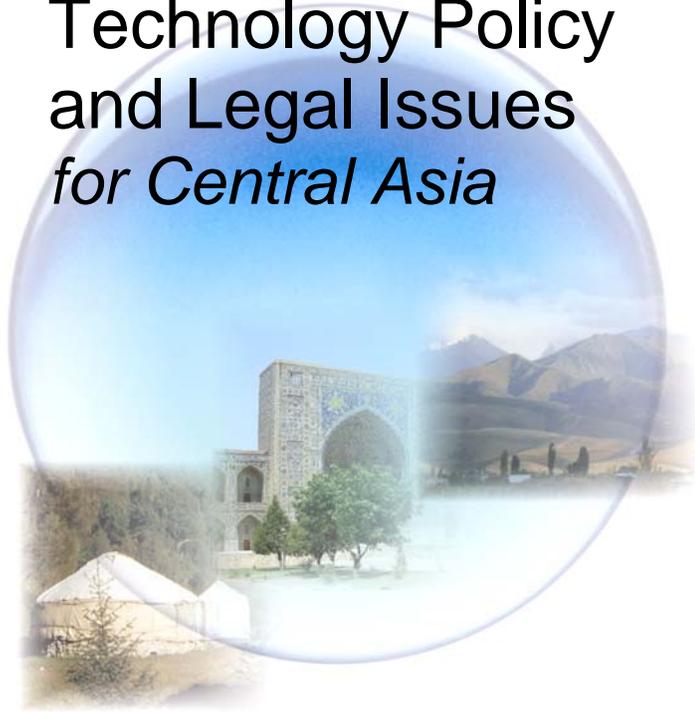


United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Information and Communication Technology Policy and Legal Issues *for Central Asia*



Guide for ICT Policymakers



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New York and Geneva, 2007

NOTE

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FOREWORD

The development of information and communications technologies (ICTs) enables businesses and individuals to communicate and engage in transactions with other parties electronically, instantaneously and internationally. This gives rise to a variety of legal and regulatory issues for policymakers, from the validity of electronic methods of contracting and the security risks associated with them, to concerns over cybercrime and the ability to protect intellectual property rights online. ICT policymakers are constantly facing challenges in dealing with these issues. The promotion of harmonized law reforms, which would facilitate the sound development of eCommerce and related activities, that citizens have appropriate protection against harmful behaviour, is a way to address these challenges.

This guide has been prepared at the request of the Project Working Group on ICT for Development, created in December 2005 within the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). SPECA was launched in 1998 to strengthen subregional cooperation in Central Asia and its integration into the world economy. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) provide technical assistance to the implementation of projects agreed upon by its members. The member countries of SPECA are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The guide is intended for use as a reference manual by ICT policymakers in countries with economies in transition. The content is designed to respond to the needs of SPECA member countries, incorporating feedback received during the series of capacity-building events conducted in 2006 and 2007.

UNECE is strongly committed to capacity-building activities in the countries with economies in transition, including projects targeting ICT policymakers, so that the countries can realize the full potential of the innovations in the ICT-related areas in supporting their knowledge-based economic development. It is our hope that this publication will contribute to that end.



Marek Belka
Executive Secretary
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ABBREVIATIONS

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EDI	Electronic data interchange
EU	European Union
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
ICANN	International Corporation for Assigned Name and Numbers
ICT	Information and communication technology
IPR	Intellectual property rights
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information technology
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PICS	Platform for Internet Content Selection
PIN	Personal identification number
RCC	Regional Commonwealth in the field of communications
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WTO	World Trade Organization

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