

Annual Report 2013

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ADN	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways
ADR	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road
AETR	European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport
AGN	European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance
AGR	European Agreement on Main International Arteries
ATP	Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CEVNI	European Code for Inland Waterways
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMM	Coal mine methane
EATL	Euro-Asian Transport Links
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EEA	European Energy Agency
EfE	Environment for Europe
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EPR	Environmental Performance Review
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross domestic produce
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and communication technologies
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
MDG	Millennium Development Goals

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MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OTIF	Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail
PPP	Public-private partnership
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
RID	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail
SEA	Strategic environmental assessment
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
TEM	Trans-European Motorways
TER	Trans-European Railways
THE PEP	Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme
TIR	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets
UN	United Nations
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UN/EDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
UNFC	United Nations Framework Classification
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Note: \$ are US dollars

Introduction by the Chairman of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



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Looking back at 2013 and the first year of my chairmanship I have become deeply impressed by the multifaceted work performed by UNECE and the tireless commitment of its staff members.

UNECE's products – standards, best practices and regional agreements that promote economic integration in our pan-European region - continue to attract not only our own UNECE member States but also neighbouring states from other regions. The UNECE approach where experts from industry, Governments and other relevant stakeholders from civil society and international organizations sit together and develop these standards - based on consensus and on common interests - is the key to this success.

Citizens, businesses and Governments in our region benefit from these solutions every day, while they might not even realize that they were once developed under the flag of this United Nations regional commission. This annual report should give readers more insight into the richness of the work of UNECE.

The multilateral environment in which UNECE operates is a complex one. We feel the impact of United Nations reforms in New York, we witness an increasing call for cuts in resources in the General Assembly, but at the same time, we see new international agreements and agendas emerging, which require UNECE's active involvement. The debates in the Executive Committee (EXCOM) reflect these developments and add flavour due to the diverse interests and opinions of UNECE member States.

The UNECE region comprises a fascinating group of member States, and it has been both a challenge and a pleasure to chair the EXCOM sessions during the last year.

I am looking forward to continue working with the UNECE member States in the same good spirit towards implementing our mandates as agreed during the review of the 2005 reform.

Roderick van Schreven

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands*

Introduction by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



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The adoption of the outcome document of the review of the 2005 UNECE reform by the Commission at its sixty-fifth session (9-11 April 2013) set the strategic priorities of our work for the future years. It also renewed trust among member States, and between the secretariat and member States. Since the Commission session, the secretariat has concentrated on implementing these decisions and we will continue to do so throughout 2014 and 2015.

The United Nations system's vision for the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Europe and Central Asia was outlined in the report "Building more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous societies in Europe and Central Asia", prepared by UNECE and the United Nations Development Group for Europe and Central Asia. The report formed the basis for discussions at the Regional Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Istanbul (6-8 November 2013). Participants from over 40 countries discussed ways to end the increasing inequalities in the region and to make sustainability a reality. They agreed that the sustainable management and use of natural resources and ecosystems needed to become a central component of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The need to accelerate the shift from a brown to a green economy was emphasized, as well as the need to enhance the voice and participation of society as a whole and to further strengthen regional cooperation on sustainable development.

The final report of Phase II of the Euro-Asian Transport Links project was adopted by 32 Ministers on 26 February 2013 in Geneva. This report identifies 9 rail and 9 road routes that could offer quicker and cheaper alternatives to sea fare between Europe and Asia, once proper infrastructures and border crossing procedures are in place.

The Regional Conference *Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century*, organized jointly with UNFPA in July 2013 reviewed 20 years of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Conference's outcome document called for respecting the rights of all individuals, putting individuals at the centre of development processes, advancing gender equality and increasing attention to vulnerable groups and families, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, and providing access to comprehensive sexual education.

On 8 October, Ministers and other high-level participants from 47 countries adopted the *Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the UNECE Region for the Period 2014-2020*. Through 15 objectives, the Strategy aims at improving the access to adequate,



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ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Supporting growth through innovation and public-private partnerships

Innovation is a key driver of sustainable development, ensuring increases in living standards while addressing social and environmental challenges. It plays an important role in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as re-affirmed by the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Well-developed physical, institutional and regulatory infrastructures are important in creating suitable conditions for economic activity and innovation, and thus make a significant contribution to competitiveness.

The global financial crisis of 2008-2009, the effects of which are still being felt in many countries, has only reinforced the need for innovation as a way of recovering lost ground and making economies more resilient. Strengthened collaboration between the public and the private sectors is now particularly needed in order to overcome financing constraints, undertake vital physical infrastructure development in support of competitiveness, and meet developmental and environmental needs.

UNECE's programme on Economic Cooperation and Integration facilitates international policy dialogues on the key aspects of innovation policy and public-private partnerships (PPPs) for infrastructure development. These exchanges serve to identify good practices and develop policy recommendations, which then inform and support policy advisory and capacity-building activities.

The global financial crisis of 2008 has reinforced the need for innovation as a way of recovering lost ground and making economies more resilient



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ENVIRONMENT

Advancing environmental governance and transboundary cooperation

Committee on Environmental Policy and the mid-term review of the “Environment for Europe” process

The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) is addressing a number of issues to advance environmental governance and sustainable development in the region and, in particular, has undertaken a mid-term review of the outcomes of the Seventh Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference (Astana, September 2011) – the eighth Conference will be organized in 2016. There is wide support for a proposal to organize a high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the next EfE Conference, in order to assess 10 years of implementation of the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the way forward.

At its nineteenth session in October 2013, the Committee found the UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to be robust instruments, having progressed both in terms of increased membership and improved national implementation, stressing however that more efforts are needed to ensure adequate political support for their implementation. In particular, the secretariats of the MEAs should be strengthened and more resources allocated from the United Nations regular budget for that purpose. The Committee requested that a report on the opening of the UNECE MEAs and other UNECE instruments to accession by States outside the region be prepared for its next session.

The Astana Water Action, an action framework to advance the sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems, overall has made good progress, and the secretariat will disseminate its commitments and results either through a brochure or on the UNECE website.

The UNECE multilateral environmental agreements are robust instruments

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A representative for future generations should be included in the high-level political forum to promote intergenerational equity

The UNECE and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) secretariats have prepared a comprehensive overview of efforts to establish a green economy, showing that many organizations are carrying out a wide range of activities. Kazakhstan and its partners are working on the further development of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, including its procedural and institutional set-up.

The establishment of a regular process of environmental assessment and reporting and the development of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) is progressing slowly. A coordination mechanism for the development of SEIS will be set up in the form of a group of “Friends of SEIS”. Multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), have declared their intention to apply SEIS in their reporting, and CEP has invited other MEAs to consider whether their reporting mechanisms are aligned with SEIS principles and to revise them as necessary.

Regarding the European Environment and Health process, the UNECE secretariat will organize the appointment of the four ministers from the environment sector to the third term of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board (2015–2016). A panel discussion on the process will be organized at the next session of the Committee on Environmental Policy with the participation of the Chairs of the Ministerial Board and the Environment and Health Task Force.

The importance of including a gender perspective in the preparation for activities/events and policy discussions within the UNECE environmental governance framework, in line with the UNECE gender action plan, has been recognized and the gender mainstreaming efforts already being made by the UNECE Environment subprogramme were welcomed.

Sustainable development

Follow-up activities to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) included the organization of a high-level segment as part of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission in April 2013, within which two panel discussions were organized. “The future of sustainability: from transition to transformation” focused on how and in which areas UNECE can best contribute to the follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference and the Secretary-General’s five-year action agenda. The second panel, “Sustainable development governance: regional implications and perspectives for the post-Rio+20 institutional set-up”, considered the ramifications for the region of the establishment of the new global high-level political forum on sustainable development, with a view to providing input to the discussions and the General Assembly negotiation process on defining that instrument. Two background documents to facilitate the above discussions were prepared by the secretariat.

In the panel discussions participants stressed, among other things, that the high-level political forum should attract representatives from fields covering all three dimensions of sustainable development — environmental protection, economic development and social equity. The inclusive participatory model of the Commission on Sustainable Development could be the starting point, and other models of civil society participation and consultation could also be explored, avoiding duplication and making use of existing structures (e.g., the Aarhus Convention). In particular, it was suggested that a representative for future generations should be included in the high-level political forum to promote intergenerational equity. It should involve all relevant State

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and non-State actors as well as United Nations system organizations, increasing the role of diverse stakeholders such as business, local communities, and women.

The outcomes of the high-level segment, as presented in a Chair's Summary of the discussion, were transmitted to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

With the completion of amendments to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), as well as the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the work under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution is being redirected to fostering implementation throughout the UNECE region and Parties' compliance in addressing the challenges related to health, environment and biodiversity posed by air pollution.

In May 2013, at the annual session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, Parties to the Convention provided numerous examples of regulatory, voluntary, economic and other measures to further reduce emissions of harmful air pollutants. The initiative was so successful that such comprehensive exchanges of information and experiences will be continued during the Convention meetings in the next biennium (2014–2015).

Efforts under the Convention to effectively reduce outdoor air pollution and particulate matter, in particular, have recently received very strong backing from international health experts and authorities. In October 2013, the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer announced that it now classified both outdoor air pollution and particulate matter as carcinogenic to humans and specifically concluded that there was sufficient evidence that exposure to outdoor air pollution causes lung cancer, as well as a positive association with an increased risk of bladder cancer. The revised Gothenburg Protocol will play a major role in addressing these new findings, as emission reduction commitments for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) — a major component of outdoor air pollution, but also responsible for corrosion and soiling of materials, damage to vegetation and smog — have been added. One of the Convention's priorities is to encourage and to provide support to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in ratifying and implementing its latest key protocols. In line with this priority, in 2013 a project was finalized to provide assistance to Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation in setting the methodological and technical framework for building air pollutant emission inventories in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. A workshop on building emission inventories for particulate matter and raising awareness on its negative health effects was also organized for the national authorities of Uzbekistan. In addition, the secretariat is currently developing a comprehensive capacity-building programme for the coming years to continue assisting countries in Southern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the implementation of the Convention's instruments.

The implementation of the two recently revised Protocols will contribute to facilitating the transition to a green economy and to implementing the outcomes of Rio+20 by setting obligations for Parties to take cost-effective measures to reduce harmful emissions and promoting the introduction of new and clean technologies, which will bring both health and economic benefits and reduce the loss of biodiversity.



WHO now classifies both outdoor air pollution and particulate matter as carcinogenic to humans

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Amendments to the Water Convention opening it for accession to all United Nations Member States entered into force on 6 February 2013

In addition to capacity-building efforts, a series of meetings were held in 2012–2013 with high-level policymakers in five countries of Central Asia to raise their awareness on the benefits of joining the Convention and its protocols and to discuss existing needs and challenges on the way to improved ratification and implementation and possible steps forward.

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)

In 2013 water issues and transboundary cooperation came to the forefront of the international agenda, both in the framework of discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and the celebration of the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. The Water Convention contributed to these processes and to related events, including the global thematic consultations on water in the post-2015 development agenda and World Water Day events.

The most important achievement of the Convention in 2013 was its global opening: amendments to the Water Convention opening it for accession to all United Nations Member States entered into force on 6 February 2013 and non-UNECE countries are expected to be able to accede to the Convention starting in early 2014.

Representatives of over 40 countries outside the region participated in Convention activities and several have expressed interest in joining the Convention. To respond to this demand, several capacity-development events were held outside the region, including in the Islamic Republic of Iran (January 2013). In addition, the Water Convention organized an international workshop in Buenos Aires in June 2013 to exchange experience on transboundary cooperation between UNECE countries and countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. That workshop was held in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and other partners.

The Convention's Implementation Committee, established at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in Rome in November 2012, held its first two meetings in 2013, as well as a first workshop on joint bodies to support common management of shared waters, bringing together river basin commissions from all over the world.

Work also started on a thematic assessment of the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus, with the first meeting of a newly established task force followed by the start of an assessment of a first pilot basin, the Alazani River Basin, which is shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia. Work also began on identifying, quantifying and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation.

Numerous other projects continued in 2013 have led to concrete results, such as the development of a new water code in Georgia and in Turkmenistan within the framework of the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues and the preparation of a basin-wide climate-change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy for the Dniester River Basin.

Protocol on Water and Health

With the aim of realizing the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, UNECE member States were supported in 2013 in the elaboration of policies on equitable access to water and sanitation under the aegis of the Water Convention's Protocol on Water and

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Health. Pilot projects were conducted in Portugal and Ukraine, as well as in the city of Paris, to apply and test a score-card on equitable access to drinking water and sanitation.

Subregional workshops under the Protocol for the Caucasus and Central Asia helped to strengthen governance on water and health issues and improve cooperation between different sectors and stakeholders. The workshops helped to forge policy frameworks for setting and implementing country-specific water and health targets. That work was further supported by national projects in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan. In Kyrgyzstan the project resulted in the official adoption of national targets in June 2013.

Parties successfully finalized another cycle of reporting under the Protocol in 2013, with 23 out of 26 Parties submitting their national reports. The reports showed a generally improving trend in water and health issues in the UNECE region, notably in access to water and sanitation, but also revealed some common challenges and gaps, including the need to improve public participation. To address that issue, a *Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health* was developed.

The third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Oslo, November 2013) defined the direction of work under the Protocol, with equitable access to water and sanitation as one of the session's key themes. The programme of work for 2014–2016 takes into consideration major regional and global developments, including possible future water and health-related sustainable development goals.

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Aarhus Convention)

Transparent national and multilateral processes will be critical for setting a people-centred post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) provide a solid and comprehensive framework for Governments to effectively engage a wide range of stakeholders in decision-making, thereby providing the key to effective environmental governance.

Three thematic task forces at the core of the implementation of the Convention

Three region-wide thematic task forces under the Aarhus Convention provide multi stakeholder platforms to address access to information, public participation and access to justice related to environmental matters.

In 2013, the Task Force on Access to Information, led by the Republic of Moldova, focused on facilitating public access to environmental information with regard to products and promoting the accessibility of environmental information held by the private sector. It also provided a forum for sharing experiences in the effective use of electronic information tools and exchanging information on capacity-building initiatives, involving key organizations working in this area, such as the European Environment Agency (EEA), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNEP, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and WHO.

The UNECE region showed a generally improving trend in access to water and sanitation



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The compliance procedure under the Aarhus Convention ensures that it remains a living treaty

The Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making, led by Ireland, finalized draft Recommendations on Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters and considered in greater detail how to ensure effective engagement of stakeholders in decision-making in the nuclear domain. The latter activity was pursued in close cooperation with the European Commission and the Association Nationale des Comités et Commissions Locales d'Information.

The Task Force on Access to Justice, led by Sweden, was engaged in work on issues of standing, for individuals and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), on costs and on remedies, as well as on exchange of experience in carrying out multi-stakeholder dialogues on access to justice in countries. It launched two studies — one on the standing of individuals, civil society groups and NGOs in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the other on access to justice in South-Eastern Europe with a focus on standing, remedies and costs, carried out in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE).

Focus on living/genetically modified organisms

Parties to the Aarhus Convention and to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, along with NGOs, scientific institutions and representatives of the private sector, met at a global round table in October 2013 to share good practices and debate challenges in implementing the two treaties in the context of living/genetically modified organisms. The event, led by Austria, and organized jointly with the secretariat of the Cartagena Protocol, demonstrated a number of successful examples, but also showed that more efforts are required to put in practice effective governance in this field.

Assisting compliance

The compliance procedure under the Aarhus Convention ensures that it remains a living treaty. In 2013 the Compliance Committee received some 20 communications alleging non-compliance by a Party to the Convention, of which around two thirds were found admissible. The Committee also adopted some 10 sets of findings and recommendations, which will be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties for endorsement at its next session.

Promoting the Protocol on PRTRs in the region and beyond

A number of activities were carried out to assist countries in establishing PRTR systems across the region. A subregional workshop in Sarajevo, May 2013, organized and serviced jointly with OSCE, enabled experts from countries with advanced knowledge in PRTRs and representatives from government authorities, NGOs and international organizations, as well as industry in South-Eastern Europe and Israel, to exchange knowledge and best practices on implementing PRTRs at the national level, including the creation of an appropriate institutional and legal framework, managing PRTR data and their dissemination and promoting public awareness.

To take stock of successes and challenges in implementing the Protocol and PRTR systems across the globe, a multi-stakeholder round table was organized in November jointly with OECD and in cooperation with

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the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. The event, led by Belgium and Japan, guided future activities towards the implementation of new PRTs and the enhancement of existing ones.

Furthering public participation in international forums

At the annual thematic session in June on promoting the Convention's principles in international forums, led by France, participants discussed concrete actions Parties could take to more systematically promote public participation in the international forums in which they took part. The session further focused on targeted actions with regard to specific forums, including the new United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the new High-level political forum as well as with regard to the policies of the international financial institutions, many of which are currently under review. The Aarhus secretariat also provides ongoing advisory support to international forums.

Replicating Aarhus experience

ECLAC and designated national focal points from Latin America and the Caribbean are in the process of developing a possible regional instrument on environmental rights in that region. The secretariat and the Aarhus Parties are actively engaged in providing advisory support to this initiative.

Seeking synergies with other organizations and entities

The secretariat continued pursuing close cooperation with a number of partner organizations. Furthermore, it continued servicing a region-wide inter-agency capacity-building coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and a global international coordinating group for the Protocol.

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Espoo Convention)

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is a unique tool for sustainable development and greening the economy, but its effectiveness will depend on the capacities of the implementing authorities and organizations. The first reporting round on the implementation of the Protocol on SEA to the Espoo Convention indicated that a majority of Parties had undertaken SEAs for Government plans and programmes, but also that experience in its application was still relatively limited. As the Protocol is fairly new, much assistance is needed to further its implementation and ratification in the UNECE region.

To this end, the secretariat to the two treaties significantly increased its offer of technical assistance and capacity-building activities for the benefit of the countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, financed mainly through an EU project "Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood" (EaP GREEN). The project funding will allow the secretariat to considerably promote the implementation of SEA, but also transboundary environmental impact assessment, in the subregion in 2013–2016. In 2013, the activities included regulatory and legislative reviews in Belarus, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova; national training workshops on SEA in Armenia and Ukraine; and three local level training events on SEA in Belarus. In addition, a first pilot project on post-project analysis under the Convention was initiated in Belarus and Ukraine.



Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is a unique tool for sustainable development and greening the economy

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Through the EU-funded project “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN), UNECE will promote the implementation of SEA in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

Also this year, Parties and the general public increasingly used the assistance-oriented compliance procedure, led by the Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol. Several of the concerns brought before the Committee were related to the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities. As a demonstration of the importance of the two treaties with regard to such activities, a seminar was hosted to exchange experience and good practice in the application of the Convention and the Protocol to nuclear energy activities, and practical guidance in this field will be prepared in the next intersessional period.

Prompted by the Committee’s observations on possible systemic issues for implementation of the Convention in several countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, a general guidance was developed in 2013 on enhancing consistency between the Convention and environmental assessment within the framework of the State ecological expertise system prevalent in most of those countries. The guidance will be adopted at the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties under the two treaties (Kiev, 2–5 June 2014) and is expected to contribute to the greater harmonization of the legislative framework and practice by Parties to the Convention throughout the region.

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

In 2013 Bosnia and Herzegovina became the forty-first Party to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention). Activities carried out continued to enhance governance on industrial safety in the UNECE region, especially in countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia that benefit from the Convention’s Assistance Programme.

An important achievement in 2013 was the completion of the online training platform on industrial accidents, in collaboration with UNEP and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, which provides an introduction to the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents, including the provisions of the Convention.

Another ongoing activity is a trilateral project in the Danube Delta, involving the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, to improve cooperation between the three countries through enhancing and harmonizing the mechanisms and approaches for efficient and effective hazard and crisis management. The work under the hazard management component of the Danube project, which is funded by Germany, led to the preparation of a consolidated draft of safety guidelines and good industry practices for oil terminals, which was reviewed and tested during a workshop, including a joint visit to an oil terminal in Odessa, in September 2013. Key outcomes under this component will be the final safety guidelines and good industry practices for oil terminals, as well as the development of a hazard map for the Danube Delta.



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The secretariat also worked on the delivery of a project on risk assessment of industrial accidents and enforcement of cross-border obligations, developed at the request of the Republic of Moldova and implemented with support from the Netherlands. The project seeks to improve preparedness and response to (cross-border) industrial accidents among non-EU countries by providing guidance and recommendations. As part of the project, a workshop on good practices in industrial accident preparedness and response was held in Chisinau in September 2013. The final output of the project will be guidelines on public health and environmental risk assessment during the acute phase of chemical incidents, intended to contribute to a systematic and harmonized approach in this area within the UNECE region.

The secretariat also provided direct support to non-Parties, in particular to Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, to encourage their ratification of the Convention.

The Working Group on Development under the Convention worked on aligning annex I of the Convention (which defines hazardous substances for the purposes of defining hazardous activities under the Convention) with the Globally Harmonized System for the Labelling of Chemicals, while at the same time ensuring consistency with EU legislation on industrial accidents. The revised annex I will be forwarded to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting in 2014 for possible consideration and adoption. The Working Group will also assess possible amendments to the Convention in important areas, including revised and additional definitions and scope, strengthened public participation provisions and clarified or strengthened obligations regarding reporting and land-use planning.

The UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification System was upgraded in 2013 with support from Switzerland and the improved version should be made available to the Convention's Points of Contact during the first quarter of 2014.

For 2014, priorities will continue to be the finalization of the amendments to annex I and the provision of support to non-Parties, in particular in Central Asia, with regard to ratification and implementation of the Convention. Other activities envisaged for 2014 include the implementation of further activities for countries under the Assistance Programme and a follow-up project on awareness-raising on industrial safety for universities in Russian-speaking countries.

Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

The availability of integrated, relevant, timely and easily accessible environmental information and its assessment provides the foundation for meaningful environmental governance. Conversely, a lack of such information, in particular regarding polluters and pollution in specific sectors, presents a major obstacle to defining policies and targets to protect and preserve the environment and to monitoring their efficiency.

To ensure good governance in the environmental sphere the UNECE programme on environmental monitoring and assessment continued in 2013 to promote the establishment of a regular process of environmental assessment, underpinned by the development of a shared environmental information system and regular environmental reporting, in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the programme's target countries.

Final output will be guidelines on public health and environmental risk assessment during the acute phase of chemical incidents



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The programme works to build capacities in analysing environmental data and indicators for the preparation of assessments

An EPR provides governments and other national stakeholders with a framework for identifying and tackling thorny environmental issues

This was done by building the capacities of experts from the target countries in the production of environmental indicators in accordance with internationally recognized standards. That work, in turn, resulted in the development of revised indicator guidelines, including an improved description of indicators, calculation matrices for determining indicators and updated glossaries of terms and references, which will allow the target countries to present data on the ongoing processes in the environment effectively and in a harmonized way, as well as to identify pollution and pollutants. The guidelines are available on the programme's website (http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/iandr_en.html).

The programme also worked to build capacities in analysing environmental data and indicators for the preparation of assessments, which will help in defining new or corrective measures and establishing targets to better protect and preserve the environment. A network of national experts for environmental assessments was established, through which experts are able to exchange knowledge and good practice, as well as discuss their most urgent assessment challenges. A first exchange resulted in identifying priorities for future capacity-building efforts, including the better application of the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework, Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) and country-comparative analyses and ex-ante and ex-post evaluations of assessments.

Environmental Performance Reviews

Through its EPR Programme, UNECE continued to promote a continuous dialogue among its member States on environmental governance, the efficiency of environmental policies and the cost-effectiveness of environmental measures. The EPR Programme also continued to stimulate the general public's greater involvement in environmental debates and to encourage and promote its participation in actions on environmental issues and policies.

As an independent external assessment, an EPR provides Governments and other national stakeholders with a framework for identifying and tackling thorny environmental issues. National environmental authorities also use the reviews to raise their Governments' awareness of pressing environmental problems. The usefulness of the EPRs is assessed through discussions with governmental authorities, which have virtually unanimously expressed their conviction that they offer valuable inputs, and many officials affirm they find the reviews useful in their day-to-day work.

In 2013, CEP carried out peer reviews of Croatia, Morocco and the Republic of Moldova based on review chapters and recommendations agreed upon by the Expert Group on EPRs.

The EPR of Morocco marks the spreading success of the UNECE Programme, and the start of its knowledge sharing with other United Nations regional commissions: Morocco was the first non-UNECE member State to undergo a review under the programme, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa, of which Morocco is a member. The secretariat is currently considering a second such knowledge-sharing review, having been invited to undertake an EPR of Tunisia, at the invitation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

The Committee on Environmental Policy also endorsed the requests of Montenegro and Serbia to undergo their third EPRs. The preparatory missions to these countries took place in autumn 2013, while the review missions are planned for the spring 2014 and the EPR reports will be peer reviewed in the autumn of 2014.

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Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

Led jointly by the UNECE Environment and Transport Divisions and the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe), THE PEP is a unique policy framework to encourage national Governments and municipal authorities to consider health and environmental impacts in transport policy and planning.

In 2013, THE PEP *Staffette*, or relay race to transfer good practices from city to city, continued to spread knowledge on integrated policy approaches to mitigate the negative effects of transport on the environment and human health through a series of related workshops. The subregional workshop “Green and health-friendly Sustainable Mobility: Focus on Urban Central Asia”, held in Almaty in September 2013, was hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environment Facility. Participants agreed a set of action points, including to reduce emissions of air pollution, greenhouse gases and noise and to invest in efficient and accessible public transport and safe infrastructure, signs and signalling to encourage human-powered (active) mobility, like walking and cycling.

THE PEP 2013 Symposium, held at WHO headquarters in Geneva in November, was the last in a series established in 2009 to address priority goals defined at the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Amsterdam, 2009). The Symposium addressed the theme “Safe and Healthy Walking and Cycling in Cities: Active Mobility for All.”

THE PEP Steering Committee meeting which followed the Symposium focused on preparations for the upcoming Fourth High-Level Meeting (Paris, 14–16 April 2014), and finalized negotiations on the forthcoming Paris Declaration under the slogan “Cities in Motion: People First” to emphasize the importance of the individual citizen and the quest for green and health-friendly urban mobility.

UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

The UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development is the regional implementation pillar of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014). It is a practical instrument to support countries in incorporating ESD into all forms of education. ESD means not only addressing the core themes related to sustainable development — such as climate change, gender equity and sustainable consumption — through teaching and learning, but also supporting participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development.

In 2013, the Steering Committee for ESD focused on advancing the implementation of the three priority action areas under the Strategy:

- To ensure that there is an ESD school plan in every school by 2015,
- To promote the introduction of ESD into teacher education,
- To reorient technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy.

The Steering Committee launched the capacity-building tool-kit “Empowering educators for a sustainable future”, which promotes educator competences for ESD. The tool-kit for policy and practice

THE PEP Staffette is a relay race to transfer good practices from city to city



There should be an ESD school plan in every school by 2015

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workshops was used during national workshops on implementing ESD in Central Asia, and will be made available as a web publication on the Steering Committee website.

Finally, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNECE co-organized a regional consultation on the assessment of and follow-up to the United Nations Decade on ESD. During the consultation, the UNECE Steering Committee strongly reaffirmed its dedication to continue implementing the Strategy beyond the end of the International Decade in 2014. Looking to the future, the Committee identified the following main challenges and priority themes:

- To maintain the focus on the three priority action areas.
- To focus on policy-level work. ESD needs to be integrated into both education and sustainable development policies, and the link should be made between ESD and other relevant processes, in particular the UNECE MEAs.
- To ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of ESD implementation. In particular, impact assessment is crucial to sustain support for and to drive ESD implementation.

Environment and Security Initiative

Through the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), which includes six partner agencies, UNECE works to promote cooperation between neighbouring countries in the management of natural resources in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. In November 2013 the Initiative celebrated its tenth anniversary in Brussels with a high-level debate and the launch of the publication *Transforming risks into cooperation*, to which the UNECE Environment Division contributed.

The MEAs administered by UNECE are an important pillar of ENVSEC activities and provide added value to the partnership. In 2013 activities implemented by UNECE under ENVSEC included work on dam safety in Central Asia; activities on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia; joint research on transboundary impacts in the Danube Delta; and capacity development within the Industrial Accidents Convention's Assistance Programme in South-Eastern Europe — all of which contribute to sustaining and advancing economic, environmental and social well-being. The year also saw the first publication of the results of the UNECE-OSCE-UNEP project "Reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change in the Dniester", which provides an analysis of the climate change impacts expected in the basin to 2050. It is expected that these results could form the basis of the effective decision-making that will be needed to address the environmental challenges that lie ahead.

Regional Adviser on Environment

The Regional Adviser on Environment develops, raises funds for and implements technical cooperation activities and provides policy advice in close collaboration with the secretariats of the UNECE MEAs. The work aims at improving management of shared natural resources, as well as strengthening cooperation on common environmental problems in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The project work undertaken in 2013 continued to focus

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on the development of transboundary water cooperation in basins such as the Drin, and the Chu-Talas. Negotiations on an agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia on the Kura River, which had been flagging, also received a new impetus this year. The Regional Adviser is also engaged in the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management. Overall, the work addresses environmental sustainability and promotes conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and regeneration of natural resources.

Projects were implemented in 15 countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with direct benefits for the lives of millions of people, who as a result are better protected against dam failures and enjoy improved water quality. Most of the activities were organized within the framework of technical cooperation projects managed and/or implemented by the Regional Adviser. Four important results aimed at broadening and improving transboundary water cooperation can be highlighted:

- The first Meeting of the Parties of the Memorandum for sustainable management of the Drin River Basin was held in Tirana.
- A work programme was agreed on for bilateral environmental and hydrology cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya Basin .
- Cooperation was initiated with the new Chair of the International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea in Tashkent.
- Cooperation was established with the Global Environmental Facility International Waters Programme with the perspective of improving the funding opportunities for UNECE projects.

Challenges in 2014 include the finalization of the negotiations on the bilateral Treaty on Cooperation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Kura River Basin between Azerbaijan and Georgia, provision of support to the implementation of the Aral Sea Basin Programme 3 and, in cooperation with UNDP and the Global Environmental Facility, initiating project work in support of transboundary cooperation in the Drin and Chu-Talas River Basins.

Projects were implemented in 15 countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with direct benefits for the lives of millions of people

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FORESTRY AND TIMBER

Forests for a Green Society: taking root, branching out



The forest sector leads in the movement towards a green economy

Placing the Forest Sector at the heart of Green Economy

In many countries of the UNECE region, the forest sector contributes significantly, and in some cases predominantly, to economic development. Assessing and highlighting this contribution was the aim of the publication *Forest and Economic Development*, presented at the United Nations Forum on Forests in April 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey.

The forest sector not only contributes to economic development, it also leads in the movement towards a green economy in which most products originate from renewable resources and are chosen according to their overall environmental impact. Beyond the traditional forest products, bioproducts and biochemicals produced from wood are the most promising wood-based products of the future, as demonstrated at the April 2013 Seminar on Innovation in the Forest Sector, co-organized with Innovawood.

New products and approaches were also at the centre of discussions at the May 2013 workshop on Forest Products and Technologies for the Future, co-organized with the Russian Federal Forest Agency and the Forestry Research Institute in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. Participants discussed key policies and technologies that could support the modernization of the forest sector so as to maximize its ability to respond to the growing demand for sustainable forest products, including energy.

In 2013, the project, "Sustainable Forest Management for Green Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia," started. This project aims at building capacities in this region and is funded under the UNDA.

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Creating a greener economy in Central Asia and the Caucasus with sustainable forests

UNECE and FAO are implementing a two year project for sustainable forest management in Central Asia and the Caucasus. The objectives are to: strengthen forest sector policies and institutions; develop and implement action plans for enhancing the contribution of forestry to a greener economy in selected countries; promote sustainable forest products, including for bioenergy; and improve data collection on forests and forest products. To achieve these objectives, the project will provide knowledge, training and advisory services to government officials, at all levels, responsible for forestry and will rely on the network of entities and experts that UNECE and FAO have in the region.

Since the project's launch in July 2013, six countries – Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – have expressed an interest in joining and have nominated national focal points. Georgia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have been further identified for participation in the coaching component of the project which will develop and pilot the implementation of National Action Plans for sustainable forest management for a greener economy. At the same time, a team of consultants is preparing a training package for the regional, national and local workshops to be held in 2014. A web-based hub will also be developed for collecting and sharing information and data on forests and forests products in the region.

Timber Committee renamed “Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry”

In January 2013 the Executive Committee endorsed the renaming of the Timber Committee as the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, following the recommendations of the Timber Committee at its seventieth session, in October 2012. This request was made because the Committee is addressing much more than timber and the new name better describes its functions. Through its integrated programme with the FAO European Forestry Commission, the Committee covers a range of forest-related subjects, in particular on the interface between forest management and wood and non-wood products and forest services.

The overall goal is to sustainably manage and use UNECE-region forests so that they provide products and ecosystem services to benefit society

The overall goal of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) European Forestry Commission, their related bodies and joint teams of specialists is to sustainably manage and use UNECE-region forests so that they provide products and ecosystem services to benefit society. During Metsä2013, their joint session, which took place in Rovaniemi, Finland, in December 2013, the Committee and the Commission went one step further in achieving their goal by approving two important documents for UNECE's regional work on forests, forest products and services:

- The new UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work for 2014-2017, which features four work areas: (a) data, monitoring and assessment; (b) policy dialogue and advice; (c) communications and outreach; and (d) capacity-building. It aims to help member countries to achieve the overall goal by providing the best available information, facilitating policy dialogues and communication, and building capacity.



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- The Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, which describes how the forest sector in the UNECE region could lead the way towards the emerging green economy. It identifies an overall vision, strategies, and various areas of activity. It also proposes objectives and specific actions, and identifies potential actors who might contribute to achieving the stated objectives. The Action Plan will enhance the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy.

Metsä2013 was scheduled in conjunction with, and as the main event of, the second European Forest Week.



European Forest Week 2013 – a major partnership to promote sustainable forest management

After the success of the first European Forest Week, organized in Italy in 2008 and celebrated throughout Europe, this was the second celebration of Europe's forests. In 2013 the theme was "The role of forests and forest products in a Green Economy". To organize the European Forest Week 2013, UNECE collaborated with 14 partners¹. The main goal of this partnership was to promote sustainable forest management and raise awareness of how the forest sector contributes to a green economy. In particular, the objectives of the Week were:

- *To raise awareness about the good health of forests in Europe, which are sustainably managed and growing in area and volume.*
- *To promote the role of the forest sector in "greening" the economy by improving human well-being and social equity, while reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.*
- *To raise awareness that forestry is at the core of the sustainability concept, as pointed out 300 years ago by Hans Carl von Carlowitz.*
- *To increase the visibility of the forest-based sector and its current and potential contributions to a sustainable economy.*
- *To engage other sectors in a dialogue on forest-related issues.*



Rovaniemi, Finland, was declared the Official City of the European Forest Week 2013 by the partners, and more than 35 events took place alongside "Metsä2013" in December. Among the organizations that held events were the: Swedish Forest Agency; Forestry Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; European Forest Institute; Finnish Forest Research Institute; International Union of Forest Research Organizations; European Confederation of Woodworking Industries; and International Forestry Students Association.

The topics of these events were various and were all coordinated with the objectives of the Week. Topics included: meeting the challenges for boreal forests in a green economy; emerging opportunities for European Union-Russia cooperation on forest-based sector governance; forest industries at the heart of the green economy; wood in carbon efficient construction; developing the health and well-being benefits of forests; and current issues in forestry education.

The host country and different partners in Rovaniemi organized diverse social and cultural events, including reindeer herding, snow games and traditional ice fishing in arctic conditions. Expositions, receptions and field trips, including a winter safari, also marked the European Forest Week in Rovaniemi.

¹ Confederation of European Private Forest Owners, Confederation of European Paper Industries, European Forest Institute, European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs, European State Forest Association, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FOREST EUROPE, Forest Stewardship Council, Geneva Environment Network, International Forestry Students' Association, International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, United Nations Environment Programme and World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

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There is an increasing need for governments to provide mutual assistance in managing large fire situations (wildfire disasters)

Safeguarding sustainable forest management in the UNECE region through international cooperation on fire management

Unprecedented wildfires have recently affected UNECE member States in the Mediterranean region (2007), the Russian Federation (2003, 2010), Western Europe and North America (2011 and 2012). They have resulted in high economic and environmental losses, as well as in humanitarian and security problems.

In response to these fires, the technical and scientific communities, as well as policymakers, have been calling for enhanced fire-management capacity, including fire prevention, preparedness and suppression capabilities. The exchange of expertise and technical and human resources between UNECE member States is crucial to expediting the process. This is of particular importance for some countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

In addition to capacity-building for fire management at national level, there is an increasing need for governments to provide mutual assistance in managing large fire situations (wildfire disasters) that exceed the control capability of the country affected. However, international response/interventions to wildfire emergencies have sometimes proven to have limited efficiency and effectiveness, and also have posed safety risks for personnel due to a lack of internationally accepted Standard Operating Procedures and fire fighting safety rules. Normative (legal) regulations or protocols, or voluntary and broadly accepted guidelines, are needed to ensure swift, efficient and safe interventions of a multinational character.

To respond to these needs, the project “Safeguarding sustainable forest management in the UNECE region through international cooperation in fire management”, funded by the government of Germany, achieved the following outputs (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=33755>):

- The UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management in November 2013, which aimed at drafting a proposal for the development of a voluntary or legal protocol on cross-boundary cooperation in forest fire management

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- A White Paper on the state of wildfires and fire management in forests and other vegetation resources in the UNECE region (summary of the analysis conducted before the Forum, and the recommendations for action as agreed upon by the Forum)
- Draft Standard Operating Procedures or guidelines for international cooperation in fire management (terrestrial, aerial)
- A resolution of the UNECE/FAO Regional forum on cross-boundary fire management (2013) on a proposal for a voluntary or legal protocol on cross-boundary cooperation in fire management.

Streamlining forest-based reporting 2013

The process towards achieving harmonized and coordinated forest-based reporting also continued at both the global and the regional levels through the work on the global Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire 2015 and reached an essential phase — that of national data collection. The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section played a key role in coordinating and organizing the data-collection process from the countries of Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, by providing resources, training and advice. The collaborative character of the reporting process also guarantees access to the collected data to all of the global partners: FAO, International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, Observatory of Central African Forests, the Montréal Process and UNECE.

The global collaborative process was further extended at the regional level. Countries, organizations and processes working in the framework of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber programme developed the joint pan-European questionnaire on quantitative indicators on sustainable forest management. The Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management played a vital role in creating this tool and as a forum for cooperation in monitoring and assessment.

The pan-European reporting on quantitative indicators complements the global data collection processes, and both surveys are done in coordination. This means that the recently developed process should produce fully harmonized forest-based information. The joint process greatly reduced the reporting burden and the cost of data collection. It should also increase the consistency and visibility of the core global variables.

The work involved in data collection, although of great importance in itself, is only the starting point for the process of analysing and disseminating information. The Forestry and Timber Section continued to provide professionals and stakeholders with this information, adjusted to the needs of individual users. In addition to the traditional means of dissemination, three editions of the Forest Info Billboard informed specialists in forest reporting about recent events, publications and activities. A new educational portal, based on information collected for the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report, which was developed for 12-14 year old students, will spread this information beyond the circles of traditional users.



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Wood energy is the leading source of renewable energy in the region

Forest products, statistics and wood energy

The UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review 2012-2013 was released in August 2013 (<http://www.unece.org/forests/fpm/annualmarketreviews.html>). This flagship publication, which provides general and statistical information on markets for forest products in the UNECE region, formed the foundation for the market discussions at the Committee's December 2013 meeting. The Committee produced a "market statement" summarizing the latest information on trends and trade in forest products, innovation and greening of forest products.

During the European Forest Week 2013, the Forestry and Timber Section also organized a round-table discussion on "What are the opportunities and challenges for forest products industries that we should be aware of, in order for the forest sector to maintain a thriving forest industry?"

In its annual discussions, the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management examined how to further improve the reporting and the quality of data submitted. The Working Party also discussed how the 2012 revision of the World Customs Organization's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the would affect the structure of the joint forest sector questionnaire, and provided guidance on further amendments to the revision of the Harmonized System in 2017, highlighting the importance of wood briquettes.

To improve the response rate of countries, in October the Section organized a workshop on improved reporting on wood products and energy for member States from Central Asia. The workshop, held in Russian, helped to strengthen or re-establish links between the secretariat and the statistical institutions of these member States.

In 2013 the UNECE/FAO Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (www.unece.org/forests/jwee.html) proved again to be a unique tool for collecting better data on wood energy. The enquiry is a biennial questionnaire that aims to shed light on the real role of wood energy in the region by promoting communication and cooperation between the energy, waste and forestry sectors. The results confirmed that wood energy is the leading source of renewable energy. In 2011, in 27 UNECE member countries, it accounted for 3.4 per cent of the total primary energy supply and 38.9 per cent of the renewable energy supply. In addition, around 40 per cent of all mobilized woody biomass supply is used for energy purposes.

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First International Day of Forests – marked with a UNECE high-level policy talk: “The contribution of forests to sustainability and development”

The General Assembly has passed a resolution designating 21 March of each year as an International Day of Forests, and encouraging all Member States to organize forest-related activities. This resolution highlights the importance of forests and their contribution to human enlightenment. Forests have always played a major role in human history. Over time, the interaction between humans and forests has changed in response to social and economic changes.

To highlight the contribution of forestry to society, and to celebrate the first official World Forest Day, the Forestry and Timber Section, together with the United Nations Office at Geneva, organized a high-level policy talk on, “The contribution of forests to sustainability and development”. A distinguished group of speakers debated these issues and presented success stories, as well as their vision of how maintaining the health and productivity of forests in different regions of the world contributes to sustainable development. Although national priorities may differ, there was a consensus that sustainable forest management remains a shared objective among all countries, whether or not they have similar levels of forest cover or similar experiences.

In 2014, the UNECE/FAO Section marked the International Day of Forests with Forests for fashion – *Fashion for Forests*, an even held at the Palais des Nations to celebrate and advocate the linkages between sustainable fashion and sustainable forest management. See details at: <http://www.unece.org/forests/forestsforfashion.html>.



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GENDER

Promoting gender diversity and capacity building to empower women in the UNECE region



2013 was an active year for Gender Activities both in terms of reinforcing the reflection of a gender perspective in the work of the secretariat and in terms of capacity building to support women entrepreneurs in the UNECE region. In addition, UNECE has continued to contribute to the global agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment through the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) and participation in the initiatives of the Inter-Agency Network for Women and Gender Equality and the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. Preparatory work for the Beijing +20 review process has started in cooperation with UN Women and the regional commissions.

Mainstreaming gender across UNECE areas of work

Strengthening accountability within UN SWAP

In 2013 the first round of reporting on UN-SWAP for the implementation of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women took place. In line with the UN-SWAP principles and standards, UNECE has updated its policy and implemented its Gender Action Plan for a second year. According to the UN-SWAP Reporting 2013, UNECE is one of the 18 United Nations entities that have developed or are currently developing UN-SWAP aligned gender policies, strategies and plans. Its particularly strong performance in the area of knowledge development and communication, as noted in the report, continued throughout the year. Special attention was given to expanding our networks of women's business associations, women entrepreneurs, agencies and institutions, as well as activities in capacity building in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (see section on capacity building).

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A cultural shift is needed in how companies and organizations are run so that diversity and inclusion become the norm

Inclusion is about ensuring that the right conditions are in place for each person to achieve his or her full potential

Empowering women in the energy sector

With a growing global population increasingly coming out of poverty, the need for energy resources worldwide is greater than ever. This, in turn, necessitates a workforce that is focused on delivery, to which diversity in all its forms is a major contributor. Participants in the two-day Symposium on Empowering women in the energy industry for value and development (September 2013) emphasized that women are part of the solution. It is up to the United Nations, governments, organizations and industry working in partnership to find the appropriate solutions to ensure industry and society benefits globally from the value added of a diverse labour force. The symposium, organized by the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Society of Petroleum Engineers, concluded that a cultural shift is needed in how companies and organizations are run so that diversity and inclusion become the norm.

Participants at the symposium emphasized that sustainable diversity in the work place could only be achieved through inclusivity, be it in government, industry or organizations. Workplace diversity refers to the variety of differences between people in an organization. It is the “mix” encompassing a wide range of factors, including gender, race, ethnic group, age, education, personality, religion, and more. Specific policies are needed to ensure that the diverse workforce can work well together. Inclusion is about ensuring that the right conditions are in place for each person to achieve his or her full potential. Inclusive policies in support of a diverse workforce need to permeate from the top down and be reflected in an organization’s culture, practices and relationships.

The Symposium identified seven areas of focus in an Action agenda for empowering women in the energy industry – mentoring, networking, outreach and education, commitment from the top, best practices and performance benchmarking, change the culture, and cooperation, collaboration and communication. (For more information see http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/sew/ActionAgenda_EmpowerWomen_EnergyInd.pdf).

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No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region

The publication No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region was prepared in the framework of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health. It highlights the gender dimension of equitable access to water and sanitation and looks at challenges faced by women to participate equally in public decision-making. In many cases, these challenges are due to traditional gender roles, the lack of time because of a greater burden of work related to household tasks and childcare, and the lack of experience to express their views confidently. Women's roles in the context of water and sanitation, including their greater need for privacy, have broader implications. Public toilets, including toilets in schools, need to meet specific requirements to assure that women and girls are not prevented from taking part in public life and attending school. The good practice guidance sets out policy options to prevent discrimination and exclusion of groups, including women. One such option is the collection of data on access to water and sanitation that takes into account gender, among other things, to identify discrepancies and set priorities for Government assistance.

The publication is accessible at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=29170>



Reflecting gender dimensions in environmental activities

At its 2013 session the Committee on Environmental Policy discussed how to further include the gender perspective in the preparation for activities and policy discussions within the UNECE environmental governance framework, in line with the Gender Action Plan. It welcomed the gender mainstreaming efforts already being made in the framework of several activities, such as under the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health and the UNECE Strategy for Education and Sustainable Development. It further recognized the importance of including a gender perspective in the preparation for activities and policy discussions within the UNECE environmental governance framework, in line with the Gender Action Plan. A variety of gender-sensitive approaches can be tailored to the different types of activities, such as projects, programme and policy related work and concrete outputs e.g. publications. A case in point is the publication *No one left behind. Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region* which highlights the role of women in decision-making related to access to water and sanitation and sets out policy options.



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Inclusive policies in support of a diverse workforce need to permeate from the top down and be reflected in an organization's culture, practices and relationships

Mainstreaming gender in population policies in the UNECE Regional Conference "Enabling choices: Population Priorities for the 21st century"

In all Conference sessions aspects of gender equality were discussed, emphasizing among other things the crucial role of gender equality in advancing the social development in the region, the remaining challenge of tackling gender-based violence, and the central role of actions that advance gender equality. Participants addressed the sources of gender inequities, especially inequalities in access to education, health services and employment, and emphasized the need for a rights-based and gender responsive approach to development, sexual and reproductive health and rights (see more information on the conference on page 41)

Capacity-building to support women entrepreneurs in the UNECE region

UNECE Gender and Economy continued to successfully collaborate with the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre in Haifa and Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organizing biannual training workshops for professional women from Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia as well as discussions with a broader audience on the role of women in development. The workshops focused on two main topics: support systems for women entrepreneurs at national and local levels (June-July 2013) and ICTs (October 2013).

More than 350 women and men entrepreneurs from government institutions and small and medium-sized (SME) support agencies, NGOs dealing with small business support and development, professional associations, women's business associations and academia from countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia have received training on ICTs and support systems for women entrepreneurs since the first jointly organized workshop in 2006 on microcredit and other support systems for women entrepreneurs. In 2013, roundtable discussions were organized where participants informed on the current business, economic and institutional environment in their countries, debated possible alternatives to supportive actions to SMEs, including companies owned and managed by women, and suggested special measures and initiatives on how to overcome barriers to women entrepreneurs in the region.



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Preparing for the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in its Resolution 2013/18 addressed the relevance of the reviews and outcomes of the regional level intergovernmental processes in the preparation for the global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, Beijing +20, to be held in 2015. In line with the role assigned to them by the General Assembly in the review of progress in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits, UNECE in cooperation with the other regional commissions and UN Women has started the preparatory process. It includes national reviews and regional assessments reports. To facilitate the preparation of national reports, UN Women in collaboration with all the regional commissions has developed a guidance note to collect information on the implementation and impact of the concrete actions taken at country level. The Beijing+20 Regional review meeting in the UNECE region will be held in November 2014.

Looking forward: challenges for 2014

- A major area of work next year will be devoted to the preparation of the UNECE Preparatory Meeting for the Beijing+20 review meeting in November 2014.
- UNECE will continue to promote the reflection of a gender perspective in the work of the sectoral committees through the various activities considered in the Gender Action Plan for 2014-2015.
- It will further strengthen networking and collaboration between women's business associations, professional association, women and men entrepreneurs, public and private companies and centres supporting women entrepreneurship development across the UNECE region.

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HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Building a more resilient future



The Committee on Housing and Land Management performs a key function as the only intergovernmental body addressing the unique housing and land management situation in the UNECE region. The Committee provides a forum for exchanging best practices and formulating policy guidance. It also assists member States by assessing countries' housing and land-management systems, providing advisory services and offering capacity-building activities.

Key challenges in the UNECE region: energy efficiency, housing affordability and disaster preparedness

During 2013 UNECE conducted a survey of its member States to gather information on the challenges countries face in housing, urban planning and land management, as well as to assess their progress in developing related policies, legislation and programmes. The results were presented at the Committee's seventy-fourth session.

According to the survey, the biggest challenges that countries face are:

- Inefficient use of energy in the housing sector and deteriorated housing stock
- Persistent problems of housing affordability, especially for young people, owing to the financial and economic crisis
- Increased damage to housing and human settlements from climate change and other natural and man-made disasters.

In the report on this survey, *“Challenges and Priorities in Housing and Land Management in the UNECE Region”* thirty countries provide examples of how they have addressed their housing challenges by implementing UNECE guidelines on housing and land management.

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Ministers and other high-level representatives from 47 of the 56 member States adopted the regional Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management for 2014 to 2020

The report was used by the Committee to determine priorities and formulate the objectives and targets of its Draft strategy and targets for sustainable housing and land management in the UNECE region for the period 2014 – 2020.

Ministerial Meeting adopts Strategy for Sustainable Housing 2014-2020

Ministers, heads of department and other high-level representatives from 47 of the 56 member States adopted the regional Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management for 2014 to 2020 at the UNECE Ministerial Meeting on Housing and Land Management in October 2013. Through its 15 objectives and 36 targets, the Strategy addresses the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable housing and land management in the region. During the next six years it will serve as a guide for the work of both Governments and the Committee.



Existing technologies can reduce a building's energy consumption by 30 to 50 per cent without greatly increasing investment costs

Enabling an energy-efficient residential sector

Achieving energy efficiency remains a challenge for countries across the UNECE region even though solutions exist for meeting this challenge. Already existing technologies can reduce a building's energy consumption by 30 to 50 per cent, without greatly increasing investment costs.

Improving the energy performance of residential buildings provides multiple benefits. It enhances living conditions; reduces residents' energy bills and, thus, energy poverty; mitigates greenhouse gas emissions; and creates employment.

To implement measures that promote energy efficiency in the residential sector, Governments need to create appropriate legal and institutional frameworks.

To support such efforts UNECE has compiled *Good Practices for Energy-Efficient Housing in the UNECE Region*. This report gives examples of how to develop legal, institutional and financial frameworks for energy-efficient housing, apply energy-efficient technological solutions, and educate consumers.

The Committee organized a workshop in Tbilisi, "Roadmap to an energy-efficient residential sector" as part of the Fourth International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development jointly organized with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

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The workshop explored the policies and legislation needed to facilitate access to and financing for energy-efficient buildings and infrastructure.

Following the request of the Government of Georgia, and subject to available funding, the Committee also endorsed supporting the preparation of a national action plan for Energy-Efficient Housing for Georgia.

Energy-efficient housing was one of several topics discussed at the Housing Forum: Europe and Central Asia.

Housing Forum: Europe and Central Asia

The Housing Forum: Europe and Central Asia is a biennial event in which Governments and other stakeholders come together to discuss housing solutions in an interactive and dynamic environment. The four themes of the 2013 Housing Forum were: regulatory framework, housing solutions, housing vulnerabilities and housing development. These themes were discussed by the 150 participants during 26 breakout sessions held during the Forum.

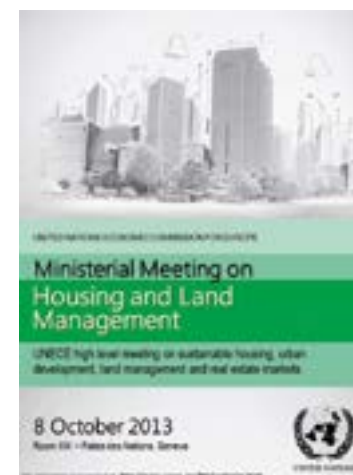
At the end of the Forum, participants came together to discuss conclusions and agree on recommendations. Among the recommendations were calls to increase the supply of rental housing through new financing models, to address the problem of managing deteriorated, privatized multi-family housing, and to empower Roma populations to solve their housing problems and to take steps to legalize informal settlements.

The Housing Forum was organized in April 2013 by UNECE and its partners Habitat for Humanity International, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UNDP and UN-Habitat.

Developing policies to address risks from natural and human-induced disasters

In 2013 the Committee strengthened cooperation with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. For example the Committee adopted new guidelines for country profiles on housing and land management which will, from now on, include analysis and recommendations on disaster prevention and response.

The Committee also organized a workshop on “Building safer homes in safer places: approaches to preventing risks from industrial sites to housing and land,” in cooperation with the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and hosted an exhibit on temporary post-disaster housing.



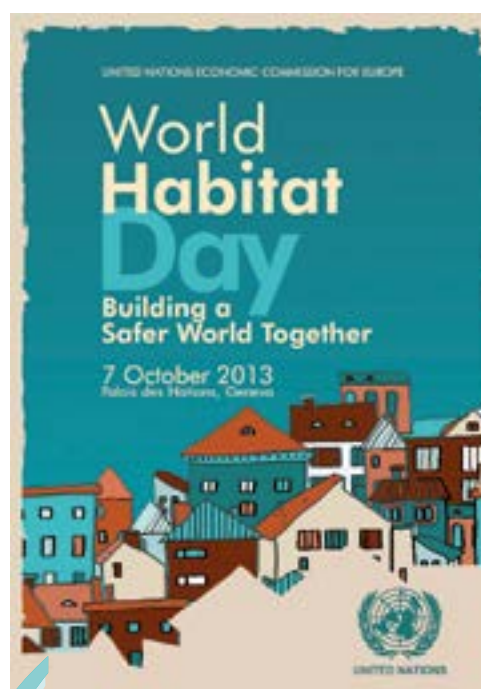
“Building a safer world together” World Habitat Day 2013

Disaster preparedness and the safety of buildings are of paramount interest to all populations. Every year, thousands of lives and homes are lost due to poor quality housing and safety.

On the first Monday of every October, countries around the world celebrate World Habitat Day. This is a day to reflect on the state of our cities and our collective responsibility to improve the habitat for future generations. To show the importance of buildings for a sustainable future, UNECE chose the theme “Building a Safer World Together” for its celebration of World Habitat Day 2013.

As part of these celebrations, UNECE hosted a month-long exhibition of temporary disaster relief housing in the grounds of the Palais des Nations. Sample houses, provided by Canada and Estonia, showcased some of the most recent developments in low-cost, quick-build, short-term housing for people displaced by disasters.

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Governments are making much greater use of e-technology in order to streamline their operations and provide better services to customers

Every year, thousands of lives and homes are lost due to poor quality housing and safety

Country profiles on housing and land management — an effective instrument to support reforms

Country profiles on housing and land management are in-depth reviews of countries' housing and land-management systems. They are rated by countries as among the most useful UNECE tools to promote reforms in housing and land management.

UNECE launched a country profile for Tajikistan in 2013 and completed the country profile for Ukraine. Housing availability was identified as one of Tajikistan's key challenges. The country has a rapidly growing population, but limited land resources. As a result of reforms to streamline and improve construction, annual housing construction doubled after 2009, with almost 100,000 square metres of new construction every year.

The Government now faces the challenges of:

- Putting in place effective management of multi-apartment buildings
- Establishing mechanisms for financing housing
- Ensuring an effective investment policy
- Improving infrastructure, including water supply and sewerage

For each of these challenges, the country profile on Tajikistan provided an analysis and policy recommendations. These included further delegating authority to local governments, collecting reliable and comprehensive data to support decision-making and developing affordable housing targeted to appropriate demographic groups.

In Ukraine the primary challenges are poor housing conditions, a deteriorated housing stock and uneven housing availability. The country uses a housing code inherited from the Soviet period which does not cover many aspects of modern, private housing, such as condominium ownership. As a result, many aspects of housing policy are based on short and medium term resolutions by legislative and executive authorities. The housing is also extremely energy-inefficient due to poor maintenance and the abundant availability of cheap energy.

The country also faces land challenges. Registration of property is continuing, a cadastre (or mapping system) is still being established and healthy land markets need to be developed, especially in rural areas.

Recommendations for Ukraine included streamlining national housing legislation, defining clearly the rights and responsibilities related to common spaces and facilities in apartment blocks, and developing a long-term housing strategy and a spatial policy framework.

Promoting transparent and robust land-administration systems and sustainable real estate markets

Land administration provides the infrastructure for implementing land-related policies and land management strategies. It provides security of tenure, security in the transfer of real property rights, security and transparency in land and real property valuation, transparency in land use and land-use planning, and transparency and sustainability in land development. The UNECE Working Party on Land Administration promotes effective and transparent land-administration systems.

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The Working Party organized two workshops in 2013 to support capacity development in land-administration organizations. The first, “Land Administration in Central Asia: Building Systems for 21st Century Challenges”, was held in Kyrgyzstan in cooperation with the Government and the World Bank, and explored the challenges of developing robust land-registration and land-administration systems in Central Asia.

The second, “Collaborating for secured ownership”, was held in Sweden in cooperation with the Government, and addressed how e-governance can be developed to give (a) the individual landowner better service and (b) the administration the tools to serve society more efficiently.

The Working Party also completed an extensive survey of land-administration systems in the UNECE region. The results form the basis of a publication that provides a comparative analysis of various aspects of land administration in member States, including informal settlements, e-services and costs. The survey shows significant progress in countries since the last such survey in 2005. In particular, Governments are making much greater use of e-technology in order to streamline their operations and provide better services to customers.

The UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group organized a roundtable discussion in Washington, D.C. to discuss the evaluation of real estate market risk and potential reforms in United States’ real estate markets. The roundtable participants highlighted the importance of proper risk assessment for lenders and investors. They also discussed the need for independent, educated and competent professionals to develop risk ratings.

Future highlights

During 2014 the Committee will continue to work with member States to develop housing policy frameworks and land management systems.

- Energy-efficient housing will continue to be a priority. The Committee will work with member States who request assistance in developing a national action plan for energy efficiency in housing. Capacity-building and training activities will be held to educate government officials, building managers and consumers.
- UNECE will work with member States to develop policies in support of social and affordable housing and will organize a workshop on climate-neutral social housing.
- The Committee will continue to promote “smart” cities, addressing in particular housing, infrastructure and other issues related to demographic changes in cities.
- The Working Party will organize workshops focusing on the use of land registration data to improve government services. It will also publish an in-depth analysis of informal and illegal housing in the region and the steps that Governments could take to solve this problem.

Land administration provides security of tenure and security in the transfer of real property rights



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POPULATION

Priorities for the twenty-first century



20-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994)

UNECE concluded the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) with the launch of the report “*ICPD Beyond 2014: The UNECE Region’s Perspective*” and the encouraging outcome of the Regional Conference Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century, organized jointly with UNFPA in July 2013. The report, based on survey results from 45 UNECE member States complemented by relevant existing studies and data provided in country implementation profiles, highlighted three main priority areas.

Population and Sustainable Development

In line with the ICPD Programme of Action and with the declarations adopted at the Rio Conference on Sustainable Development and the Rio+20 process, UNECE countries have strengthened their approach to population from the perspective of sustainable development. Population ageing has led to a stronger focus on older persons in policymaking. Sustainable development is only possible if systems in society are adjusted to the new balance of generations. To reap the benefits of longer life, policies to ensure active and healthy ageing for all, curbing inequality and ensuring the autonomy, quality of life, and dignity of older persons are essential elements.

Inequities and Social Exclusion

Among the major achievements of the past two decades is the design of policies aiming to reduce inequalities and enhance social inclusion. Still, many inequalities persist and have even increased in some areas,

Sustainable development is only possible if systems in society are adjusted to the new balance of generations

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Conditions on the labour market, legal institutions, government support and social norms have been lagging behind the needs of people who wish to combine a career with a family

connected with the economic crisis. Although analysis has revealed progress in addressing the needs of population groups such as youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, and ethnic and other minorities, structural disadvantages and vulnerability to unemployment and poverty persist in practically all countries.

Families, the Life Course, and Sexual and Reproductive Health

Provisions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights that give people autonomy over their reproductive choices have been incorporated widely in policies and legislation. Policies and programmes have been implemented to enlarge the scope of services provided, including information and counselling, as well as to broaden the coverage of population groups to ensure better inclusion of vulnerable and underserved groups. While education, mainly in secondary grades, has included aspects of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, comprehensive sexuality education in schools is still lacking in many countries and there is limited access to youth-friendly services, in particular sexual and reproductive health services.

At the same time, declines in fertility and later births of the first child have been vivid expressions of the fact that many people of reproductive age do not find their conditions of life conducive to realizing their desire to have children. Conditions on the labour market, legal institutions, government support and social norms have been lagging behind the needs of people who wish to combine a career with a family. Reconciliation of work and family life should be more effectively addressed, particularly regarding the availability of public and private childcare facilities.

The findings of the regional report inspired the Regional Conference discussion, as reflected in the Chair's summary, the main outcome document. With more than 300 high-level participants the event confirmed the importance that UNECE member States attach to these issues.

Working Group on Ageing

The Working Group on Ageing has continued to assist member States in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the region. In 2013 the Working Group focused on translating the priorities adopted with the 2012 Ministerial Declaration into a programme of work for the period until 2017.

A new issue in the Policy Brief series was dedicated to Abuse of Older Persons. The Brief contains a broad array of strategies in preventing physical, psychological or financial abuse and presents services to address actual cases of abuse. Good practice examples include the Senior Case workers' system in Ireland or the initiative Elderly for the Elderly in Slovenia, where older persons support their peers as volunteers. A checklist provides an easy overview about available policy options.



The priorities of the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration "Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing":

- to maintain longer working life and encourage ability to work
- to promote participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons
- to safeguard dignity, health and independence in older age

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Road Maps on Ageing

Work has started on a new Road Map on Ageing in Georgia. Two field missions in late 2013 served to agree on procedural matters with the Government and to collect information about the country's situation. Stakeholder interviews were carried out with representatives of government, the private sector and civil society as well as international organizations with a country presence. The project team is scheduled to complete drafting of the ageing strategy and action plan in the second half of 2014. The draft will be circulated among Georgian stakeholders and presented to the Working Group on Ageing. After integrating the feedback received from this broader circulation, it is expected that the Government of Georgia will formally adopt the strategy and the action plan and the implementation process will be routinely monitored and evaluated on an annual basis.

Active Ageing Index

Following the official launch of the Active Ageing Index for 27 EU countries in December 2012, work on it is entering the next stage. Designed as a dashboard of indicators, the Index aims to provide policymakers with a tool that will indicate unused potential for active ageing, thus pointing to specific domains for policy interventions in promoting active and healthy ageing. It might also become a useful tool for monitoring implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action/Regional Implementation Strategy. The second phase of the project, launched in late 2013, aims to establish a comparable index for countries outside the EU as well as calculating it for retrospective periods to capture the trends and their relation to changing policy contexts within and across countries.

Generations and Gender Programme

The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), initiated by UNECE in 2000 and now run by a consortium of leading demographic research organizations, is a two-pillar programme consisting of internationally comparable, theory-driven, large sample panel surveys and a contextual database. In combination these pillars are designed to shed light on factors influencing contemporary demographic trends, including family-building behaviours, migration, and relationships between generations and between the genders. Data are available free of charge upon online application via <http://www.ggp-i.org/data/data-access.html>. First wave data from 16 countries can be accessed online, with a new data set added from Poland in 2012. Second wave data can be obtained from five countries. New data from Sweden are expected to become available in 2014, together with new waves from Australia. The contextual database can be found at <http://www.ggp-i.org/contextual-database.html>. The secretariat updated the bibliographic database of GGP-based research, now containing more than 900 entries.

The Population Unit coordinates the GGP International Working Group, composed of focal points from country teams. A meeting of this group was organized in October 2013 in Milan, Italy, to discuss progress in data collection and plans for the future. As coordinator of this group, the secretariat has played an important bridging function between those in charge of programme management and development and those organizing data collection at country-level. The second GGP User Conference which also took place in October in Milan allowed researchers to present and discuss more than 20 papers based on GGP data. Interest in the data has continued to increase with more and more applications being received by UNECE. The growing momentum is also confirmed by research output. Major conferences of population experts have had a considerable representation of GGP-related research, such as for example the International Population Conference in Busan, Republic of Korea, in August 2013.



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SPECA

Working for strategic regional cooperation



The Governing Council elected Afghanistan as the Chair-Country of SPECA in 2014

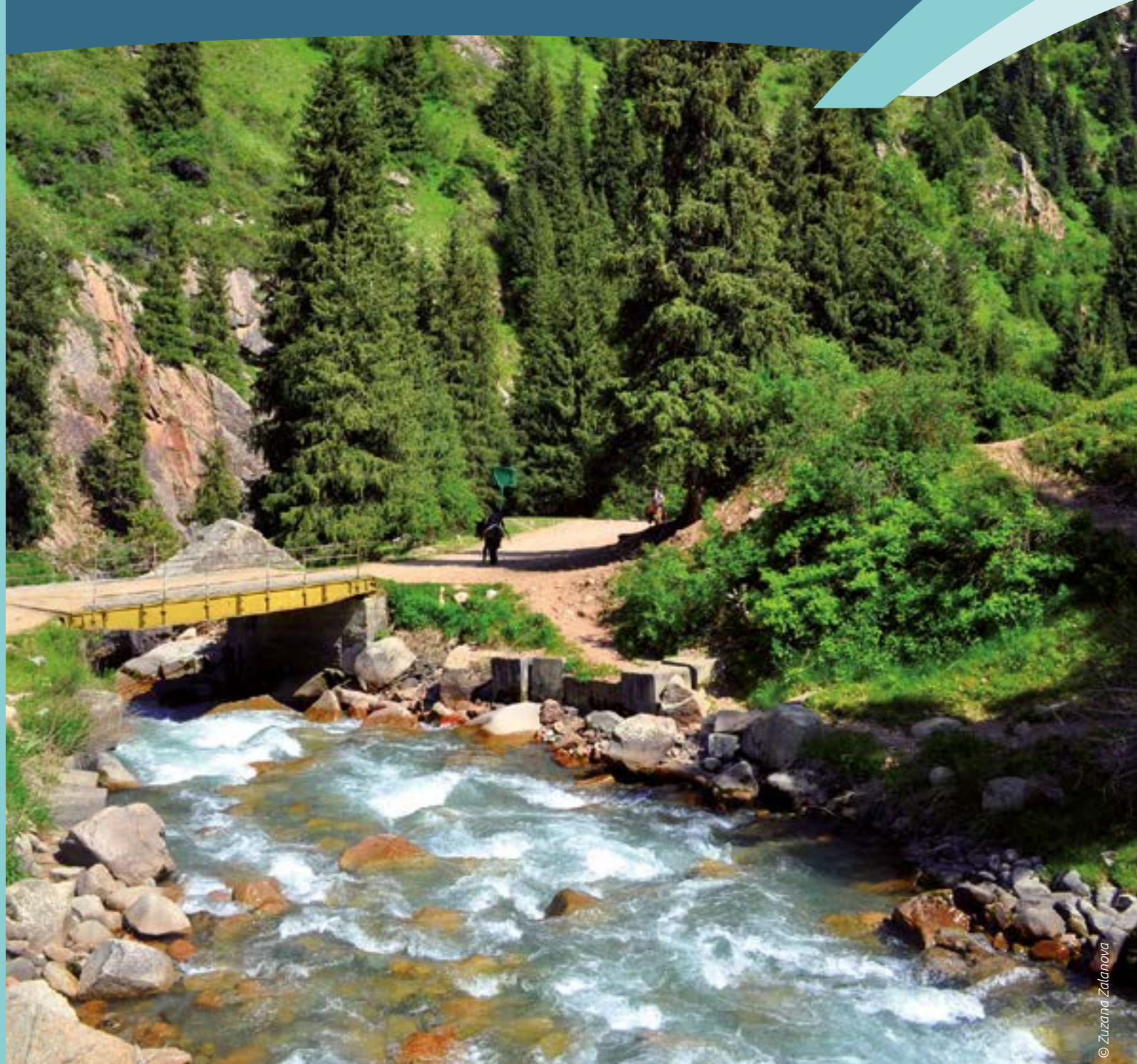
The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was founded by the Presidents of four Central Asian States and the Executive Secretaries of UNECE and UNESCAP in 1998 by the Tashkent Declaration. Today it counts seven members: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. UNECE and UNESCAP provide support to SPECA.

The SPECA Governing Council held in November 2013 in Almaty adopted a decision on further strengthening the Programme. Following high-level consultations in the capitals of the majority of participating countries, the UNECE Executive Secretary presented a proposal that includes strengthening the ownership of the Programme by its participating countries, more efficient governance and increased capacity for project implementation. The Governing Council also adopted terms of reference for SPECA. Complemented by the terms of reference of the six project working groups they establish clear, unified objectives, procedures and rules of decision-making for the Programme as a whole.

The Governing Council elected Afghanistan as the Chair-Country of SPECA in 2014. Turkmenistan offered comprehensive support that may include organizing several SPECA events in 2014 under the chairmanship of Afghanistan. The Representative of Afghanistan expressed his gratitude to SPECA participating countries for the support to and solidarity with his country in the crucial transition year of 2014.

The 2013 SPECA Economic Forum, “Inclusive and Sustainable Development through Regional Cooperation”, took place in November in Almaty. The expert level segment of the Forum discussed the promotion and financing of green technologies.

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Regional economic cooperation should also be seen as a contribution to the peace and security of Central Asia

The High-Level Segment of the Economic Forum discussed regional aspects of Rio+20 and the post 2015 development agenda. Discussing the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development allowed participants to highlight the close interconnection between environment and development. Participants fully supported the demand by the Rio+20 outcome document “The future we want” that the design of the sustainable development goals be consistent with the post 2015 development process.

Participants pointed out that due to the close connection among the ecosystems of the Aral Sea Basin there are a number of environmental challenges there that can only be addressed through regional effort. They identified several issues – including water resources management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, transport and trade – where regional cooperation could significantly contribute to the successful implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes.

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When discussing regional aspects of the post 2015 development agenda, participants pointed out that development results from a complex interaction of multiple economic, social, cultural, ecological, political and legal factors, many of which have important cross-border and regional elements. They therefore supported recognition of the importance of strengthened regional cooperation for the successful achievement of new goals to be included in the post 2015 development agenda.

Participants pointed out that the question of resources for accomplishing the region's post 2015 goals is another area where regional cooperation could make a contribution. Improving regional trade relations, transport, border crossing, and intra-regional investment could provide additional means for development. Regional economic cooperation should also be seen as a contribution to the peace and security of Central Asia – an important precondition for stable and sustainable progress towards achieving the new goals in the post 2015 development agenda.

Participants recognized the role that SPECA could play in the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes and the post 2015 development agenda through strengthening regional cooperation.

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STATISTICS

Improving the quality and policy-relevance of official statistics



Coordination of international statistical work in the region is a key task of the CES

The UNECE Statistical Division works with member countries to improve the quality of official statistics at the national and international levels, and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the UNECE region.

The work in this area is governed by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), composed of the Heads of the national statistical organizations in the UNECE region with the participation of Australia, Brazil, China, Chile, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and South Africa. The major international organizations active in statistics in the region also participate in the work, such as the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), OECD, CIS-Stat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, etc. Furthermore, the work responds to the global initiatives of the General Assembly and the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The work addresses current priorities of member countries in statistical development for evidence-based decision-making. The strategic areas include measurement of sustainable development; globalization; population issues including poverty and inequality, and the use of censuses and registers; modernization of statistical production; and capacity building in areas identified for improvement in global assessments of statistical systems. Flexibility is ensured by using teams of specialists created for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, output and time frame. The work leads to outputs such as statistical standards, guidelines and recommendations, which often have a global impact.

Coordination of international statistical work in the region is a key task of the CES that aims at finding synergies and using scarce resources efficiently. The CES provides a platform for the chief statisticians of the UNECE countries and beyond to share experience and develop common standards and recommendations for national statistical offices so that



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CES adopted recommendations on measuring sustainable development and the associated sets of indicators

Statistical definitions of terms such as social security and social protection need to be clarified

they can better respond to increasing information needs. There are several mechanisms to ensure the coordination in practice, of which the main ones are the regular meetings of the Conference and its Bureau, the CES seminars exploring the foundational issues of statistical systems and emerging topics, in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas, and the Database of International Statistical Activities.

The topics for CES seminars are selected by the member countries and address issues of current interest to the heads of national statistical offices. In 2013 the seminars discussed challenges in providing access to microdata for researchers and measuring sustainable development in follow-up to Rio+20.

As a result of the 2013 seminars, the Conference endorsed CES recommendations on measuring sustainable development and the associated sets of indicators. This framework is a key step towards harmonizing the measurement of sustainable development, and is expected to contribute to establishing the Sustainable Development Goals and the related targets and indicators. The recommendations were developed jointly with Eurostat, OECD and a number of countries. The Conference also identified a number of activities to enhance further the work providing access to microdata.

The value of official statistics and how to communicate this value will be discussed at a full day seminar in 2014. Official statistics are just one of many sources of information competing for the attention of users. This seminar will focus on understanding the value of official statistics compared to data from other sources, and on communication strategies to highlight the role of official statistics in society.

The second seminar of the Conference in 2014 will deal with challenges related to migration statistics. The critical need to improve data on migration was emphasised in the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the General Assembly. Data quality and accessibility should be improved to provide evidence-based information for policy decisions and public debate.

In 2014 CES will carry out in-depth reviews of international statistical work in several areas. The first topic, measurement of social protection, is important especially in the current conditions of budget restrictions. The question that Governments are asking today is “How can we save the maximum with minimum impact on our well-being?”. Social protection is a cross-cutting issue linked to different areas of statistics, and the statistical definitions of terms such as social security and social protection need to be clarified.

The second topic to be reviewed in-depth is leading, composite and sentiment indicators and official statistics. The topic was selected for a review in reaction to different indicator sets being established as a response to policy initiatives in a wide variety of areas. There are concerns about the objectivity and reliability of these indicators sets, and some debate about the possible involvement of statistical offices in this type of work.

Some new working areas emerged in 2013 as a result of in-depth reviews and CES seminars held earlier:

- Ageing has a profound impact on societies, affecting virtually all domains of society – economic, political and social. A task force was launched to improve the availability, accessibility and comparability of ageing-related statistics.

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- Understanding human capital is of significant interest to policymakers. Statistics on the stock of human capital can be used to analyse the drivers of economic growth, the functioning of the labour market and sustainability of a country's development path. A task force was established to pursue the conceptual development of human capital measurement.
- Poverty should be measured beyond monetary indicators and the comparability of countries' poverty statistics needs to be improved. A seminar on "The way forward in poverty measurement" was held in December 2013 to discuss conceptual issues and possible future work.

UNECE maintains an annually updated Database of International Statistical Activities that provides the statistical programmes of international organizations in the UNECE region. The 2014 issue will be available online for countries and international organizations to foster cooperation and avoid duplication of work.

Economic statistics

UNECE is working with countries to further develop and promote implementation of international standards and recommendations to improve the quality and comparability of economic statistics. In 2014, the work will focus on the national accounts, globalization, price statistics and business registers.

UNECE promotes the implementation of the global standard: 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) which provides a comprehensive framework for producing economic accounts adapted to policy needs and the changing global economy. The joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Group of Experts on National Accounts will meet in May 2014 to discuss specific issues of the 2008 SNA implementation, such as the measurement of financial services, expanded accounts for the household sector and globalization. UNECE in cooperation with its main regional partners, such as Eurostat, European Free Trade Association (EFTA), IMF and CIS-STAT, also provides methodological guidance and training for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to support 2008 SNA implementation. This work is part of the Global Implementation Programme for the 2008 SNA, mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and coordinated by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts.

Globalization, in terms of growing cross-border movement of people, capital, goods and services, has a significant impact on the economy and poses challenges to the compilers of statistics in all countries. A task force is working on the conceptual and measurement challenges posed by global production. In 2013, the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Group of Experts on National Accounts discussed the draft chapters of the upcoming *Guide to Measuring Global Production*. In the course of 2014 the task force will finalize the Guide and will conduct a wide international consultation to collect feedback with a view to submitting the Guide for endorsement by CES in 2015.

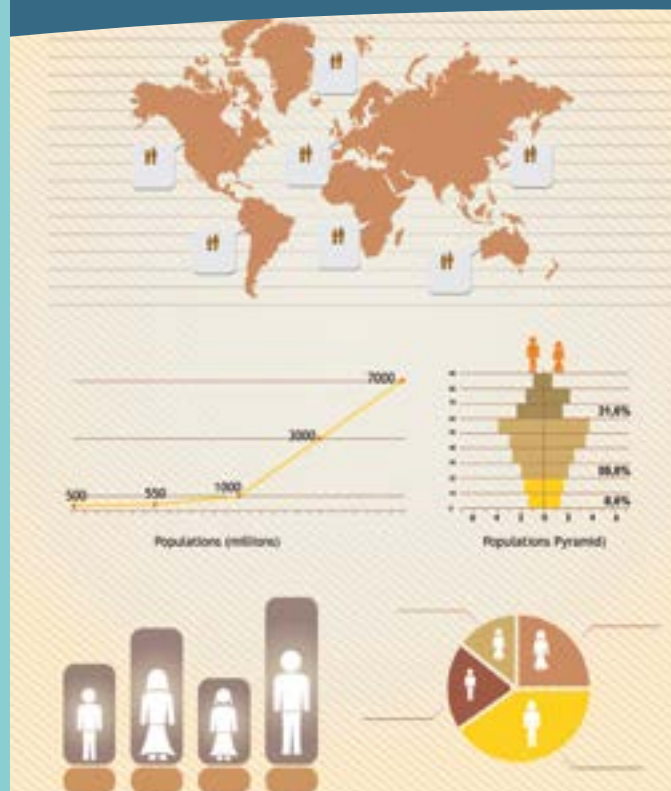
UNECE, in cooperation with partners, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and IMF, promotes the implementation of international standards and recommendations on consumer price indices (CPI). The CPI Expert Group will discuss in May 2014 new developments, including sampling techniques, use of scanner data, services prices and quality assurance. It will also touch upon the revision of the *CPI Manual* (2004) being undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics of which UNECE is a member.

Poverty should be measured beyond monetary indicators and the comparability of countries' poverty statistics needs to be improved



Globalization poses challenges to the compilers of statistics in all countries

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Population and housing censuses represent the very foundation of statistical systems

Statistical business registers provide an indispensable frame for data collection and production of economic statistics in an integrated and efficient way. A task force is developing international Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers for endorsement by the Conference in 2015. In 2013, the Group of Experts on Business Registers reviewed the available draft chapters of the Guidelines, and discussed the role of business registers with regard to globalization and modernization of statistical production. The development of the Guidelines is hence taken beyond the UNECE region with a number of developing countries involved in the consultation process.

Social and demographic statistics

Measurement of well-being, poverty and social inclusion are considered a high priority in the UNECE activities on social and demographic statistics. Work in 2014 will focus on population and housing censuses, and on the measurement of population ageing, migration, time use, poverty and human capital.

UNECE is preparing, jointly with Eurostat, recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, with a focus on innovative methods for modernizing censuses. Population and housing censuses represent the very foundation of statistical systems, providing baseline information for planning public services at national and local level, and for producing other statistics. The costs, data quality, respondent burden and privacy concerns represent challenges to the conduct of traditional censuses in many countries and push many countries to look at alternative census methods. To ensure consistency with the census recommendations at global level, the work is coordinated with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). In 2014, specialized task forces will continue the work on drafting the CES recommendations for the 2020 census round, to be endorsed by CES in 2015.

The 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the General Assembly asked for strengthening efforts to improve the measurement of international migration. In 2014 a task force will present Guidelines on Statistics on Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrants for endorsement by CES. Since the Global Forum on Migration and Development called for better definitions and data on circular migration, a new task force was launched in early 2013 to agree on the statistical definition of circular migration and harmonization of its measurement. UNECE will continue to improve a Clearing House on Migration Statistics to enhance the use and exchange of migration data among countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

In 2013-2015 UNECE is carrying out a project on gender statistics together with two other regional commissions to strengthen the capacities of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to measure and analyse progress in achieving gender equality. Many major policy documents, including the Beijing Platform of Action and the Millennium Declaration, emphasise the importance of gender equality and call for its improved measurement. The work will be based on a set of gender equality indicators, to be endorsed by CES in 2014, and the manual on *Developing Gender Statistics* by UNECE and the World Bank. The project will focus on training, consultations to formulate national action plans, and pilot data collections to address data gaps. In March 2014, the biennial work session on gender statistics will discuss further issues that need to be tackled at the international level.



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In 2013, CES endorsed the Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys. Time-Use Surveys provide data on the quality of life and well-being and shed light on unpaid work, living conditions and gender equality with a particular role in efforts to measure progress beyond GDP. The Guidelines highlight several areas requiring further methodological work, such as the use of light time-use surveys, modern technologies and the measurement of subjective well-being.

Since early 2013, UNECE has worked to improve and harmonize ageing-related statistics, as they remain dispersed with many gaps and inconsistencies. Both the 2012 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing and the 2013 International Conference on Population and Development reinforced the call for improved statistics on ageing. The Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics, composed of statisticians, policymakers and academics, is developing recommendations and selecting a dashboard of indicators for regular data production. The final report should be submitted for endorsement by CES in 2015.

An expert group is developing operational definitions and guidelines on measuring quality of employment jointly with Eurostat and ILO to respond to the demand for data on the qualitative aspects of employment beyond traditional labour force statistics. The group follows up on the UNECE report, *Potential indicators for measurement of quality of employment*. The expert group discussed the first draft guidelines in September 2013 and plans to submit them for endorsement in 2015.

CES launched new work on the measurement of human capital to contribute to analysing drivers of economic growth, the labour market and sustainability as well as the distribution of human capital among population groups. The work will be useful for understanding inequality, social inclusion and quality of life. A task force will be developing guidelines and compiling good practices to help countries construct experimental satellite accounts for human capital. The work programme spans the period 2013-2016.

Monitoring of progress towards the MDGs and discussions on the post-2015 development agenda underline the importance of measuring poverty, inequality and vulnerability. Countries and international organizations lack comparable data and harmonized data sets to measure poverty. These issues were addressed in the seminar "The way forward in poverty measurement" held in December 2013. Methodological work may be launched in 2014, in line with the seminar outcome, to define a set of poverty indicators for UNECE countries.

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UNECE supports countries in measuring achievement of the MDGs

Sustainable development, environment and climate change-related statistics, and Millennium Development Goals

Issues of sustainable development are high on the policy agenda following Rio+20 and its outcome document *The future we want*. The report on the post-2015 Development Agenda called for the regional commissions to coordinate reporting of the sustainable development agenda at the regional level. A high-level panel on sustainable development governance was held in 2013 as part of the biennial UNECE session. The panel discussion highlighted the need to take into account the measurement aspects when setting the post-2015 development agenda.

For a number of years UNECE, Eurostat and OECD have been working towards better measurement of sustainable development. In June 2013, CES endorsed the CES recommendations on measuring sustainable development as a timely input to the process of establishing the Sustainable Development Goals. The Conference decided to launch further work to provide countries with guidance on practical implementation, and several countries volunteered to pilot test the recommended framework and indicators.

Close attention to environmental issues has increased the demand for high quality statistics for environmental monitoring. A joint task force of the Committee on Environmental Policy and CES is striving to improve the production and quality of environmental statistics in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe. In 2014, the updated UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators will be finalized. UNECE will also promote the newly adopted global standard, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting by evaluating data availability and the capacity of countries in the region to produce these data.

UNECE carried out a project for the East European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries in 2012-2013 to support measurement of environmental sustainability. Training workshops and a desk study on the current challenges were carried out in 2013 in cooperation with UNSD, EEA and Eurostat.

The Rio+20 Summit in 2012 emphasized climate change as an immediate and urgent global priority. Thus, national statistical offices would like to improve the usefulness of existing environmental, social and economic statistics for climate policies, climate change analysis and compilation of greenhouse gas inventories. A task force plans to finalize its Recommendations on climate change related statistics for endorsement by CES in 2014.

UNECE supports countries in measuring achievement of the MDGs, in collaboration with the other regional commissions and UNSD. UNECE plans to adapt the database of MDG indicators to the new post-2015 development goals. The database serves as a tool for resolving discrepancies of data coming from different sources. In 2014, UNECE will carry out capacity building on the monitoring and final reporting of MDGs and their post-2015 follow-up. UNECE contributes to the process of setting up the post-2015 development goals through various channels, such as the Working Group on Lessons Learned of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on MDG indicators and the United Nations Task Team Working Group on Monitoring Indicators.



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Modernization of statistical production

The CES High-level Group for the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services oversees and coordinates internationally the ongoing strategic change in statistical production. The report on the post-2015 Development Agenda talks about a “new data revolution” noting that the statistical community needs to make use of the latest innovations in information technology at both global and national levels. The data revolution would draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision-making.

The High-level Group coordinates the activities of several specialized expert groups working towards modernising statistical production. This work is based on a vision and strategy for modernizing official statistics, endorsed by the CES. The modernization work has attracted extrabudgetary contributions, including from outside the UNECE region, which indicates the added value of this work for the region and beyond.

In 2014 the focus of modernization work will be the impact of “Big data” on official statistics, and the practical implementation of the Common Statistical Production Architecture, released at the end of 2013. “Big data” refers to data sets of increasing volume, velocity and variety that accumulate in digital environments, are largely unstructured and without any pre-defined data model for linking with existing databases. Big data generates new commercial opportunities for the private sector, and is potentially interesting as an input for official statistics.

One of the activities of the High-level Group will aim at increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical data editing which is often a very resource-intensive activity for national statistical offices. It concerns the core of statistical production: validation and correction of incoming data, and methods to deal with missing data and new data sources. An electronic knowledge-base on data editing was launched in 2013. In April 2014 a work session on statistical data editing will share new ideas and best practices, and discuss areas for further work.

In 2013 CES concluded that providing access to microdata is a key challenge for statistical offices. UNECE will therefore provide possibilities for sharing innovative solutions in microdata access and ensuring statistical data confidentiality.

The statistical community needs to make use of the latest innovations in information technology

“Big data” generates new commercial opportunities for the private sector and is potentially interesting as an input for official statistics

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An expert meeting on statistical dissemination and communication in 2014 will complete the four-part *Making Data Meaningful* series and will consider emerging challenges in the area. Guidelines may be needed for the use of social media for disseminating statistical products, and for considering the communication implications of modernizing statistical production and services.

The High-level Group on Modernization will also focus on developing key statistical standards and frameworks. For example, the *Common Metadata Framework* is a living reference tool, published in electronic format, so that it can be continuously updated to reflect new ideas and technologies. It has led to the development of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model and the Generic Statistical Information Model, important tools for standardization and benchmarking of statistical production, which have rapidly become global standards for statistical production, and have been adopted by a number of UNECE countries.

In 2013 the CES Bureau established a steering group to oversee and coordinate activities in human resources management and training. A compilation of best practices of statistical offices in the area was published and proved to be a best-seller among statistical organizations. A workshop in September 2014 will discuss the role of human resources management and training in the work on modernizing statistical production and services.

Capacity building in statistics

UNECE works to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to implement international standards and guidelines. Particular attention is paid to promoting the *United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* that were adopted in 2013 by the Economic and Social Council. The Fundamental Principles provide the basis for a sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems.

The UNECE capacity building activities include:

- The capacity building activities are carried out in coordination and in partnership with other international organizations, in particular with UNESCAP, UNSD, Eurostat, EFTA, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, PARIS21, World Bank, IMF and other bilateral and multilateral donors.



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- The capacity building activities are based on the findings and recommendations of global assessments of national statistical systems. Global assessments are carried out together with Eurostat and EFTA, and are used by various donors active in the region, such as the World Bank. They provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country, which helps to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and to focus the support by international donors.
- In 2014-2017 UNECE will carry out a project to strengthen the statistical capacity of countries in the context of measuring sustainable development.
- Based on the findings of global assessments and country needs UNECE will organize subregional workshops and advisory services to address current challenges in economic, social and environment statistics, modernizing statistical production and improving the indicators for monitoring the achievement of the MDGs. UNECE is planning three new capacity building programmes: economic statistics, including the implementation of the 2008 SNA; regional migration statistics; and implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting with a special focus on water and energy accounts in cooperation with UNESCAP.
- The SPECA Working Group on Statistics meets annually to discuss needs for capacity building and to coordinate donor activities.

UNECE Statistical Database

UNECE maintains a statistical database offering a wide range of information on member countries via free on-line English and Russian interfaces.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to governments and to the United Nations system, such as progress towards the MDGs, and issues relating to migration, globalization and gender equality. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights into measurement issues, and helps identify priorities for methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics, and to provide targeted support for the development of statistical systems in countries.

The UNECE statistical database provides statistics on economy, gender issues, population, education, employment, public life and decision-making, work-life balance, health, crime and violence, science, transport, forestry, forest resources and protection as well as biological diversity. Disaggregated data on all eight MDGs is provided, as well as a Clearing House on Migration Statistics to improve data consistency.

The database provides the source data for publications, such as the popular *UNECE Countries in Figures*, as well as regular short articles on the economic and social development of the UNECE region, published in the *UNECE Weekly* newsletter. The database is also used for the *UNECE Report on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Europe and Central Asia* and for other regional inter-agency reports. Annual database user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2014.



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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Towards a sustainable future

Countries of the pan-European region need to secure a sustainable balance between supply and demand of energy

Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency activities were undertaken by UNECE through its Energy Efficiency 21 Programme. A major event in promoting energy efficiency in 2013 was the Fourth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, held in Tbilisi in September 2013. The High-Level Round Table on “Achieving sustainable energy development through policy reforms and international cooperation” emphasized the link to the United Nations Secretary-General’s Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and stressed the importance of cooperation among countries and international organizations to move towards countries’ commitments to sustainable energy.

The Forum considered policies and legislation needed to support energy efficiency improvements, access to cleaner energy, financing energy efficiency, and energy efficiency in buildings and infrastructure. Forum participants also discussed the necessary conditions for enabling and encouraging investments in energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy. The Forum included four thematic workshops: (1) policies and legislation to promote energy efficiency and clean energy technologies in the Caucasus region; (2) a road map to an energy efficient residential sector; (3) case studies on policy reforms to promote financing energy efficiency investments and advanced energy efficiency technologies; and (4) sustainable energy challenges and opportunities in countries in transition. It was stressed that one of the major aims of sustainable development in the energy sector in the countries of the European and Asian regions is securing a sustainable balance between supply and demand of energy. Increasing renewable energy’s share of the energy mix and improving energy efficiency are critical for the region.

In the framework of the project “Enhancing synergies in CIS national programmes on energy efficiency and energy saving for greater energy security”, nine national studies and the regional study “Analysis of

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policies of CIS countries on improving energy efficiency and potential for developing cooperation and enhancing synergies in the CIS region” were prepared. The draft Regional Action Plan to enhance synergies and promote development of energy efficient and energy saving technologies and Policy Recommendations with a special focus on interregional cooperation were discussed by experts and policymakers from CIS countries at a workshop held in November 2013. The next step will be to finalize the Regional Action Plan and Policy Recommendations and begin their implementation.

The Global Energy Efficiency (GEE21) project is designed to explore how the valuable experience of UNECE in the area of energy efficiency can be applied with UNECE assistance to the other regional commissions, especially to UNESCAP which shares a number of common member States with UNECE. In 2013 two subprojects of GEE21 were implemented.

In the framework of the project “Analysis of advanced technologies in energy efficiency and renewable energy in the framework of the GEE 21 project and preparation of recommendations on its application with special emphasis on the Central Asian region”, three regional studies based on national studies were prepared. The first focused on identification of the most promising technologies in energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) for the Central Asian countries and instruments to scale up EE and RE investments in the region. The second study reflected issues related to cooperation among Central Asian countries aimed at fostering application of advanced EE and RE technologies. The third gave an overview of the development and dissemination of advanced technologies in energy efficiency and renewable energy in the world and presented an inventory/database of manufacturers and suppliers of advanced EE and RE technologies. The studies help countries to identify the most appropriate advanced EE and RE technologies and opportunities for regional cooperation to promote application of these technologies. The outcomes of the regional studies were presented at the Fourth International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development and at the workshop in November 2013.

Cooperation between all regional commissions has been crucial for the success of implementation of the UNDA project “Promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development”. Training courses on business planning for energy efficiency projects were held in Almaty in April 2013 and in Istanbul, Turkey in June 2013 jointly with UNESCAP. This capacity building activity was organized for over 60 representatives of private and public companies from South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central, Northern, South-Eastern and Southern Asia, as well as the Russian Federation and Turkey. Project developers and owners, government officials, representatives of the banking community, academia, the private sector and NGOs from 23 countries of the UNECE and UNESCAP regions learned financial engineering and business planning skills to identify, select and develop energy efficiency investment projects and prepare bankable project proposals. The main component of the course was a detailed extended interactive presentation on business planning and preparing project documentation for energy efficiency projects by the training facilitator, with numerous questions from the audience and individual consultations for project developers and owners. A pipeline of more than 40 project proposals from 17 countries of the UNECE region was prepared for further consideration. Also in the framework of this project, six national case studies (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Georgia, and Montenegro) were prepared, with the following outcomes:

- Demonstrating experience in practical implementation of policy reforms

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- Analysis of good practices and bottlenecks in the field of energy efficiency project financing and implementation
- Providing examples of direct social, environmental and financial benefits coming from a specific project or series of projects, which were a result of specific policy reforms
- Identifying the potential for promoting successful policies more widely on a national basis
- Developing recommendations for adoption of a similar approach in neighbouring countries.

Cleaner Electricity Production

Fossil fuels supply over 80 per cent of the world’s energy needs. In the UNECE region over 60 per cent of electricity comes from fossil fuels, which will continue to be the principal source of primary energy and electricity for the foreseeable future. An effective way to decrease greenhouse gas emissions is to replace obsolete fossil fuel electricity generation technologies with modern and more efficient ones, thereby improving the efficiency of electricity generation. Deploying advanced fossil fuel technologies, however, requires enormous investment, and for many countries with economies in transition the capital requirements far exceed what is domestically available. For these countries, attracting needed investment is difficult because they face geopolitical, economic, and social uncertainties that —when taken together—make them a less attractive destination for capital. This disadvantage is especially notable for large-scale electricity generation projects for which capital has to be committed for a long period in infrastructure that cannot be relocated.

Under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production, UNECE implemented a project, “Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies”, financed from UNDA and covering nine countries: Afghanistan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The principal deliverables of the project were capacity building workshops, pre-feasibility studies, national baseline studies, and a synthesis report that summarized the experiences, policies and plans for each country to develop their thermal electricity sector with advanced technology that reduces CO₂ emissions and exploits the countries’ fossil fuel resources. The project was conceived to improve countries’ capacity to attract and absorb foreign direct investments.

In 2014 the Group of Experts will submit a position paper to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the role that carbon capture and storage can play in a post-2015 agreement.

Coal Mine Methane

Since 2005 the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane has been engaged in projects related to the capture and use of coal mine methane (CMM) and abandoned mine methane (AMM). The capture and use of CMM improves mine safety and provides an additional energy source for power or heat needed to run mining operations. Methane is a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Avoiding methane emissions therefore also contributes to mitigating climate change. There are many opportunities for CMM capture and use in the UNECE region, which accounts for 40 per cent of global CMM production.

The Group investigated the economics of mining accidents and the impact on attaining a sustainable coal mining future in gas-prone coal basins. In 2010 the Group, with the support of the Global Methane Initiative, published the *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane*

In the UNECE region over 60% of electricity comes from fossil fuels

Deploying advanced fossil fuel technologies requires enormous investment

Methane is a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide

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Drainage and Use in Coal Mines. The Group has been disseminating the Best Practice Guidance electronically and is developing case studies that will further disseminate the principles embodied in it. The publication is now available in English, Russian and Chinese. With funds made available by the United States Environmental Protection Agency it will be translated into more languages. The Group will review refreshing and updating the publication.

The Group collaborates with UNFCCC, offering its advice on methane-related clean development mechanism methodologies, and is committed to helping improve other international, national and regional coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms.

In 2013 the Group initiated work towards the establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on CMM by one or more United Nations Member States. Once established and running, the Centre(s) will serve as a platform for education and dissemination of good practices in CMM management throughout the world. The Group initiated collaboration with the Working Group on Coal coordinated by UNESCAP. In 2014 one of the Group's priorities will be an extrabudgetary project funded by the Russian Federation, which will look into case studies on CMM and AMM management and related challenges in selected undergrounds coal mines.

Resource Classification

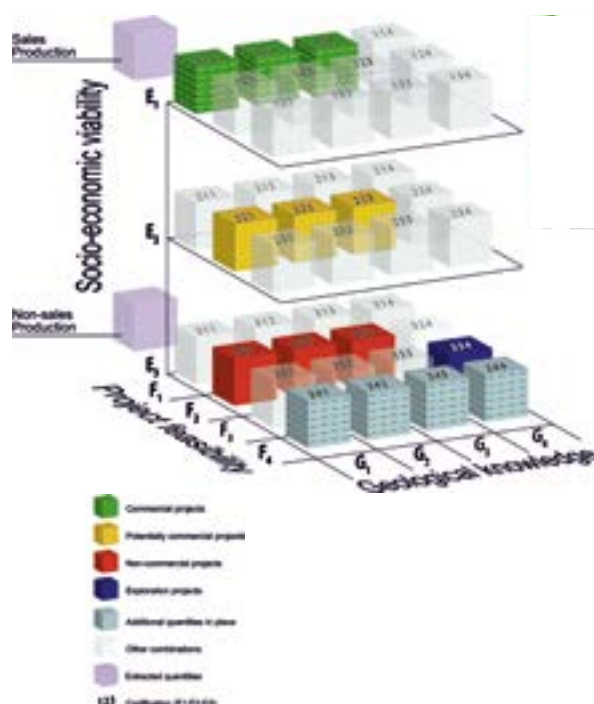
UNECE's work on resource classification reached an important milestone in 2013. After three years of development, the specifications for the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC) were finalized. The system is now operational and roll-out can commence.

UNFC has been developed and promoted by the Expert Group on Resource Classification, a unique gathering of stakeholders worldwide who are interested in reserve and resource classification and reporting. UNFC provides a powerful global communications tool applicable to all extractive activities, covering solid mineral and fossil energy resources, including oil, natural gas, coal and uranium. As the only system worldwide that allows different classifications to be unified to a single representation of the entire mineral or hydrocarbon system, UNFC has a significant impact on the ability to accurately understand the availability of non-renewable resources and hence facilitate the development of appropriate long-term energy policies.

The Framework Classification is a valuable tool for delivering on sustainable development and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General. Measurement and reporting are needed to improve the performance of the energy sector in terms of production and consumption, and UNFC allows a consistent, reliable and accurate comparison of energy reserves and resources globally. Clean energy production and efficient production of hydrocarbons needed for a sustainable energy future depend on knowing resources' location and magnitude. The application of UNFC will facilitate optimal development of global resources. Efficient use and development of resources will both enhance their contribution to development and reduce their cost.

The Expert Group started work in 2013 on the application of UNFC to renewable energy resources and to injection projects, including the storage of carbon dioxide. Additionally, UNFC directly addresses the goal to reduce gas flaring by explicitly categorizing non-sales production quantities, whereas conventional classification systems do not categorize these quantities.

The UNFC is now operational and roll-out can commence



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Environmental and social issues in the context of resource extraction had a global focus in 2013. Discussions at UNFC-related meetings and workshops were dominated by the need for a social licence to operate, and by the environmental and/or social impediments to proceeding with extraction projects. Sustainable development depends on having a social licence for any mining and processing project. Securing that social licence demands a contemporary resource classification system, such as UNFC, that allows the efficient management and effective, transparent comparison of all energy commodities – from petroleum to nuclear fuels to renewable sources.

During the year, the UNFC was presented at over 35 energy-related conferences globally and 375 experts from over 40 countries attended national and regional training workshops in Chile, India and Switzerland. The priority for 2014 will be testing and implementation of UNFC, as well development of the necessary governance structure.

Natural Gas

UNECE gas activities aim at promoting wider use of natural gas – the cleanest of all the fossil fuels – thus reducing the carbon intensity of the economy. Three regional studies were published in 2013: *Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia*; *Current State and Prospects of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the UNECE Region*; and *Use of Gas in Transport*. The study on liquefied natural gas will be the topic of a special producer consumer dialogue in 2014, and the group working on natural gas is proposing six activities to begin in 2014:

- Best practice guidance to address gas leaks in the gas distribution/distribution system
- Best practice guidance for development of unconventional gas, including shale gas
- Best policy practices to enhance the role of natural gas in enabling the penetration of renewables
- Removing obstacles to development of economic carbon capture and storage
- Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel
- Best practice policy guidance on prices and tariffs, including gas quality standards

Gas Centre

The Gas Centre is intended to provide for a dialogue between UNECE member States and the gas industry. In order to do so the Centre organizes special Industry Forums and reports on the results to the Working Party on Gas. In 2013 a special event was held in Baku with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan to discuss the role of Caspian gas with respect to security of supply of Europe. A subsequent event was organized in Rome, hosted by Edison, to discuss gas-fired power generation, the connections between gas and electricity markets, and the importance of market liquidity. The 2013 Industry Forum was organized during the World Energy Council forum in Daegu, South Korea. Participating Governments and companies considered the role of liquefied natural gas, pipeline development projects and city gas development projects. A further meeting was organized in Brussels with Eurogas and with Entso-g on the topic of gas regulation. Finally, the Gas Centre organized a joint event during UNCTAD's Global Commodities Forum. The event was a special session on energy and the contribution of the energy sector in economic growth and development: lessons from experiences of Total, GDF Suez and Gas Natural Fenosa.



The UNFC was presented at over 35 energy-related conferences globally

Natural gas is the cleanest of all the fossil fuels



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TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Sustainable development in action

Major developments in 2013

In January 2013, the General Assembly passed resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities for development. This document highlighted the importance attached by Member States to strengthened system-wide coherence as a vehicle for improving the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations development system.

In the resolution Member States reaffirmed the role of the regional dimension of development and noted the contribution of the regional commissions to achieving the internationally agreed development goals. Recognizing the comparative advantage of the United Nations development system at the regional level, Member States urged the regional commissions and other United Nations organizations to intensify their support of country-level development initiatives, in alignment with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and in close coordination with the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams. The resolution also reaffirmed the increased importance of South-South cooperation and called upon the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to establish and/or improve mechanisms to promote knowledge-sharing on successful development experiences and best practices through South-South cooperation.

UNECE has been actively supporting the United Nations reform process and contributing to the implementation of this important resolution through its technical cooperation activities. In this area of work, UNECE is focused on assisting countries with economies in transition to accede to, adopt and implement its legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations, as a means of achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Technical cooperation activities are provided in areas of economic cooperation and integration, environment, housing and land management, population, statistics, sustainable energy, trade and trade facilitation, and transport.





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Technical assistance at subregional and regional levels is aimed at providing solutions to transboundary and cross-border problems

To ensure full alignment of its technical cooperation activities with national development priorities of countries with economies in transition, UNECE has been pursuing active involvement in the UNDAF and One UN programmes. During the reporting period, UNECE signed the United Nations - Republic of Moldova Partnership Framework for 2013-2017 thus bringing to 17 the total number of countries in the region with participation in UNDAF and One UN. Technical cooperation activities within the framework of UNDAF focused on promoting the implementation of UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards and building capacity in programme countries in such priority areas as environment and climate change, energy efficiency and/or clean energy, statistics, trade and trade facilitation, innovation and competitiveness, enterprise and public-private partnerships development. In implementing its UNDAF-related activities, UNECE ensures close coordination with the United Nations resident coordinators and effectively builds partnerships, including through the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity, with such entities as UNDP, UNCTAD, UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Trade Centre (ITC), FAO, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, World Trade Organization, etc.

UNECE's country-level technical cooperation activities are further reinforced by technical assistance at subregional and regional levels aimed at promoting regional cooperation and integration and providing solutions to transboundary and cross-border problems. During the reporting period, about 49 per cent of all implemented technical cooperation activities were regional and involved two or more subregions. Pursuant to the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, in providing regional technical cooperation services UNECE gave particular attention to strengthening its partnerships with regional and subregional international organizations and regional banks, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Customs Union and Single Economic Space, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank.

At the interregional level, UNECE promotes sustainable, equitable and inclusive development through projects funded from UNDA. During the reporting period, seven such projects were implemented by UNECE to address varying development priorities of beneficiary countries. Most of these projects were carried out in close partnership with other regional commissions, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNIDO, UNCTAD, WHO and UNEP. Four new UNECE-led projects have been approved by the General Assembly for funding from the 9th tranche of UNDA (2014-2017) in such areas as sustainable housing, statistics, trade, and access to water and sanitation.

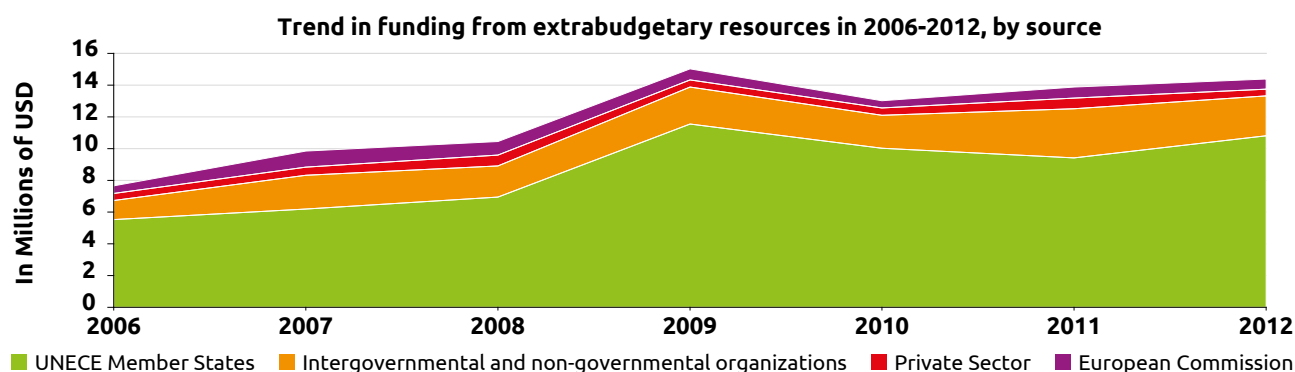
Recognizing the increased importance of South-South cooperation in international development efforts, UNECE participated for the first time in the Global South-South Development Expo (Kenya, 2013). The Partnership Forum on "Action for Greener Economies" and exhibition organized by UNECE aimed at promoting the development of stronger and greener economies in low- and middle-income countries and showcasing subregional and national best practices on the use of UNECE Action Plans for the forest sector and for energy-efficient housing.

Overall, UNECE carried out 171 advisory missions and capacity-building activities (workshops, training and seminars) and implemented 44 various projects during the reporting period. Countries with economies in transition¹ were the major beneficiaries of UNECE technical cooperation accounting for 84² per cent of activities. Countries of less advanced subregions were primary recipients of UNECE technical cooperation. The Central Asian and East European member States benefited the most, at 22 and 16 per cent respectively of all technical cooperation

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activities. They were followed by countries of South-Eastern Europe (8 per cent) and the Caucasus (5 per cent), while the remainder of the activities involved two or more subregions.

UNECE technical cooperation activities were funded from the regular budget as well as from extrabudgetary resources. Despite the slow recovery from the economic crisis, extrabudgetary contributions have increased by 10.5 per cent since 2010 and reached \$14.39 million, accounting for 78 per cent of all UNECE resources for technical cooperation in 2012. Much of this increase was thanks to UNECE member States, which contributed 75.1 per cent of the extrabudgetary resources. The top ten bilateral donors, by size of contribution, were the Russian Federation, Switzerland, France, Germany, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Australia and the Netherlands. These countries accounted for 83 per cent of the total extrabudgetary contributions of member States to UNECE. Overall, 48 countries contributed to the Trust Funds in support of its technical cooperation activities. A number of countries also provided in-kind contributions in the form of venue, local staff, conference services, etc.



Priorities for 2014

Common Country Assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Framework process in the UNECE region

In 2014 eleven countries in the UNECE region will launch preparations of their UNDAF or One UN programmes for the period 2016-2020.

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolutions on operational activities for development and on system wide coherence, UNECE will actively participate in this process in all roll-out countries, in cooperation with the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. UNECE's involvement in the preparation of the new UNDAF or One UN programmes will be consistent with its mandate and expertise and tailored to meet the most urgent development priorities, challenges and needs of programme countries.

Follow-up to the outcome of the review of the 2005 ECE reform

In the outcome document of the review of the 2005 reform of UNECE adopted at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission in April 2013, member States expressed interest in further strengthening transparency and accountability on the use of funds allocated for technical cooperation. To this end, they requested "to be informed, throughout the project cycle, of the use of resources and the concrete results achieved". UNECE will therefore launch a web-based project monitoring tool for all extrabudgetary projects as well as projects funded from UNDA. This tool will enable member States to monitor the UNECE technical cooperation projects in "real time".

¹ Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
² Based on data from the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System.

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TRADE

Supporting improved trade standards and trade procedures



Studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

UNECE completed and published a study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Kazakhstan and initiated the next study in cooperation with the Government of Tajikistan. These studies examine the status of trade facilitation in a country, with a specific focus on identifying the procedural and regulatory barriers to trade at and behind the border. Based on its past experience with these national studies, the UNECE methodology for them was revised and published in 2013 for use by countries and other organizations.

Continued support to Aid-for-Trade efforts in Central Asia

The secretariat undertook further work to follow up on the 2010 Baku Aid-for-Trade (AFT) Ministerial Declaration, which calls for the development of national supply-side capacity and increased cross-border cooperation. UNECE is helping SPECA member countries mobilize resources for implementing the Aft Roadmap for SPECA. In consultation with Central Asian countries, the secretariat maintains standardized national and regional aid-for-trade action matrices which outline each country's trade development priorities. In 2013, thanks to funding received UNDA, the secretariat organized an Aid for Trade workshop and supported several SPECA countries in developing bankable projects to address the needs identified in the matrices.

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Education on standards-related activities should be an essential part of the curriculum of universities, higher-education establishments and vocational training schools



Supporting the role of standards in government and business

Many key standards and regulatory issues were discussed during the 2013 session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies. An entire day was devoted to discussing how authorities can facilitate international trade and protect workers and consumers from hazards by making use of the expertise embodied in voluntary standards. In other words, they discussed using standards as a vehicle for technology transfer – be it to small and medium-sized companies in developed countries or to less developed economies.

An important subject of debate was the practice of “reference to standards” which supports good regulatory practice and is widely used in international trade agreements and governmental procurement contracts as well as in legislation. Delegations achieved consensus on how to facilitate access by the public to relevant parts of standards that are referenced in regulations, without compromising the intellectual property contained in the standards themselves. This consensus allowed delegations to unanimously adopt the revision of “Recommendation D” on “Reference to Standards”.

Another important decision taken at the session was to continue the work on education, with the aim of making education on standards-related activities an essential part of the curriculum of universities, higher-education establishments and vocational training schools. Delegations were offered the opportunity to play an educational game on standards and innovation that allowed them to learn new ways of bringing standards into the classroom.

The session was attended by high-level officials from governmental authorities and major standards-setting organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The growing role of risk management

Risks can sometimes acquire global proportions, so efforts to manage risks also need to be put in a global context, with an increasingly crucial role to be played by international organizations. To protect people, the environment and economic activities from hazards, it is a prerequisite to have in place a sound regulatory framework in which economic operators, policymakers and other stakeholders work together in a coherent manner.

The best practice developed by the Working Party in this field is already starting to be implemented in regulatory practice. A pilot implementation project was carried out by INMETRO in Brazil, building on the recommendation on Managing risks in regulatory frameworks adopted in 2011, and on the publication *Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks*, issued in 2012.

Additionally, and following the adoption of Recommendation P on Crisis management within a regulatory framework, the Working Party started a partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Experts from the Working Party participated in the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and will contribute to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction of UNISDR.

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UNECE will continue to work on risk management in regulatory systems so as to ensure that the expertise embodied in voluntary standards can also contribute to making the world safer from disaster hazards. Risk management enables consumers, business and regulators to make informed decisions on how to make basic infrastructure, as well as homes and factories, more resilient to natural and man-made catastrophes.

This line of activity continues to develop, thanks to the work of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems, which has a global membership spanning from Australia to Brazil and the Russian Federation. It receives input from policymakers, standardization bodies, conformity-assessment bodies, research centres and academia.

Market surveillance tools for authorities and economic operators

In the UNECE region, low-quality goods, sold for prices and under conditions that exclude fair competition, pose a serious threat to human health and safety, generate pollution and cause environmental degradation. The main regulatory response to these trends is to strengthen the capacity of inspection and market-surveillance authorities.

UNECE provides tools that enable authorities and economic operators to work cohesively together. For example, its global online database is becoming increasingly referenced by stakeholders. The database contains information for a wide and growing range of countries on the national authorities responsible for regulatory enforcement in each sector, along with their legislative mandates, contact data and website addresses.

The Market Surveillance Group is currently trying to secure resources to further develop the UNECE General Market Surveillance Procedure. The Procedure aims at enhancing the credibility and sustainability of market surveillance actions by providing confidence that the maximum rate of non-conforming products on the market is limited to a predefined target. The experts in the Group are currently developing a software tool to analyse and optimize the cost of sampling. Some results from this tool using real data from market surveillance authorities have already been provided. The software takes into consideration the number of product types per economic operator, the product risk, the estimated average cost of conformity assessment, the measurement of uncertainty of conformity assessment, and the total budget available for the market surveillance action.

A business platform for company leaders to work out recommendations on regulatory convergence

UNECE has continued to work closely with the Task Force on Technical Regulations under the EU – Russia Industrialists’ Round Table, a business platform for company leaders from the EU and the Russian Federation, which has made recommendations on regulatory convergence between the EU and the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

Working in close collaboration with the IEC Scheme for Certification to Standards relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx Scheme), in September 2013 the Working Party organized a workshop for regulatory authorities of Latin American countries and

Risk management enables consumers, business and regulators to make informed decisions on how to make basic infrastructure more resilient to natural and man-made catastrophes



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the BRICs countries (Brazil, India, China and South Africa) on best regulatory practice for equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere. The objective of the conference was to increase the safety of industries in which explosions may occur and to facilitate trade in related products and equipment. The workshop was well attended, with 20 countries represented and over 80 representatives actively participating.

In the run-up to the workshop, the UNECE and IECEX secretariats prepared a translation of the related UNECE Common Regulatory Objectives into Arabic, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. These documents were distributed at the meeting and very well received from members. The organizing team also started work on a new survey of global regulatory practice in the explosives sector, which has already been answered by Australia, Brazil, the EU and South Africa, with more replies expected in the coming months.

In 2013 UNECE continued to carry out the function of secretariat to the Inter-Agency Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS Network) and hosted its annual session. The Network serves as a forum for exchanging experience on development issues in these areas. It includes IEC, ISO, ITC, ITU, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, the International Organization for Legal Metrology and the International Accreditation Forum.

Regulatory capacity-building enhanced

UNECE contributed to a regional training course organized by UNIDO for authorities from Central Asia on the use of standards and conformity assessment options in regulatory practice. A similar workshop will be organized by UNIDO in 2014, again with a contribution from the Working Party.

Record number of new and revised agricultural quality standards and support to their implementation

The demand-driven standardization work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards produced impressive results in 2013. Twenty-five new and/or revised standards were adopted. Three explanatory brochures for the harmonized interpretation and application of the standards were published for the standards on pineapples, fresh chilli peppers and dried chilli peppers. A brochure on persimmons is under preparation. The standards and the brochures should facilitate the rapidly growing international trade in these products.

The Working Party produced a *Guide to Seed Potatoes Diseases, Pests and Defects*. This illustrated publication describes pests and pathogens regulated by the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes, a unique international reference for the certification of seed potatoes. The Guide is intended for use by growers and inspectors worldwide.

The Working Party continued its promotion and capacity-building activities. A regional centre for seed potato production was put into operation in Vladikavkaz, in the Northern Caucasus of the Russian Federation. The implementation of this project directly contributes to ensuring food security in the region, where potatoes are the second most important staple food.

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In 2013 experts on the standardization of meat produced three new standards and updated one of the most used meat standards, the standard on porcine meat. UNECE meat standards are detailed descriptions of internationally agreed cuts and specifications that make it easier to trade meat across borders.

UNECE also organized for the first time a three day exhibition of its standards for nuts and dried fruit, to promote their relevance in international trade. The exhibition, which was accompanied by a series of lectures, practical demonstrations and samples, attracted great attention to the work of the experts.

Focus on standards and implementation in trade facilitation

During 2013 the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) strengthened its efforts to develop trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards thanks to a new, streamlined organizational structure aimed at timely delivery of products and with a focus on stakeholder needs.

UN/CEFACT adopted 12 recommendations and standards, including a revision of Recommendation 20 on Units of measurements, Recommendation 28 on Codes for type of means of transport, and new versions of UN/EDIFACT¹, UN/LOCODE², UN/XML³, and the Core Component Library. At present, it is revising Recommendation 14 on the authentication of trade documents to lessen the paperwork burden in international trade. Recommendation 14 aims at eliminating the need for a signature or at replacing it by an electronic equivalent when necessary. As a result, import and export procedures are ultimately cheaper.

Trade Facilitation Strategy for Greece

Following a request from the European Commission Task Force on Greece, UNECE experts assisted the Greek Government in designing and developing a comprehensive strategy and road map for trade facilitation. The road map (www.mindev.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Greece_Trade_Facilitation_Strategy_Roadmap_Oct-2012.pdf) contains a series of actions designed to identify and overcome regulatory and procedural bottlenecks and obstacles to Greek exports. It is estimated that the proposed measures could reduce time to export by 50 per cent and costs by 20 per cent by the end of 2015, thus leading to a 10 per cent increase in export value and the creation of 80,000 new jobs.

At the request of the Task Force, UNECE will continue to support the Government in applying the road map through to 2015. In 2013, UNECE experts assisted Greek authorities, in a pilot project, to analyse and simplify export processes for specific agricultural products. Similar analyses in other sectors and other related projects are planned for 2014. Overall responsibility for implementing the Trade Facilitation Strategy lies with the Greek authorities. A high-level steering group has been created to oversee and manage the reform process.

UNECE meat standards are detailed descriptions of internationally agreed cuts and specifications that make it easier to trade meat across borders

Recommendation 14 aims at eliminating the need for a signature or at replacing it by an electronic equivalent when necessary, making import and export procedures ultimately cheaper



¹ United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Trade

² United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations

³ UN/XML standards for United Nations eXtended Markup Language

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The Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide is a publicly available web-based interactive information tool on the various recommendations, standards, guides and other related resources available from all key international organizations

Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide

UNECE continued its outreach work to train policymakers, negotiators and implementers in how to use its *Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide*. Throughout 2013, training workshops were held in Chile, Italy, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda, Senegal, Tajikistan and Thailand, as well as at the World Trade Organization.

The *Guide* is a publicly available web-based interactive information tool on the various recommendations, standards, guides and other related resources available from all key international organizations (including UNECE, UNCTAD, WCO, World Bank, OECD and International Chamber of Commerce) in the trade facilitation area. The *Guide* also provides links to the available instruments from all key organizations that support implementation of the trade facilitation measures under discussion at the World Trade Organization – see http://tfig.unece.org/pdf_files/wto-map/map.html.

UNECE developed the *Guide* with contributions from UN/CEFACT and financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. The *Guide* can be accessed directly online at <http://tfig.unece.org>

Additional support to national and regional initiatives through regional advisory services

UNECE has provided regional advisory services and capacity-building to Ukraine, leading to the establishment of a Port Community System (local Single Window) in Odessa, following UNECE recommendations on establishing a Single Window (Recommendation 33 - Single Window, Recommendation 34 - Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade, and Recommendation 35 - Establishing a legal framework for international trade Single Window). The operator, PPL 33-35, launched its services in 2013, and has joined the European Port Community Systems Association. An interagency working group, established to support the project, has evolved into a national body in support of trade and transit facilitation – a key area of interest for Ukraine, as it is linked to some of the serious challenges and opportunities for further development of the country.

UNECE has also supported trade facilitation in the South Caucasus through three regional conferences, held since 2009 in Georgia, on trade facilitation, the Single Window and data harmonization. During this period, Georgia's impressive progress in trade facilitation has been described in the World Bank's *Doing Business Report*. Azerbaijan has also launched a Single Window project.



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Challenges for 2014

The Committee on Trade will need to consult with its constituencies in member States in order to determine how best to implement the recommendations made in the outcome document of the Review of the 2005 Reform of UNECE. This will include identifying the best modalities for reflecting UNECE's work on trade facilitation and e-business in related areas of work under the Committee.

During 2013, activities linked to Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies were severely constrained by limited secretariat resources. In 2014, a substantial increase in activities is expected as a result of the partnership with UNISDR, and requests from member States for engaging in and delivering on "education in the field of standardization", an item that was added to the programme of work at the twenty-second session of the Working Party.

In meeting this challenge, the secretariat will further develop partnerships with all major organizations engaged in standards-related activities, such as the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade Committee, the OECD Working Party on Consumer Product Safety, ISO, IEC and ITU, as well as all organizations participating in the DCMAS Network and, in particular, UNIDO.

In the area of agricultural quality standards the demand for support to implementation of the UNECE standards is growing and there is a pronounced need for extrabudgetary funding in this area. UNECE will also need to work in cooperation with its main partners, OECD and Codex Alimentarius, in order to help countries and businesses fully profit from the use of UNECE quality standards.

In the Review of the 2005 Reform adopted in April 2013, member States acknowledged that the subsidiary bodies of the UNECE sub-programme on Trade (including UN/CEFACT) undertake value-added standards-setting work. With specific regard to UN/CEFACT, member States recommended that it continue to implement its mandate, that it strengthen its standards activities, and that it report directly to the Executive Committee.

In addition, as a result of the Review all three secretariat posts that supported capacity-building activities to help countries with the implementation of UN/CEFACT products and trade facilitation were transferred: two to the Transport Division at the end of 2013 and one to other activities under UN/CEFACT. This will result in a significant reduction in the assistance provided to member States for capacity-building and the implementation of trade facilitation and electronic business instruments. This is an area of high demand for secretariat services and in 2013 some requests for assistance had to be turned down as a result of this decision. Identifying extrabudgetary resources that include funds for staff support in order to meet member States' demands in this area will therefore be a significant challenge in 2014.



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TRANSPORT

Fostering sustainable transport and mobility



The transport subprogramme of the UNECE services the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) – the only United Nations intergovernmental body dedicated to inland transport – its working parties and expert groups, as well as the ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and its subsidiary bodies.

The primary focus of ITC and its subsidiary bodies is administering the 58 United Nations conventions, agreements and other legal instrument which shape the international legal framework for road, rail, inland waterway and intermodal transport, as well as dangerous goods transport and vehicle construction. Activities of the ITC take the form of policy dialogue and regulatory work, analytical activities, as well as capacity building and technical assistance.

This makes the Inland Transport Committee a unique body with the overarching goal of contributing to the development of inland transport in a safe, efficient and environmentally friendly way. Its decisions have a direct impact on the daily life of people and businesses throughout the world.

In 2013 UNECE concluded the review of its 2005 reform. Among the outcomes was the recognition of the growing responsibilities of the ITC and its subsidiary bodies' high-impact work. As a result, the resources and capacities of the UNECE Transport subprogramme and the Transport Division were increased by two substantive posts.

2013 was also marked by the follow-up to Rio+20, during which negotiations began on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the post-2015 successor to the MDGs. This global process will define the priorities of global development and their funding until 2030. Thus several UNECE Governments took an active role in promoting the recognition of transport in embarking on sustainable development.

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ITC has been spearheading the conceptual understanding of challenges and opportunities on the sustainable development path



A dialogue has started with all landlocked countries to promote the application of the International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods

The UNECE Transport Division has been working closely with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs and provides inputs to the global consultations. ITC has been spearheading the conceptual understanding of challenges and opportunities on the sustainable development path while offering a balanced approach to economic, social and environmental considerations, as well as through providing tools for transport policy choices. To further contribute to the exchange of best practices, the policy segment of the Committee's annual session in 2014 focused on innovations for sustainable transport and mobility.

Accomplishments in 2013

Linking the Regions with Inland Transport

Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL)

The objective of the EATL project is to identify the principal Euro-Asian road and rail routes that should be prioritized for development and cooperation. The EATL project has an expert group which is the platform for cooperation and coordinated development of the identified inland transport links.

At the Second Meeting of EATL Ministers of Transport, in Geneva in February 2013 governments endorsed the final report on Phase II and gave political support for Phase III. The project identified for development nine rail and nine road routes between Europe and Asia as well as 17 water transport links, and several inland and maritime ports that could save time and costs for freight delivery. A Joint Statement on future development of Euro-Asian Transport Links signed by thirty-two Governments gave political support to the continued cooperation. At the same time a Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards a unified railway law was signed by thirty-seven Governments, requiring the establishment over the next two years of the unified legal conditions for railways that are equivalent to those existing for other transportation modes.

Additionally, the EATL family of participating countries grew from 27 to 38 countries. The increase demonstrates a clear endorsement of the project's accomplishments in phases I and II, as well as the growing relevance of the work.

The primary objective of Phase III is to enhance international cooperation to make the nine road and nine rail EATL routes identified in Phase II fully operational. To this end, a "match-making" meeting took place in September 2013 in Geneva between countries with projects and international financial institutions. A series of concrete activities are planned by the Expert Group in close cooperation with all the regional and subregional organizations.

Almaty Programme of Action

As part of the preparations for the 10 year review of the Almaty Programme of Action to take place in 2014, a Regional Review Meeting was held in March 2013 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic. It was co-organized jointly by (UNESCAP, UNECE, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The EATL project was an emblematic contribution.

In addition, a dialogue has started with all landlocked countries to promote their application of the International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods.

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Environmental sustainability of Inland Transport

For Future Inland Transport Systems Project (ForFITS)

In 2011 in cooperation with the other regional commissions, UNECE launched the ForFITS project for the development and implementation of a tool to monitor and assess CO₂ emissions from inland transport activities. Funded by UNDA, its objective was to enhance international cooperation and planning towards sustainable transport policies with the goal of facilitating climate change mitigation.

The backbone of the project was the development of a modeling tool capable of assisting users in making informed decisions about measures to reduce CO₂ emissions from current and future transport systems. The model is primarily focused on CO₂ emissions from inland transport, including road, rail and waterways. The model is freely available online along with a user manual.

Activities in 2013 focused on the implementation of the ForFITS model, drafting the user manual, developing pilot cases and, in parallel, organizing and implementing regional awareness-raising events and capacity building workshops. Countries that participated in the pilot cases were Chile (UNECLAC), Ethiopia (UNECA), Montenegro (UNECE), Thailand (UNESCAP), and Tunisia (UNESCWA).

Climate Change Adaptation

A comprehensive study on climate change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks is the result of two years of work of a group of experts under the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5). The report includes recommendations on improving the long-term sustainability of transport with an emphasis on international connections. It also gives numerous examples of national policies. The study is expected to raise further awareness about climate change adaptation in the transport sector, as well as to serve as a resource book with a set of best practices for adaptation measures.

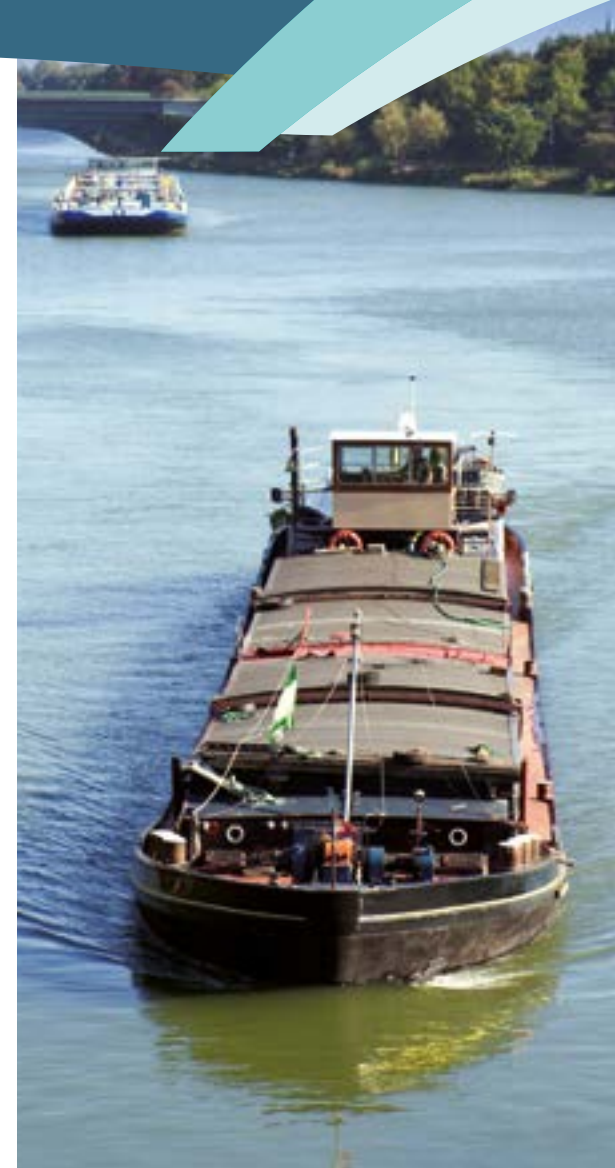
Transport, Health and Environment

In 2013 the Steering Committee of the THE PEP organized a symposium on Active Mobility for All: Safe and Healthy Walking and Cycling in Cities, in line with priority goal No. 4 of the Amsterdam Declaration adopted at the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment in January 2009 (read more on page 29).

Actions promoting innovative transport technologies and ITS

At its seventy-fifth jubilee session in 2013, ITC acknowledged that Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) have a prominent role in sustainable development and therefore encouraged and supported UNECE actions and initiatives aimed at transferring knowledge to policymakers on how to develop and deploy intelligent transport solutions for people around the world. Furthermore ITC expressed the need for consistency between the different existing legal instruments managed by the different working parties. To that effect, it encouraged the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) to coordinate their activities and efforts to develop a consistent transversal approach to ITS.

In order to embrace the benefits of technological advancement, the Inland Transport Committee and ITU, jointly organized a one-day workshop entitled "ITS in Emerging Markets – drivers for safe and sustainable growth". The objectives were to review the status quo of



There needs to be consistency between the different existing legal instruments managed by the different working parties

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Every third Sunday in November has been designated World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

The digital tachograph creates an accurate picture of the driving habits for all commercial vehicles

ITS including the technology, applications, regulatory frameworks and standards. The workshop also focused on identifying barriers to adoption, challenges and how they could be overcome, as well as highlighting the benefits ITS may reap in emerging economies, focusing particularly on road safety.

Road Safety

Improving road safety is a powerful issue for ITC and the focus of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety, the only permanent intergovernmental body in the United Nations system that is dedicated to the subject. In 2013, there were a number of accomplishments focusing on making road travel safer.

In September, UNECE in partnership with the International Centre for Alcohol Policy (ICAP) launched an e-book entitled *Regional Perspectives on preventing alcohol-related road crashes involving vulnerable road users*, comprising the complete findings by road safety experts from Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and the Middle East. The focus is on the main issues in each region influencing alcohol-related accidents involving vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

In 2005 the General Assembly designated every third Sunday in November as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, in recognition of road traffic victims and their families' loss and suffering. Memorial events took place on this day in many UNECE member States. In Greece, for example, cooperation between the Government, the municipalities, the Chambers of Commerce, the Association for the Aid and Solidarity of Road Accident Victims "St. Christopher", the Road Safety Institute "Panos Mylonas", as well as several universities, led to a chain of road safety activities, including awareness through demonstrations and training set up at different public places, scientific workshops and meetings supporting the victims and their families in coping with loss of their loved ones. UNECE's participation in the events organized in Chania, Crete signaled the commitment to connect with people whose safety is at the heart of the ITC regulatory work.

In December UNECE, in partnership with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India and the Institute of Road Traffic Education, and in collaboration with UNESCAP, organized the inaugural "Europe - Asia Road Safety Forum" in New Delhi.

Progress was also made in implementation of the digital tachograph, a sophisticated monitoring device installed in all commercial vehicles registered in the Contracting Parties to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). The digital tachograph records all activity such as speed and time between rest periods, thereby creating an accurate picture of the driving habits for all commercial vehicles. This has a direct impact on road safety as ensuring safe driving routines among professional drivers is a key factor. While the digital tachograph became mandatory in 2010, some countries were unable to meet the deadline. By 2013, however, virtually all countries had fully implemented the necessary measures to use it.

Key events of the United Nations Global Road Safety Week

The year 2013 witnessed the commemoration of the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week. In May several key events were organized in the Palais des Nations by UNECE together with its partners.

The programme included a symposium on regional perspectives on drinking and driving; an interactive youth and young leaders session "Scouting for Global Road Safety"; a roundtable on 2013 International

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Level Crossing Awareness Day to emphasize the importance of road safety at level crossings, and a discussion forum on insurance and road safety. UNECE partners for the events were ICAP, the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Scouting Ireland, the Hellenic Road Safety Institute “Panos Mylonas”, the International Union of Railways and the Council of Bureaux.

Additionally, in Italy, UNECE partnered the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, ASTM-SIAS, QN-Il Giorno and leStrade, to publicize Global Road Safety Week in widely distributed local newspapers and magazines. They also distributed 230,000 specially commissioned bookmarks at local schools and motorway toll booths along approximately 1,300 km of motorways in Lombardy, Piedmont, Liguria, Aosta Valley, Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany.

Developments in International Transport Standards and Legislation

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)

In 2013 three new United Nations Vehicle Regulations aimed at improving vehicles’ safety annexed to the 1958 Agreement entered into force.

- The Regulation on Enhanced Child Restraint Systems, applied by 49 countries including the European Union, provides better protection for children in the event of frontal, lateral or rear impacts.
- The Regulation on Lane Departure Warning Systems has been applied by 50 countries including the European Union, and alerts the driver if the vehicle is leaving its lane.
- The Regulation on Advanced Emergency Braking Systems, which has been applied by 50 countries including the European Union, alerts the driver if there is an obstacle in the road and, if the driver takes no action, the vehicle brakes to avoid impact.

Existing United Nations Regulations were also updated with 82 amendments, bringing the regulations to the most current technological level and introducing more severe limits to increase both the safety and environmental performance of vehicles.

WP.29 adopted in 2013 the principles for design and control of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, setting harmonized minimum requirements, to be included in the regulations on vehicles developed by the World Forum.

Road Transport

In 2013, the Expert Group on AETR continued to develop proposals for amending the AETR Agreement and, in particular, the creation of an administrative committee. The mandate of the Expert Group has been extended to the end of 2014 to enable the members to thoroughly develop and agree on the amendment proposals.

Several amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Arteries (AGR) were proposed. However, the Contracting Parties’ obligations to establish and implement procedures for a number of items have yet to come into effect. This includes creating procedures for road safety impact assessments, road safety audits, management of road network safety and safety inspections for the roads of the international E-road network.



More severe limits have been introduced to increase both the safety and environmental performance of vehicles

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Similarly, the protocol on electronic consignment note (e-CMR) still awaits Contracting Parties' agreement on procedures and implementation. However, while eight countries now agree to the additional CMR protocols, the overall number remains rather low.

The Working Party on Road Transport met in July for a special session to discuss a proposal submitted by the Government of Switzerland for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS). Additional progress on the discussion of the OmniBUS proposal was made at the October meeting, and developments are on-going.

Border Crossing Facilitation and the TIR Convention

In October 2013, an extensive package of amendment proposals came into force for the TIR Convention (a new Annex 9, part III to the TIR Convention). The amendments established the authorization for a single international organization – currently the International Road Transport Union (IRU) – to take responsibility for the organization and function of an international guarantee system and the printing and distribution of TIR Carnets. These amendments, which were a major step forward for the TIR system, were taken on board in the text of the UNECE-IRU agreement for the years 2014-2016.

The TIR

In 2013 an amendment package to the TIR Convention entered into force. Among others these amendments are for improved transparency in the international guarantee system by means of introducing a new part 3 to Annex 9 of the Convention dealing with the authorization of the international organization for printing and distributing the TIR Carnets and for the organization of the international guarantee chain.

However the success of the amendment package was over-shadowed by the emergence of the “TIR crisis”. In July 2013, measures were announced to be introduced in the Russian Federation which the TIR Administrative Committee and Executive Board believed compromised provisions of the TIR Convention.

The measures involved a requirement to obtain national guarantee coverage, ignoring the TIR guarantee. At this point, the secretariat, in cooperation with affected parties and stakeholders acted proactively, performing an in depth analyses of the situation from both a legal and practical perspective, as well as facilitating a dialogue aimed at having the measure withdrawn.

Throughout this process the Russian Federation has consistently reiterated its commitment to the TIR Convention and its intention to remain an active Contracting Party. While this crisis deepened with the announcement by the Federal Customs Service of Russia (FCS) that as of 1 December 2013 the guarantee agreement between FCS and the national association would be terminated, the FCS has now postponed that termination until 1 July 2014 giving additional time to negotiate a solution.

As a result, there is great uncertainty as to how these measures can be implemented, as well as what their impact will be on trading partners and operators.

While this situation is critical, one major accomplishment in this politically sensitive crisis has been that the strenuous diplomatic efforts of all parties involved led to the clarification of many undercurrent issues. The challenges ahead may not only be the resolution of the crisis, but perhaps to put in place major reforms which would strengthen

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the Convention and equip it with further features beneficial for governments and businesses in the long term.

The eTIR Project

Another issue that will dominate future work is the launching of the e-TIR system. 2013 has seen finalization of the technical aspects of computerization by the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure. The group has also prepared and submitted to the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) for consideration a cost-benefit analysis addressing the financial implications of eTIR. The analysis clearly demonstrates the high return on investment that eTIR can provide, even in the grimmest scenario. This is due to the considerable benefits to all TIR stakeholders, such as Customs, the transport industry and trade. Work has already begun on the design for an appropriate legal framework for eTIR.

The secretariat continues to enhance various TIR-related databases, including the International TIR database (ITDB) which contains information on all operators authorized to use the TIR procedure. This consists of approximately 60,000 records, and is proving to be in strong demand online.

Harmonizing Border Crossing Facilitation

With regard to other border crossing facilitation developments, the recent entry into force of the new Annex 9 to the Harmonization Convention marked the beginning of intensive efforts of the UNECE secretariat and Contracting Parties towards identifying best practices in the implementation of Annex 9 at the national level. This is being done in cooperation with international railway organizations such as the Organization for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD) and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF).

The annex introduces a wide set of measures to facilitate rail freight border crossing, including:

- minimum infrastructure and staff requirements for border (interchange) stations
- cooperation between adjacent countries at border (interchange) stations
- reciprocal recognition of all forms of control
- selective and simplified controls on the basis of risk assessment
- moving of certain forms of controls to the stations of departure and destination
- setting up time limits for border clearance and monitoring actual border delays
- the use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) systems
- the use of the combined CIM/SMGS railway consignment note, as a Customs document.

Furthermore, the secretariat and WP.30 continued to monitor the implementation of the Harmonization Convention and conducted a recurrent survey of Contracting Parties with regard to the application at the national level of Annex 8 on road transport.

Transport of perishable foodstuffs

The Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP) is intended to ensure that chilled and deep-frozen foodstuffs are

The analysis clearly demonstrates the high return on investment that eTIR can provide, even in the grimmest scenario



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Two new classes for heated ATP equipment take into account conditions in countries with extreme winter temperatures



transported efficiently, safely and hygienically, posing no danger to human health.

Forty-eight countries are Contracting Parties to the ATP including Morocco and Tunisia outside the UNECE region. The ATP is also being promoted to other countries in the Mediterranean region such as Algeria, Egypt and Jordan. The ATP is focused on international transport but an increasing number of countries use its provisions as the basis for their domestic legislation.

Amendments to the ATP introducing a testing procedure for new multi-compartment multi-temperature transport equipment entered into force on 23 September 2013. The Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11) will now have to reach agreement on distinguishing markings for this type of equipment and on a testing procedure for the renewal of certificates.

At its session in 2013 and on the basis of a proposal made by the Russian Federation, WP.11 adopted two new classes for heated ATP equipment. This is to take into account conditions in countries where winter temperatures routinely fall below -20°C and where heating is therefore required to keep cargoes of food at the correct temperature.

Challenges facing WP.11 in 2014 include discussions on the possible adoption in the ATP of a definition of perishable foodstuffs and on a proposal to merge annexes 2 and 3 which would effectively extend the requirement to monitor the air temperature in transport equipment to the carriage of chilled foodstuffs. Some countries would also like to see the ATP extended to cover fresh fruit and vegetables and even pharmaceuticals.

Transport of Dangerous Goods

In 2013 the secretariat released three publications on the transport of dangerous goods. The first was the *18th revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations*. The second was Amendment 2 to the *5th revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria*. The third was the *5th revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*. The *Recommendations* and the *GHS* are both considered to be “hot-sales” for the United Nations.

These publications contained new or amended provisions addressing a wide range of issues. Regarding transport, particular attention is paid to:

- the transport of adsorbed gases
- the transport of lithium batteries, including damaged or defective batteries and lithium batteries for disposal or recycling
- the classification of solid oxidizing substances
- asymmetric capacitors
- discarded packaging contaminated with residues
- the transport of ammonium nitrate
- the transport of radioactive material
- the testing of gas cartridges and fuel cell cartridges
- the applicability of ISO standards to the manufacture of new pressure receptacles or service equipment.

As invited by ECOSOC resolution 2013/25, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization updated their respective legal instruments accordingly (International

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Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air).

Similarly, at the regional level, the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and its joint meetings with OTIF and with the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine updated the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID) and the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN).

They incorporated European specific amendments particularly regarding the application of European standards concerning pressure receptacles and tanks, and the periodicity of inspection and testing of pressure receptacles.

These updates should all come into effect as of 1 January 2015, and will not only effectively globally implement the new United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, but also harmonize all major international legal instruments regulating the five modes of transport. The secretariat also published a road map for accession and implementation of ADR.

The ADN Safety Committee adopted a wide range of new provisions concerning the carriage of dangerous goods in inland navigation vessels. This would include for example, the means of evacuating vessels. They also continued to discuss the possibility of using liquefied natural gas (LNG) as fuel for the propulsion of vessels carrying dangerous goods, and the carriage of LNG as cargo on board gas tankers.

With regard to the classification and labelling of chemicals, legal instruments or national standards implementing the GHS (or allowing its application) in one or several sectors have already been issued in several countries including Australia, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, United States of America, as well as in the 28 members of the European Union and the three countries members of the European Economic Area.

Among the countries which have already implemented the system, the member States of the European Union updated their legal instruments in accordance with the provisions of the fourth revised edition of the GHS in 2013 (Commission Regulation EU No.487/2013).

Other countries such as Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Zambia (together with the other States members of the Southern African Development Community) continue to work on the revision and amendment of their legal texts, standards and guidelines to achieve implementation of the GHS as soon as possible.

Intermodal Transport and Logistics

In 2013 a global Code of Practice for the packing of cargo in containers and other intermodal transport units was finalized, thus replacing earlier guidelines. This is the joint result of cooperation between ILO, IMO, UNECE and industry experts.

The Code of Practice contains the latest scientific data, rules and policies to allow Governments as well as the transport and insurance industries to develop globally harmonized procedures and regulations for enhanced safety and efficiency in international container transport. While the new Code is not mandatory, it can be expected that the provisions will soon be applied worldwide as it will provide transport insurers with an authoritative basis for cargo insurance contracts.



The updates will harmonize all major international legal instruments regulating the five modes of transport



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The new Code will provide transport insurers with an authoritative basis for cargo insurance contracts

A web-based application provides on-line data on the navigational characteristics of over 29,000 km of navigable European rivers and canals

Following approval of the Code of Practice by the Inland Transport Committee in February 2014, it will also be approved by the competent bodies of IMO and ILO during the course of 2014.

The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics prepared a report on opportunities and challenges of ITS for intermodal transport, that outlined strategies on how to apply ITS for seamless transport operations, optimum use of infrastructure, including terminals and for the achievement of high-levels of safety and security in international transport chains. In addition, the conclusions drawn by the Working Party on good governance of ITS processes at national and international levels were discussed with industry representatives at a workshop hosted by the Government of Belgium in May 2013.

Transport Infrastructure

Inland Water Transport

A great deal of progress was made in 2013 in harmonizing the rules and information for navigating inland waterways throughout Europe.

A large package of amendments to the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) was adopted in 2013. The amendments were based on the UNECE White Paper on efficient and sustainable inland water transport in Europe, and adopted by the Working Party on Inland Water Ways and CEVNI. Work will continue into 2014 towards adopting CEVNI 5, which would then establish the pan-European framework for all navigational rules applying to internationally navigable rivers and canals, such as the Danube or Rhine.

The secretariat also launched in 2013 a web-based application that provides on-line data on the navigational characteristics of the more than 29,000 km of navigable European rivers and canals. Based on the UNECE publication *Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network*, the web application contains various search options by waterway and by country and can also export data.

Further steps have also been taken, in cooperation with the European Union and the River Commissions, to facilitate at the pan-European level the mutual recognition of boat masters' certificates and the harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation.

TEM and TER Projects

In September 2013 a workshop was organized focusing on the complex issues surrounding the financing of transport infrastructure in the UNECE region and why further study and analysis are needed.

The workshop was organized by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics in partnership with the EATL project and the Trans-European Motorways (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) projects. As part of the workshop, experts from EATL and TEM & TER countries had the opportunity to present their countries' high priority transport infrastructure projects to representatives of various international financial institutions, donors and international organizations. The outcomes of the workshop will be published in *Transport Trends and Economics: financing of transport infrastructure*, in 2014.

An outstanding development is that both projects have obtained the managerial support of Governments through the nomination of new project managers and their deputies.

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Rail Transport

As mentioned above, a joint declaration signed during the Ministerial meeting at the seventy-fifth session of ITC has set the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law on the two year path of establishing the legal conditions for railways that are equivalent with those existing for other transportation modes.

In order to accomplish this task the group will need – for all countries involved – to establish a unified set of transparent and predictable provisions that will facilitate border crossing procedures for Euro-Asian rail transport operations. This will involve analysing existing modal transport conventions for rail, road, air, inland water and maritime transport, as well as related agreements, and then identifying provisions and procedures which can help establish unified railway law. Eventually there will need to be a unification of international railway law creating a single legal regime from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In the coming years, the group will need to identify an appropriate management system for unified railway law using the experience of international organizations in the field of the railway transport (OSJD, OTIF and others). Ultimately there must also be support for the widest possible use of electronic document workflow and intelligent transport systems.

The Working Party on Rail Transport addressed a number of other issues in 2013, such as railway infrastructure financing and public-private partnerships, by presenting case studies on new projects with PPP schemes and railways financing. The working party also addressed ITS by presenting innovative solutions regarding level crossings and ITS in railways.

Inland Transport Security

UNECE continued throughout 2013 to provide a platform for Governments, academia and the private sector to exchange views and best practices on inland transport security.

In February 2013 the annual Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum on the subject of Secure Parking Areas was organized by UNECE with the Government of Belgium in partnership with IRU. The proceedings of the 2012 Forum were published jointly with OSCE in 2013 and can be found online. The proceedings consist of a collection of papers on various aspects of inland transport security written by distinguished experts from the public and private sector organizations.

The Working Party on Rail Transport organized a workshop on rail security in October 2013. The workshop took stock of the results of indicators and activities on rail security of several international organizations and Governments. Experience, good practices and collaboration on the development of safe rail transport operations were presented and examined. This input led to concluding recommendations linking all existing initiatives essential for the development of safe rail transport.

Transport Statistics

In 2013 the Working Party on Transport Statistics developed common methodologies and terminology in order to harmonize statistics, aiming to develop indicators for sustainable transport. This was accomplished in cooperation with Eurostat and ITF, by drafting a Common Questionnaire (UNECE/Eurostat/ITF) which was then disseminated online in all UNECE official languages. Included are methodologies for the collection and compilation of statistics on road, rail, inland waterway and pipeline as



There will need to be a unification of international railway law creating a single legal regime from the Atlantic to the Pacific

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well as on road traffic safety. The end result of this harmonization will be the improved ability to compare and contrast international transport statistics.

Draft Recommendations to Governments on procedures and methodologies for the 2015 E-Road and Rail traffic censuses were also elaborated and submitted for adoption to the Inland Transport Committee.

Analytical activities

Analytical activities carried out by the UNECE Transport Division are one of the division's three pillars along with the regulatory and capacity building work. Topics are carefully selected to support the other two pillars as well as to boost non-conventional thinking in areas important for sustainable development of inland transport.

Several recurrent publications were released in 2013 that are mandated by the different legal instruments, including the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations (Rev.18)* (July 2013); and the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS, Rev.5)* (July 2013), which are among the "hot-sales" for the United Nations support of the technical assistance and capacity building activities in 2013, some examples are:

- The joint OSCE-UNECE 2012 publication *Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective* was published in Albanian and Macedonian thanks to financial support from USAID;
- Produced in cooperation with ICAP, the e-book *Regional Perspectives on preventing alcohol-related road crashes involving vulnerable road users* (September 2013) reached five thousand readers throughout the world in a few weeks;
- The proceedings of the 2012 Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum – Secure Parking Places were published in cooperation with OSCE (February 2013).

Furthermore, the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics, which acts as a think-tank for the Inland Transport Committee, completed its analysis of climate change impacts on inland transport (publication is forthcoming). In the same framework the *Transport Trends and Economics 2012-2013* deals with sustainable urban transport and mobility, as a direct link to the policy segment of the 2014 ITC. This paper maps the UNECE capitals' urban networks and illustrates urban transport and mobility indicators to provide policymakers with best practices and successful examples from the region so as to assist them in making informed policy decisions. The publication also sheds light on an important challenge in developing sustainable urban transport systems – that of creating economically and environmentally friendly, efficient, socially affordable and accessible urban mobility.

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

At the request of the Government of Belarus a reference study was prepared and a capacity building workshop organized on boosting the transport and logistics capacity of the country into the international supply chain in order to improve national competitiveness and allow more effective use of its transit transport potential.

UNECE organized the annual regional advisory flagship workshop for SPECA countries in Kazakhstan, focusing on the ADR. UNECE provided technical expertise with practical information on the roadmap detailing

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the various steps to follow in order to become party to ADR and implement its provisions.

In addition to the traditionally planned activities, thanks to the cooperation with the European Union, a major capacity building outreach was launched to facilitate accession to and implementation of the United Nations legal instruments relevant to road transport in the Mediterranean region.

Challenges for 2014 and Beyond

Resolving the TIR crisis with a positive solution and launching the eTIR remain the biggest challenges and will require political commitment, wisdom, flexibility and the full attention of all the key parties involved.

In the regulatory arena, high profile tasks include preparation for new legal instruments – unified railway law, border crossing of rail passengers and their luggage – and several break-through amendments – (AETR, Vehicle Agreement of 1958, Vienna Conventions). At the same time the regulatory machinery for modifications to ensure timely updates will continue as part of our normal work.

In the area of technical assistance, capacity building and analytical activities

- Horizontal themes require special attention. In this regard the ITS flagship round table of 2014 will be organized jointly with the Government of Belgium
- Building on and scaling up of past achievements can further improve consistency and efficient delivery. The ForFITS project for example has developed a tool that can help assess the efficacy of national or local transport policies from the perspective of CO₂ reduction. However, the future use of the tool and UNECE involvement will largely depend on the resources available
- The annual transport trends papers will continue to be focused on one theme that is most relevant for the year. The 2014 edition will be on financing transport, in this way linking with the infrastructure projects (TEM, TER and EATL) and taking the results of the seventy-fifth session of session further.

Benefitting from UNESCAP-UNECE cooperation and ensuring an ever increasing quality of the work of the SPECA group on Transport and Border Crossing will mostly depend on finding synergies with other on-going activities.

Road safety remains a key over-arching thematic issue for practically all working parties and as the mid-term review of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) comes closer, the political attention and expectations are likely to grow.

In 2014 UNECE (Transport and Environment Divisions) and WHO Europe will co-organize the Fourth High Level Meeting of THE PEP.

Finally, 2014-2015 will witness several global meetings and decisions of high significance for the transport community. The ten year review of the Almaty Programme of Action is due shortly of months. The United Nations Secretary-General intends to convene a global transport conference and negotiations on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals may determine the path of the transport sector for the up-coming decades.

An important challenge in developing sustainable urban transport systems is to create economically and environmentally friendly, efficient, socially affordable and accessible urban mobility



Governance and Organizational structure

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Governing Bodies

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

Mr. Roderick van SCHREVEN (*Netherlands*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Remigi WINZAP (*Switzerland*)

Mr. Esen AYDOGDYEV (*Turkmenistan*)

Sectoral Committees

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Chairperson:

Ms. Elisabete QUINTAS DA SILVA (*Portugal*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Michel AMAND (*Belgium*)

Mr. Nicolas FAIRISE (*France*)

Ms. Nino TKHILAVA (*Georgia*)

Mr. Bulat YESSEKIN (*Kazakhstan*)

Ms. Maria NAGORNII (*Republic of Moldova*)

Mr. Miroslav TADIC (*Serbia*)

Ms. Martine ROHN-BROSSARD (*Switzerland*)

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

Mr. Jerzy KLENIEWSKI (*Poland*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Kristof SCHOCKAERT (*Belgium*)

Ms. Isabelle PAILLET (*France*)

Mr. Sergey ANDREEV (*Russian Federation*)

Members:

Mr. Zdenko ANTEŠIĆ (*Croatia*)

Mr. Gogita GVENETADZE (*Georgia*)

Mr. Björn ORIWOHL (*Germany*)

Mr. Antonio ERARIO (*Italy*)

Mr. Bob OUDSHOORN (*Netherlands*)

Mr. Claudiu Octavian DUMITRESCU (*Romania*)

Ms. Maria GELIN (*Sweden*)

Mr. Jean-Claude SCHNEUWLY (*Switzerland*)

Ms. Çisel ASLAN (*Turkey*)

Mr. Abdusamat MUMINOV (*Uzbekistan*)

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Chairperson:

Mr. Wayne SMITH (*Canada*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Konrad PESENDORFER (*Austria*)

Ms. Marjo BRUUN (*Finland*)

Mr. Eduardo Sojo GARZA-ALDAPE (*Mexico*)

Mr. Birol AYDEMIR (*Turkey*)

Mr. Oleksandr OSAULENKO (*Ukraine*)

Ms. Jil MATHESON (*United Kingdom*)

Observers to the CES Bureau:

Mr. Walter RADERMACHER (*Eurostat, Statistical Office of the European Union*)

Mr. Louis Marc DUCHARME (*IMF*)

Mr. Vladimir SOKOLIN (*Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States*)

Ms. Martine DURAND (*OECD*)

Mr. Stefan SCHWEINFEST (*United Nations Statistics Division*)

Ms. Haishan FU (*World Bank*)

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Chairperson:

Mr. Gunnar GJERDE (*Norway*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Jürgen KEINHORST (*Germany*)

Mr. Sergio GARRIBBA (*Italy*)

Mr. Talyat ALIEV (*Russian Federation*)

Mr. Jean-Christophe FÜEG (*Switzerland*)

Mr. Yagshyeldi KAKAYEV (*Turkmenistan*)

Mrs. Natalia BOITSUN (*Ukraine*)

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Chairperson:

Mr. Andrei SAVINYKH (*Belarus*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Ismayıl ALAKBAROV (*Azerbaijan*)

Mr. Georgi STOEV (*Bulgaria*)

Ms. Erica KÖSZEGI (*Hungary*)

Mr. Yao-hua TAN (*Netherlands*)

COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND FOREST INDUSTRY

Chairperson:

Mr. Heikki GRANHOLM (*Finland*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Ms. Anna ZORNACZUK-LUBA (*Poland*)

Mr. Christoph DUERR (*Switzerland*)

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Chairperson:

Ms. Elena SZOLGAYOVÁ (*Slovakia*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Ali JAFAROV (*Azerbaijan*)

Ms. Alena RAKAVA (*Belarus*)

Mr. Marc VÉZINA (*Canada*)

Ms. Daniela GRABMÜLLEROVA (*Czech Republic*)

Ms. Lise NIELSEN (*Denmark*)

Mr. David GIGINEISHVILI (*Georgia*)

Ms. Shulamith GERTEL (*Israel*)

Mr. Stefano SCALERA (*Italy*)

Ms. Vilma VAICIUNIENE (*Lithuania*)

Ms. Inger Vold ZAPFFE (*Norway*)

Ms. Maria Jose FESTAS (*Portugal*)

Ms. Svetlana RISTIC (*Serbia*)

Mr. Abduvali KOMILOV (*Tajikistan*)

Mr. Olexander NEPOMNYASCHIY (*Ukraine*)

Mr. Ed LESTER (*United Kingdom*)

Mr. Elshad KHANALIBAYLI (*Azerbaijan*) as an ex officio (WPLA)

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Chairperson:

Mr. Matti PIETARINEN (*Finland*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Andrei POPOV (*Belarus*)

Mr. Salvatore ZECCHINI (*Italy*)

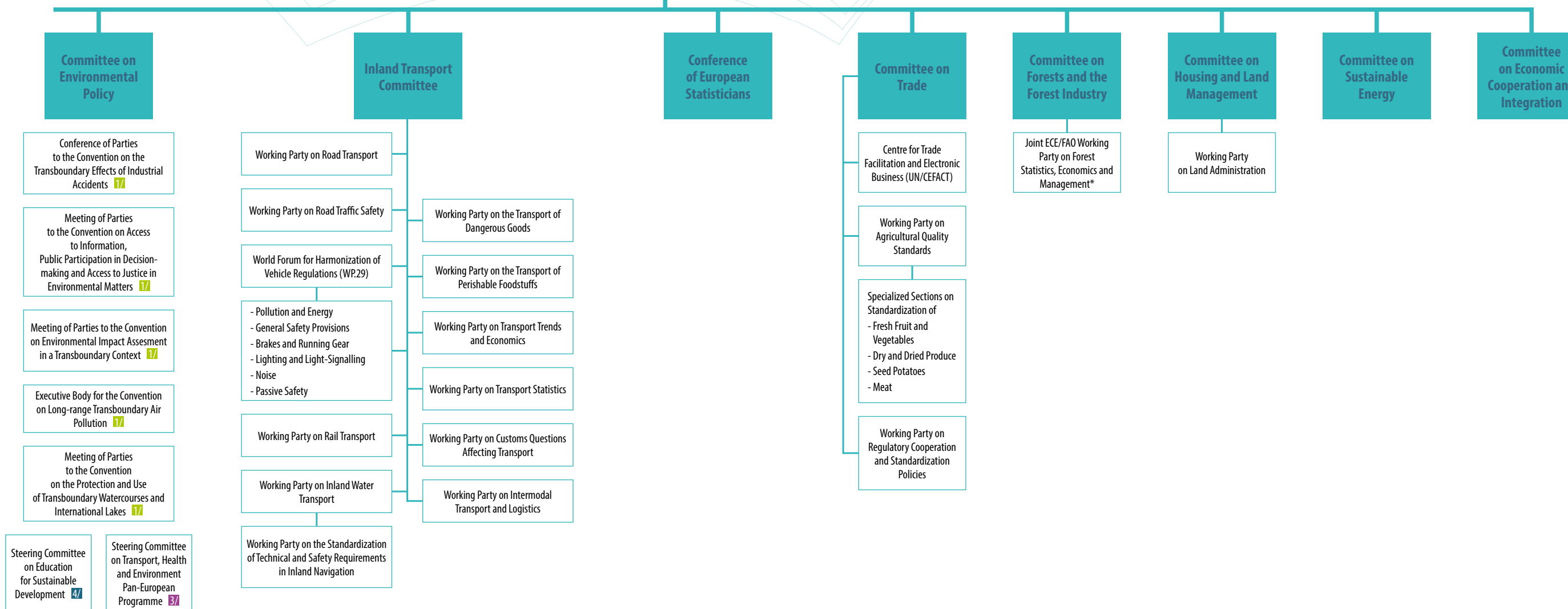
Ms. Kris Easter (*United States*)

Intergovernmental structure

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Working Group on Ageing



1/ Not a subsidiary body of UNECE but serviced by UNECE secretariat. Its members consist of UNECE member countries that have ratified the Convention (Various Working Groups are established under these Bodies).

2/ Subsidiary body of ECOSOC serviced by UNECE secretariat.

3/ Established by an open-ended tripartite High-level Meeting of Transport, Health and Environment sectors of the region, in 2002. The Committee is serviced by the Environment Division and the Transport Division in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and by the World Health Organization/EURO Secretariat. It reports to the High-level Meeting.

4/ Established by the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries, in 2005, the Committee is serviced by the Environment Division. It reports to the High-level Meeting.

Economic and Social Council:
Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals 2/

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 2/

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals 2/

* Changes endorsed by EXCOM in December 2013 and February 2014

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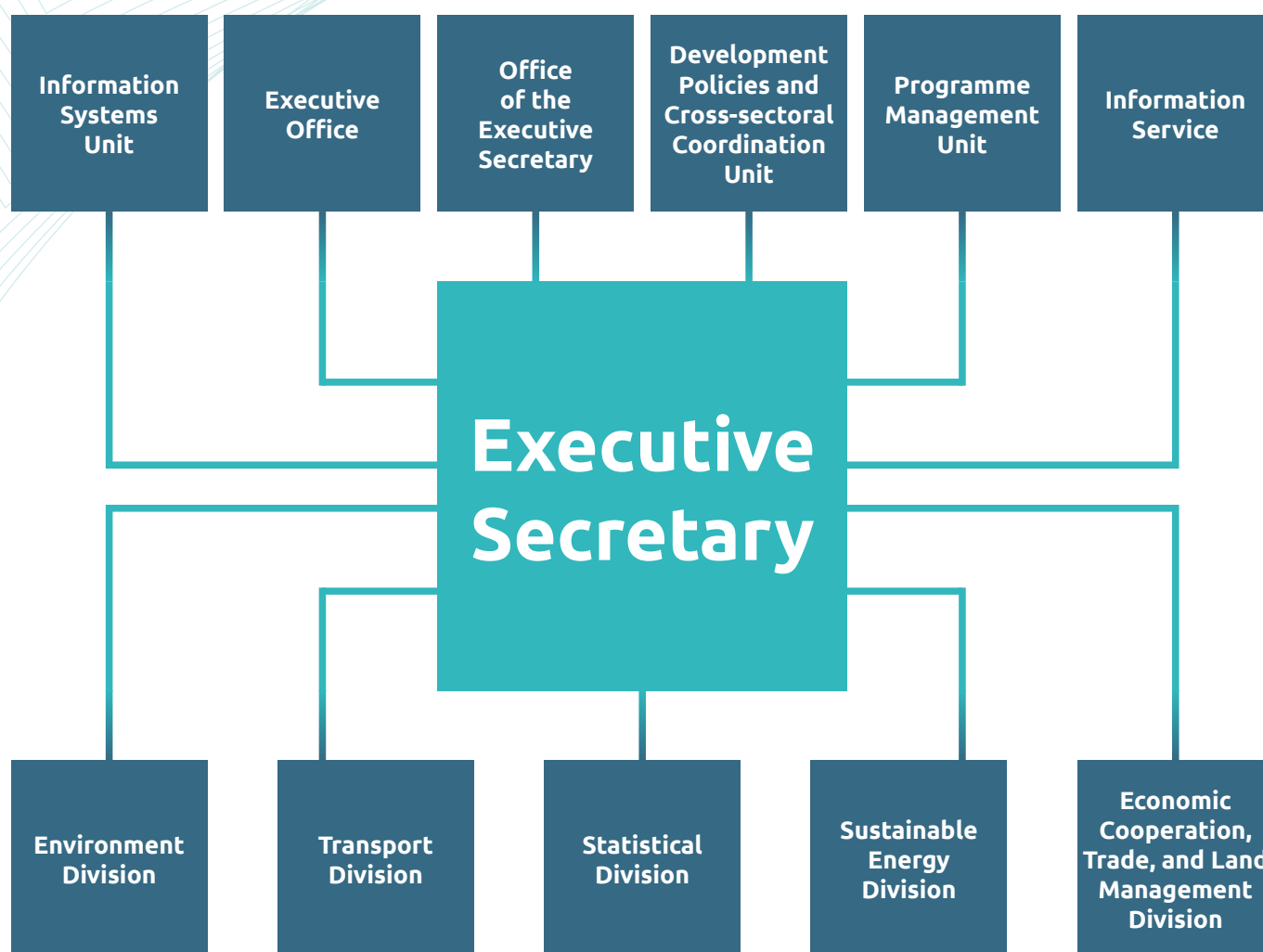
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Albania	H.E. Ms. Filloreta KODRA
Principality of Andorra	H.E. Mr. Enric TARRADO VIVES
Armenia	H.E. Mr. Charles AZNAVOUR
Austria	H.E. Mr. Thomas HAJNOCZI
Azerbaijan	H.E. Mr. Murad NAJAFBAYLI
Belarus	H.E. Mr. Mikhail KHVOSTOV
Belgium	H.E. Mr. Bertrand DE CROMBRUGGHE
Bosnia and Herzegovina	H.E. Mr. Miloš PRICA
Bulgaria	H.E. Mr. Ivan PIPERKOV
Canada	H.E. Ms. Elissa GOLBERG
Croatia	H.E. Ms. Vesna VUKOVIĆ
Cyprus	H.E. Mr. Andreas IGNATIOU
Czech Republic	H.E. Ms. Kateřina SEQUENSOVÁ
Denmark	H.E. Mr. Carsten STAUR
Estonia	H.E. Mr. Jüri SEILENTHAL
Finland	H.E. Ms. Päivi KAIRAMO
France	Son Excellence M. Nicolas NIEMTCHINOW
Georgia	Mr. Shalva TSISKARASHVILI a.i.
Germany	H.E. Mr. Hanns Heinrich SCHUMACHER
Greece	H.E. Mr. Alexandros ALEXANDRIS
Hungary	H.E. Mr. András DÉKÁNY
Iceland	H.E. Mr. Martin EYJÓLFSSON
Ireland	H.E. Ms. Patricia O'BRIEN
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Italy	H.E. Mr. Maurizio Enrico Luigi SERRA
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Latvia	H.E. Mr. Raimonds JANSONS
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Lithuania	H.E. Mr. Rytis PAULAUSKAS
Luxembourg	H.E. Mr. Jean-Marc HOSCHEIT
Malta	H.E. Mr. John Paul GRECH
Monaco	H.E. Ms. Carole LANTERI
Montenegro	H.E. Mr. Ljubiša PEROVIĆ
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The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Mr. Dusko UZUNOVSKI a.i.
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Turkmenistan	H.E. Mr. Esen AYDOGDYEV
Ukraine	H.E. Mr. Yurii KLYMENKO
United Kingdom	H.E. Ms. Karen PIERCE
United States of America	Mr. Peter MULREAN a.i.
Uzbekistan	Mr. Javohir NURMETOV a.i.

As of 20 February 2014

Secretariat



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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE		
STAFF RESOURCES		
TYPE OF BUDGET	2012-2013	2014-2015
	(Total number of staff)	(Total number of staff)
Regular budget staff (section 20)	200	196
Regular programme of technical cooperation (RPTC) staff * (section 23)	6	6
Extrabudgetary staff	30	29
Total	236	231

* Six Regional Advisers

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Sven Alkalaj
Executive Secretary

Office of the Executive Secretary



Andrey Vasilyev
Deputy Executive Secretary



Parisudhi Kalampasut
Chef de Cabinet and Secretary of the Commission



Monika Linn
Principal Adviser to the Executive Secretary



Environment Division
Marco Keiner
Director



Transport Division
Eva Molnar
Director



Statistical Division
Lidia Bratanova
Director



Economic Cooperation, Trade, and Land Management Division
Virginia Cram-Martos
Director



Sustainable Energy Division
Scott Foster
Director



Programme Management Unit
Zamira Eshmambetova
Director

Budget Resources

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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A. REGULAR BUDGET (in thousands of US dollars)				
TYPE OF BUDGET	2012-2013* Actual expenditures	2014 Allotment	2015 Balance of allotment	2014-2015 Total Allotment
Regular Budget (Section 20)				
Post items	70 084.3	33 886.8	33 456.6	67 343.4
Non-Post items	3 727.4	2 314.0	2 048.9	4 362.9
Total:	73 811.7	36 200.8	35 505.5	71 706.3
B. EXTRABUDGETARY (in thousands of US dollars)				
TYPE OF FUND	2012-2013 * Actual expenditures	2014 Estimates Expenditures	2015 Estimates Expenditures	2014-2015 Estimates Expenditures
Extrabudgetary				
General Trust Funds	8 063.8	3 591.0	3 591.0	7 182.0
Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds/Projects	20 039.7	9 626.3	9 176.3	18 802.6
Total:	28 103.5	13 217.3	12 767.3	25 984.6
C. OTHER REGULAR BUDGET FUNDING (in thousands of US dollars)				
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Section 23)	2012-2013* Actual expenditures	2014 Allotment	2015 Balance of allotment	2014-2015** Total Allotment
General Temporary Assistance staff (Regional Advisers)	2 786.2	1 662.5	1 612.5	3 275.0
Other non-post items	713.6	294.2	416.8	711.0
Total:	3 499.8	1 956.7	2 029.3	3 986.0
United Nations Development Account (Section 35)	2012-2013* Actual expenditures	2014 Allotment	2015 Balance of allotment	2014-2015** Total Allotment
Non-post items	2 572.0	2 087.4	-	2 087.4
Total:	2 572.0	2 087.4	-	2 087.4

* Please note that these figures may have minor adjustments since the 2012-2013 year-end accounts have not yet been officially closed.

** Figures based on Revised estimates before adoption of the budget