

Enhancing the Innovative Performance of Firms

This publication is part of an ongoing series highlighting some of the results of the UNECE Subprogramme on Economic Cooperation and Integration. The objective of the Subprogramme is to promote a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, knowledge-based development and higher competitiveness in the UNECE region.

It covers different thematic areas related to this objective including innovation and competitiveness policies, entrepreneurship and enterprise development, financing innovative development, public-private partnerships for domestic and foreign investment, commercialization and protection of intellectual property rights.

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Enhancing the Innovative Performance of Firms

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Enhancing the Innovative Performance of Firms

*Policy Options and
Practical Instruments*



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

**ENHANCING THE INNOVATIVE
PERFORMANCE OF FIRMS:**

***POLICY OPTIONS AND PRACTICAL
INSTRUMENTS***



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NOTE

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FOREWORD

Innovation in the modern economy emerges from a continuous interaction between firms, their suppliers and buyers and external actors like universities or research and development organizations. Firms are not isolated in their innovation activities but rather perform them in networks and these activities are highly dependent on the external environment at the sectoral, regional and national levels. The new models of innovation emphasize the collaborative relations among innovation stakeholders as a source of competitive advantage for the firms.

At the same time, commercializing an innovation is a very difficult process, especially for start-up innovating entrepreneurs who face numerous barriers in the financing, technological, managerial, regulatory, administrative and other spheres. The main role of public policy in this regard is to establish a conducive environment that supports innovating entrepreneurs in bringing their innovation to the market. This includes both direct and indirect support through various public agencies but also public support for the establishment of private innovation support institutions.

The main objective of this publication is to provide an overview of policy options and practical instruments that can help in fostering the firms' innovative performance. It draws on policy experiences and good practices in the UNECE member States aimed at supporting firms' innovation activities and develops further the results already contained in other recent publications prepared in accordance with the Programme of Work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. It addresses issues such as the importance of framework conditions for enhancing the innovative performance of firms, the role of industry-science linkage as well as various options of boosting the efficiency of innovation support institutions.

The review of policy options and practical instruments presented here aims to contribute to improved level of policymaking and more efficient practices in promoting knowledge-based development and technology-based catching up. It is oriented not only towards policymakers dealing with innovation policy, but also towards a wide range of practitioners responsible for the promotion of innovation. I hope that this publication will contribute to the dissemination of good practices in fostering the firms' innovative performance as well as to improved knowledge and practical skills of innovation stakeholders and policymakers.



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