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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

**Fourteenth session**

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for 2022, Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2021– 2022, and Outline of key components of the programme of work for 2023

 Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme for 2023

 Note by the Secretariat

 Introduction

1. This document presents an outline of key components (objective, strategy and deliverables) of the programme of work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2023. These components are based on the subprogramme-related section of the ECE proposed programme budget for 2022, with modified or new elements highlighted in track changes. The Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (“the Committee”) is invited to consider this information and provide recommendations on these components, as necessary. Those modifications and/or member States’ recommendations agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the subprogramme for 2023. It will be prepared by the Secretariat at the end of 2021 and included in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2023.

Outline of key components of the programme of work

 I. Objective

2. The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships in the ECE region.

 II. Strategy

3. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division.

4. The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of three core interlinked functions in the subprogramme’s two areas of work, i.e. Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): (a) international policy dialogue; (b) normative and analytical work; and (c) capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. The two areas of work are complementary. They both contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8, 9, 12 and 17. Both areas of work also contribute to the ECE nexus areas on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and on sustainable and smart cities for all ages. Both areas also contribute to promoting the transition towards the Circular Economy, in line with the High-Level Statement adopted at the Sixty-Ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2021.

5. To contribute to the objective in the first of the above two areas of work, i.e. innovation and competitiveness, the subprogramme will continue to support member States in creating a business climate that enables and rewards innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. It will do so by: (a) developing good practices on how innovation can advance sustainable development and how Governments can support this; (b) on request advising Governments on innovation policy reforms based on analyses of national innovation systems, policies and institutions; and (c) supporting innovation policy reforms by building capacity through workshops and seminars at the national and subregional levels.

6. To contribute to the objective in the second of the above two areas of work, i.e. public-private partnerships, the subprogramme will promote innovative ways of financing, building and managing infrastructure critical for sustainable development. It will do so by (a) developing international guiding principles and standards on how to design regulatory frameworks for PPPs in various sectors and how to design partnership projects; (b) support member States on request in applying the ECE People-first PPP evaluation methodology; and (c) providing policy advice and capacity-building to support member States in creating regulatory frameworks and partnership project pipelines to help close the SDG infrastructure financing gap.

7. The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as necessary by focusing some of its policy dialogues, policy analysis, policy recommendations and standards, and capacity-building on the question of how innovation policy and public-private partnership projects can help to turn the crisis into an opportunity by facilitating innovations and developing infrastructure that not only build back, but also build a better, more resilient, sustainable and productive economy in the future.

8. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in a shared and improved understanding among member States:

(a) on policy options to harness the power of innovation for sustainable development, and support national innovation policy reforms, in line with international good practice and ECE recommendations; and

(b) on how to design and operate public-private partnerships that contribute to sustainable development and will lead to more “People-first” projects (i.e. projects that not only deliver value for money, but also are ecologically sustainable and socially inclusive), as well as in strengthened capacities for policy and project design and implementation.

9. The planned support on issues related to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to result in:

(a) new and better policies supporting innovation in areas critical for resilience and sustainability, and

(b) in better regulatory frameworks supporting investment in resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

 III. Deliverables to be implemented in 2023

8. The table below provides an outline of deliverables that are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

| *Category and subcategory* | *2022 planned* | *2023 planned* |
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| 1. **Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies**
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|  **Parliamentary documentation** (number of documents) | **18** | **18** |
|  1. Documentation for the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies  | 18 | 18 |
|  **Substantive services for meetings** (number of three-hour meetings) | **19** | **19** |
|  2. Meetings of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies | 18 | 18 |
|  3. Meetings of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development | 1 | 1 |
| 1. **Generation and transfer of knowledge**
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|  **Seminars, workshops and training events** (number of days) | **16** | **16** |
|  6. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on innovation and competitiveness policies for sustainable development | 8 | 8 |
|  7. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on people-first public-private partnerships | 8 | 8 |
|  **Publications** (number of publications) | **3** | **3** |
|  8. Publication on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews | 1 | 1 |
|  9. Publication on comparative reviews on innovation policy and/or public-private partnership readiness | 2 | 2 |
| 1. **Substantive deliverables**
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| **Consultation, advice and advocacy**: advisory services under the Working Party on Public-Private Partnership and the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies reaching 30 Government ministries and agencies and stakeholder entities.  |
|  **Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions**: preparatory and fact-finding missions for Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and public-private partnership needs assessments in 3 member States.  |
|  **Databases and substantive digital materials**: database of infrastructure PPP projects evaluated according to ECE’s people-first PPP evaluation methodology from approximately 15 member States.  |
| 1. **Communication deliverables**
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|  **External and media relations**: press releases and launch events for the above publications for regional, sub-regional and national access.  |
|  **Digital platforms and multimedia content**: update and maintenance of the subprogramme’s website for regional access.  |