Promoting Innovation in the Services Sector





UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

PROMOTING INNOVATION IN THE SERVICES SECTOR

REVIEW OF EXPERIENCES AND POLICIES



UNITED NATIONS New York and Geneva, 2011

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ECE/CECI/9

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UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

Sales No. 11.II.E.3

ISBN 978-92-1-117039-9

FOREWORD

Services play a growing role in modern economies. The development of services is a major source of productivity growth, as it provides critical inputs for other activities and facilitates the development of new business models. Information and communication technologies, in particular, have a direct impact on organizational innovation capabilities in manufacturing.

A well performing services sector is therefore increasingly seen as a key dimension of an effective innovation system. However, innovation policies and strategies relating to the services sector are less developed than those targeting manufacturing. The recognition of the importance of a dynamic services sector has been accompanied by efforts to ensure that the promotion of innovation in services is duly acknowledged in innovation policies.

This publication presents a collection of contributions by experts involved in the UNECE work on innovation and competitiveness policies carried out under the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI). The publication addresses a wide range of issues related to the promotion of innovation in the services sectors as well as policy lessons learned in this area drawing on the experiences of different countries.

The issues discussed in this publication refer to a relatively new policy area. Countries are at different stages in the conceptualization and implementation of relevant strategies. Overall, there is a need to further develop the understanding of innovation in services and increase policy awareness of the importance of innovation in the services sector. This creates significant scope for policy learning and the exchange of experiences through international multilateral initiatives.

I hope that this publication will contribute to the dissemination of good practices in the promotion of innovation in services and provide a useful reference for policymakers and other innovation stakeholders in their activities.

Ján Kubiš

Executive Secretary
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was prepared in the context of the programme of work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, which includes the activities of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP). It was compiled on the basis of the contributions of members of the TOS-ICP and other experts participating in the Applied Policy Seminar "Promoting Innovation in the Services Sector". This Applied Policy Seminar was part of the third session of the TOS-ICP, which was held in Geneva on 25-26 March 2010.

The UNECE Secretariat would like to express its deep appreciation to all the experts who contributed articles for this publication.

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