

THE WAY AHEAD...

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



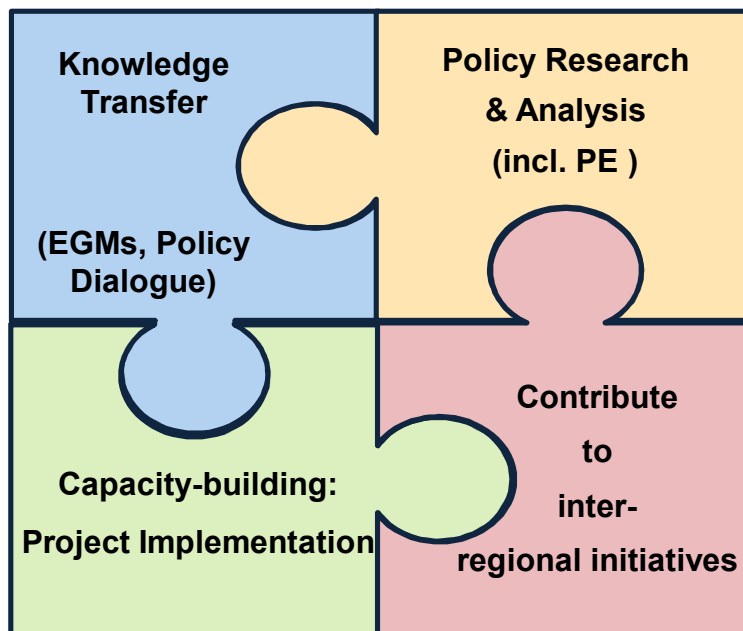
UNITED NATIONS

الاسكوا
ESCWA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION DIVISION

Promoting policy coherence, consistency, coordination and partnerships - Our approach

Our mission: To support Member Countries in their efforts to improve economic governance and effective national development planning towards enabling implementation of Agenda 2030



- **Means of Implementation:** RB, XB, RPTC resources, in-kind contributions
- **Partnerships for development:** across institutions within and beyond the UN (e.g. government, private sector, civil society, development banks, academia)

Development Account Project - “Towards the Arab Horizon 2030: Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the Arab Region” (2018-2020)

➤ Regional project in cooperation with ECLAC:

- *Objective:* ‘To strengthen the planning process of ESCWA member States to support more integrated, strategic and better coordinated development planning, towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda’ through (1) Enhanced awareness and engagement of policymakers with the integrated development planning approach; and (2) Strengthened capacity of policymakers in target countries to design integrated and implementable national development plans in their countries.
- *Methodology:* Regional conferences, pilot country engagement, workshops, inter-regional study tours and so on
- *Sustainability:* Reflective of country ownership and leadership to enhance national development planning initiatives, the project is expected to achieve commitment from member states to establish a permanent consultative process of national planning institutions of Arab States hosted by ESCWA.

Regular programme of technical cooperation (RPTC) – Examples of country projects

- **EGYPT - Training programme on “Regulatory Reform” (ongoing, planned for July 2018)**
 - *Objective:* Develop a complete course version in response to the training objectives as established by UNESCWA/EDID/EGPS and the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation in Egypt, including accompanying materials such as participant guides, trainer guides, PowerPoint slides, workshop discussion topics/case studies, etc. that support repetition of the course at a later stage and facilitated by the Egyptian administration.
 - *Methodology:* Use participatory adult education techniques to convey clearly identified training objectives. Training material should include up-to-date information and new tools with practical examples and case studies that will aid the trainees in increasing their awareness to best practices of regulatory reform.
 - *Sustainability:* Replication to other country contexts
- **BAHRAIN - Workshop on “Economic Diversification and Competitiveness: From Policies to Implementation” in collaboration with UNDP RCO (completed March 2018)**
- **LEBANON - Advisory services on economic governance challenges in relation to the implementation of the Capital Investment Plan (planned)**

Promoting policy coherence, consistency, coordination and regional partnerships - Sustaining initiatives

- Our work programme on “**Competition Policy and Regulation in the Arab region**” started in 2015 recognises the importance of effective antitrust and competition laws as well as the need for well functioning market regulators to enhance business environment, foster investments, improve economic performance and drive inclusive growth.
- It takes into consideration that the issues of competition and regulation are linked and that shortcomings in the past aggravated economic challenges associated with inefficient market structures and governance systems, for example: heavily concentrated markets and inefficient economies, collusion, centralization of economic power among a few elites as well as, in general, rent-seeking behaviour.
- While some countries have advanced competition legislation and enforcement practices (GCC), others have none (Lebanon), thus within the framework of the SDG’s our work programme promotes a dialogue to exchange of best practices as well as regional partnerships on competition policy and regulation (involving stakeholders from the public sector, private sector and civil society).

Objectives for 2018-2019: Establishment of a regional policy dialogue on competition and regulation that translates into project proposals addressing policy gaps (implementation, enforcement, etc.) in response to national and regional needs



Thank you!