

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Innovation Performance Review



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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

**INNOVATION
PERFORMANCE REVIEW
OF ARMENIA**



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FOREWORD

Innovation is a major driving force of economic prosperity in modern economies that makes it possible to tackle environmental and social challenges while ensuring improved living standards. An understanding of how innovation emerges, and the impact of public interventions, is necessary in order to design evidence-based policies that can address barriers to innovation and disseminate its benefits widely across the economy.

The *Innovation Performance Review of Armenia* continues the series of national assessments of innovation policies which includes the earlier Reviews of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. These policy advisory exercises draw 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 Armenia. 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 Armenia 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 *Review* takes 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 to identify areas where policy interventions could be most beneficial by removing bottlenecks and develop existing potential.

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



Michael Møller
Acting Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

PREFACE

The practical work on the *Innovation Performance Review of Armenia* began in June 2013 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 9 to 16 September 2013 with the participation of a team, including representatives of the UNECE secretariat, international and national experts.

The *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 Armenia.

The draft text of the *Review* was submitted for comments to the authorities of Armenia 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 the Substantive Segment of the eighth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration on 13 February 2014 with the participation of the *Review* team, the external reviewers, the members of a high-level delegation from Armenia and delegates from other UNECE 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 Armenia* was prepared by a group of international and national experts as well as staff of the UNECE Secretariat. The *Review* was the result of a collective effort in which the lead authors for each chapter were: Mr. José Palacín (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), Mr. Manfred Spiesberger (Chapter 7) and Mr. Christopher Athey (Annex). Ms. Julia Djarova, Mr. José Molero and Mr. Zhumatay Salimov reviewed the first draft of the *Review* and provided relevant suggestions. During the discussion at the Substantive Segment of the eighth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, Mr. Ashot Khandanyan, Mr. Mikayel Melkumyan and Mr. Gagik Makaryan presented comments and suggestions on behalf of the delegation of Armenia. Mr. Christopher Athey, Mr. José Palacín and Mr. Ralph Heinrich contributed to the overall editing of the publication.

The smooth work throughout the project was greatly facilitated by the helpful support and cooperation of the State Committee of Science of the Republic of Armenia which was the lead partner of UNECE in Armenia in implementing this project.

UNECE would like to express its deep appreciation to the Eurasian Development Bank for its generous financial contribution which made possible the implementation of the project *Innovation Performance Review of Armenia*

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