



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

#### Thirteenth session

Geneva, 25-27 March 2019

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

#### Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2019-2020

## Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2019-2020

### Note by the Secretariat

#### I. Introduction

1. The present document is based on the programme of work of the Committee for 2018-2019 (ECE/CECI/2017/6). It provides additional information on activities planned and proposed for the period between the thirteenth and fourteenth 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

##### *Events*

3. The twelfth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held in Geneva on 6-7 November 2019. As part of the session, an international policy conference will provide an opportunity for experts from across the ECE 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 twelfth session will decide on the date for the thirteenth session to be held in 2020.

4. The 2019 session of the Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) will be organized

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together with UNESCAP. A policy conference will be organised back-to-back with the session. The precise location and date remain to be decided.

#### ***National Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews***

5. In response to a request from the Government of Georgia, a national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review will be carried out.

6. A methodological guide on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews will be prepared based on expert consultations within the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.

#### ***Innovation Policy Outlook***

7. A pilot sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook will be prepared in close cooperation with participating Governments.

#### ***Innovation Policy Principles and Strategy***

8. A task force convened by the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will develop draft high-level policy principles on selected aspects of innovation for sustainable development. A broad multi-stakeholder consultation process will be initiated.

9. The SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development will be finalized for adoption by the SPECA Governing Council.

#### ***Capacity building***

10. Two capacity-building workshops will be organized together with the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus to support the country in implementing policy recommendations from the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus.

11. A regional training seminar on innovation policy will be organized together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva back-to-back with the thirteenth session of the Committee.

12. A regional training seminar on selected aspects of innovation policy will be organized jointly with UNCTAD and other interested UN agencies in the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development in the fourth quarter of 2019.

13. An event on science parks in the Russian Federation will be organized for policy makers and practitioners from CIS countries.

14. A sub-regional training on technology transfer will be organized together with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

15. The Team of Specialists will contribute substantively to the 2019 session of the Economic Commission for Europe.

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

16. The focus of the work on PPPs is on developing international PPP standards, recommendations and best practices in support of the SDGs and implementing them in countries through demand-driven national, regional, and international capacity-building activities.

**Events**

17. The third session of the Working Party on PPPs will be held in Geneva on 3-4 December 2019;
18. The fourth edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum will be organised in Geneva on 7-9 May 2019;
19. The second PPP dialogue for Belt and Road countries will be organised in Geneva in 2019, subject to extrabudgetary resources; and
20. Regular coordination meetings of the network of the International PPP Specialist Centres of Excellence affiliated to the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence will take place in 2019.

**Standards, recommendations and guidelines**

21. International standards on PPPs in health policy, in water and sanitation and in urban rail will be finalized during 2019;
22. Work on the model concession/PPP law will be advanced in 2019. This work is undertaken in cooperation with UNCITRAL and EBRD; and
23. The guidelines on PPPs in waste to energy projects will be finalised in 2019.

**Capacity building**

24. A regional PPP capacity-building workshop will be organised in Kazan, the Russian Federation in 2019;
25. A number of policy advisory and capacity building activities will be held in 2019 in CIS countries on formulating and implementing national PPP policy frameworks to promote PPPs as tools to achieve the SDGs. These activities are part of the extrabudgetary project “Strengthening the capacity of CIS countries to advance their use of PPPs to achieve the SDGs” financed by the Russian Federation; and
26. A capacity building initiative for countries within the Belt and Road initiative, based on three pillars of cooperation (policy dialogue, national capacity-building and transformational projects) will be implemented in 2019 subject to extrabudgetary resources.

**People-first Projects**

27. An evaluation methodology as an implementation tool to score infrastructure projects against the people-first PPP criteria will to be developed by a Project Team in 2019; and
  28. The campaign to reach 500 people-first PPP case studies will continue to be promoted, and additional case studies will be collected and presented at the fourth UNECE International PPP Forum in Geneva on 7-9 May 2019.
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