



Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for 2025, intersessional implementation plan for 2024-2025, and recommendations of key components of the programme of work for 2026

Draft programme of work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme for 2025

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2025. The Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (“the Committee”) is invited to adopt it and recommend it to the Executive Committee for approval. Any subsequent additional, carried over or terminated deliverables will be reflected in the UN Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – results – objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’ and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent from achieving the objective.
3. The objective, the strategy, the planned results and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 (Sect.20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme will continue to build on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE areas where multiple SDGs converge, including on the high-level themes designated by the Commission sessions. This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement the SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.
4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

I. Objective

5. The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships in the ECE region.

II. Strategy

6. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division.

7. The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of three core interlinked functions in the subprogramme's two areas of work (innovation and competitiveness policies; and public-private partnerships): international policy dialogue; normative and analytical work; and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

8. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a) support member States in creating a conducive business environment by developing good practices to inform innovation policy reforms to drive sustainable development, including through on-demand analyses of national innovation systems, policies and institutions; and through capacity-building workshops and seminars at the national and subregional levels;

(b) build capacity of member States in creating regulatory frameworks and public-private partnership project pipelines that can help to close the SDG infrastructure financing gap, including through:

(i) promotion of innovative modalities of financing, development and management of critical infrastructure;

(ii) development of international guidelines and standards to design public-private partnership projects and legal and regulatory frameworks;

(iii) the use, on-demand, of a methodology to evaluate and score public-private partnership projects in support of sustainable development; and

(iv) cooperation with multilateral platforms for sustainable infrastructure (including SOURCE¹).

(c) focus some of its policy dialogues, analyses and recommendations, standards, and capacity-building on addressing economic challenges through innovation policies and public-private partnership infrastructure projects that can facilitate innovation and develop infrastructure to make economies more resilient and sustainable.

9. This work will help member States make progress towards achieving SDGs 8, 9, 12 and 17 and contribute to enhancing the sustainable use of natural resources, and digital and green transformations for sustainable development.

10. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) improved innovation-related policies and institutions in member States for sustainable development; and

(b) the improved design and operation of public-private partnerships by member States that contribute to sustainable development and lead to more sustainable projects.

III. Planned results for 2025

11. The planned results for 2025 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding programme plans. Result 3 is a new planned result.

¹ SOURCE is the multilateral platform for sustainable infrastructure.

Result 1: Improved capacity of member States in the development of infrastructure projects in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the circular economy

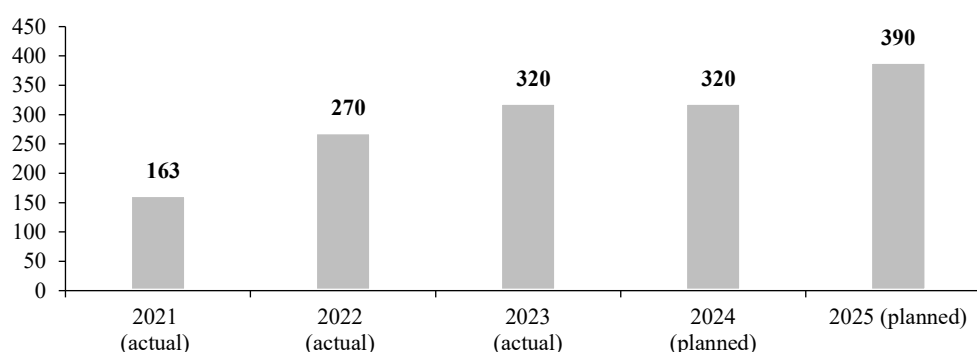
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

12. The subprogramme’s work contributed to 320 policymakers from member States using the ECE standards and guidelines on public-private partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals, which meets the planned target of 300 policymakers.

13. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 1).

Figure 1

Performance measure: number of policymakers from member States that have used the ECE standards and guidelines on public-private partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals to identify and prepare infrastructure projects aligned with the Goals and the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources (cumulative)



Result 2: Member States implement transformative innovation² policies and good practices for sustainable development

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

14. The subprogramme’s work contributed to improving the evidence base for policymaking and to increase the capacity of policymakers to promote transformative innovation as demonstrated by member States endorsing 10 additional good practices on transformative innovation policy, which met the planned target of 10 additional good practices.

15. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 1).

² Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), “Report of the ECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships on its fifteenth session” (ECE/CECI/2022/2, paras. 57 and 69 (Decision 2022 – 5.2)).

Table 1
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Member States endorsed good practices on innovation policies for the circular economy transformation, and noted the need for more policy learning	Member States endorsed the establishment of an ECE transformative innovation network of innovation agencies	Member States endorse an additional 10 good practices on transformative innovation policy	At least 3 member States implement policies and good practices to stimulate transformative innovation for sustainable development	At least 3 additional member States implement policies and good practices to stimulate transformative innovation for sustainable development

Result 3: More PPP infrastructure projects assessed as SDG compliant

Proposed programme plan for 2025

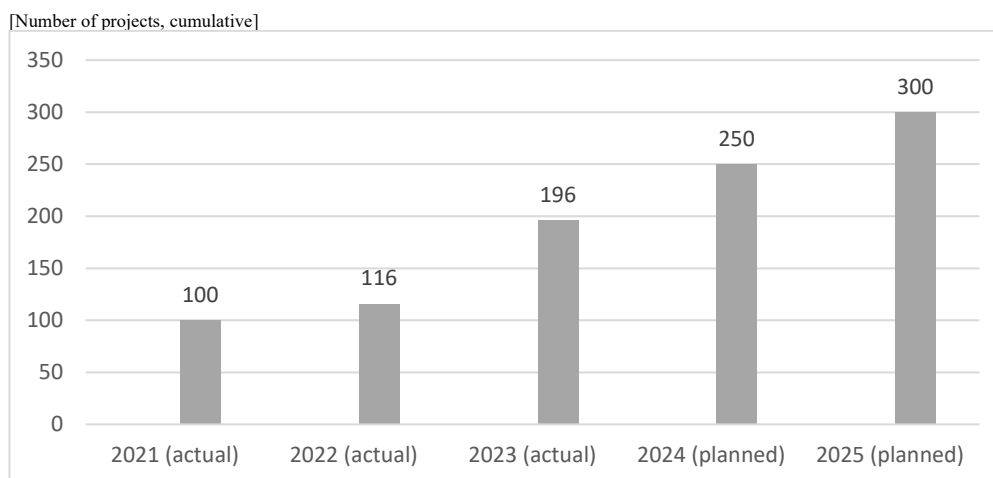
16. Scaling up investment in public infrastructure, and mobilizing private sector finance and expertise can help achieve the 2030 Agenda. The subprogramme has developed a PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS), a methodology for assessing infrastructure PPPs on their contributions to the three pillars of Sustainable Development. The subprogramme is training policy makers and practitioners on using this methodology for self-assessments of PPP projects.³ The self-assessments have helped policy makers to identify and address gaps in the sustainability of PPP projects. The assessments reveal the degree to which proposed projects contribute to increased access and equity, climate resilience, environmental sustainability, economic effectiveness, replicability and stakeholder engagement. The results provide important insights on sustainability gaps and help to improve project proposals. Project proposals assessed so far have covered both economic and social infrastructure (transport, renewable energy and energy efficiency, water and sanitation, healthcare, and education).

Lessons learned and planned change

17. The lesson for the programme was that a thorough self-assessment takes PPP units up to 40 hours, generating delays in project implementation. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will offer to PPP units additional technical assistance aiming to cut the assessment time by 75 percent (see figure 2).

³ Including in land-locked developing countries in Central Asia as called for in the Vienna Programme of Action. See Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 (https://www.un.org/ohrls/sites/www.un.org.ohrls/files/vienna_programme_of_action.pdf).

Figure 2

Performance measure: Number of PPP projects assessed using the PIERS methodology (cumulative)**IV. External factors**

16. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that: (a) there is active participation and contribution by experts from Governments, academia and the private sector to expert group meetings and networks; (b) Governments are willing to engage in policy dialogue and take measures to implement policy recommendations and standards; and (c) extrabudgetary resources for capacity-building, advisory services and field projects are adequate.

V. Deliverables to be implemented in 2025

17. The Table below lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies	
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	18
1. Documentation for the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies	18
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	19
2. Meetings of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies	18
3. Meetings of the Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge	
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	0

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
4. Innovation and competitiveness policies	0
5. Public-private partnerships	0
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	16
6. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on innovation and competitiveness policies for sustainable development	8
7. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on public-private partnerships	8
Publications (number of publications)	3
8. Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews	1
9. Comparative reviews on innovation policy and/or public-private partnership	2
Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions (number of countries)	3
10. Fact-finding missions for Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and public-private partnership needs assessments	3
C. Substantive deliverables	
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services under the Working Party on Public-Private Partnership and the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies reaching 30 government ministries and agencies and stakeholder entities.	
Databases and substantive digital materials: database of public-private partnership case studies from around 15 member States.	
D. Communication deliverables	
External and media relations: press releases and launch events for the above publications for regional, subregional and national access.	
Digital platforms and multimedia content: subprogramme's website for regional access.	

Annex I

Details of proposed publications and promotional material for 2025

A. Publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of a country with economy in transition	GA 70/1 para. 9.5, 17.6 and 80; specific mandate to be provided by the 17th session of CICPPP	Print and electronic	A4	150	E	R (RB)	100E, 100R
2	Handbook on Selected Innovation Policy Issues	GA 70/1 paras. 9.5 and 17.6; specific mandate to be provided by the 17th session of CICPPP	Print and electronic	A4	100	E	R (RB)	100E, 100R
3	Handbook on Selected Innovation Policy Issues	GA 70/1 para. 9.5, 17.6 and 80; specific mandate to be provided by the 17th session of CICPPP	Print and electronic	A4	100	E	R (RB)	100E, 100R

B. Information/promotional materials - none

Annex II

Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/256	New Urban Agenda
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
74/231; 78/162	Development cooperation with middle-income countries

77/181	Women in development
74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/8, 77/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM
75/9, 77/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
75/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
75/213, 76/202, 77/162	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
75/216; 76/204	Disaster Risk Reduction
75/221	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/290 A	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level
75/324	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
77/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
78/167	South-South cooperation

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2023/4	Science, technology and innovation for development

[2023/11](#) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

[A \(64\)](#) The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe

[A \(65\)](#) Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

[A \(66\)](#) Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region

[A \(70\)](#) Economic and social effects of Russia's aggression against Ukraine

[B \(70\)](#) Digital and green transformations in support of the sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe

[D \(70\)](#) Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

[77/320](#) Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets

[76/213](#) Science, technology and innovation for development

[76/224](#) Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners

[77/150](#) Information and communication technologies for sustainable development

[77/155](#) Promoting investments for sustainable development
