



**UNECE SUB-REGIONAL INNOVATION POLICY OUTLOOK 2020:
EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOUTH CAUCASUS
LOCAL LAUNCH WEBINAR IN BELARUS**

*17 December 2020, 11.30-13.00 (BEL), Zoom
9:30-11.00 (CET)*

Background

The Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus (EESC) sub-region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine) has considerable potential for sustainable growth and development. Innovation, or broad experimentation with new ideas, is crucial to making the most of this potential – and for public policy to play an effective role in enabling and promoting this dynamic. The increasing complexity of socioeconomic challenges, not least caused by COVID-19, require robust legal frameworks, strong institutions and evidence-based policies to respond to the changing environment, emerging constraints and new opportunities.

The Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO), a pilot United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) flagship publication, supports efforts in the EESC region to respond to this requirement through a concerted, systematic and comprehensive assessment and through comparison of the scope, quality, and effectiveness of innovation policies, institutions and processes. The IPO complements international composite indices, such as World Intellectual Property Organisation's Global Innovation Index and the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, by looking more closely at the role that policies and institutions play in promoting innovation and by focusing on a group of countries with shared economic, structural, legacy and institutional features. The results can inform policy dialogue, reform processes, joint initiatives, donor-funded programming, investment and support the transition to a circular economy. The IPO was developed in cooperation with EESC governments, stakeholders, experts and international organisations and with generous extrabudgetary support from the Government of Sweden.

Participation

The IPO launch event brings together Belarus' innovation stakeholders, international experts, international organisations and the UNECE secretariat. After the opening, the UNECE secretariat will present the main IPO findings and recommendations for Belarus, followed by a panel discussion where government stakeholders comment on the analysis and reflect on the IPO process and future cooperation.

Please note that the times indicated below are based on Minsk time (BEL). Interpretation will be provided for both English and Russian during the webinar.

AGENDA

11:00 – 11:30 BEL **REGISTRATION AND LOG-IN ON ZOOM**
(9:00 – 9:30 CET)

MODERATOR: TATYANA LYADNOVA, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, BELARUSIAN INSTITUTE OF SYSTEM ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION SUPPORT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SPHERE (BELISA)

11:30 – 11:50 BEL **OPENING**

- **H.E. Mr. Sergei Sherbakov**, Vice Chairman, State Committee on Science and Technology, Belarus
- **Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk**, Director for Economic Cooperation and Trade, UNECE

11:50 – 12:20 BEL **CONTEXT AND MAIN IPO REGIONAL AND BELARUS-SPECIFIC FINDINGS**

- **Mr. Anders Jönsson**, Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE
- **Mr. Jakob Fexer**, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE
- **Mr. Dmitry Plekhanov**, Consultant, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE

12:20 – 12:50 BEL **PANEL DISCUSSION**

- **Mr. Sergey Liakh**, Head, Department of Innovation Policy, SCST
- **Mr. Andrey Belov**, Head, Department of scientific and methodological support of innovative development, BellISA
- **Ms. Nina Bohdan**, Professor, Belarusian State Economic University
- **Ms. Iryna Saltanova**, Head, Department of Technology Trends Analysis and Forecasting, BellISA
- **Mr. Denis Korzhitsky**, Director, Belarusian Innovation Fund

12:50 – 13:00 BEL **SUMMARY AND CLOSING**

- **H.E. Mr. Sergei Sherbakov**, Vice Chairman, State Committee on Science and Technology, Belarus
- **Mr. Anders Jönsson**, Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE

Link to the webinar:

<https://undp.zoom.us/j/83612796979?pwd=Y0JDY1paaWFnNnVQb0NONzluaitJZz09>

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