

LAUNCH OF THE UNECE INTERIM INNOVATION POLICY OUTLOOK 2023 FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND SOUTH CAUCASUS

16:00 – 17:00 CEST, Thursday, 1 June 2023, hybrid, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Building E, Room XVI

At the [16th Session of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public Private Partnerships \(CICPPP\)](#)

Background

UNECE's Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus (EESC) sub-region has considerable potential for sustainable development. At the same time, the sub-region is facing many challenges, including the negative impact of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and conflicts. This requires/calls upon countries to respond to changing environments, emerging constraints, and opportunities. Innovation – trying out new ways of creating value through new or improved products, services, processes, and business models – will need to take centre stage in this process and evidence-based public policy will need to play an effective role in enabling and promoting this dynamic.

The [Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook \(IPO\)](#) is a UNECE flagship initiative funded by the Government of Sweden. It supports countries in addressing development challenges by assisting them in strengthening innovation policy governance and coordination within their national innovation systems, with the aim of spurring innovative and sustainable development. Following the [launch of the first IPO](#) iteration for the EESC sub-region in 2020, the second IPO iteration – the Interim IPO (IIPO) – takes stock of recent developments and the progress made in the sub-region. The IIPO launch will also home in on specific priority topics that provide avenues for improving innovation policy in the countries: include strengthening science-business linkages and facilitating use of innovation-enhancing procurement to increase innovative activity in the private sector. Numerous leading local and international experts, international partners and other representatives from the national public and private sectors have shaped the publication, including at dedicated [IPO policy dialogue](#) sessions

Launch of the IIPO

The High-level IIPO Launch will form part of the [16th Session of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public Private Partnerships \(CICPPP\)](#), UNECE's intergovernmental body, which is a platform for dialogue on policies that facilitate economic growth, innovation, entrepreneurship, effective regulation, corporate governance, and public-private partnerships across UNECE member States. The launch event will convene international experts, partners, and other innovation stakeholders in the EESC sub-region to review the findings and chart the way forward towards impactful implementation of IIPO policy recommendations”.

Registration

The launch will take place online and at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, which provides accessibility features. To join the launch, either in person or online, please [register here](#).

For any questions, please contact Ms. Darya Podgoretskaya at DaryaPodgoretskaya@un.org.



Provisional Agenda

16:00 – 17:00 CEST, Thursday, 1 June 2023, hybrid, Room XVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Please note that the times indicated below are based on the central European time (CEST) zone.

MODERATOR: Ms. Elisabeth Türk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE (tbc)	
16:00– 16:10 CEST	OPENING Ms. Cecilia Chroona, Coordinator for Regional Cooperation, Department for Europe and Latin America, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
16:10 – 16:20 CEST	I. MAIN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNECE INTERIM SUB-REGIONAL INNOVATION POLICY OUTLOOK (IIPO) PUBLICATION Mr. Jakob Fexer, IIPO Project Manager and Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
16:20– 16:50 CEST	II. FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS FROM IPO FOCAL POINTS <i>The IPO focal points will have the opportunity to comment on their countries engagement with the IPO process, the complementarity of the IIPO with other ongoing (inter-)national initiatives, recent developments in innovative growth in their country and the impact the IPO and IIPO have made in the countries' efforts, and the next steps in implementing the report recommendations.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Tatevik Sghomonyan, Chief Specialist, Market Development, Ministry of the High-Tech Industry, Armenia (tbc)• Ms. Laman Ganbarova, Advisor, Strategic Analysis, Innovation & Digitalization Department, Azerbaijan• Ms. Annie Vashakmadze, Head of Donor Relations, Georgia's Innovation & Technology Agency (GITA), Georgia• Mr. Igor Chiosa, Expert, Senior Consultant, Directorate of Policies in the Fields of Research and Innovation, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Republic of Moldova OR Ms. Aliona Onofrei, Acting Chief, Directorate of Policies in the Fields of Research and Innovation, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Republic of Moldova (tbc)• Ms Darya Chayka, Director General of the Directorate of Innovation and Technology Transfer, Ministry of Education, Ukraine
16:50 – 17:00 CEST	CLOSING AND SUMMARY Mr. Jakob Fexer, Economic Affairs Officer and Project Manager, Innovative Policies Development Section, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division

IIPO Launch Reception

17:00 – 18:30 CEST, Thursday, 1 June 2023, Serpent Bar (just outside of Room XVI)

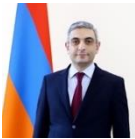
After the conclusion of the substantive sessions of the IIPO launch, you are cordially invited to participate in the IIPO launch and networking reception. The reception will serve as a chance to network with UNECE



secretariat staff, country representatives, and experts attending the event. Refreshments and canapes will be served at the reception. To confirm your attendance at the reception, please contact Ms. Darya Podgoretskaya at Darya.Podgoretskaya@un.org.

The IPO launch reception will be opened by:

- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE
- **H.E. Mr. Alexander Maisuradze**, Ambassador of Georgia to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva



“The sub-regional benchmarking dimension of the IPO enables Armenia to identify gaps in innovation policy, monitor our performance and the impact of initiatives over time, and learn from the experiences of our peers. We look forward to continuing our strong cooperation on innovation policy governance with UNECE in the sub-region.” **Davit Sahakyan, Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry of Armenia**



“In line with the cross-cutting nature of innovation policy, the IPO supports us in gaining a systems perspective on the strengths and weaknesses of innovation policy governance at both the country and a sub-regional level, connecting relevant actors in research, academia, industry and civil society. Azerbaijan is ready to continue this work together with UNECE and EESC countries to foster innovation-driven growth.” **Inara Valiyeva, Acting Head of the Innovation and Digital Development Agency of Azerbaijan**



“The UNECE IPO initiative provides an opportunity to create complementarities with other national and international innovation policy support initiatives and share best practices and knowledge throughout the evaluation process of the project. Georgia expresses its readiness to be engaged with UNECE, international partners and economies in the sub-region in driving innovative activity for sustainable development.” **Annie Vashakmadze, Head of International Relations, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency and Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships**



“To achieve impact in improving the innovation policy framework in Moldova, the IPO allows us to enlarge the evidence base for mutual policy learning with concrete recommendations towards enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of our economy. The Republic of Moldova is proud to be part of such an important sub-regional initiative.” **Adriana Cazacu-Tigaie, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova**



“The sub-regional component of the IPO project greatly facilitates the exchange of experiences between the beneficiary countries. The resulting analysis contributes to the formation of the best management practices in the region towards sustainable development. We highly appreciate the cooperation with UNECE and look forward to monitoring our progress going forward with subsequent iterations.” **Oleksii Shkuratov, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine**