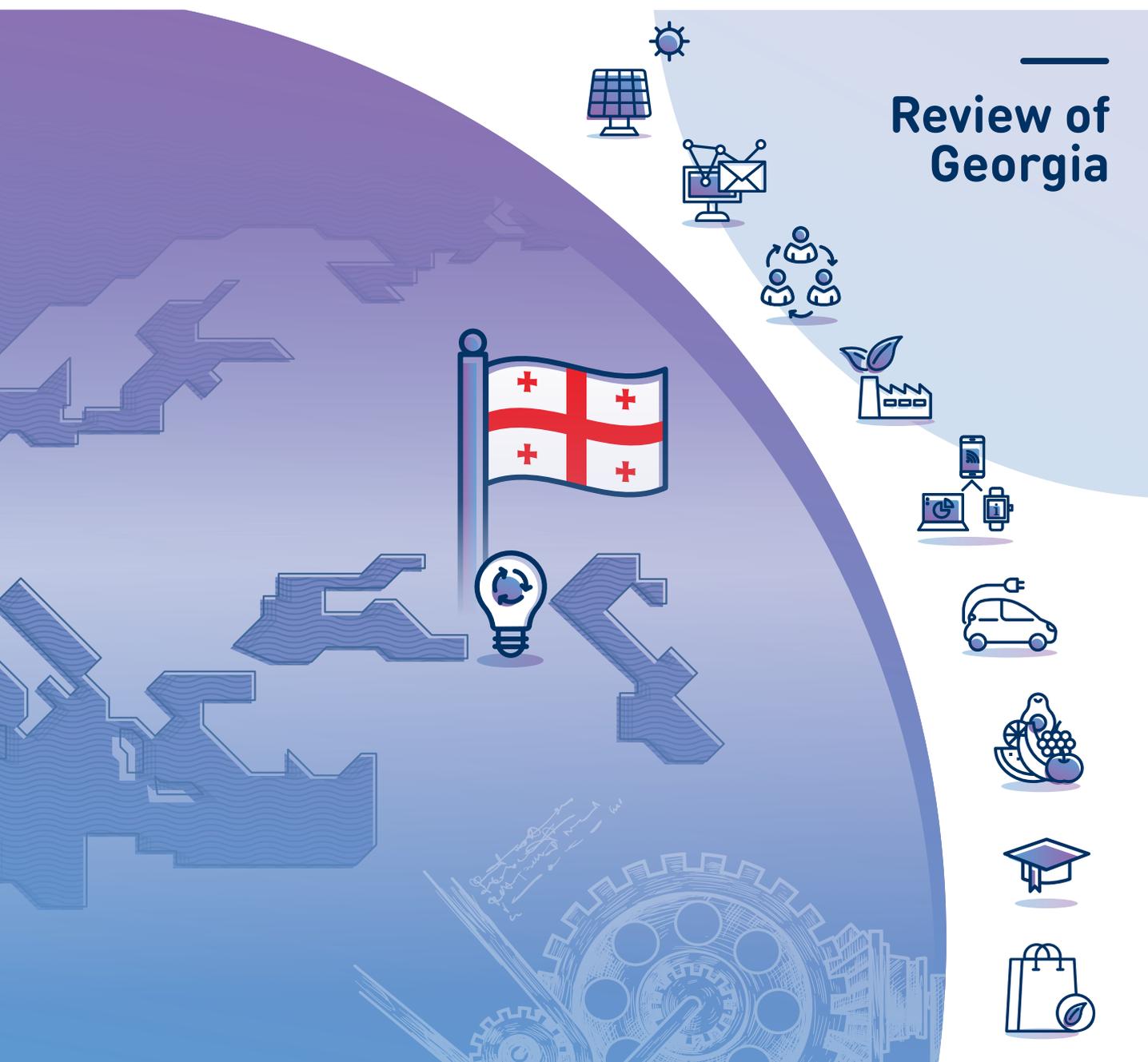


Innovation for Sustainable Development

Review of Georgia



Innovation for Sustainable Development

Review of Georgia



UNITED NATIONS

Geneva, 2020

© 2020 United Nations
All rights reserved worldwide

Requests to reproduce excerpts or to photocopy should be addressed to the Copyright Clearance Center at copyright.com.

All other queries on rights and licenses, including subsidiary rights, should be addressed to:

United Nations Publications,
405 East 42nd Street,
S-09FW001,
New York, NY 10017,
United States of America

Email: permissions@un.org
website: <https://shop.un.org>

The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. In particular, the boundaries shown on any maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

This publication is issued in English only.

United Nations publication issued by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

ECE/CECI/27

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

ISBN: 978-92-1-117266-9
eISBN: 978-92-1-005552-9
Sales: E.20.II.E.48

FOREWORD

Georgia engaged in an impressive array of reforms during the past two decades, turning it into one of the most open, well-governed countries with economies in transition in the UNECE region. The regulatory climate for doing business ranks among the best globally, and Georgia has become a vibrant trade hub, attracted significant investment, and clocked up strong growth over the past decade. One particularly notable area of recent success has been in support schemes to promote innovative start-ups, and the creation of an entrepreneurship culture.

The growth drivers that these reforms unleashed, such as consumer spending and construction, are, however, losing momentum. The next stage of growth will require broad experimentation with new ideas to diversify and upgrade the economy. Current challenges, such as COVID-19, environmental sustainability, and rising inequality, make it imperative to reform policies and institutions not only to enable and support this dynamic – but to do so more efficiently in the context of shrinking fiscal space for manoeuvre. That is why innovation is so central to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This *Review* takes an in-depth look at the factors that will underpin innovation-led sustainable development in Georgia. This includes building on a wide range of opportunities for Georgia to catch up with more developed economies while avoiding, mitigating, or compensating for the risks and challenges posed by structural transformation.

The *Review* identifies strengths to build on, and priorities for reform. Georgia has a tradition of high levels of educational attainment, but skills shortages and mismatches in the labour market constrain private sector innovation. Closer coordination and regular monitoring and evaluation of science, innovation and private sector development policies and instruments will be essential to ensure policy effectiveness. Public procurement is a potentially potent but underused lever to catalyse innovation, while improving managerial, technical, and organizational capacities in the private sector will be essential to absorb and put into practice new ideas.

UNECE advisory work in this area draws on longstanding engagement across the region. The Innovation for Sustainable Development Review is the result of a concerted, comprehensive approach, with strong and regular country involvement and peer review. I would like to thank the Government of Georgia, the national focal point, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), and other stakeholders for their excellent support to this project. I look forward to supporting Georgia further in their efforts to put the recommendations of this review into practice as an essential element of UNECE-Georgia cooperation across a range of areas.

Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



PREFACE

Research, analysis and advisory work on innovation and competitiveness policies is part of UNECE work on economic cooperation and integration that aims to harness innovation as a driver of sustainable development. National reviews of innovation policy, carried out upon the request of member States, have developed significantly since their inception more than a decade ago, and follow a recently updated methodology and approach that has resulted in Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews. This new approach addresses national priorities under the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The research for the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia began in May 2019 with a preparatory mission to agree the scope of the *Review* with the national authorities and other stakeholders. National priorities for sustainable development were selected for in-depth consideration in elective chapters on public procurement and enterprise dynamics.

The *Review* expands on and complements the findings of the Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO), which assesses the scope and quality of innovation governance, policy tools, and policy processes across six countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine). The *Review* provides detailed policy recommendations that reflect the national specificities and sustainable development priorities of Georgia.

The *Review* is the result of in-depth dialogue and consultation among the UNECE Secretariat, leading subject matter experts, Government officials, academia, the private sector, and other innovation stakeholders in Georgia. In April 2020, the draft text was submitted for comments to the national authorities and to a group of independent international experts not otherwise involved in the *Review* process. The findings and recommendations were endorsed by the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies by intersessional decision in November 2020.

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 from various stakeholders.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia was developed under the auspices of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and with generous financial support of the Swedish Government.

The publication was written under the leadership of Elisabeth Tuerk, Director of the UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, and under the overall supervision and guidance of Anders Jönsson, Chief of the UNECE Innovative Policies Development Section. Christopher Athey and Ralph Heinrich developed the conceptual framework. The authors of the chapters were: Anders Jönsson and Stefani Stefanova (Chapter 1); Ralph Heinrich and Stefani Stefanova (Chapter 2); Rumen Dobrinsky (lead) and Christopher Athey (Chapter 3); Thomas Stahlecker (lead), Rumen Dobrinsky and Ralph Heinrich (Chapter 4); Jon Mikel Zabala Iturriagoitia (lead) and Christopher Athey (Chapter 5); and Hana Daoudi (Chapter 6). Tatiana Rosu carried out research for chapters 1, 2 and 6 and provided coordination support throughout the project. Irina Guruli and Dmitry Plekhanov provided essential background research. Ludmila Boichuk provided technical and administrative assistance throughout the project.

The continuous engagement of Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), the lead national partner for this review, has been essential throughout this process. Special thanks go to Annie Vashakmadze (Head of Donor Relations and International Relations Department, GITA) as well as to Avtandil Kasradze (Chairperson, GITA) and Mariam Lashkhi (Deputy Chairperson, GITA). The UN Resident Coordinator Office in Georgia provided useful support at various stages, in particular Sabine Machl.

Several experts and organizations reviewed and commented on the findings and recommendations, including the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Georgia, OECD Eurasia Division, UNDP Georgia, Rafis Abazov, Yelena Kalyuzhnova, Ana Kresik, Despina Pachnou, Jose Palacin, Slavo Radosevic and Manfred Spiesberger.

June White edited the review, and Thierry Alran created the graphic design and infographics.

UNECE would like to express its deep gratitude to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for its generous financial support to this project.

CONTENTS

Foreword	iii
Preface	iv
Acknowledgements	v
List of tables	viii
List of figures	ix
List of boxes	x
Abbreviations	xi
Executive summary	xiii

Chapter 1: Economic overview of Georgia

1.1 Economic profile	2
1.2 Economic reforms	6
1.3 Innovation and sustainable development	11

Chapter 2: Innovation performance overview

2.1 The business environment	14
2.2 Access to skills	19
2.3 ICT infrastructure	21
2.4 Policy messages	23

Chapter 3: Innovation ecosystem and its governance

Summary and recommendations	26
-----------------------------------	----

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_739

