



UNECE Grants Committee Annual Report

2017

1. Foreword

The Grants Committee was established in December 2000 to provide recommendations to the Executive Secretary of UNECE on the use of voluntary contributions, or extra-budgetary resources, received from donors for grants to non-profit partner organisations in accordance with the Guidelines approved by the Office of the Controller of the United Nations.

The overall governance and approval processes were revised in coordination with, and under the direct approval of, the UN Controller. The Guidelines for the Grants Committee (“Guidelines”) issued in 2013 clearly articulate the requirements for all Grant proposals in UNECE. These revisions brought about a more consistent approach with regard to the application of UN procurement rules and principles to the grants approval process, in particular a focus on best value for money, fairness, integrity and transparency, and ensuring the interests of UNECE are maintained at all times.

In 2017, the UNECE Grants Committee Memorandum of Understanding, and Terms of Reference were updated to further strengthen oversight and control and reduce potential conflicts of interest. The documents were also updated to provide further information and assurance regarding how prospective grantees endeavour to facilitate the empowerment of women, for instance through 50% participation of women in grant activities, in conformity with the UNECE Gender Action Plan.

2. Composition

The 2017 UNECE Grants Committee was established in line with its approved General Procedures. The Committee members appointed by the Executive Secretary on 20 December 2016 were as follows:

Chairperson:	Mr. Serhii Yampolskyi Programme Officer, Programme Management Unit, OES
Alternate Chairperson:	Ms. Polina Tarshis Economic Affairs Officer Programme Management Unit, OES
Legal:	Mr. Markus Schmidt Senior Legal Adviser, UNOG
Alternate Legal:	Ms. Regina Asariotis Chief, Policy and Legislation Section, Division of Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Financial: Mr. Michael Sylver
Executive Officer, Executive Office

Alternate Financial: Mr. Joon Kong Tay
Senior Budget Assistant, Executive Office

3. Meetings

The Grants Committee convened ten meetings during the year 2017.

4. Grants

Compared with the prior period, the number of grants reviewed and approved by the Committee decreased by 27%, from thirty-three grants in 2016 to twenty-four in 2017. Similarly, the aggregate value of grants approved in the period decreased by 17%, from US\$ 881,854 to US\$ 732,848. The Environment Division accounted for 23 of 24 grant submissions in 2017, or 96%, with the remaining grant submitted by the Programme Management Unit of the Office of the Executive Secretary.

Of the 24 grants made in 2017, nine were made to new institutions, eleven to continuing grantees who had been recipients in the prior fiscal period, and the remaining four to grantees returning from 2015 or earlier. Continuing grantees involved eight institutions, with three receiving two grants each in 2017: Institute Vodavtomatika and Metrologiya; Georgia's Environmental Outlook (GEO); and, the Public Fund "Water Initiatives Center".

The UNECE Executive Office continued to exercise due diligence with respect to its review of all submissions. As planned, grant training was provided by the Executive Office and the Programme Management Unit to program managers and Division Directors over the course of the year, along with regular guidance, outreach and instruction to managers prior to submission of documentation. The Grant Committee and the Executive Office remain vigilant, with additional revisions introduced into the grant templates in July 2017 in order to further reinforce ex ante controls. These efforts, building on those initiated a number of years ago, have shown positive results in 2017, most visibly demonstrated by a significant reduction in potential conflict of interest cases during the year.

Moving in to 2018, the Grant Committee will continue to enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of its processes by offering further training sessions to programme managers to review the steps and related requirements in the grants submission and approval process, as well as continued review and refinement of grant templates and related documentation to contribute to greater transparency and prevention of any potential conflict of interest in prospective grant awards.

5. Annexes

Annex I: Charts detailing grant performance during the reporting period
Annex II: Detailed list of UNECE Grants for the year 2017

Annex I

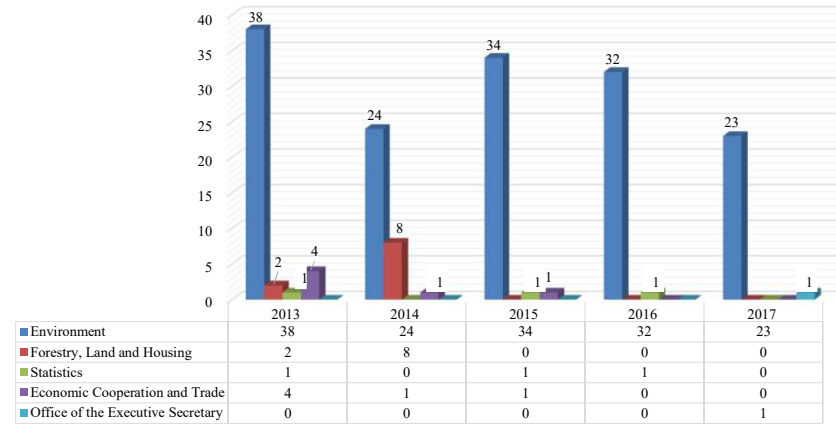
Number of Grants by Division	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	38	24	34	32	23	(9)
Forestry, Land and Housing	2	8	0	0	0	0
Statistics	1	0	1	1	0	(1)
Economic Cooperation and Trade	4	1	1	0	0	0
Office of the Executive Secretary	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total:	45	33	36	33	24	(9)

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2016 and 2017.

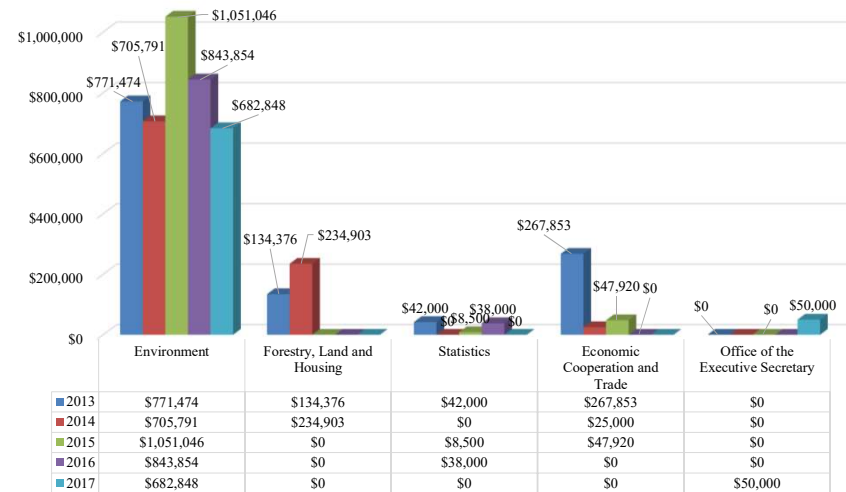
Grant Value by Division - USD Amount	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Incr/(Decr) *
Environment	\$771,474	\$705,791	\$1,051,046	\$843,854	\$682,848	(\$161,006)
Forestry, Land and Housing	\$134,376	\$234,903	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Statistics	\$42,000	\$0	\$8,500	\$38,000	\$0	(\$38,000)
Economic Cooperation and Trade	\$267,853	\$25,000	\$47,920	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office of the Executive Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total:	\$1,215,703	\$965,694	\$1,107,466	\$881,854	\$732,848	(\$149,006)

* Incr/Decr refers to the variance between 2016 and 2017

Number of Grants by Division 2013-2017



Grant Value in USD by Division 2013-2017



Annex II

#	Division	Grant Title	Grant Number	Project Account Code	Grant Budget	Date of Approval	Donor	Grant Recipient	Beneficiary Country/Countries	Programme Manager
1	Environment	Safety of hydrotechnical installations	ECE/GC/2017/01/001	SB-001776	\$40,000	7 February 2017	European Union via UNDP Kazakhstan	The Corporate Foundation "International training centre for the safety of hydrotechnical constructions" (ITC)	Republic of Kazakhstan	Bo Libert
2	Environment	Organization of two meetings on water resources management	ECE/GC/2017/02/005	SB-006642	\$15,000	28 February 2017	EU (EUWI+ project)	National Water Partnership of Georgia	Azerbaijan, Georgia	Peep Mardiste
3	Environment	Implementation of water and health targets in Kyrgyzstan	ECE/GC/2017/02/002	SB-001776	\$13,500	28 February 2017	Finland (NPD/Protocol project)	Institute "Vodavtomatika and Metrologiya"	Kyrgyzstan	Peep Mardiste
4	Environment	Support to establishment of SEA system in Georgia, Phase V: Final training and dissemination events	ECE/GC/2017/03/009	SB-001777	\$7,870	5 April 2017	OECD	Georgia's Environmental Outlook (GEO)	Georgia	Elena Santer
5	Environment	Strengthening cooperation on water quality management in Central Asia, activities 2017	ECE/GC/2017/03/003	SB-001765	\$49,500	5 April 2017	Finland	The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia	Republic of Kazakhstan	Batyr Hajiyev / Bo Libert
6	Environment	Support cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan on environment and hydrology in the upper Amu Darya basin: activities in 2017	ECE/GC/2017/03/004	SB-001765	\$33,000	5 April 2017	Finland	Association of Entrepreneurs and Mountain Farmers "Milal-Inter"	Tajikistan	Bo Libert
7	Environment	Promotion of the benefits and opportunities of the UNECE Protocol on SEA: the organization of a High-level Round table and an awareness raising workshop for the national environmental authorities	ECE/GC/2017/03/007	SB-001776	\$13,000	5 April 2017	UNDP	"Coalition for "green economy" and G-Global Development" ALE	Republic of Kazakhstan	Bo Libert
8	Environment	Improvement of the water resources management in Kazakhstan by stakeholder discussion on basin planning, transboundary cooperation and industrial safety	ECE/GC/2017/03/008	SB-001776	\$49,300	5 April 2017	UNDP	Public Fund "Water Initiatives Center"	Republic of Kazakhstan	Peep Mardiste
9	Environment	Analysis and recommendation for the Kazakh system of supervision and control of hydro-technical infrastructure	ECE/GC/2017/04/006	SB-001776	\$17,000	9 May 2017	EU project - Supporting Kazakhstan's transition towards Green Economy model - through UNDP Kazakhstan	Executive Board of the International Fund for the Saving the Aral Sea, Almaty, Kazakhstan	Republic of Kazakhstan	Bo Libert
10	Environment	Assessing equitable access to water and sanitation in Serbia	ECE/GC/2017/06/010	SB-001311	\$36,650	5 July 2017	UNDA project	Regional Economic Development Agency for Sumadija and Pomoravlje (REDASP)	Serbia	Chantal Demilecamps
11	Environment	Revision of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in Ukraine, stage 1	ECE/GC/2017/07/011	SB-006642	\$34,600	21 August 2017	European Union	Ukrainian national environmental NGO "MAMA-86"	Ukraine	Alisher Mamadzgavov
12	Environment	Implementation of water and health targets in Kyrgyzstan, Phase II	ECE/GC/2017/07/012	SB-001769	\$12,500	21 August 2017	Government of Finland	Institute "Vodavtomatika and Metrologiya"	Kyrgyzstan	Natalia Nikiforva
13	Environment	Training of Civil Servants on Integrated Water Resources Management	ECE/GC/2017/07/013	SB-001776	\$36,500	21 August 2017	European Union	Utsrednenije obrasovanija "Kasachstansko-Nemezki Universitat" (German-Kazakh University)	Kazakhstan	Sarangoo Radnaaragechaa
14	Environment	Support to bilateral meetings on hydrology and environment between Afghanistan and Tajikistan	ECE/GC/2017/09/014	SB-001765	\$23,916	2 October 2017	Government of Finland	Nature Protection Team	Tajikistan	Batyr Hajiyev
15	Environment	Support to establishment of SEA system in Armenia, Phase IV: Final dissemination and awareness raising event	ECE/GC/2017/09/015	SB-001777	\$9,378	2 October 2017	OECD	REC Caucasus	Armenia	Elena Santer
16	Environment	Support to establishment of SEA system in the Republic of Moldova, Phase IV: Final dissemination and awareness raising event	ECE/GC/2017/09/016	SB-001777	\$8,030	2 October 2017	OECD	Public Association EcoContact	Moldova	Elena Santer
17	Environment	Strengthening capacities on SEA and EIA at the sub-regional level and support to establishment of SEA system in Ukraine (Phase V: Final dissemination and awareness raising event)	ECE/GC/2017/09/017	SB-001777 – USD 19,392, SB-001776 – USD 4,413.	\$38,421	2 October 2017	OECE, European Commission, Government of Switzerland	Law-Making and Information Technologies Institute	Ukraine	Elena Santer
18	Environment	Organisation of capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the ECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Kazakhstan (Phase II: Pilot Project - workshop 1)	ECE/GC/2017/09/018	SB-001776 - USD 65,540, SB-001768 - USD 4,920	\$70,460	2 October 2017	UNDP	The Human Health Institute (HHI)	Kazakhstan	Elena Santer

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#	Division	Grant Title	Grant Number	Project Account Code	Grant Budget	Date of Approval	Donor	Grant Recipient	Beneficiary Country/Countries	Programme Manager
19	Environment	Assessing equitable access to water and sanitation in Bulgaria	ECE/GC/2017/10/021	SB-001769	\$23,282	30 October 2017	French Ministry of Solidarities & Health	NGO Earth Forever Foundation	Bulgaria	Chantal Demilecamps
20	Office of the Executive Secretary	Improved understanding of the SDGs implementation in the Western Balkan Region	ECE/GC/2017/10/024	RPTC - 17215	\$50,000	25 October 2017	RPTC	The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)	Western Balkan Region	Catherine Haswell / Polina Tarshis
21	Environment	Implementation of priority climate adaptation measures in Chu-Talas basin	ECE/GC/2017/10/022	SB-001765	\$49,900	24 November 2017	Finnish Government	Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users	Kyrgyzstan	Alexander Belokurov
22	Environment	Information campaign to support climate adaptation activities in Chu-Talas basin	ECE/GC/2017/11/023	SB-001765	\$20,000	15 December 2017	Finnish Government	Ecological Movement BIOM	Kyrgyzstan, partly Kazakhstan	Alexander Belokurov
23	Environment	Improved understanding of key water management issues by mid-level government officials, phase II (January-July 2018)	ECE/GC/2017/11/025	2017 & 2018 -SB-001776	\$31,400	15 December 2017	UNDP	Utsresdenije obrazovanija "Kasachstansko-Nemezki Universitat" (German-Kazakh University)	Kazakhstan	Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa
24	Environment	Improvement of the water resources management in Kazakhstan by joint studies with Russia in two transboundary basins	ECE/GC/2017/11/026	2017 & 2018 -SB-001776	\$49,641	15 December 2017	UNDP	Public Fund "Water Initiatives Center"	Kazakhstan and Russia	Batyr Hajiyev
Grand Total					\$732,848					