

How to Design PPP Projects Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals? – the People-first Approach to PPPs

Training webinar for PPP practitioners in Ukraine

25 May 2021, online, 10:00 – 13:00 Kyiv time

Draft Agenda

Background

The President of Ukraine has adopted the Decree on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which instructs the Cabinet of Ministers to conduct analysis of forecast and programme documents taking into account the SDGs and implement an effective system for monitoring the SDGs implementation for the period until 2030. The Governmental Programme adopted in July 2020 outlines the people-centric policy priorities in this area, namely to provide a decent living quality for every Ukrainian, accelerate economic growth and attract foreign investments.

This event is part of a Joint Programme “*Promoting strategic planning and financing for sustainable development on national and regional level in Ukraine*” which is being undertaken by a group of United Nations agencies at the request of the Government of Ukraine. The Joint Programme outlines an integrated response to the need of the Ukrainian authorities to optimize resource allocation towards national development ambitions and their alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The activities should result in better ways of managing existing – and potential – finance flows for strategic change to enhance alignment of available resources to long-term development priorities.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) can be an important SDG financing mechanism for bridging investment gaps by mobilizing private funds into infrastructure development. The UNECE has developed the “People-first” approach to PPPs which is designed to implement the SDGs by putting people’s interest at the core of infrastructure projects to generate ‘value for people’. Applying the People-first approach to PPPs would enable Ukraine to better align current and future PPP projects with the SDGs in line with the above Presidential Decree. The UNECE has mobilized top international PPP experts to develop tools facilitating the practical implementation of the People-first approach to PPPs. The first efforts in this area have been focused on the elaboration of the UNECE People-first Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS) which is already being tested and used in different countries.

One of the objectives of the UNECE in implementing the Joint Programme is to assist PPP practitioners in Ukraine in applying this approach and its tools in their practice. To this effect, the UNECE is also developing practical guidelines for People-first PPP project identification and preparation tailored to the specificity of the Ukrainian context. The planned knowledge and skill transfer in these areas should help Ukrainian PPP practitioners in their daily work and enhance Ukraine’s overall capacity to deliver PPPs aligned with the SDGs.

As a first step towards these Programme goals, the UNECE organized on 30 March 2021, together with the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine a knowledge-sharing and training webinar ‘Aligning PPP Legislation in Ukraine with the SDGs’. The webinar was attended by PPP practitioners from the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine, the PPP Agency and the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine. It reviewed the consistency of Ukraine’s PPP legislation vis-à-vis the SDGs with a view to identifying existing gaps in this area and considering ways to address these gaps.

The training webinar “How to Design PPP Projects Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals? – The People-first approach to PPPs” is the second practical step towards the above

mentioned goals. It will focus on the People-first approach to PPPs as an innovative method for designing and implementing PPPs that would support the efforts of governments to achieve the SDGs. The webinar will also present and discuss various tools intended to facilitate PPP practitioners in applying this approach, including tools tailored to the specificity of Ukraine.

According to the Workplan of the Joint Programme, the further implementation steps will take the form of hands-on training events for a broad range of Ukrainian PPP practitioners with the participation of top international experts with the purpose of skill building in applying the above approaches and tools.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The main objectives of the event are to:

1. Help the participants gain knowledge and understanding of the ‘People-first’ approach for aligning PPP projects with the SDGs;
2. Help the participants gain knowledge and understanding of the UNECE PIERS;
3. Present and discuss some practical procedures for People-first PPP project identification and preparation tailored to the specificity of the Ukrainian context; and
4. Present and discuss some practical steps for developing People-first PPP projects in Ukraine by promoting stakeholder engagement and environmental sustainability.

The topics will be presented by leading international PPP experts. This will be followed by a discussion with PPP practitioners from Ukrainian public sector entities, the business community, academia and civil society organisations.

It is expected that the acquisition of new knowledge in these areas by PPP practitioners will boost Ukraine’s capacity to design, implement and deliver People-first PPPs aligned with the SDGs.

Format

The webinar will be conducted as an interactive online event. The participants are invited to take an active part in the discussion with questions, comments and suggestions on the present by the international experts. The event will be conducted in English and Ukrainian languages with simultaneous translation.

Programme

<i>Tuesday, 25 May 2021, online, 10:00 – 13:00 Kyiv time. Languages: English and Ukrainian</i>	
	Moderator: Rumen Dobrinsky , Senior UNECE consultant
Time	Item and participants
10:00 - 10:15	Opening and introduction to the topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iryna Novikova, Deputy Minister for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine • Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
10:15 – 11:30	Topic 1. The UNECE approach and tools for aligning PPPs with the SDGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Bonnici, Officer-in-Charge, PPP Section, UNECE, <i>The UNECE ‘People-first’ approach to PPPs</i> • Antonin Menegaux, UNECE PPP Section, <i>The UNECE People-first Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS)</i> • Q&A, General discussion

11:30 – 12:45	<p>Topic 2. How to apply the UNECE approach and tools for aligning PPPs with the SDGs in the context of Ukraine?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tetiana Bessarab, Managing Partner, Bessarab and Partners Attorney at Law, <i>Identifying and preparing People-first PPP project tailored to the specificity of the Ukrainian context</i> • A representative of the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine, <i>Conclusions from the analysis of the current state of legislation of Ukraine regulating PPP and recommendations regarding its improvement to fulfill SDGs</i> • Anand Chiplunkar, Former Director, Central and West Asia, Asian Development Bank, <i>Environmental sustainability and resilience in People-first PPP projects tailored to the specificity of the Ukrainian context</i> • Amanda Loeffen, CEO of Human Right 2 Water, <i>Stakeholder engagement in People-first PPP projects tailored to the specificity of the Ukrainian context</i> • Q&A, General discussion
12:45 – 13:00	<p>Summing up and next steps</p> <p>Iryna Novikova, Deputy Minister for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Bonnici, Officer-in-Charge, PPP Section, UNECE