

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

# Innovation Performance Review

## KAZAKHSTAN



UNITED NATIONS

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

**INNOVATION  
PERFORMANCE REVIEW  
OF KAZAKHSTAN**



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## FOREWORD

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The *Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan* continues the series of national assessments of innovation policies initiated by the pilot *Innovation Performance Review of Belarus*. 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, with particular reference to the problems of countries with economies in transition.

Interventions by the public sector play a pivotal role in fostering innovation, including a wide range of policies and instruments that seek to correct market failures, provide guidance to the private sector and facilitate the coordination of the efforts of different stakeholders. The design and implementation of these interventions should be informed by an assessment of the national innovation system that provides an appropriate diagnosis of the existing situation and offers guidance on how to improve innovation performance, taking into account national characteristics and the lessons that can be drawn from the international experience.

This *Review* presents the outcomes of an advisory project undertaken at the request of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It aims to provide a set of recommendations and policy options to stimulate innovation activity in the country, enhance its innovation capacity and improve the overall efficiency of the national innovation system. Close collaboration with the national authorities and other experts from Kazakhstan throughout the project has helped in identifying issues of practical importance and in ensuring the relevance of the *Review* conclusions and recommendations to national circumstances.

The *Review* will contribute to increase our knowledge of the impact of policies promoting innovative development and to the identification of good practices in this area that could be useful for other countries with economies in transition. The assessments and recommendations presented in the *Review* will also provide a solid basis for capacity-building activities that could be implemented to facilitate the implementation of the proposed recommendations.

I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan 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.



Andrei Vasilyev  
Officer-in-Charge  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

## ***PREFACE***

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The practical work on the *Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan* began in April 2011 with a preparatory mission by representatives of the UNECE Secretariat to establish contacts and discuss the structure and content of the *Review* with the national authorities and other stakeholders. The main project mission took place from 20 to 30 June 2011 with the participation of a team, including representatives of the UNECE Secretariat, international and national experts.

The *Review* reflects the outcomes 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 the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The draft text of the *Review* was submitted for comments to the authorities of Kazakhstan 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 sixth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration on 30 November 2011 with the participation of the *Review* team, the external reviewers, the members of a high-level delegation from Kazakhstan 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***

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The *Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan* 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: Sailau Baizakov (Chapter 1), Aigul Toxanova (Chapter 1), Hans Wissema (Chapter 2), George Strogilopoulos (Chapter 3), Nina Bohdan (Chapter 4), Anna Kaderabkova (Chapter 5), Malcolm Parry (Chapter 6), Mathias Rauch (Chapters 3 and 8), Hannes Leo (Chapter 7), Janne Peltola (Chapter 8) and Christopher Athey (Annex). Marina Ranga, Slavo Radosevic and Rafis Abazov reviewed the first draft of the *Review* and provided useful comments. During the discussion at the Substantive Segment of the sixth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, Muslim Bektep, Baurzhan Aitielu and Zhumatay Salimov presented comments and suggestions on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Rumen Dobrinsky and José Palacín contributed to the overall editing of the publication.

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 Kazakhstan*.

The smooth work throughout the project was greatly facilitated by the helpful support and cooperative attitude of the National Innovation Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan which was the UNECE's leading partner in Kazakhstan in implementing this project.





## ***CONTENTS***

Foreword .....	iii
Preface .....	iv
Acknowledgements .....	v
List of tables .....	x
List of figures .....	xi
List of boxes .....	xii
Abbreviations .....	xiii
Executive summary .....	xvii
 <b>Chapter 1 Recent economic and innovation performance .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Economic structure .....	1
1.2 The public sector .....	3
1.3 Economic performance .....	4
1.4 Labour force and education .....	4
1.5 International economic relations .....	5
1.6 Export performance .....	5
1.7 Foreign Direct Investment .....	7
1.8 Key innovation indicators .....	8
 <b>Chapter 2 National innovation system and innovation governance .....</b>	<b>13</b>
2.1 The concept of the National Innovation System .....	13
2.2 Role of the government .....	16
2.3 The NIS of Kazakhstan .....	17
2.4 The conduct of innovation policy .....	23
2.5 The market environment for innovation policy .....	24
2.6 Coordination and governance .....	25

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