

UNECE

Innovation Performance Review



TAJIKISTAN



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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

**INNOVATION
PERFORMANCE REVIEW
OF TAJIKISTAN**



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NOTE

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FOREWORD

Innovation has never been higher on the economic policy agenda, and features prominently in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Republic of Tajikistan has achieved strong economic and social development over recent years, and has made important steps in moving away from a factor-driven to an efficiency-driven model of growth. Innovation will be crucial to moving towards the next level of economic prosperity, and the right policy measures will play a decisive role.

The *Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan* continues the series of national assessments of innovation policies, which includes earlier Reviews of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Armenia. This policy advisory work draws on the experience accumulated by the UNECE in the identification of good practices and policy lessons in the area of knowledge-based development, in particular concerning the special circumstances of countries with economies in transition.

This *Review* presents the outcomes of an advisory project undertaken at the request of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. It provides a set of recommendations and options to encourage innovation and enhance the effectiveness of public policies. Close collaboration with the national authorities and other experts from Tajikistan throughout the project has ensured that the final assessment reflects a common understanding of the situation in the country and the validity of the proposed recommendations.

Innovation is a complex process that involves multiple actors. The UNECE *Reviews* take a comprehensive approach that looks critically at the different components of the national innovation system, their mutual relations and the overall economic, institutional and policy context in which innovation activities take place. This distinctive approach provides a solid foundation upon which areas can be identified where policy interventions could be most beneficial by removing bottlenecks and develop existing potential.

I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for its support in the implementation of this joint project. I hope that the recommendations of this *Review* will be useful to policymakers in their efforts to promote innovation.



Christian Friis Bach
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

PREFACE

The practical work on the *Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan* began in November 2014 with a preparatory mission by representatives of the UNECE secretariat to establish contact and discuss the structure and content of the *Review* with the national authorities and other stakeholders. The main project mission took place from 28 February to 6 March 2015 with the participation of a team, which included representatives of the UNECE secretariat, international and national experts.

This *Review* reflects the outcome of a series of consultations and discussions between the *Review* team and policymakers, government officials, representatives of academic institutions and the business community and other innovation stakeholders of Tajikistan.

The draft text of the *Review* was submitted for comments to the authorities of Tajikistan and to a group of independent international experts who had not participated in the field mission. The main outcomes of the project, including its main conclusions and recommendations, were presented and discussed during an International Conference “Practical steps towards a knowledge-based economy” held in Dushanbe from 16 to 17 June 2015 within the activities of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). Participants included the members of the *Review* team, external reviewers and high-level representatives of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as delegates from other SPECA countries and United Nations member States.

The final text of the *Review* was prepared for publication by the UNECE secretariat reflecting the outcome of these discussions as well as other comments and suggestions by different stakeholders.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan was prepared by a group of international and national experts as well as by staff of the UNECE secretariat. The Review was the result of a collective effort in which the lead authors for each chapter were: Mr. Christopher Athey and Mr. Ralph Heinrich (Chapter 1), Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky (Chapter 2), Mr. Thomas Stahlecker (Chapter 3), Mr. Slavo Radosevic (Chapter 4), Ms. Annamaria Inzelt (Chapter 5), Ms. Anna Kaderabkova (Chapter 6) and Mr. Ruslan Rakhmatullin (Chapter 7). Mr. Lars-Gunnar Larsson, Ms. Anna Pobol and Mr. Bart Verspagen reviewed the first draft of the Review and provided relevant suggestions. Mr. Bahodur Mengliev prepared a background document and provided inputs and comments to this Review.

During the discussions at the International Conference, “Practical steps towards a knowledge-based economy,” in Dushanbe in June 2015, Mr. Shavkat Bobozoda, Mr. Umed Davlatzod and Mr. Akram Ruzizoda presented comments and suggestions on behalf of the delegation of Tajikistan. The efforts of Mr. Parviz Dzhabborov, Mr. Sultan Umarov and Mr. Tavkal Malikov in support of this project were also greatly appreciated. Mr. Christopher Athey, Mr. Ralph Heinrich and Ms. June White contributed to the overall editing of the publication, with Ms. Andrea Hegedus providing technical assistance. Ms. Mihaela Cerbari and Mr. Oleg Nikolaiko provided valuable research assistance to this project.

The smooth work throughout the project was greatly facilitated by the helpful support and cooperation of the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, which was the lead partner of UNECE in Tajikistan in implementing this project.

UNECE would like to express its deep appreciation to the Government of the Russian Federation for its generous financial contribution, which made possible the implementation of the project *Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan*.

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