

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

115th Meeting
Geneva, 5 March 2021

Item 10

Informal Document No. **2020/44/Rev.1**

Extrabudgetary project

Strengthening national capacities of the UNECE member States to design and implement People-first sustainable Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure along the Euro-Asian Connectivity Strategy

Note by the secretariat

1. On 5 October 2020, the 111th meeting of the Executive Committee considered the extrabudgetary project *Strengthening national capacities of Governments in CIS countries along the Belt and Road initiative to design and implement People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure*, as contained in informal document [2020/44](#).
2. Some delegations sought clarifications related to the proposal (for reference, please see Chair's conclusion, [EXCOM/CONCLU/111](#), paras 41–43).
3. Having addressed the issues raised, the secretariat is presenting to the 115th meeting of EXCOM, for consideration and approval, informal document 2020/44/Rev.1, entitled "*Strengthening national capacities of the UNECE member States to design and implement People-first sustainable Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure along the Euro-Asian Connectivity Strategy*".
4. Once EXCOM has pronounced on the revised proposal, the secretariat will seek approval of the revisions by the Steering Committee of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund.

Draft decision

The Executive Committee approves 2020/44/Rev.1 and requests the secretariat to provide an update once the revisions have been further considered by the Steering Committee of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund.

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Project title: Strengthening national capacities of the UNECE member States to design and implement People-first sustainable Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure along the Euro-Asian Connectivity Strategy | | |
| Expected timing/ duration: April 2021 - August 2024 | | |
| <p>Objective and brief summary of the project: The UNECE has developed guidelines, recommendations, tools and standards on People-first PPPs, which will be used to offer guidance to public officials from lead and line ministries and national authorities in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine on best practice in relation to the development and implementation of People-first PPP projects that respond to the needs of all citizens, leaving no one behind. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities of the UNECE member States to design and implement People-first PPPs in infrastructure in support of the Euro-Asian Connectivity Strategy (as discussed in ASEM Ministerial Meeting, Brussels, 18-19 October 2018) or the Euro-Asian Transport Links. The project includes the following components:</p> <p>(i) comprehensive capacity building in selected countries to address the weaknesses in the public sector (e.g. lack of basic skills, institutions and barriers in legislation). The capacity building will focus namely on the UNECE People-first PPP approach (e.g. People-first PPP guiding principles, PPP standards, including the zero-tolerance approach to corruption in PPP procurement etc.) and will help the beneficiary countries to develop national PPP strategies and/or legislation;</p> <p>(ii) an international policy dialogue along the Euro-Asian Connectivity Strategy, to build consensus around developing new, high valued projects compliant with the SDGs and fully implementing the UNECE standard on a zero-tolerance approach to corruption in PPP procurement;</p> <p>(iii) technical assistance to the beneficiary countries in developing national PPP projects within their strategies, including possible institutional arrangements for their transparent and efficient implementation. The assistance will namely support the beneficiary countries in promoting the People-first approach to infrastructure projects.</p> <p>The objective of the project will be achieved by implementing the following activities:</p> <p>A1.1. Organizing 3 international PPP dialogues for national stakeholders in countries to present the benefits of the People-first PPP projects as a solution to common infrastructure challenges;</p> <p>A1.2. Providing technical assistance in identifying and assessing up to 10 projects in the 4 beneficiary countries focusing on the alignment of these projects with the People-first PPP approach, norms and standards, including a zero-tolerance approach to corruption.</p> <p>A2.1. Preparing 4 needs assessment reports in beneficiary countries with action plans to remove barriers in the enabling environment and mobilize local and international private sector into their infrastructure projects in order to deliver People-first PPPs;</p> <p>A2.2. Implementing the action plans in the 4 beneficiary countries (will include capacity building activities, advisory missions, coaching etc.).</p> <p>This project and its activities are included in the Intersessional Implementation Plan 2020-2021 of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (see online ECE/CECI/2020/INF.2 <u>http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2020/PPP/WP/ECE_CECI_2020_INF.2-en.pdf</u>). The project contributes to the achievement of SDGs 9 and 17.</p> | | |
| Expected results of the project: | | |
| EA1. Enhanced capacities of countries along the Euro-Asian Connectivity Strategy on the development of People-first PPP projects and improved institutional arrangements to prevent corruption in PPP projects; | | |
| EA2. Improved enabling environment and project development capabilities, as well as institutional arrangements in beneficiary countries to design and implement People-first PPP projects. | | |
| Target group and beneficiaries of the project: | | |
| The target group are senior officials from the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, the line ministries, experts from the business community, civil society, international organisations, academia and financial institutions. Beneficiary countries are Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Other countries from the UNECE region would also benefit from participating in the International PPP dialogues under activity 1.1. | | |
| Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work: | | |
| The project directly contributes to the objective of the Subprogramme 4 “Economic Cooperation and Integration” “to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships policies in the ECE region” of the UNECE project budget for 2021. | | |
| Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff): | | |
| 1.5 months P4/RB; 1.5 months P2/RB; 2months G6/ RB. | | |
| Estimated extra budgetary resources: | | |
| Donor | Amount (US\$) | |
| UN Peace and Development Fund | 1,090,000 | |
| Project Manager: Tony Bonnici 22.02.2021 | Section/Division: Cooperation and Partnerships Section Economic Cooperation and Trade Division | |
| Cleared by Programme Management Unit: Nicolas Dath-Baron Officer-in-charge 22.02.2021 | Approved by EXCOM¹ | 05.03.2021 |

¹ See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

Annex
Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project

| Expected Accomplishments | Planned activities | Estimated costs (US\$) |
|---|--|--|
| EA1. Enhanced capacities of countries along the Euro-Asian Connectivity Strategy on the development of People-first PPPs projects | A1.1. Organizing 3 international PPP dialogues for national stakeholders in countries to present the benefits of the People-first PPP projects as a solution to common infrastructure challenges. Travel of participants x 30 missions x \$2,536 6 international consultants to provide substantive support for the sessions (prepare background papers, concept notes and agendas) and/or to moderate high-level sessions x \$6,000 Contractual services (interpretation) x 3 x \$5,484 Temporary professional staff (at P3/P4 level) to coordinate the project and organise the dialogues x 6 months x \$14,900 average | 217,932 76,080 36,000 16,452 89,400 |
| | A1.2. Providing technical assistance in identifying and assessing up to 10 projects in countries with a broad geographical distribution focusing on the alignment of these projects with the People-first PPP approach, norms and standards, 4 International consultants to contribute to the identification and development of 10 People-first PPP projects x 2 months x \$6,000 per month Travel of experts/consultants x 8 missions x \$2,800* Travel of staff x 8 missions x \$2,988* Temporary professional staff (at P3/P4 level) to coordinate the project and the work on the 10 projects x 4 months x \$14,900 average The technical assistance will include exchange of best practices with established experts from the Working Party on PPP, in particular governmental, as well as other experts including from the Centres of Excellence. This activity will be undertaken in conjunction with activity 2.2. * Some of the travel budget might be used to cover costs of online platforms and coordination to enable remote participation and interpretation for virtual capacity building activities. | 153,904 48,000 22,400 23,904 59,600 |
| EA2. Improved enabling environment and project development capabilities, as well as institutional arrangements in beneficiary countries to design and implement People-first PPP projects | A2.1. Preparing 4 needs assessment reports in beneficiary countries with action plans to remove barriers in the enabling environment and mobilize local and international private sector into their infrastructure projects in order to deliver People-first PPPs. 4 international/national consultants to prepare the assessment reports x \$10,000 Travel of consultants/experts to hold meetings with national stakeholders and prepare the assessment reports x 4 missions x \$3,000* Travel of staff to organise and participate in meetings with national stakeholders x 4 missions x \$3,188* Contractual services (Russian/English interpretation and translation costs) x 4 x \$3,355 Temporary professional staff (at P3/P4 level) to coordinate the project and the assessments reports x 6 months x \$14,900 * Some of the travel budget might be used to cover costs of online platforms and coordination to enable remote participation and interpretation for virtual capacity building activities. | 167,572 40,000 12,000 12,752 13,420 89,400 |
| | A2.2. Implementing the action plans in the 4 beneficiary countries (this will include capacity building activities, advisory missions, coaching, etc.) International/national consultants to provide advisory services to beneficiary countries to address challenges in the enabling environment and contribute to the implementation of the action plans (with a strong focus on implementing the UNECE People-first PPP legislative provisions into national PPP legal and regulatory frameworks) x 8 months x \$6,000 per month International/national consultants to provide specialised training to staff in PPP units on project preparation and institutional capacity x 8 months x \$6,000 per month 4 international/national consultants to provide specialised training to senior policy makers and public officials on the benefits of People-first PPPs x 1-month x \$6,000 per month Travel of consultants/experts to assist with the implementation of the action plans x 12 missions x \$2,800* Travel of staff to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the action plans x 8 missions x \$2,987* Temporary professional staff (at P3/P4 level) to coordinate the project and the implementation of action plans x 19 months x \$14,900 average | 460,596 48,000 48,000 24,000 33,600 23,896 283,100 |

| Expected Accomplishments | Planned activities | Estimated costs (US\$) |
|--|---|------------------------|
| | * Some of the travel budget might be used to cover costs of online platforms and coordination to enable remote participation and interpretation for virtual capacity building activities. | |
| Budget summary | | 1,000,004 |
| 7% of Programme Support Costs ² | | 69,996 |
| Project evaluation | | 20,000 |
| Total | | 1,090,000 |

² 7% PSCs are split between DESA (3%) and UNECE (4%) as per the guidelines of the UN Peace and Development Fund