) providing policy advice; (b) organizing workshops on issues of regional cooperation covered by SPECA, as well as on financial and regulatory issues dealt with by the subprogramme; (c) providing substantive services to the organization of the SPECA Governing Council and Coordinating Committee meetings, as well as the SPECA Economic Forums; (d) providing technical assistance to regional institutions in areas covered by SPECA; and (e) supporting cross-sectoral activities in areas covered by the subprogramme.</p> <p>To ensure effective delivery of its programme of work, the subprogramme will strengthen cooperation with key partner organizations. Following the decisions by the SPECA Economic Forum and Governing Council, special attention will be paid to strengthening economic cooperation between Central Asia and Afghanistan, in support of stabilization efforts in the latter. To this end, SPECA will establish regular coordination and cooperation with the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan and its secretariat.</p>		
(b) Strengthened regional institutions and regional legal frameworks in areas covered by SPECA	(b) (i) Percentage of countries affirming that capacity-building activities provided by ECE within the SPECA framework increased their effectiveness 2008-2009: 5 per cent Estimate 2010-2011: 6 per cent Target 2012-2013: 6 per cent (ii) Number of regional institutions acknowledging that technical assistance provided under SPECA has contributed to their more effectiveness 2008-2009: 1 Estimate 2010-2011: 3 Target 2012-2013: 5			
(c) Strengthened economic cooperation between Central Asia and Afghanistan	(c) Number of regional cooperation activities of Central Asian countries in which Afghanistan participates within the framework of SPECA 2008-2009: 4 Estimate 2010-2011: 5 Target 2012-2013: 7			

<i>Output summary (participants)</i>				<i>Impact summary</i>
	<i>Actual 2008-2009</i>	<i>Estimate 2010-2011</i>	<i>Estimate 2012- 2013</i>	
Advisory services	9	16	16	<p>During the biennium 2010-2011, the donors' conference for the third Aral Sea basin programme on 9 December 2010 and the high-level meeting of donors and the International Fund for Saving Aral Sea Board (Deputy Prime Ministers) were prepared and organized with the support of the programme on "Dialogue and cooperation on regional water resources management in Central Asia", which had launched a five-year, multi-million dollar programme of action for the improvement of the environmental and socio-economic situation and achievement of sustainable development in the Aral Sea basin.</p> <p>In 2011, the follow-up event of the SPECA Economic Forum to be hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat will offer a suitable framework for the presentation of concrete project proposals and initiatives on strengthening economic cooperation between Central Asia and Afghanistan to be implemented within the SPECA framework.</p> <p>The meetings of governing bodies and regular coordination with partner organizations have enabled ECE to define more clearly the needs of member countries, the exact niche of SPECA among the activities of partner organizations and the areas for joint projects with partner organizations within the United Nations family, as well as key donors.</p>
Seminars/workshops	4 (300)	10 (350)	10 (350)	
Total	13	26	26	

^a Indicative; subject to beneficiary requests.