



**Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships
Thirteenth Session**

**Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XII
25-26 March 2019**

Substantive Segment - International Policy Conference on

**“Making a Difference - Measuring and understanding the impact of
innovation policies and PPP projects on achieving the sustainable
development goals”**

Both innovation and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are central means of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. PPPs are needed to close the infrastructure investment gap, which far exceeds the fiscal, technical, and administrative capacities of Governments in low and middle-income countries. Innovation is needed to drive and sustain inclusive economic growth within planetary boundaries.

The UNECE Working Party on PPPs has developed Guiding Principles on People First PPPs, which outline how sustainable development considerations, including environmental sustainability and social inclusion, can be incorporated into the planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of PPP projects alongside standard value-for-money criteria. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies has developed good practices on selected innovation policies for sustainable development and is in the process of formulating Innovation Policy Principles on this basis.

These good practices and principles will make a difference only if they are translated into the design, implementation, and evaluation of national innovation and PPP policies, programmes, and projects in line with national sustainable development priorities. To successfully apply these good practices and principles, Governments need the data and tools to measure how current and prospective innovation policies and infrastructure projects affect their national sustainable development priorities – as well as the capacities to understand the results and translate the insights into necessary reforms through evidence-based policy-making.

Making these measurement methodologies operational will create real incentives and mechanisms by which Governments and the private sector can show that they are making a difference and are contributing to the SDGs.

The international policy conference will explore, through peer learning, good practice sharing, and policy recommendations, issues around and approaches to assessing, ex ante and ex post, the impact of innovation policies and of PPP projects on national sustainable development priorities.

Monday, 25 March 2019

15:30 - 16:45 Session 1: Are we making a difference? – Why we need to measure the sustainable development impact of innovation policies and PPP projects

a. PPPs have been identified as a vehicle by which massive investments can be generated into high quality infrastructure to help achieve the 2030 Agenda. However, not all PPPs are fit for purpose for the SDGs. To date, being compliant with the SDGs is often calculated in terms of the specific SDGs and the number to which the project seemingly contributes - not a very satisfactory way of measuring impact. The panel will address the lack of real evidence on the impact of PPP projects on sustainable development, and the urgency to develop a proper methodology for scoring projects against SDG outcomes in order to differentiate those that are compliant with the Goals from the rest. Such a methodology is needed to encourage policy makers, private companies, banks and other lenders to implement the People-first approach to PPP.

b. Innovation is a central driver for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. There are many cases of successful innovations that have made a difference to sustainable development. But all too often, these successes remain isolated examples rather than being replicated broadly. One reason is that traditional approaches to policy evaluation often ignore sustainable development aspects. The panel will discuss the potential impact of taking a genuine, comprehensive sustainable development perspective in monitoring and evaluating innovation policies.

Moderator: Mr. James Stewart, Vice Chair, Head of Brexit and Industrial Strategy, KPMG, UK

Speakers

- Ms. María José Romero, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Publicly-backed private finance, European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)
- Mr. Rafael Perez, International Operations Director, FCC-Aqualia, Spain
- Mr. Raymond Saner, Director, Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development, Switzerland

- Mr. Salvatore Zecchini, University Tor Vergata, Italy, and chairman, UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies
- Mr. Angel Gonzalez, Chief, Science, Technology and ICT Branch Division on Technology and Logistics, UN Conference on Trade and Development

16:45 - 18:00 Session 2: Existing schemes for evaluating innovation policies and scoring PPP projects – Impacts, challenges and key lessons

a. There is considerable international experience on evaluating innovation policies. But

¹ As of 22 March 2019

traditional approaches have usually focused on economic aspects. The panel will showcase existing experiences and will discuss key lessons in terms of which factors determine whether an innovation policy contributes to sustainable development. It will also discuss the strengths and weaknesses of existing assessment methodologies, whether they are fit for purpose, and whether they can be replicated elsewhere.

b. Most investors have the economic and financial metrics (e.g. rate of return) required to evaluate the economic viability of infrastructure projects, but lack adequate tools to measure social and environmental impacts. A number of organizations and international bodies have started developing such tools. The panel will explore the extent to which existing methodologies mainstream SDG requirements in assessing the impact of PPPs across the projects cycle, from design to procurement and implementation. It will review the impacts that these models have had, the issues identified, and the key lessons learnt from these experiences.

Moderator: Alena Dadzerkina, Senior advisor to the Minister, Ministry of transport and communication of the republic of Belarus

Speakers

- Mr. Andrea Bellucci, Directorate Growth and Innovation, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Mr. Olzhas Bylialov, Deputy Director, Center for Technology Transfer, Kazakhstan

- Mr. Pablo Nunez, Director, Investor Relations, Global Infrastructure Basel, Switzerland
- Ms. Oshani Perera, Director, Public Procurement and Infrastructure Finance Programme, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Switzerland.
- Ms. Melissa Peneycad, Director, Sustainable Projects, Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, USA

Tuesday, 26 March 2019

10:00 - 11:30 Session 3: A better way? UNECE's work on innovation policy assessments and the People- first PPP Impact Assessment Tool

a. UNECE is in the process of developing the People-first PPP Impact Assessment Tool to score PPP projects against the SDGs. The main features and outcomes expected from this initiative will be presented at this panel, which will debate whether the tool is fit for purpose and addresses the issues and weaknesses identified in existing methodologies. The panel will look at whether the tool can help unlock the financing sources – including impact investing - required to scale up the People-first PPP model and make existing PPP approaches lead to positive, measurable, intentional and tangible SDG impacts.

b. The panel will discuss, in light of international experience, how the challenges of assessing not only the economic but also the social and environmental aspects of innovation policies can be addressed and how UNECE can contribute to this effort.

Moderator: Ms. Sedef Yavuz Noyan, Head of PPP Department, Strategy and Budget Office, Presidency of Turkish Republic, Turkey

Speakers

- Ms. Christel Alvergne, Regional Advisor for the Local Development Finance Practice and Regional Coordinator for West and central Africa, United Nations Capital Development Fund, Senegal
- Mr. Miquel Rodríguez, Manager, Specialist Centre on PPPs in Smart and Sustainable Cities, Spain
- Mr. Richard Ornitz, Chairman, Infralinx Capital, USA
- Mr. Pedro Neves, Managing Partner, Global Solutions 4U, Portugal
- Mr. Gavin Munro, Head of Infrastructure Finance for Asia Pacific, Société Générale, Hong Kong/China

- Mr Jorge Moreno, Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- Mr. Stefano Firpo, Director General Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and SMEs, Ministry of Economy, Italy

11:30 - 13:00 Session 4: From assessment to impact – How to make sure that innovation policy assessments and UNECE’s PPP Impact Assessment Tool make a difference?

a. The ultimate goal of any policy evaluation must be to scale up what works and to phase out or reform what does not. If the policy evaluation does not lead to real resources being re-allocated, it will not have a tangible impact. The panel will discuss, in light of international experience, how to make sure that innovation policy assessments do indeed have a tangible impact in this sense.

b. The panel will raise the question of how to operationalize the People-first PPP Impact Assessment Tool. It will discuss the challenges that are likely to arise at global, country and project level, and will consider the key requirements for an effective roll-out of such a tool. These requirements include, amongst other factors, a broad multi-stakeholder validation process and the possible setting up of a certification mechanism for SDG-compliant PPPs that would create a “virtuous cycle” by which monies raised from the certification scheme could be recycled into a highly beneficial PPP capacity budding programme for member States and Governments.

Moderator: Mr Stefano Firpo, Head of Industrial Policy, Ministry of Economics, Italy

Speakers

- Mr. Göran Marklund, Deputy Director General, Vinnova, Sweden
- Ms Carolien van Brunschot, Manager, Circular Economy, World Business Council on Sustainable Development

- Ms. Irina Zapatrina, Chairwoman, PPP Development Center, Ukraine
- Ms. Beatrice Florah Ikilai, Team Leader, PPP Unit, Ministry of Finance, Uganda
- Ms. Amanda Loeffen, Director General, WaterLex International

End of the Substantive Segment

Registration

Participation is free of charge. To register online, please click [here](#).

The conference is the substantive segment of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships. The Committee is an intergovernmental body promoting knowledge sharing, network-building, good practices and standards leading to better innovation policies and PPP projects. Please visit our [website](#) to find out more about our activities and publications.

Entrance and accreditation (see map overleaf)

Meeting participants need to pick up their security badges at the Pregny Gate. Please bring the registration form with you. With a valid piece of identity and the security badge you will receive at the Pregny Gate, entry will also be possible subsequently through the Place of Nations Gate.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation English-French-Russian will be provided throughout the conference.

Conference Venue

The [Palais des Nations](#) is an outstanding testimony to twentieth century architecture, situated in a beautiful park overlooking Lake Geneva, with a splendid view of the Alps.



Accommodation

Geneva is the world's leading international conference center. There is a large choice of hotels of all categories. However, hotels can fill up quickly during peak times, so it is a good idea to book early. The Geneva Tourist Office maintains a [search engine](#).

Geneva

Birthplace of the Red Cross movement and seat of the European headquarters of the United Nations, Geneva's exceptional history and international vocation make it a cosmopolitan and lively city. Geneva is uniquely set on the shores of Western Europe's largest lake with a magnificent view of Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in Western Europe.



Getting there

Geneva International Airport is located about 6 km from the Palais des Nations. Taxis are readily available. There are also free public transport tickets available from a machine in the luggage collection area (on the left hand side just before passing customs). Bus 28 goes from the airport to the Pregny Gate entrance (“Appia” stop), which is the point of entry for conference participants.

Moving around

Details on public transport links can be found in the website of Transports Publics Genevois, which includes a useful route planner in English.

For further information, please contact:

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ICRC/CICR
(Red Cross)



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Monday - Friday

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ENTRANCE AND ACCREDITATION
BUILDING

"APPIA"



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(Porte S1)
Diplomatic Store
"SAFI"

Batiment A
(Porte A11)
Salle III & V
Salle VI-XII, XV

Batiment A
(Porte A14)
Assembly Hall
Salle XVI

BUSES:
Numbers: 8, 28, F, V and Z **stop**
at Appia

Numbers: 5, 8, 11, 22, 28, F, V,
Z. **stop at Nations**

TRAM: 15 **stop at Nations**

Batiment E
(Porte E40)
Salle XVII - XXVII

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Entry with valid UN badge

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Salle S1, S3, S4, S5

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