

UNECE Information Sheet

Mission statement

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was established in 1947, to promote economic cooperation and integration through:

- policy dialogue,
- development of international legal instruments regulations and setting norms and standards,
- exchange of best practices and lessons learned,
- technical cooperation with countries with economies in transition
- support to the efforts of the countries with economies in transition to achieve the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The UNECE region includes 56 countries located in Europe, North America and Central Asia. While the majority of countries are high income developed countries which are fully integrated in the world economy, there remains a number of countries which have not yet completed their transition to market economy and remain marginalized in the global development process. These countries with economies in transition are major beneficiaries of the UNECE technical assistance funded from the RPTC.

UNECE Technical Cooperation Activities

The UNECE technical cooperation activities form an integral part of the work of the Commission and are aimed at improving the national capacity of member states to implement the UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards as a means of their integration in the region and the world economy. All UNECE technical cooperation activities have a strong regional/subregional dimension and seek to provide common solutions to transboundary problems.

Areas of UNECE Technical Cooperation Activities

The following are the areas of the UNECE technical cooperation activities:

Environment

- (a) Improving transboundary environmental and water management in the ECE region
- (b) Improving transboundary environmental and water management in Central Asia
- (c) Improving transboundary environmental and water management in South-Eastern Europe

In recent years, ECE provided advisory services and carried out consultations on the development and implementation of projects under the Transboundary water facilities in Chu and Talas Rivers in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, on the improvement of the collective

management of water and related resources on the Dniester river basin in Moldova and Ukraine, and on dam safety in Central Asian countries. The most recent Environmental Performance Reviews have been carried out in Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia.

Transport

- (a) Enhancing national capacity to implement ECE legal and regulatory framework for international land transport, infrastructure and services, border-crossing facilitation and transport of dangerous goods
- (b) Strengthening regional cooperation on transit transport development in the South Caucasus and Central Asia
- (c) Strengthening national legal and regulatory framework on road safety in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

For example, the UNECE provided advisory services on the implementation of the ECE legal instruments on transport and border crossing in the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Statistics

- a) Increasing timeliness, comparability, completeness and reliability of macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics and of the Millennium Development Goal indicators in the economically less developed subregions of the ECE area
- (b) Improving implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the statistical legislation and the institutional structures of national statistical systems in the economically less developed subregions of the ECE area

In recent years, the UNECE provided advisory services on strengthening the capacity of the National Statistical Systems in gathering data and disseminating statistics for the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine

Economic cooperation and integration

- (a) Enhancing knowledge of best practices and guidelines related to economic integration issues, particularly those covered by SPECA
- (b) Enhancing national capabilities to develop regional responses to the compound food-water-energy crisis in Central Asia
- (c) Strengthening regional institutions and regional legal frameworks in areas covered by SPECA

UNECE provides support to the organization of the annual sessions of the SPECA Economic Forum and SPECA Governing Council, as well as their six Project Working Groups

Sustainable energy

- (a) Enhancing capacity of experts in countries with economies in transition to implement international and ECE recommendations on sustainable energy development
- (b) Improving energy conservation and efficiency across the ECE region, especially in a reduction of energy related environmental impacts, including the formation of energy efficiency markets in economies in transition

For example, the UNECE provided advisory services for the development, financing and implementation of projects in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy which have benefited a number of countries Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as countries of Central Asia.

Trade

- (a) Enhancing national capacity to implement trade facilitation techniques and measures using UNECE and other international standards, recommendations and best practices
- (b) Strengthening capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and promote regional trade integration
- (c) Enhancing national capacities to promote and implement policies, strategies and mechanisms supporting trade facilitation and economic integration in South-Eastern countries

UNECE carries out capacity building activities to implement its trade facilitation standards and recommendations, including Single Window/Data Requirement Harmonization, as well as the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade in the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Bosnia -Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Focal Point:

Zamira Eshmambetova, Director, Technical Cooperation Unit

Email: zamira.eshmambetova@unece.org

Tel. 41 (0) 22 917 2492

Fax 41 (0) 22 917 0309