

Implementation of the Action Plan of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development

Workshop on Innovation and technology for Sustainable Development
18 October 2023
Tashkent, Uzbekistan



75 YEARS
OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION
AND COOPERATION
IN THE REGION

SPECA Innovation Strategy for SD

Assessment by main objectives





Action Plan of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for SD (1)

N	Actions and sub-actions	Description	S/O	Timeline	Results
A1	Action Plan launch	Organisational activities to support Action Plan implementation in the SPECA countries	O1, O2, O3, O4	2021-2022	Action Plan endorsed by the SPECA Governing Council on 19 November 2021
A1.1	Nomination of Focal Points	Each SPECA country nominates a Focal Point to coordinate implementation in the respective countries	O1, O2, O3 O4	2021-2022	Focal points nominated in Dec 2021
A1.2	Promotional/awareness raising campaigns	Each SPECA country undertakes a national promotional/ awareness raising campaign to mobilise participation of national stakeholders in the implementation of actions	O1, O2, O3 O4	2022	Undertaken for CB and other events in 2022
A2	National capacity development and skill-building workshops	The workshops will cover selected topics on innovation policy for inclusive and sustainable development based on identified needs and priority areas for cooperation for the SPECA countries	O1, O3	2022-2024	In progress with 8 events conducted 2021-2023
A2.1	First series of national workshops	Possible topics: a) Building institutional capacity in innovation for inclusive and sustainable development policy; b) Policy coordination on innovation for inclusive and sustainable development	O1, O3	2022	4 workshops conducted on supporting innovative high-growth firms, new approaches to innovation policy, development of business incubators
A2.2	Second series of national workshops	Possible topics: a) Policy experimentation in innovation policy for inclusive and sustainable development; b) Innovation-enhancing public procurement targeting innovation for sustainable development	O1, O3	2023	3 workshops conducted on developing BI and accelerators in universities, working with venture funds and innovation in circular economy
A2.3	Third series of national workshops	Possible topics: a) Alternative sources of early-stage financing: microfinance and crowdfunding; b) Facilitating digital innovation and digital ecosystems supporting inclusive and sustainable development in the SPECA countries	O1, O3	2024	Upcoming

Action Plan of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for SD (2)



N	Actions and sub-actions	Description	S/O	Timeline	Results
A3	Training materials on innovation for SD policies (in 3 sets)	Develop and disseminate training materials on good practices in innovation policies for inclusive and sustainable development	O1	2021-2022	Managing effective BI, supporting IHGEs, working with venture funds (for BI and accelerators)
A4	SPECA innovation/startup competition	A competition of innovation projects initiated by startups from the SPECA countries	O2, O4	2021-2022	Not conducted
A5	SPECA Innovation Week	A series of mini webinars on consecutive days, during each of which one or two SPECA countries share their good practices in innovation for sustainable development policy and practice	O1, O3	2022	Postponed to 2023 : Innoweek.UZ
A6	Technical assistance missions by international experts	During missions, leading international experts will share their expertise with SPECA policymakers on selected topics of innovation policy design and implementation	O1, O3	2022-2024	Not conducted
A7	SPECA startup accelerator programme and support network	The programme will help innovative SPECA startups to accelerate the life cycle of their businesses	O2, O4	2023-2024	SPECA Network of BI and accelerators for SD launched in 2022 with activities in progress
A8	Mid-term monitoring and evaluation report	Preparing a mid-term monitoring and evaluation report on Action Plan implementation	O1, O2, O3 O4	2023	In progress (October – November 2023)
A9	SPECA subregional event on innovation for SD policy instruments	A skills development workshop on good practices in the design and administration of policy instruments targeting innovation for sustainable development	O1, O2, O3 O4	2023	Sub-regional seminar on innovation and technology for SD (18-19 Oct)
A10	SPECA subregional event on innovation support institutions	A skills development workshop on good practices in design and management of innovation support institutions (business incubators, tech parks and technology transfer offices)	O1, O3	2024	To be conducted



Strengthening skills and building capacities for innovation policy

1. Webinar “Challenges and opportunities for supporting innovative high-growth enterprises in SPECA countries” (23 December 2021)
2. Online training for policy practitioners “Supporting innovative high-growth enterprises in SPECA subregion” (15,17 February 2022)
3. Webinar “New approaches to innovation policy in transition economies of SPECA subregion” (19 May 2022)
4. Expert Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (hybrid event, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 19-20 July 2022)
5. Online training for SPECA representatives “Effective management and development of business incubators and accelerators” (27-29 Sept 2022)
6. Online training “Development of business incubators and accelerators: educational programme for university management” (23 Feb 2023)
7. “Working with venture funds and business-angels”: practical training for managers of business-incubators and accelerators in SPECA subregion (16 March 2023)
8. B2B event on innovation for the circular economy: bridging start-ups and corporations (18 October 2023)

Handbooks

Upgrading knowledge base on innovation policy for SD



UNECE

Business incubators
for sustainable development
in the SPECA subregion

The cover features a purple-toned map of the SPECA subregion. It is decorated with icons representing business incubation (a building), innovation (lightbulbs), and development (a target, a cube, and a network diagram). The United Nations logo is at the bottom.

UNITED NATIONS

UNECE

Supporting Innovative
High-Growth Enterprises
in the SPECA Sub-Region

The cover features a purple-toned map of the SPECA subregion. It is decorated with icons representing high-growth enterprises (a building), innovation (lightbulbs), and development (a target, a cube, and a network diagram). The United Nations logo is at the bottom.

UNITED NATIONS

UNECE

New Innovation Policy
for transition economies
in the SPECA subregion

The cover features an orange-toned map of the SPECA subregion. It is decorated with icons representing innovation policy (a building), innovation (lightbulbs), and development (a target, a cube, and a network diagram). The United Nations logo is at the bottom.

UNITED NATIONS



Thank you!

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Date 18/10/2023, Tashkent

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