7th Session of the SPECA PWG on KBD

Dushanbe, 17 June 2015
Strengthening of SPECA – country responses

• Questionnaire circulated to Permanent Missions of SPECA countries
• Countries agreed thematic scope/priorities of SPECA correspond to needs
• Govts ranked proposed measures to strengthen SPECA ownership
  – Raise level of SPECA focal points in Govts
  – Raise level of participation in sessions of PWGs
  – Raise level of participation at SPECA Governing Council and Economic Forum
  – Change names and TORs of PWGs to reflect role in discussing policy issues
  – Place more strategic issues of regional concern on agenda of Economic Forum and Governing Council
• All countries: SPECA should provide regular input for established UN-wide discussions (e.g. climate change, land-locked countries)
• Support inviting broad group of UN agencies, regional organizations and development partners to support SPECA
Strengthening SPECA – country responses ctd

• Strong support for closer coordination and cooperation between SPECA and CAREC (comprising the ADB, WB, EBRD, IMF, IsDB and UNDP)

• Mixed responses on increased in-kind and financial support to SPECA
  – Most accepted form of support is in-kind support
  – Mixed views on who should make increased financial contributions

• Potential role for monitoring and accountability in post-2015 development agenda. Top 3 potential priorities ranked (in order): trade; transport; innovation and investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, settlements and SMEs.

• Support inclusion of relevant SPECA activities in UN Development Account Frameworks (similar objectives)

• Countries (and possibly regional commissions) could play a more active role in donor coordination
Strengthening SPECA – country responses and next steps

Various additional proposals:

• Strengthen analytical work in areas such as removal of trade barriers, investment promotion, improved transit and business climate

• Participating countries should be more directly involved in development of project proposals and should work more actively with donors to improve funding for project implementation

• Need to increase number of projects implemented in SPECA framework

Next steps:

• Interagency consultations on strengthening SPECA to be held in association with 10\textsuperscript{th} session of SPECA Governing Council and Economic Forum in Dushanbe, November 2015
  – To include UN agencies and other international organisations based in Dushanbe
Activities of SPECA PWG on KBD since its 6th session in Ashgabat (11 June 2014)

Innovation Performance Reviews - implementation

Concept
Demand-driven, participatory policy advisory service (subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources)

Aims
Recommendations and policy options:
• stimulate innovation activity in the country
• enhance innovation capacity
• improve the overall efficiency of the national innovation system

Methods of work
• International team of experts
• Close collaboration with authorities and wide involvement of local experts
Innovation Performance Reviews - Structure

1. Recent economic and innovation performance
2. National innovation system and innovation governance
3. Framework conditions, innovation policies and instruments
4. Knowledge transfer, generation and absorption
5. Economy-science linkages and collaboration in the innovation process
6. Entrepreneurship and the financing of innovative businesses
7. Innovation and international economic integration
Innovation Performance Reviews implementation

Outputs

• Comprehensive assessment of current situation
• Detailed policy recommendations, elaborated in close collaboration with the countries’ public institutions
• Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan carried out 2011-2012
• Recommendations have served as basis for range of capacity-building activities in Kazakhstan including on Regional Innovation Systems, Public Support to Venture Capital, and most recently “Strategy for International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovations and International Technology Transfer: Policies and Practices”, Astana, 29 October 2014
• A number of expressions of interest from other countries for future reviews
Innovation Performance Reviews implementation

Outputs (continued)

• Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan in process.
  • Request from Tajikistan at eighth session UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration in Geneva, February 2014
  • Subsequent fund raising for Review implementation
  • Preliminary fact-finding mission in November 2014 to make contact with innovation stakeholders in Tajikistan
  • Main fact finding mission with UNECE secretariat and team of six international experts in March 2015
  • Peer review in Dushanbe June 2015 to influence final report and policy recommendations
  • Final review - official UN publication in early 2016
  • Launch event and subsequent support to implementation
Other programme implementation since the sixth session

Implementation of the UNECE project “PPP Readiness Assessments in Selected Countries of Central Asia”

• Consultations and dialogue on the PPP Readiness Assessment of Kazakhstan were organized by UNECE and the PPP Centre of Kazakhstan in Astana, Kazakhstan, 9 April 2014.

• PPP Readiness Assessments now completed for Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

• Reports will be available online in English and Russian.

• Experts from SPECA countries contributed to other UNECE events, e.g. ninth session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, Geneva, Switzerland, 12-14 February 2014.
Upcoming activities

• Implementation activities and Innovation Performance Reviews in selected countries of the SPECA region, subject to:
  • Human resources
  • Extra-budgetary funding
• Seventh session of the Team of Specialists on Public-private partnerships (TOS PPP), London, 18 June 2015, held alongside PPP Days 2015
• Ninth session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-private Partnerships, 3-4 September 2015
• Eighth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS ICP), Geneva, 12-13 October 2015
• International Conference on Innovation Strategies for Sustainable Development, Jerusalem, Israel, Nov or Dec 2015
Work Plan 2016-2017

(1) Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments to promote knowledge-based development

- Help develop substantive skills, organizational capacity of institutions
- Promote regional cooperation
- Foster investment in modern infrastructure
- Subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources

Proposed activities:

- Organization of regional capacity-building event on knowledge-based development, possibly alongside PWG on KBD
- Participation of experts from SPECA countries in relevant UNECE events
- Policy advisory services and other events promoting knowledge-based development at the request of Governments of SPECA countries.
Work Plan 2016-2017

(2) Implementation of the UNECE project on innovation performance reviews of selected countries

• To increase the role of innovation in promoting further economic development of the SPECA countries
• Subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources

Proposed activities:
• Undertaking Innovation Performance Reviews and supporting implementation of policy recommendations in selected countries of the SPECA region (envisaged for 2016 and 2017).
Thank you!

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