Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Terms of Reference

Introduction

1. The Draft Outline of the programme of work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) stipulates that a Team of Specialists may be set up to support the implementation of the programme of work in thematic area A. “Strengthening the competitiveness of member States’ economies by promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation” taking into account cross-cutting issues related to innovation and competitiveness.

2. The present document contains draft terms of reference for this Team of Specialists (Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies). CECI may wish to discuss these Terms of Reference and decide on the establishment of the Team of Specialists in question.

Mandate

3. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOSICP) supports the implementation of the parts of the programme of work of CECI related to Thematic area A: “Strengthening the competitiveness of member States’ economies by promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation”. TOSICP addresses issues related to the creation of a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness of ECE member States, with specific focus on transition economies. Its activities aim at facilitating the exchange of experiences gained and lessons learned, as well as of good practices in these areas among ECE member States. In its work, the TOSICP responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of the private sector, consumers, the academic and business communities, and the civil society.

Areas of work

4. To support CECI to achieve its relevant objectives, TOSICP engages in the following activities:

   (a) Exchange of experience gained, knowledge sharing and consultations in establishing effective organizational models of innovative development and competitiveness and of the channels through which the results of technological development and innovation diffuse in the modern economy and their role in national economic development and competitiveness.

   (b) Organisation of an expert meeting on good practices in organizational models facilitating the generation and diffusion of innovation.
(c) Preparation of a synopsis of good practices in facilitating the generation and diffusion of innovation, to be discussed and approved by CECI.

(d) Supporting the broad dissemination of good practices in facilitating the generation and diffusion of innovation.

(e) Exchange of experience gained in government policies facilitating technological development and innovation.

(f) Organisation of an expert meeting on Innovation and competitiveness policies in the ECE region: good practices and challenges.

(g) Preparation of a Synopsis of policy options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development, to be discussed and approved by CECI.

(h) Supporting the broad dissemination of good practices in policies options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development.

(i) Subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, subsequent technical assistance and capacity-building on related issues could in requesting transition economies.

Membership

5. TOSICP comprises Government experts, as well as experts from relevant research and academic institutions, the business community and NGOs. National experts are nominated through the respective government authorities responsible for cooperation with CECI. In accordance with UN procedures, TOSICP is open for participation of other experts from intergovernmental organizations, national and international business and research institutions and associations, who wish to contribute to the implementation of its work plan.

Modalities of operation

6. TOSICP operates in accordance with the guidelines for the Establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within the UNECE (ECE/EX/2006/L.3).

7. TOSICP is established for a period of two years with a possibility of extension if so decided by CECI. CECI modifies the Terms of Reference of TOSIC as may be required.

8. Secretariat support to TOSICP is provided by the UNECE Secretariat.

9. TOSICP develops its plan of work and reports to the annual session of the Committee on its implementation. At the end of the period, for which it has been established, the team submits a full report on its accomplishments to the Committee.

10. Expenses associated with the implementation of TOSICP’s plan of work are supported through extra-budgetary contributions of member-States and other stakeholders to be provided, managed and used in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.