



The SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development: An Overview

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The Rationale for the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development

SPECA countries still face significant challenges in achieving the SDGs

	Sustainable development goals	Afghanistan	Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
1	End poverty	grey	green	green	yellow	yellow	green	orange
2	Food security, sustainable agriculture	red	red	red	orange	red	orange	orange
3	Healthy lives and wellbeing	red	orange	red	red	red	red	orange
4	Inclusive education, lifelong learning	red	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow	grey	yellow
5	Gender equality, women's empowerment	red	red	yellow	orange	red	yellow	orange
6	Sustainable water use and sanitation	red	orange	orange	orange	red	red	red
7	Sustainable and modern energy sources	orange	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow
8	Inclusive and sustainable growth, full employment	red	red	yellow	orange	red	red	orange
9	Sustainable infrastructure and industrialization, innovation	red	orange	orange	red	red	red	red
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	grey	orange	red	yellow	orange	grey	orange
11	Smart and sustainable cities	red	yellow	yellow	yellow	orange	orange	yellow
12	Sustainable consumption and production	green	yellow	orange	yellow	green	yellow	yellow
13	Combat climate change and its impacts	yellow	orange	red	yellow	yellow	red	yellow
14	Sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources	grey	grey	grey	grey	grey	grey	grey
15	Sustainable use of ecosystems and forests	red	yellow	orange	orange	orange	orange	orange
16	Peaceful, inclusive societies for sustainable development	red	red	red	red	red	red	red
17	Global partnership for sustainable development	red	yellow	orange	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow

green	sufficient
yellow	compatible
orange	insufficient
red	highly insufficient
grey	not applicable or data not available

Innovation and technology for sustainable development in the SPECA sub-region



- Science, technology and innovation (STI) can be powerful engines for development as they can contribute to both technological progress and rising prosperity
- Existing technology gaps offer opportunities for catch-up and productivity growth via knowledge and technology transfer
- STI can also be engines for structural transformation of SPECA countries helping them to accelerate their regional integration and their integration into the world economy
- UNECE and ESCAP have undertaken considerable efforts in analytical policy-oriented work to support the efforts of SPECA Governments to promote innovation and technology for sustainable development in the sub-region

Some conclusions from analytical work on SPECA: gaps in the innovation ecosystems



- Poor connectivity and linkages among innovation stakeholders
- Systemic failures (coordination, institutional, framework, network) and lack of policy instruments to address those
- Fragmentation of innovation governance
- Low incentives for innovative entrepreneurship
- Lack of effective innovation support institutions (incl. to support an innovative firm at all stages of its development cycle)
- Insufficient early-stage and scale-up financing for innovative ventures (incl. due to underdeveloped financial systems)
- Limited policy instruments supporting full cycle innovation projects
- Under-developed portfolio of STI policy instruments (incl. to support industry-science linkages)
- Low level of public resources allocated to STI activity (incl. GERD)



The SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development

Key points



- The 14th session of the SPECA Government Council (Ashgabat, 21 November 2019) **approved** the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development and encouraged the SPECA countries, donors and partner organizations to support its implementation.
- **Main objectives:**
 - Objective 1. Upgrade the knowledge and skills base of key stakeholders in the SPECA countries to meet the challenges of addressing SDGs with innovative solutions
 - Objective 2. Facilitate the diffusion of innovations and the transfer of technologies addressing sustainable development challenges in the subregion
 - Objective 3. Enhance the institutional framework for subregional cooperation for implementing innovation addressing sustainable development challenges of common interest
 - Objective 4. Contribute to improved performance of the SPECA countries as measured against the SDGs

Key cooperation mechanisms



- ***Strengthening the subregional policy dialogue and the sharing of good policies and practices***, including the attraction of leading international expertise in innovation for sustainable development
- ***Working together in identifying subregional and transboundary sustainable development challenges of high priority*** and common interest that call for innovative solutions
- ***Raising awareness*** in the SPECA countries on the role of innovation in achieving the SDGs
- ***Strengthening cooperation with existing platforms and mechanisms for international cooperation*** to promote innovation for sustainable development within the United Nations family of organizations

The implementation process



- The Strategy is a policy document of the SPECA countries, jointly agreed by their Governments, to guide their cooperative efforts towards the accomplishment of its objectives
- In the period 2018-2021 there were intensive consultations among the SPECA countries' governments regarding the Strategy implementation
- The SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development served as a platform for these consultations
- One of the outcomes of these consultations was the decision to develop a draft Action Plan for implementing of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development



Thank you!

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