



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

#### Tenth session

Geneva, 23-25 May 2016

Item 8 (b) of the agenda

#### Intersessional Activities for 2016-2017

## Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2016-2017

### I. Introduction

1. The present document is based on the programme of work of the Committee for 2016-2017 (ECE/CECI/2015/9). It provides additional information on activities planned and proposed for the period between the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Committee. To facilitate discussion, this document presents activities grouped by the main thematic areas covered by the Committee, i.e. Innovation and Competitiveness, and Public-Private Partnerships.

2. The plans and proposals reflect demand expressed by member States as well as the resources available to the Secretariat at the time of writing. Delegates are invited to bring additional proposals and requests to the Session.

### II. Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

3. The tenth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held at Geneva on 16-17 October 2016. As part of the session, an international policy conference will provide an opportunity for experts from across the UNECE region to exchange experiences on innovation policy. The bureau of the Team will decide on the specific topic in consultation with the Team members. The tenth session will decide on the date for the eleventh session to be held in 2017.

4. The Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan has been completed and is currently being translated into Russian. A launch event will be organized in Dushanbe back-to-back with a follow-up policy advisory mission in 2016.

5. The new Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus (following the Innovation Performance Review carried out in 2010-2011) will be completed in the third quarter of 2016. It will then be published, translated into Russian and launched in the

country in early 2017. This Review will describe changes in the five years since the first review, will identify additional options for improving innovation performance and will, for the first time, analyze the role of innovation in achieving the country's sustainable development priorities.

6. Expressions of interest for Innovation Performance Reviews have also been received from Azerbaijan and the Kyrgyzstan. Kazakhstan has expressed interest in a second-round review. The sequencing and timing of these reviews will depend on the availability of extra-budgetary resources. Preparatory missions, a fact finding missions, a peer reviews and launch events will be organized accordingly in 2017.

7. Together with the respective national counter-parts from the Reviews, policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of policy recommendations will be held in follow-up to the Innovation Performance Reviews of Kazakhstan in June and in Armenia and Ukraine after the summer break. Similar events will be organized in 2017 subject to demand from member States and available resources.

8. A high-level international conference on "Laying the foundation in the ECE region for greater integration, economic development and achievement of the sustainable development goals" will be organized jointly with the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and with the Government of Belarus in Minsk in the third quarter of 2016. The conference will provide input to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary session of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2017.

9. An event on innovative entrepreneurship will be organized together with the Government of Israel in late 2016. Dates and venue to be confirmed.

10. An official UN publication on Closing Innovation Adoption Gaps will be published at the end of 2016 based on the results of the substantive segment of the 2015 session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies. A similar publication will be developed in 2017 based on the 2016 meeting of the same body.

### **III. Public-private Partnerships**

11. The focus of the work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is on developing international PPP standards and best practices in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementing their standards and best practices in countries through demand-driven national, regional, and international capacity-building activities as well as through policy advisory services carried out by the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board.

12. The following meetings of the Business Advisory Board (BAB) with senior policy makers in member States are planned in the coming months. Additional BAB meetings will be organized, both in 2016 and 2017, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary resources:

- i. Tbilisi, Georgia, June 2016
- ii. Chisinau, Moldova, June 2016
- iii. Brasilia, Brazil, July 2016

13. Capacity-building workshops will be organized in Shenzhen, China in August and in Sochi, Russian Federation in October 2016. Additional workshops will be organized, both in 2016 and 2017, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

14. Two PPP Forums will be held, to further advance the work on international PPP standards, one in Geneva, Switzerland, on 30 March-1 April 2016, and one in Qingdao China in July 2016.
  15. International standards on PPPs in health policy, in water and sanitation, in renewable energy, and in transport (roads, rail, ports and airports) will be finalized during 2016 and 2017.
  16. The next session of the Team of Specialists on PPPs will be held in Geneva on 27-28 October 2016.
  17. The UNECE Guidelines on Principles of Good Governance in PPPs will be revised in the second quarter of 2016, in order to address the need to accommodate sustainable development priorities. .
  18. A publication on the proceedings of an International Conference on PPPs in Water and Sanitation, where a number of case studies were presented from the UNECE region and beyond, will be published in the third quarter of 2016.
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