

Programme

9th UNECE International
PPP FORUM
Belgrade | 14 – 16 May 2025

Accelerating the SDGs and Climate Action:

**Implementing resilient PPPs and infrastructure
for a sustainable future**

Introduction and objectives of the Forum

As the United Nations (UN) celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2025, the global community is presented with a critical opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressing the world's most pressing challenges. Across the globe, the escalating impacts of climate change – rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, intensifying extreme weather events, and rising sea levels – pose significant challenges to all forms of infrastructure. Building and maintaining infrastructure that is resilient to climate change is essential not only to safeguard lives and livelihoods but also to secure the continuity of critical public services that underpin social and economic stability. With the deadline for achieving the SDGs rapidly approaching, sustainable and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future is at the heart of global priorities.

Echoing the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), the recently endorsed UN [Pact for the Future](#) and its annexed Global Digital Compact underscore the transformative potential of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). PPPs can be a key mechanism to foster an enabling environment that promotes sustainable financing in resilient infrastructure projects, thereby accelerating progress towards the SDGs. In this context, the UNECE International PPP Forum 2025 will focus on the critical nexus between accelerating progress towards the SDGs and climate action through implementing resilient PPP and infrastructure projects for a sustainable future. This aligns with the cross-cutting theme of the [71st session of the Commission](#), **“Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future.”**

The Forum will explore key topics, including the need for climate-resilient and adaptable infrastructure to mitigate environmental risks while advancing sustainable development. Discussions will focus on integrating emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and digital tools, to improve project outcomes and ensure equitable access to essential services. The role of PPPs in driving clean energy solutions, particularly advancing the green hydrogen economy, will be highlighted, along with their potential to empower women and marginalized communities through participatory, gender-responsive approaches. Participants will also address strengthening stakeholder engagement by adopting a human rights-based approach and ensuring fiscal sustainability and setting affordable tariffs for projects. Additionally, and among other key topics, the Forum will examine how transformative innovation and collaborative approaches can inspire new pathways for sustainable development through PPP models.

[The UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025](#) will take centre stage at the Forum, recognizing outstanding achievements in PPP and infrastructure projects and programmes under the theme **“green and digital transformations.”** The finalists were selected by an International Jury of experts and evaluated using the [UNECE PIERS methodology](#) – a self-assessment tool designed to help governments and stakeholders ensure that PPP and infrastructure projects are aligned with the SDGs.

As in previous editions of the Forum, selected PPP case studies submitted for the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025 will be showcased, providing an opportunity to present and discuss their compliance with the five PPP for the SDGs desirable outcomes.¹

The Forum will also offer a platform to various stakeholders – international organisations, civil society, private sector and academia – to present their PPP work in support of the SDGs, fostering dialogue and collaboration. The three-day hybrid event – with in-person and online participation – will be held at the **Hilton Belgrade**, Serbia, from **14 to 16 May 2025**, and is co-organised with the Government of Serbia.

A pre-Forum UNECE masterclass for government officials will be organised on 13 May (afternoon) at the [EBRD headquarters in Belgrade](#), providing targeted capacity-building opportunities on UNECE normative and practical tools (click [here](#) for separate registration).

¹ The five desirable outcomes are: 1. Increase access to essential services and lessen social inequality and injustice; 2. Improve economic effectiveness (including women's empowerment) and fiscal sustainability of projects; 3. Enhance resilience in projects and more care with the environment; 4. Promote replicability and the development of further projects; and 5. Fully involve all stakeholders in the projects.

Wednesday, 14 May 2025

Location: **Hilton Belgrade**

08:15 - 09:00

Registration

09:00 - 09:30

Opening remarks

📍 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

H.E. Ms. Adrijana Mesarović, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Serbia
Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, UNECE

09:30 - 09:45

Keynote speech

📍 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Mr. Aleksandar Šapić, Mayor of Belgrade

09:45 - 11:00

Ministerial roundtable

📍 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future

Background: With many SDGs targets at risk of being missed, this ministerial roundtable takes place at a critical moment to accelerate progress by 2030. Discussions will centre on the role of PPPs in addressing global infrastructure challenges and advancing sustainable development. Indeed, the escalating impacts of climate change pose critical challenges to global infrastructure systems. Building climate-resilient infrastructure is essential to protecting communities, ensuring the continuity of critical services, and meeting both adaptation and mitigation goals in the pursuit of sustainable development.

This roundtable will underscore the role of PPPs in fostering infrastructure resilience, focusing on their capacity to embed resilience planning throughout project lifecycles. Discussions will address strategies for identifying and mitigating climate risks, aligning resilience measures with disaster risk prevention and sustainability goals, and mobilizing diverse financial resources to deliver scalable, region-specific solutions.

Key questions: (i) How can climate risks to infrastructure be effectively identified and addressed? (ii) In what ways can PPPs enhance the resilience of infrastructure while aligning with disaster risk prevention and broader sustainability goals? (iii) How can PPPs contribute to mobilizing and optimizing financial resources for scalable climate-resilient infrastructure solutions, tailored to regional and local contexts?

Moderator:

Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Panellists (in alphabetical order by country):

H.E. Ms. Maja Vukićević, Minister of Transport, Montenegro

H.E. Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Dieye, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senegal

H.E. Ms. Sara Pavkov, Minister of Environmental Protection, Serbia

H.E. Mr. Enver Iskurt, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Türkiye

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee break

📍 Foyer of
Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

11:30 - 13:00

High-level policy debate

📍 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Accelerating the SDGs and climate action: Implementing resilient PPPs and infrastructure for a sustainable future

Background: This high-level policy debate will underscore the significance and challenges of implementing resilient PPPs as key drivers of climate action and accelerated progress towards the SDGs. Panellists will discuss how resilient PPPs can address the escalating impacts of climate change, support adaptation and mitigation efforts in infrastructure, and accelerate the transition to clean energy. Discussions will highlight the potential of PPPs to integrate emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), embed lifecycle resilience planning, and promote inclusive stakeholder engagement and gender-responsive governance. The debate will also delve into innovative financing mechanisms and strategies to ensure that PPP projects deliver

tangible value for both people and the planet. By addressing these pressing challenges, the high-level policy debate will pave the way for key themes and actionable insights to be explored throughout the Forum, underscoring the transformative potential of PPPs to deliver resilient, adaptable and inclusive infrastructure for a sustainable future.

Key questions: (i) How can PPPs address the escalating impacts of climate change to foster climate-resilient infrastructure that supports adaptation and mitigation goals? (ii) How can PPPs leverage advanced technologies, alongside private sector innovation and expertise, to enable risk-sharing, lifecycle resilience planning, and the delivery of tailored infrastructure solutions? (iii) What innovative financing mechanisms and strategies are needed to ensure PPP projects are both sustainable and accessible?

Moderator:

H.E. Mr. Sharaf Sheralizoda, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the UN, Geneva

High-level segment:

H.E. Ms. Andrijana Jovanovic, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy, Serbia

H.E. Mr. Sanzhar Bolotov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyzstan

Mr. George Katapodis, Chairperson, UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (Greece)*

H.E. Mr. Eduardo Tavares, National Secretary for Funds and Financial Instruments, Ministry of Integration and Regional Development, Brazil

Mr. Dragan Darmanović, Acting Director General of the Directorate for the State Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Montenegro

Panellists in the high-level-policy debate (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Eyüp Vural Aydin, Chairman, Istanbul PPP Center of Excellence

Mr. Matthew Jordan-Tank, Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Policy and Project Preparation, EBRD*

Mr. Jean-Patrick Marquet, President, Observatory of the Values in Society & Management

Ms. Matilde Mordt, UN Resident Coordinator, Serbia

13:00 - 14:30



Foyer of
Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Lunch (offered to all participants)

14:30 - 16:00

📍 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan



Vote

UNECE PPP and infrastructure award 2025

Presentation of the finalists selected by an International Jury

Background: The [UNECE PPP and Infrastructure award 2025](#) will showcase PPP and infrastructure projects that demonstrate SDG-compliant elements, thereby contributing to achieve the 2030 Agenda. This year's focus is on the contribution of PPPs and infrastructure projects to green and digital transformations. The projects showcased here have been selected by an International Jury of experts amongst 113 projects submitted to the UNECE secretariat. They have been self-assessed using PIERS.

Key questions: (i) How are these projects contributing to green and digital transformations? (ii) To what extent are these projects implementing the PPP for the SDGs approach? (iii) How were the main challenges to sustainable development addressed in practice?

Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of how countries put SDGs into practice in their PPP programmes and projects and serve as an inspiration for potential PPP for the SDGs projects; and (ii) Increased number of projects self-assessed using PIERS.

Documentation: [UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System \(PIERS\)](#), [Rules of the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025](#), [Database of case studies – UNECE PPP and infrastructure award 2025](#).

Moderator:

Mr. Jean-Patrick Marquet, President, Observatory of the Values in Society and Management

Finalists of the UNECE PPP and infrastructure award 2025 (in alphabetical order by country):

- **Brazil:** Goiânia Smart City, **Mr. Leonardo Santos** 📺 [video](#)
- **Senegal:** SEN'EAU Water, **Ms. Lylian Coelho** 📺 [video](#)
- **Serbia:** PPP project of Belgrade passenger bus transport, **Ms. Aleksandra Paunovic Avramoski** 📺 [video](#)
- **USA:** Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project, **Ms. Tara Ekren** 📺 [video](#)
- **Uzbekistan:** Bukhara Solar and Battery Storage, **Mr. Shaxobjon Botirov**

The Forum participants will, after these presentations, select the winning project through online voting using this [form](#) or by scanning the QR code (the vote will be open on 14 May from 16:00 to 22:00 CET).

The winners will be announced on 16 May at 12 noon (see details in the programme below).

16:00 - 16:30

📍 Foyer of
Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00

Parallel session 1

 Ballroom Tsar Dusan

Climate-resilient PPP projects:

Adaptation and resilience into PPP projects to address climate challenges and bridge financing gaps

Challenge: Climate change requires urgent integration of resilience and adaptation strategies into PPPs and infrastructure projects. Resilience ensures the capacity to absorb shocks and recover, while adaptation involves proactive adjustments to anticipated climate impacts. Both are essential to achieve SDG 13 and support the broader SDG agenda.

Building on a guide currently being developed by UNECE and echoing the cross-cutting theme of the 71st session of the Commission, "Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future," this session will discuss how PPPs can support climate-resilient and adaptive infrastructure development. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying gaps in current practices and discuss pathways to overcome operational and financial barriers in both developed and developing economies.

By addressing how PPPs can be structured to blend climate action with sustainable infrastructure, this session sets the stage for deeper discussions on innovative funding solutions, tender processes that prioritize resilience, and policy frameworks that align national SDG plans with climate-adaptive infrastructure development.

Parallel session 2

 Danube room

Stakeholder engagement:

Enhancing stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and trust in PPP and infrastructure projects

Challenge: Effective stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone of successful PPPs for the SDGs and a quintessential element to move SDGs forward, ensuring inclusivity, transparency, and accountability throughout the project lifecycle. Stakeholder engagement not only fosters collaboration and trust but also enhances the long-term welfare of the broader community by optimizing social participation and ensuring no one is left behind.

This session builds on a guide currently being developed by UNECE, which provides policy recommendations and practical strategies to enhance stakeholder engagement in PPPs for the SDGs. The guide emphasizes stakeholder identification, communication strategies, and capacity-building measures, promoting transparency and inclusivity in project preparation, development, and implementation. It aligns with the PIERS methodology and the UNECE Guiding Principles, offering governments a comprehensive framework for embedding meaningful stakeholder engagement at every stage of the PPP lifecycle.

By addressing the gaps in stakeholder consultation that often lead to PPP failures, this session will highlight best practices, case studies, and strategies to foster trust,

Parallel session 3

 Sava room

Gender equality and women empowerment:

Designing and implementing PPP projects to promote gender equality and women's empowerment

Challenge: Advancing infrastructure projects that empower women and promote gender equality has become increasingly critical. PPPs are uniquely positioned to drive this agenda by integrating gender considerations throughout the project lifecycle. By addressing gender equality in PPPs, projects can deliver transformative outcomes in areas such as women's wellbeing, mobility, security, justice, employment, and education.

This session builds on a guide currently being developed by UNECE, which aims to provide actionable policy recommendations for embedding gender equality practices into PPPs. The guide highlights the impact of social norms and policy frameworks on equal access to PPP services and infrastructure and focuses on enhancing the capacity of public officials to deliver gender-responsive projects. It also explores strategies to incentivize private sector contributions to the empowerment of women through skill transfers and equitable project design. This session will further delve into these key issues and showcase examples to inspire replication and scaling up.

Key questions: (i) Does the guide cover the main aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment into each stage of

Roundtable discussion

 Morava room

Resilient PPP contracts for SDG implementation:

Ensuring that PPP contracts are SDG-oriented and resilient to withstand crises, maintain financial balance, and resolve disputes

Challenge: Resilient PPPs are more than just infrastructure. The main objective of PPP for the SDG's is to deliver a public service adapted to the needs of the people during the whole project life cycle. Adaptation and resilience are paramount and foster a special breed of partnerships between the public and private sector. They encompass a process by which they must be specially designed and implemented. Clear common objectives and related rights and obligations should be embedded into resilient contracts ensuring long-term public service delivery and adaptability in the face of changing conditions. When economic, technological, social, political transformations, environmental disasters, pandemics, and changes in regulatory frameworks, disrupt service delivery, and jeopardize economic and financial sustainability without default from the contracting parties, the PPP contract must include a series of core principles and clauses able to maintain the economic and financial balance, to prevent and adapt to changing circumstances while safeguarding sustainability and inclusivity goals. Also critical are clear dispute avoidance and settlement resolution pathways that align with the public service requirements deriving from the SDGs. This session will examine strategies for designing

Key questions: (i) Does the guide cover the main aspects of climate resilience and adaptation strategies into infrastructure projects? (ii) Are the case studies used in the guide adequate? (iii) Are the draft policy options/recommendations sufficiently clear?

Documentation: [Zero draft guide on promoting climate resilient PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs](#)

Expected outcomes: (i) Gain knowledge into effective strategies for incorporating climate adaptation and resilience into infrastructure and PPP projects, with a focus on leveraging PPPs for the SDGs to address both current and future climate risks; (ii) Gather insights from panellists and the audience to contribute to the finalization of the guide.

Moderator:

Ms. Eleni Bakoula, Vice-Chairperson, UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Greece)

General overview by the Team Leader:

Mr. David Dodd, President, ISRC

collaboration, and accountability, ensuring that PPP projects contribute to the SDGs.

Key questions: (i) Does the guide cover all aspects of stakeholder engagement in PPP projects? (ii) Are the case studies used in the guide adequate? (iii) Are the draft policy options/recommendations sufficiently clear?

Documentation: [Zero draft guide on Enhancing stakeholder engagement throughout the PPP project lifecycle in support of the SDGs](#)

Expected outcomes: (i) Gain knowledge of international best practices and case studies to inspire more inclusive, transparent, and collaborative stakeholder engagement in PPP projects; (ii) Gather insights from panellists and the audience to contribute to the finalization of the guide.

Moderator:

Ms. Quin MacKenzie, Lead Executive Officer, Luceo Consulting

General overview by the Team Leader:

Ms. Melissa Peneycad, Manager, Sustainable Infrastructure and PPP Programs, Beyond21 Academy

the PPP lifecycle? (ii) Are the case studies used in the guide adequate? (iii) Are the draft policy options/recommendations sufficiently clear?

Documentation: [Zero draft guide on Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through PPPs for the SDGs](#)

Expected outcomes: (i) Gain knowledge of international best practices and case studies, providing governments with inspiration and tools to replicate and scale gender-responsive PPPs across the ECE region; (ii) Gather insights from panellists and the audience to contribute to the finalization of the guide.

Moderator:

Ms. Doris Chevalier, CEO, Infraboost

PPP contracts that are both resilient and SDG-oriented, focusing on approaches to mitigate risks, maintain economic and financial equilibrium, and ensure continuity of public service.

Key questions: (i) What key elements should be included in PPP contracts to ensure resilience and alignment with the SDGs? (ii) How can PPP contracts maintain financial balance and project sustainability in exceptional circumstances, such as changing public service needs, technological or economic disruption or environmental disasters? (iii) What mechanisms can be employed within PPP contracts to facilitate effective dispute prevention, settlement resolution and risk-sharing while advancing SDG objectives?

Expected outcomes: (i) Gain insights into the importance of resilient PPP contracts for advancing the SDGs, including strategies for embedding adaptability, financial balance, and sustainability into contract design; (ii) Practical recommendations for developing PPP contracts that incorporate robust risk management, dispute resolution mechanisms, and provisions to ensure continuity and sustainability during crises.

Moderator:

Mr. Marc Frilet, General Secretary, International Centre of Excellence for PPP Policy, Laws and Institution

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Oscar Cortés, Vice-President, International Affairs, FEMCIC*

Ms. Lucia Fuselli, Clean Energy and Decarbonization Lead, Green Climate Fund*

Ms. Amanda Queiroz, Senior Manager, Global Climate, Nature and Decarbonization Hub, KPMG

Ms. Natascha Schmitt, Federal Board of the Brazilian Bar Association

Ms. Turkan Vusat, Vice-Chairperson, Committee of Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (Azerbaijan)*

Ms. Doreen Wong, Vice President, Robinson Global Management Inc.

Q&A

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Michael Kerrigan, President, Delgany Advisory, LLC

Mr. Gabriele Pasquini, Member of the Bureau of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Italy)

Mr. Joan-Enric Ricart, IESE Business School

Ms. Helga Van Peer, Lawyer, Mediator and Independent Board Member

Q&A

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Ms. Sara Alvarado, International Sustainable Finance, Infrastructure*

Mr. Ulan Danibekov, Deputy Director, PPP Center, Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Rose-Lourdes Elysée, Member of the Bureau of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Haiti)*

Ms. Susanne Foerster, Lawyer, Infrastructure Specialist*

Mr. Rajeev Mehta, International PPP expert*

Mr. Syed Zaidi, Chairperson, UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Canada)

Q&A

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Ms. Petra Ferk, Co-founder, Institute for PPPs Slovenia and S-Procurement

Ms. Olga Trofimenko, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, State University of Saint Petersburg

Ms. Maude Vallée, Division Manager & Head of Operations, African Legal Support Facility

Mr. Steven Van Garsse, Vice-Chairperson, Committee of Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (Belgium)

Mr. Scott Walchak, Principal Counsel, Maryland Office of the Attorney General, USA*

Q&A

19:00 - 20:30

📍 Palace of
Serbia

Cocktail reception (hosted by the Government of Serbia)

Transport will be provided for all participants from the Hilton Belgrade to the venue.

Thursday, 15 May 2025

Location: **Hilton Belgrade**

09:00 - 09:15

📍 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Keynote speech

H.E. Mr. Christos Dimas, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Greece

09:15 - 10:30

📍 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Foresight session

Harnessing the transformative potential of hydrogen in PPP and infrastructure:

Exploring the role of hydrogen to supporting food security and providing an alternative to fossil fuels

Background: Green hydrogen has emerged as a transformative energy source with immense potential to address critical global challenges, including decarbonisation, energy security, and sustainable development. In the context of the global energy transition, green hydrogen can play a crucial role in diversifying energy sources and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. It also holds promise for other sectors, such as agriculture, where it can help decarbonise processes and enable the sustainable production of fertilisers like ammonia. However, harnessing the full potential of green hydrogen requires enabling regulatory frameworks and addressing key barriers such as infrastructure limitations and high capital costs, amongst other things. This foresight high-level session will provide an opportunity for governments to present their work, and to the private sector to showcase projects on the use of green hydrogen in various infrastructure sectors, and their contribution to decarbonization.

Key questions: (i) What are the policy interventions that governments might consider in harnessing the potential use of hydrogen in PPPs and infrastructure? (ii) Which are the infrastructure sectors applying green hydrogen solutions? (iii) What can the PPP industry learn from these case studies to support the acceleration of the SDGs?

Moderator:

Mr. Dario Liguti, Director, Sustainable Energy Division UNECE

Overview of the hydrogen infrastructure sector:

Mr. Pierre-Etienne Franc, CEO, Hy24

Government perspective:

Ms. Jovana Joksimović, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Serbia

Mr. Fernando Kalligas, Senior Director Corporate Affairs, DESFA, Greece

Private sector perspective:

Mr. Olivier Mussat, CEO, Atome, "Green fertilizer for food security" (Paraguay)

Ms. Hedvig Paradis, Vice President, Hydrogen, Stegra, "Green steel" (Sweden)

Mr. Loic Voisin, CEO, HysetCo, "Captive fleets for clean mobility" (France)

Q&A

10:30 - 11:00

📍 Foyer of
Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30

Parallel session 1

 Ballroom Tsar Dusan


Fiscal sustainability and tariff affordability:

Ensuring transparent reporting of debt and liabilities, sustainable public funding mechanisms, avoidance of debt traps, and affordability of tariffs throughout the lifecycle of PPP projects

Challenge: Fiscal sustainability and tariff affordability are essential for ensuring the long-term success of PPP projects while advancing the SDGs. Transparent reporting of debt and liabilities is crucial to avoid hidden debt and fiscal risks, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where the consequences of financial mismanagement can be severe. Sustainable public funding mechanisms must be designed to balance fiscal responsibility with the need to deliver critical infrastructure, while tariff structures must remain affordable for users to ensure equitable access to services throughout the project lifecycle.

This session will examine strategies for integrating fiscal transparency, sustainable funding, and equitable tariffs into PPP frameworks, supported

Parallel session 2

 Danube room

Transformative innovation and PPPs:

Exploring how lifecycle-based PPP procurement can incorporate green practices and innovation-enhancing approaches to deliver sustainable and resilient infrastructure

Challenge: Lifecycle-based PPP procurement provides a powerful framework to embed green practices and innovation into infrastructure projects, addressing global challenges like climate change, resource constraints, and societal needs. By adopting green and innovation-enhancing procurement (IEP), governments can integrate sustainability and resilience across all project stages.

This session will highlight how lifecycle-based PPP frameworks address complex infrastructure challenges by embedding green practices and innovation, including emerging technologies and systems thinking. Panellists will share strategies for integrating circular economy principles, advanced technologies, and data-driven decision-making,

Parallel session 3

 Sava room

National PPP programmes and policies in Asia and the Pacific:

Sharing of best international PPP practices²

Challenge: Limited knowledge and public sector PPP capacity remain a key challenge for governments to deliver sustainable projects.

To address this challenge, UN Regional Commissions are joining forces to strengthen the capacity of public officials to deliver green, circular, resilient, and high-quality PPPs and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs and transformational change.

The session will provide an opportunity for ESCAP member States to present their PPP programmes, policies, and projects, as well as their capacity building needs to deliver PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs. Tools developed by UN Regional Commissions to improve PPP legal frameworks and deliver better

Parallel session 4

 Morava room

Roundtable discussion on selected PPP case studies submitted to the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025

Challenge: The integration of green and digital transformations in PPPs and infrastructure projects is increasingly critical for aligning with the SDGs. However, embedding these considerations across all stages of a project's lifecycle presents unique challenges, requiring innovative approaches and tools. This session will showcase projects submitted to the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025. These projects span multiple sectors and demonstrate how the PPP for the SDGs outcomes can be operationalized effectively. The projects showcased in this session have all been self-evaluated using PIERS. The discussion will also shed light on the use of PIERS as a tool which could benefit projects at all stages of the PPP process.

² This session is organized by ESCAP.

by insights from international tools and best practices.

Key questions: (i) How can transparent reporting mechanisms for debt and liabilities be integrated into PPP frameworks to promote fiscal sustainability and avoid hidden debt traps? (ii) How to ensure that public funding for PPPs remains sustainable without imposing excessive burdens on public budgets? (iii) How can tariff structures in PPP projects balance affordability for users with the financial viability of the projects across their entire lifecycle?

Expected outcomes: (i) Gain understanding of how to ensure fiscal sustainability and tariff affordability in PPPs; (ii) Identification of best practices for promoting transparent debt reporting, sustainable public funding, and user tariff affordability, supported by case studies and tools

Moderator:

Mr. Syed Zaidi, Chairperson, UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Canada)

supported by examples and insights from the UNECE [Guidelines on green and sustainable PPP procurement for the SDGs](#)

Key questions: (i) How can lifecycle-based PPP procurement deliver infrastructure that is both sustainable and resilient? (ii) What procurement strategies can be adopted to promote sustainability and resilience throughout the lifecycle of PPP projects? (iii) How can innovation practices and emerging technologies be integrated into lifecycle-based PPP procurement while ensuring adaptability, transparency, and long-term sustainability?

Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of how lifecycle-based PPP procurement can integrate green and IEP practices to deliver sustainable and resilient infrastructure; (ii) Practical strategies for aligning PPP projects with UNECE guidelines (iii) An increased familiarity with the UNECE ETIN network

Moderator:

Mr. Joao Mendes Borge, Vice-Chairperson, Committee of Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (Portugal)

projects (including small-scale PPPs), will also be presented.

Key questions: (i) What are the main challenges facing countries to deliver sustainable PPPs? (ii) What are their capacity building needs (e.g. project preparation support, legal and regulatory framework, etc.)? (iii) How are the UN Regional Commissions tools and programmes assisting countries?

Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of national PPP programmes and capacity building requirements of member States to deliver sustainable PPPs (ii) A better understating of the PPP tools and programmes by UN Regional Commissions.

Moderator:

Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, UN ESCAP*

Welcome remarks:

Ms. Rupa Chanda, Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation, UN ESCAP*

Keynote speaker:

Mr. Sanzhar Bolotov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyzstan

Key questions: (i) How are these projects contributing to green and digital transformations? (ii) To what extent are these projects implementing the PPP for the SDGs approach? (iii) What are the lessons learned for replicability and the integration of further green and digital considerations?

Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of how countries put SDGs in practice in their PPP programmes and projects; and (ii) Increased number of projects self-assessed using PIERS.

Documentation: [Database of case studies – UNECE PPP and infrastructure award 2025](#)

Moderators:

Mr. Joan-Enric Ricart, IESE Business School

Mr. Pedro Neves, Founder and CEO, Global Solutions

Panelists (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Jonas Frank, Regional PFM Adviser, IMF*

Mr. Jean-Patrick Marquet, President, Observatory of the Values in Society & Management

Mr. Nasser Massoud, Managing Director, Concept Realisation

Ms. Alexandra Morozkina, Deputy Dean for Science, Faculty of World Economy and World Politics, HSE University*

Ms. Jekaterina Šarmavičienė, Member of the Bureau of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Lithuania)

Mr. Nikos Sergis, Head of PPP Unit, Greece

Q&A

Panelists (in alphabetical order):

Ms. Anita Skog, Innovation Broker, Artic Pioneers

Mr. Warren Smith, Director of Insight, Innovation and Impact, Posterity Global*

Ms. Lina Svensberg, Innovation Manager, Compare Foundation

Mr. Steven Van Garsse, Vice-Chairperson, Committee of Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (Belgium)

Ms. Irina Zapatrina, Founder, PPP Academy in Ukraine

Case study

Mr. Murat Sarikaya, CFO, 1915 Çanakkale Bridge

Q&A

Country perspectives (in alphabetical order by country):

Mr. Neelesh Gounder, Chief Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Fiji*

Mr. Saysomvang Souvannavong, Deputy Director-General, Lao National Internet Center (LANIC), Ministry of Technology and Communications, Lao People's Democratic Republic*

Ms. Arunee Hiam, Deputy Director-General, Thailand International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand*

Mr. Mesuilame Vea, Chief Economist, Prime Minister's Office, Tonga*

Private sector perspectives (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Worapoj Chosen, Founder and CEO, CHOSEN Digital Co. Ltd.*

Mr. Asif Ibrahim, Vice Chairman, Newage Group of Industries*

Mr. Justin Ma, Executive Director, Sustainable Finance, Standard Chartered Bank*

Mr. Simon Mak, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ascent Partners*

Ms. Millie Ogden, Chief Executive Officer, 3Link*

Mr. Ankit Todi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra Group*

Ms. Liuba Yaroshenko, Associate Director of En+*

Q&A

Case studies (in alphabetical order by country):

▪ **Angola**: Water PPP Program Development, **Ms. Marina Sequeira**

▪ **India**: Construction of Pune Metro Line 3 Project, **Mr. Ashish Kumar*** [video](#)

▪ **Japan**: Tokyo 2050 Strategy, **Mr. Toshiya Komatsu**

▪ **Kazakhstan**: Internet access to rural areas, **Mr. Bekmurat Talipov***

▪ **Portugal**: Just a Change, **Mr. José Afonso** and **Ms. Clara Tripodi** [video](#)

▪ **Slovenia**: SOS-PROTEUS Laboratory and Information Centre, **Mr. Tomaž Lanišek** and **Ms. Petra Ferk** [video](#)

▪ **Türkiye**: Çanakkale Port Operation Sustainability Project, **Ms. Duygu Karakas** [video](#)

▪ **Türkiye**: ZEETUG, **Ms. Dilek Savas*** [video](#)

▪ **United Kingdom**: Glensaugh Climate-Positive Farming Initiative (CPFI), **Ms. Alison Hester** [video](#)

Reflections from Academia: peer learning from case studies

Ms. Sladjana Andrian Sredojevic, University of Belgrade Faculty of Law

Q&A

12:30 - 14:00

Foyer of
Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Lunch (offered to all participants)

14:00 - 16:00

Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Policy debate 1

The experience of Serbia in delivering PPPs aligned with the SDGs

Background: Serbia has been actively developing its PPP framework to enhance infrastructure and public services, aligning these efforts with the SDGs. Since the enactment of its PPP law, the country has seen a significant increase in PPP projects, expanding from just a handful to more than 200, with the programme continuing to grow. The expansion of the PPP project pipeline reflects Serbia's commitment to leveraging private sector participation in public infrastructure, contributing to economic growth and improved public services.

Key questions: (i) What are the main challenges and opportunities in delivering sustainable PPPs in Serbia? (ii) How is the involvement of Serbia's public authorities instrumental in ensuring that PPPs are aligned with the SDGs? (iii) How does the involvement of IFIs catalyse sustainable PPP practices in Serbia?

Expected outcome: A better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of sustainable PPP practices in Serbia.

[Introduction to the SOURCE platform and its relevance to sustainable infrastructure:](#)

Ms. Tamara Myers, Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation

[Moderator:](#)

Mr. Marko Špiler, International Public Procurement and PPP Consultant

[Panellists:](#)

Mr. Aleksandar Obradović, CEO of Veolia in Serbia and Beo Čista Energija

Ms. Ana Kaluđerović, General Director at International Airport Nikola Tesla

Mr. Siniša Janjušević, CEO of Interenergo

Mr. Aleksandar Milikić, Mayor of Bor

Ms. Jelena Tadić, Executive Director of PPP Investment

Mr. Vuk Radojević, President of the Bečej Municipality

Mr. Mihailo Vesović, Deputy President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

Q&A

14:30 - 17:30

Site visit to the Vinca waste management PPP project in Belgrade

Option for 70 participants

16:00 - 16:30

Foyer of
Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Coffee break

16:00 - 18:00

**Closed sessions for experts in Drafting Teams on ongoing workstreams
(by invitation only)**

19:30 - 21:00

[Kolarac Theatre](#)


Concert and reception

Event organised by the Endowment Ilija M. Kolarac and PPP Investment

Friday, 16 May 2025

Location: **Hilton Belgrade**

09:00 - 10:30

 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Policy debate 2

Artificial intelligence (AI) and PPPs: Potential and limitations of AI in PPP projects for the SDGs

Background: The UNECE is driving discussions on the transformative role of AI in PPPs to advance the SDGs. Panellists will share their insights on the topics covered in the UNECE policy briefs in 2025, which include, the main data challenges and opportunities, how AI can enhance decision-making during the planning and identification phase of infrastructure projects, the role of AI in fostering effective collaboration and ensuring transparency in PPPs, how AI can assist governments in developing financial models and enhancing investment decision-making, as well as its potential in procurement.

Key questions: (i) What are the most promising opportunities for AI to accelerate progress toward the SDGs through PPPs? (ii) What are some key challenges and barriers to AI adoption in PPPs, and how can they be addressed? (iii) What practical steps should governments take to build the capacity, frameworks, and partnerships necessary to effectively implement AI in their PPP projects?

Expected outcomes: (i) A clearer understanding of the opportunities and challenges of integrating AI into PPPs for advancing the SDGs; (ii) Gather insights from panellists and the audience on practical recommendations for effective AI implementation in PPP projects.

Moderator:

Ms. Stacy Sinclair, Partner, Fenwick Elliott LLP

Overview of the UNECE AI and PPPs workstream:

Mr. Tony Bonnici, UNECE

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Ms. Anna Abramova, Director, Artificial Intelligence Centre, MGIMO University

Mr. Christopher Clement-Davies, Principal/Chairman at CCD (international law and consulting)*

Mr. Nasser Massoud, Managing Director, Concept Realisation

Mr. Ben Sheppard, Co-Founder and CEO, Silta Finance

Mr. David Smallbone, Partner, KPMG

Mr. Syed Zaidi, Chairperson, UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Canada)


Q&A

10:30 - 11:00

 Foyer of
Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Coffee available at the foyer

10:30 - 12:00

 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025

Presentation of case studies selected by an International Jury for special commendation

Background: The UNECE PPP and Infrastructure award 2025 provides a platform to showcase PPP and infrastructure projects that contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda. This year's focus is on the contribution of PPPs and infrastructure projects to green and digital transformations. The projects showcased here have been selected by an International Jury amongst 113 projects submitted to the UNECE secretariat. They have been self-assessed using PIERS.

Key questions: (i) How are these projects contributing to green and digital transformations? (ii) To what extent are these projects implementing the PPP for the SDGs approach? (iii) How were the main challenges to sustainable development addressed in practice?







Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of how countries put SDGs into practice in their PPP programmes and projects, and serve as an inspiration for potential PPP for the SDGs projects; and (ii) Increased number of projects self-assessed using PIERS.

Documentation: [UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System \(PIERS\)](#), [Rules of the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025](#), [Database of case studies – UNECE PPP and infrastructure award 2025](#).

Moderator:

Ms. Sedef Yavuz-Noyan, Head, PPP Department, General Directorate of Sectors and Public Investments, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye


Special commendations for projects excelling in specific elements of the PPPs for the SDGs approach (in alphabetical order by country):

- **Ethiopia:** Refurbishing Solar Systems, **Mr. Zelalem Nigatu**  [video](#)
Special commendation for: "Environmental sustainability and resilience, and Stakeholder engagement"
- **France:** Aura Invalides, **Mr. Thibault Manchon***  [video](#)
Special commendation for: "Replicability"
- **India:** Serentica Renewables, **Mr. Sachin Khandelwal**  [video](#)
Special commendation for: "Economic effectiveness, and Environmental sustainability and resilience"
- **Portugal:** Cascais Smart Pole Project, **Mr. Rui Nunes**  [video](#)
Special commendation for: "Environmental sustainability and resilience"
- **Türkiye:** Eurasia Tunnel Pacemaker Lighting, **Mr. Murat Gücüyener**  [video](#)
Special commendation for: "Economic effectiveness, Replicability and contribution to road safety"
- **Ukraine:** Bucha School, **Ms. Alina Saraniuk**, Deputy Mayor at Bucha City Council, and **Ms. Viktorija Blažienė**  [video](#)
Special commendation for: "Access and equity, and Replicability"
- **Zimbabwe:** Midlands Solar PPP, **Mr. Jack Fungayi Matiza**
Special commendation for: "Access and equity, and Environmental sustainability and resilience"

Discussant:

Mr. Jean-Patrick Marquet, President, Observatory of the Values in Society & Management


12:00 - 12:30

 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025

Ceremony and presentation of trophies and award certificates

12:30 - 14:00

 Foyer of
Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Lunch (offered to all participants)

14:00 - 15:30

Parallel session 1

 Ballroom Tsar Dusan

Blended finance in PPPs for the SDGs: Leveraging blended finance to reduce risks and catalyze private investment in sustainable PPP projects aligned with the SDGs

Challenge: Blended finance plays a pivotal role in catalyzing private investment in sustainable PPP projects aligned with the SDGs. By strategically combining public, private, and philanthropic capital, blended finance structures can reduce investment-specific risks and unlock additional private sector financing for projects that might otherwise be deemed too risky or unviable. However, ensuring that blended finance is truly catalytic – rather than subsidizing projects that would have occurred regardless – remains a significant challenge. Governments must design and implement blended finance structures that effectively incentivize private participation while maintaining alignment with sustainability goals. This session will explore how blended finance can be leveraged to reduce risks and attract private investment in PPP projects.

Key questions: (i) How can blended finance structures be designed to reduce investment risks while attracting private capital to PPP projects aligned with the SDGs? (ii) What criteria can governments use to ensure that blended finance remains catalytic and does not subsidize projects that would have occurred without such support? (iii) What successful examples of blended finance in

Parallel session 2

 Danube room

Small-scale PPPs for the SDGs: Exploring pathways for planning, structuring, and financing small-scale PPPs for the SDGs³

Challenge: Small-scale PPPs are a vital tool for achieving the SDGs by addressing infrastructure needs that are smaller in scale but no less impactful. However, these projects face unique challenges, including high transaction costs relative to their size, limited access to financing, and inefficiencies in project preparation and management. Governments often lack the tailored frameworks and methodologies necessary to develop and implement small-scale PPPs efficiently. By leveraging standardization, streamlined processes, and innovative financing mechanisms, small-scale PPPs can provide an efficient and cost-effective approach to delivering sustainable infrastructure and public services. This session will explore the opportunities and challenges of small-scale PPPs, focusing on planning, structuring, and financing strategies. Panellists will share best practices, case studies, and practical solutions to enhance the enabling environment for small-scale PPPs, emphasizing their role in advancing the SDGs.

Key questions: (i) Why should small scale projects be treated differently than large PPPs? (ii) Do small scale PPPs have the same impact as larger projects? (iii) Trade-offs:

Parallel session 3

 Sava room

Off-Grid renewable energy: International best practice and pathways to advance off-grid renewable PPP projects in support of the SDGs

Challenge: Off-grid renewable energy projects are critical for achieving SDG 7, which aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy by 2030. These projects play a vital role in accelerating rural electrification, increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, and promoting energy efficiency in remote and underserved areas. This session builds on a UNECE standard currently being developed, which aims to provide policy options and recommendations for member States to implement off-grid renewable energy PPPs effectively. The standard highlights international best practices, successful case studies, and trends in the off-grid energy sector. It emphasizes the potential of the PPPs for the SDGs approach to deliver clean energy solutions that contribute to rural development, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability. Aligned with the UNECE Standard on PPPs in Renewable Energy (2018) and the five desirable PPP outcomes for the SDGs, this session will provide insights into how off-grid renewable energy PPPs can address infrastructure gaps, foster innovation, and enhance the welfare of rural communities.

Parallel session 4

 Morava room

Roundtable discussion on selected PPP case studies submitted to the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025

Challenge: The integration of green and digital transformations in PPPs and infrastructure projects is increasingly critical for aligning with the SDGs. However, embedding these considerations across all stages of a project's lifecycle presents unique challenges, requiring innovative approaches and tools. This session will spotlight exemplary projects submitted to the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025. These projects span multiple sectors and demonstrate how the PPP for the SDGs outcomes can be operationalized effectively. The projects showcased in this session have all been self-evaluated using PIERS. The discussion will also shed light on the use of PIERS as a tool which could benefit projects at all stages of the PPP process.

Key questions: (i) How are these projects contributing to the green and digital transformations? (ii) To what extent are these projects implementing the PPP for the SDGs approach? (iii) What are the lessons learned for replicability and the integration of further green and digital considerations?

Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of how countries put SDGs in practice in their PPP programmes and projects; and (ii) Increased number of projects self-assessed using PIERS.

³ This session is co-organized with WAPPP.

PPPs offer lessons for scaling and replicating these models to achieve the SDGs?

Expected outcomes: (i) Clearer understanding of the role of blended finance in catalyzing private investment in PPP projects, including strategies to reduce risks and ensure alignment with the SDGs; (ii) Practical recommendations for designing and implementing catalytic blended finance structures, supported by case studies and best practices, to inspire replication in PPP projects across the UNECE region and beyond.

Q&A

Moderator:

Ms. Doris Chevalier, CEO, Infraboost

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Mr. John Buttarazzi, Senior PPP Advisor, World Bank City Resilience Program

Mr. Luigi de Pierris, Independent

Consultant and Former EPEC advisor

Mr. Olivier Ginépro, Member of the Bureau of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs (France)

Ms. Julia Kowalle, Executive Director, SMBC Bank International plc.

Mr. Dragutin Nenezić, Expert in PPPs and Concessions

how to ensure their bankability and compliance with the SDGs?

Expected outcomes: (i) Gain knowledge on how small-scale PPPs can address infrastructure needs while supporting the SDGs; and (ii) Gather insights from panellists and the audience to include in a policy guide.

Q&A

Moderator:

Mr. Syed Zaidi, Chairperson, UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Canada)

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Ms. Jyoti Bisbey, Climate Finance and PPP Specialist, the World Bank Group*

Ms. Rose-Lourdes Elysée, Member of the Bureau of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Haiti)*

Mr. Marc Frilet, General Secretary, International Centre of Excellence for PPP Policy, Laws and Institution

Mr. Ziad Alexander Hayek, President, WAPPP*

Ms. Jekaterina Šarmavičienė, Member of the Bureau of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Lithuania)

Mr. Steven Van Garsse, Vice-Chairperson, Committee of Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (Belgium)

Key questions: (i) Does the standard cover the main aspects of off-grid rural electrification? (ii) Are the case studies used in the guide adequate? (iii) Are the draft policy options/recommendations sufficiently clear?

Documentation: [Zero draft standard on PPPs in off-grid renewable energy](#)

Expected outcomes: (i) Increased understanding of the policy options, best practices, and strategies to develop effective off-grid renewable energy PPPs that support SDG 7; and (ii) Gather insights by panellists and the audience to contribute to the finalisation of the standard.

Q&A

Moderator:

Mr. David Baxter, Senior Sustainability and Resilience PPP Advisor

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Alain Aoun, Strategic Planning Manager, Centre de Recherche et d'Innovation en Intelligence Énergétique*

Ms. Elicia Blumberg, Consultant, World Bank Group

Ms. Marie-Bénédicte Desvallion, Lawyer, the Paris Bar and Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England & Wales, Partner of WAT & LAW

Ms. Alina Nica Gales, Land Registry, Spain

Mr. Javohir Juraev, PPP Advisor on Energy, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Uzbekistan

Documentation: [Database of case studies – UNECE PPP and infrastructure award 2025](#)



Q&A

Moderators:

Mr. Pedro Neves, Founder and CEO, Global Solutions


Mr. Claudio Meza, UNECE

Case studies (in alphabetical order by country):

- **Brazil:** Brusque Smart PPP, **Ms. Caroline Braga**  [video](#)
- **Djibouti:** Ali Sabieh Cement Plant, **Mr. Jerome Friler***
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Bypass road around the city of Uzgen, **Mr. Sultan Kurumbaev**
- **Mozambique:** WASIS II Water Utility, **Ms. Tuğba Yıldırım***
- **Nigeria:** Alternate fuels for public transportation in Lagos, **Mr. Elan Cusiabarr**  [video](#)
- **Qatar:** PPP Schools Program Package 2, **Mr. Rameshbabu Setypalli***
- **Türkiye:** Sustainnery, **Mr. Onur Gorgun**
- **Türkiye:** Halkbank Energy and Natural Resource Management System, **Ms. Sema Ezer***

15:30 - 17:00

Parallel session 1

 Ballroom Tsar Dusan

PPPs for the SDGs in Southeast Europe:

Bringing together PPP units to discuss projects to advance the SDGs in Southeast Europe⁴


Challenge: Limited knowledge and public sector PPP capacity remain a key challenge for governments to deliver sustainable projects.

The session will provide an opportunity for member States in Southeast Europe to present their PPP programmes, policies, and projects, as well as their capacity building needs to deliver PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs.

Key questions: (i) What are the main challenges facing member States in Southeast Europe to deliver sustainable PPPs? (ii) What are their capacity building needs (e.g. project preparation support, legal and regulatory framework, etc.)? (iii) How are tools and programmes developed by international organisations assisting countries?

Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of national PPP programmes and capacity building requirements of member States in Southeast Europe to deliver sustainable PPPs (ii) A better understating of the PPP tools and programmes by international organisations.

Parallel session 2

 Danube room

National PPP programmes and policies in Africa:

Sharing of best international PPP practices⁵

Challenge: Limited knowledge and public sector PPP capacity remain a key challenge for governments to deliver sustainable projects.

To address this challenge, UN Regional Commissions are joining forces to strengthen the capacity of public officials to deliver green, circular, resilient, and high-quality PPPs and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs and transformational change.

The session will provide an opportunity for ECA member States to present their PPP programmes, policies, and projects, as well as their capacity building needs to deliver PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs. Tools developed by UN Regional Commissions to improve PPP legal frameworks and deliver better projects (including small-scale PPPs), will also be presented.

Key questions: (i) What are the main challenges facing ECA member States to deliver sustainable PPPs? (ii) What are their capacity building needs (e.g. project preparation support, legal and regulatory framework, etc.)? (iii) How are the UN

Parallel session 3

 Sava room

National PPP programmes and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Sharing of best international PPP practices⁶

Challenge: Limited knowledge and public sector PPP capacity remain a key challenge for governments to deliver sustainable projects.

To address this challenge, UN Regional Commissions are joining forces to strengthen the capacity of public officials to deliver green, circular, resilient, and high-quality PPPs and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs and transformational change.

The session will provide an opportunity for ECLAC member States to present their PPP programmes, policies, and projects, as well as their capacity building needs to deliver PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs. Tools developed by UN Regional Commissions to improve PPP legal frameworks and deliver better projects (including small-scale PPPs), will also be presented.

Key questions: (i) What are the main challenges facing ECLAC member States to deliver sustainable PPPs? (ii) What are their capacity building needs (e.g. project preparation support, legal and regulatory framework, etc.)? (iii) How are the UN

Parallel session 4

 Morava room

Roundtable discussion on selected PPP case studies submitted to the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025

Challenge: The integration of green and digital transformations in PPPs and infrastructure projects is increasingly critical for aligning with the SDGs. However, embedding these considerations across all stages of a project's lifecycle presents unique challenges, requiring innovative approaches and tools. This session will spotlight exemplary projects submitted to the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Award 2025. These projects span multiple sectors and demonstrate how the PPP for the SDGs outcomes can be operationalized effectively. The projects showcased in this session have all been self-evaluated using PIERS. The discussion will also shed light on the use of PIERS as a tool which could benefit projects at all stages of the PPP process.

Key questions: (i) How are these projects contributing to the green and digital transformations? (ii) To what extent are these projects implementing the PPP for the SDGs approach? (iii) What are the lessons learned for replicability and the integration of further green and digital considerations?

Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of how countries put SDGs in

⁴ This session is co-organized with IFC.

⁵ This session is organized by ECA.

⁶ This session is organized by ECLAC.

Q&A

Moderator:

Mr. Dragutin Nenezić, Expert in PPPs and Concessions

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Arlan Umot Ergezer, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council

Ms. Isidora Gajic, Associate Investment Officer, IFC

Ms. Jelena Jovetic, Director General of Directorate for Public Investments and Public Procurement Policy, Ministry of Finance, Montenegro

Mr. Leonid Ristev, Head of Policy and Development at Karanovic & Partners, Director at KP Consultancy Services

Mr. Obrad Tadić, CEO, Smart Energy Investment, Serbia

Regional Commissions tools and programmes assisting countries?

Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of national PPP programmes and capacity building requirements of ECA member States to deliver sustainable PPPs (ii) A better understating of the PPP tools and programmes by UN Regional Commissions

Q&A

Moderator:

Mr. Robert Lisinge, Director, Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infrastructure Development Division, ECA

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Ms. Primah Atugonza, Senior Legal Counsel and Infrastructure Sector Lead, African Legal Support Facility, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Mr. Marc Frilet, General Secretary, International Centre of Excellence for PPP Policy, Laws and Institution

Mr. Monga Mehlwana, Energy and Infrastructure Expert, Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infrastructure Development Division, ECA

Mr. Jim Mugunga, Executive Director, PPP Unit, Kampala, Uganda

Ms. Andiseya Phiri, Director, PPP Unit, Lusaka, Zambia

Regional Commissions tools and programmes assisting countries?

Expected outcomes: (i) A better understanding of national PPP programmes and capacity building requirements of ECLAC member States to deliver sustainable PPPs (ii) A better understating of the PPP tools and programmes by UN Regional Commissions

Q&A

Moderator:

Ms. Miryam Saade Hazin, ECLAC

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Ms. Cristina Contreras, Founder and CEO, INFRANOVA

Ms. Rose-Lourdes Elysée, Member of the Bureau of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs (Haiti)*

Mr. Cícero Rodrigues de Melo Filho, Superintendent of Special and Airport Projects, INFRA S.A., Brazil

Mr. Cristobal Pineda Andradez, Head of Regional Public Transport Division, Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications, Chile*

Mr. Miguel Sergio Siliceo Valdespino, Head of the Investment Unit, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Mexico

Mr. Eduardo Tavares, National Secretary for Funds and Financial Instruments, Ministry of Integration and Regional Development, Brazil

practice in their PPP programmes and projects; and (ii) Increased number of projects self-assessed using PIERS.

Documentation: [Database of case studies – UNECE PPP and infrastructure award 2025](#)

Q&A

Moderators:

Mr. Pedro Neves, Founder and CEO, Global Solutions

Mr. Antonin Menegaux, UNECE

Case studies (in alphabetical order by country):

- **Brazil:** Blumenau Prison, **Mr. Renato Lacerda**  [video](#)
- **Brazil:** Road Concessions Program, **Ms. Mila Magalhães**  [video](#)
- **China:** Zaohe Expressway and Energy Integration, **Ms. Yanzhen Weng**  [video](#)
- **Côte D'Ivoire:** Roads4People, **Mr. Nicolas Miravalls**  [video](#)
- **Portugal:** Casa do Impacto, **Mr. Nuno Comando***  [video](#)
- **South Africa:** COJ Alternative Waste Treatment Technology, **Ms. Noxolo Mtembu**  [video](#)
- **Tajikistan:** Digitization of transport services, **Mr. Karomatullo Mahmudov**
- **Türkiye:** Custom Sustainable Cathode Materials: NICAT, **Mr. Emre Yusuf Göl**
- **Türkiye:** iGA Istanbul Airport Energy Efficiency, **Mr. Firat Emsen**  [video](#)


17:00 - 17:30

Coffee break



Foyer of
Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

17:30 - 18:00

 Ballroom Tsar
Dusan

Concluding session

Moderator:

Mr. Tony Bonnici, UNECE

Key insights from the Forum:

Ms. Doris Chevalier, CEO, Infraboost

Mr. Jean-Patrick Marquet, President, Observatory of the Values in Society & Management

Concluding remarks:

Ms. Andrijana Jovanovic, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy, Serbia

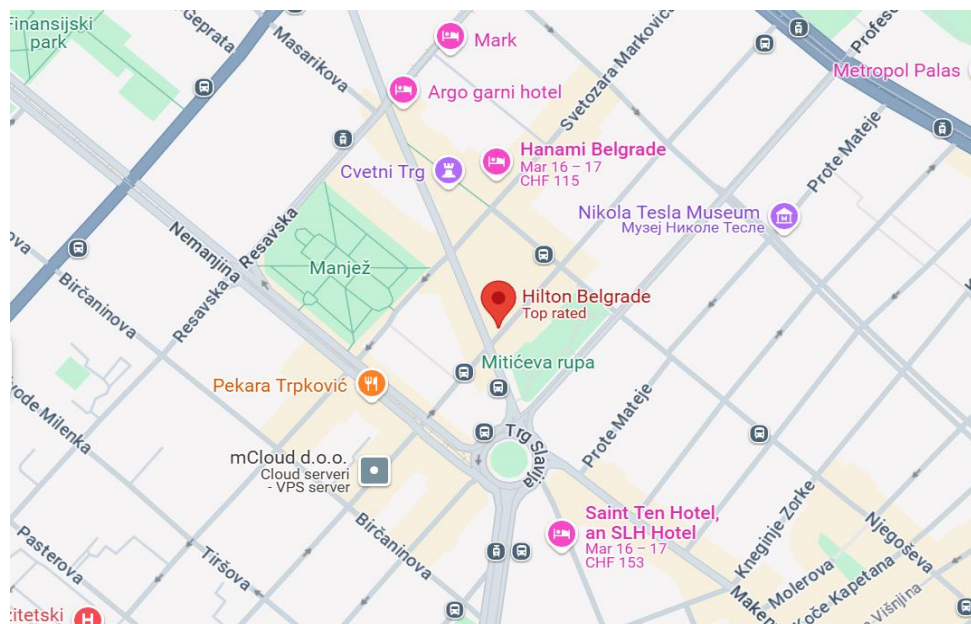
Useful information

Venue

Hilton Belgrade

Kralja Milana 35, Belgrade, 11000, Serbia

[Click here to see the location on Google Maps](#)



Contacts

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* Joining online