

Subprogramme 4. Economic Cooperation and Integration

<i>Implementing entity:</i> ECE, Economic Cooperation and Integration Division				Budget Summary (thousands of US dollars) ¹			
<i>Relationship to the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015:</i> Programme 17, Subprogramme 4, Economic Cooperation and Integration, expected accomplishments (a), (b), and (c)				<i>2010-2011 expenditure</i>	<i>2012-2013 appropriation</i>	<i>2014-2015 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)				Other staff costs	555.1	708.1	616.0
				Consultants	27.0	3.6	10.0
				Travel of staff	51.9	93.8	59.0
				Participants in seminars	67.0	80.0	104.5
				Total	701.0	885.5	789.5
<i>Expected accomplishments</i>		<i>Indicators of achievement</i>		<i>Activities/outputs/projects²</i>			
(a) Enhanced knowledge of best practices and guidelines related to economic cooperation and integration issues, particularly those covered by SPECA;		Percentage of countries assisted that had used information provided by advisory missions: <i>2010-2011:</i> 6% <i>Estimate 2012-2013:</i> 72% <i>Target 2014-2015:</i> 85%		The UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia aims to promote sub-regional cooperation in Central Asia and facilitate its integration into the world economy. The main challenge is to preserve the status of SPECA as a neutral, impartial and professional UN umbrella for resolving highly complex and often controversial issues of sub-regional economic and environmental cooperation in this subregion. In light of this, implementation of the Programme requires the systematic involvement of high-level policy-makers, who through the SPECA governing bodies, in particular the SPECA Governing Council, to provide regular strategic guidance to the six Project Working Groups in light of the strategic priorities and needs of the member countries.			
(b) Strengthened regional institutions and regional legal frameworks in areas covered by SPECA		i) Percentage of countries affirming that capacity-building activities provided by UNECE within the SPECA framework contributed to strengthened regional economic cooperation: <i>2010-2011:</i> 6% <i>Estimate 2012-2013:</i> 57% <i>Target 2014-2015:</i> 72%		Responding to these needs in a timely manner requires an effective resource mobilization strategy. This includes mobilization of extra-budgetary funding by bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as financial and in-kind contributions of member countries and the use of DA resources in addition to RPTC resources. Efforts to strengthen SPECA will be focused on increasing ownership of the Programme by its member states through their active participation in decision-making and the funding of activities by Project Working Groups. A relevant decision on further strengthening the Programme is expected to be taken by the Governing Council in 2013.			
		(ii) Number of regional institutions acknowledging that technical assistance provided under SPECA has increased their effectiveness: <i>2010-2011:</i> 3 <i>Estimate 2012-2013:</i> 5 <i>Target 2014-2015:</i> 5		Technical cooperation activities under this subprogramme will focus on (i) providing policy advice (ii) organizing capacity building and policy workshops on issues of regional cooperation covered by SPECA (iii) providing substantive services to the organization of the SPECA Governing Council and Economic Forum meetings (iv) providing technical assistance and advice on institutional and legal reforms to regional institutions in areas covered by SPECA (v) support to cross-sector activities in areas covered by the subprogramme. To ensure effective delivery of its programme of work, the subprogramme will strengthen cooperation with key partner organizations and bilateral and multilateral donors in the subregion. It will develop longer-term partnerships in strategic areas of regional cooperation, primarily the management of water and energy resources.			
<i>Output summary (participants)</i>				<i>Impact summary</i>			
	<i>2010-2011 Actual</i>	<i>2012-2013 Estimate</i>	<i>2014-2015 Estimate</i>	<u>During the 2010-2011 biennium</u> , the capacity of SPECA participating countries to implement international best practices and policy guidelines on regional economic cooperation and integration had increased through projects implemented by the project working groups under the guidance of SPECA governing bodies. Governments of SPECA participating countries as well as regional organizations and institutions implemented a broad range of such policies and undertook concrete steps to strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration. In particular, the Third Aral Sea Basin Program was adopted by the member states of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), and four out of five participating countries expressed their readiness to adopt the draft institutional agreement that would serve as a modern legal basis for IFAS.			
Advisory services	13	16	16				
Seminar/workshops	9 (537)	10 (350)	10 (350)				
Field projects	1	2	2				
Total	23	28	28	<u>During the biennium 2012-2013</u> , the meetings of the SPECA governing bodies and Project Working Groups and regular coordination with partner organizations will enable the UNECE to: a) accurately define the needs of SPECA participating countries; b) improve coordination of activities with relevant partner organizations; c) design and implement projects introducing best practices and policy recommendations and building the capacity of participating countries to implement these practices and recommendations; and d) regularly assess the impact of the SPECA implementation.			

¹ Figures include the Management of Technical Cooperation Activities

² Indicative: subject to beneficiary requests

				<p><u>Anticipated changes in 2012-2013 and 2014-2015:</u> relevant government ministries and agencies, regional organizations and institutions will have adopted and implemented best practices and recommendations on the strengthening regional cooperation and integration promoted through the meetings of governing bodies, economic forums and project working groups of SPECA. SPECA participating states will have adopted a decision on the comprehensive strengthening of the Programme, focused on better governance and more effective project implementation. The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea will have agreed on further steps to strengthen its legal basis and improve its functioning. The process of institutional and legal strengthening of IFAS will have been extended to the management of water and hydro-meteorological information at the regional level. The capacity of Afghanistan to participate in the implementation of best practices and policy recommendations on regional economic cooperation and integration will have been strengthened and the Government will have started actively participating in the work of relevant regional organizations and institutions.</p>
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