



Development of business incubators and start-up accelerators: educational programme for university management

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

08:30 – 11:30 (CET)

Zoom/Microsoft Teams

Please register [here](#)

Background

Since 2020, in the context of a UN Development Account project titled “Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, UNECE has been supporting participating countries of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia¹ (SPECA) to strengthen their capacities to implement innovation policy for sustainable development and enhance sub-regional cooperation, including in the area of innovative entrepreneurship. Recent work has included a [handbook on business incubators](#), online trainings, and a handbook on innovative high-growth enterprises in the SPECA sub-region (*forthcoming*).

Building on strong interest from the SPECA participating countries on the topic of business incubators, and to support implementation of the [SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development](#) and its [Action Plan](#), the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development on 20 July 2022 welcomed a proposal to set up a [SPECA Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development](#). This Network is a platform for dialogue and exchange on issues, challenges and solutions, as well as best practices related to innovative entrepreneurship support through business incubators (BI) and accelerators (BA) in the SPECA sub-region. The Network aims to enable peer learning and to strengthen the capacities of BI and BA to effectively support innovative firms in the sub-region.

The first activities of the Network were:

- A webinar on "Promoting innovative entrepreneurship through educational programs in the SPECA sub-region" on September 19, 2022
- An online training on "Effective operation and development of a business incubator and start-up accelerator" on September 27-29, 2022.

Objective of this training

This training will be the third of the activities of the Network. It will focus on the promotion of entrepreneurial culture in the education system through the development of business incubators at universities, which is a crucial element of innovation-led growth in the SPECA sub-region. The importance of this topic has been highlighted by UNECE analytical work and by SPECA stakeholders.

¹ Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan



The training will demonstrate the primary benefits of encouraging entrepreneurship and start-ups within university academic processes.

This training aims to provide information and best practice examples to heads of higher education institutions, heads of departments at universities, and university management on how to keep an educational institution competitive in an era of rapid change; how to create and develop the necessary components that improve the quality of education and are critical for students in the twenty-first century, and how to promote innovation for sustainable development.

Participants

The training targets primarily representatives of the education system, including those involved in the development of educational curricula, such as heads of higher education institutions, heads of departments at universities, university management, and scientific supervisors (employees of universities and of research institutions supervising projects of students).

For more information, please contact Ekaterina Guznova at ekaterina.guznova@un.org

Draft Agenda	
Business incubators – educational programme for university management	
08:15 – 08:30 (Geneva)	<p>Access to the session</p> <p><i>Participants are recommended to join the meeting at least 15 minutes prior to its start.</i></p>
08:30 – 08:40	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p>UNECE representative</p>
<p>Moderator - Mr. Irakli Kashibadze, Innovation Policy Expert, CEO, Future Laboratory, Startup Central Eurasia</p>	
08:40 – 09:20	<p>The first part of the training will discuss the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formats and principles of entrepreneurship education in an era of rapid change (review of recent scientific research and trends in this direction, a review of strategies and tactics); • Best practices of leading universities with regard to creating and managing entrepreneurial learning processes, primarily through business incubator programmes
09:20 – 09:40	<p>Q&A session</p>
09:40 - 10:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
10:00 – 10:40	<p>The second part will discuss the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices from the Central Asian and Caucasus region in



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	implementing entrepreneurial education through the development of business incubator programmes
<i>10:40 – 11:20</i>	Q&A session
<i>11:20 – 11:30</i>	Concluding remarks UNECE representative