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Turkey-UNDP Partnership Framework Agreement

Progress Report for 2017 and Priority Areas for Cooperation in 2018



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Turkey-UNDP Partnership Framework Agreement Progress Report for 2017 and Priority Areas for Cooperation in 2018

March 2018

This document outlines the progress in 2017 of the expanded cooperation between the Government of Turkey and UNDP in the context of the Partnership Framework Agreement (PFA) signed in March 2011. It also presents an overview of the priorities for 2018 in line with the ongoing activities from 2017. As such, it will serve as a background material for discussion at the Annual Partnership Dialogue between Turkey and UNDP scheduled for 29 March 2018.

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1. Foreword

The partnership between United Nations and the Government of Turkey has been one of the most dynamic and fruitful partnerships over 60 years. The UN's work in Turkey started in 1957, through a development assistance agreement whereby Turkey was a recipient country. The 1965 Revised Standard Agreement laid out the terms of technical cooperation between Turkey and UNDP-the UN's global development network. In time, Turkey showed a significant stride in its development level, increased its role in the UN system and the partnership evolved in 60 years into one existing at three levels: global, regional, and national. The partnership at regional and global level with UNDP gained momentum after the signature of the **2011 Partnership Framework Agreement (PFA)**. Globally, Turkey is a contributor to **UNDP core resources**, the co-founder of the **Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD)** and contributes to development projects in **Least Developed Countries**. Regionally, Turkey is co-funding **UNDP's Regional Programme** and hosting the **Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS**, which was officially opened in Istanbul in April 2015. At the country level, UNDP continues a strong Country Office presence, in support of Turkey's national development priorities and with major support from the host country.

This intensive engagement is built on Turkey's **commitment to multilateral development**, its willingness to play **an active role in shaping the global agenda** and willingness to **share its development knowledge** with partner countries regionally and globally in various forms. The partnership that UNDP has with the Government of Turkey demonstrates the potential that exists in working hand-in-hand with an Upper Middle-income Country, centered on important South-South cooperation and directing expertise, knowledge, and resources to work together to address global development challenges.

Since the signature of the PFA in 2011, the progress achieved within the framework of the PFA has been monitored through annual consultations. Up to date, five annual consultations have been conducted to review the progress and set the future strategic priorities. These consultations increasingly focus on concrete areas of cooperation with UNDP and underline results achieved through this cooperation at the global, regional and country level. For example, the fourth annual consultation reviewing 2015 progress, took place at time when Turkey hosted important international events of global significance such as the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the LDCs Plan of Action (Istanbul Action Plan), both of which were important elements among priority areas of cooperation. The review of the year 2016 took place in March 2017, and acknowledged the significant presence of Turkey through the Istanbul Regional Hub and IICPSD. The parties agreed to strengthen efforts to increase cooperation with various actors such as TIKA and other regional structures, while also focusing on strengthened visibility of Turkish contribution. Parties also explored cooperation opportunities in a number of key global events such as the National Evaluation Capacities Conference and the Global South-South Cooperation Expo.

While the financial and logistical support of Turkey, as well as Istanbul's central and convenient positioning greatly strengthened UNDP's and IRH's work in the Europe and CIS region and even beyond, the Istanbul Hub has been of **continuously growing benefit** to the **regional and global visibility and economic activity of Istanbul as an emerging UN center**. During 2014-2017, IRH delivered development programmes totaling \$72 million through regional (Europe and Central Asia), cross-regional (Latin America, Africa, and Asia-Pacific) and global projects (covering 60 countries). UN/UNDP ¹ personnel based at the IRH premises increased by 30% and reached a total of 185 personnel, including 96 international and 50 national staff, plus 25 consultants and 15 interns as of March 2018. Salaries and fees for **Turkish national staff and consultants reached US\$2,5 million** in 2017 alone. Between 2014-2017, IRH provided more than **500 services and expert missions** out of Istanbul in support of the projects/programmes implemented in the region- resulting in an **annual flight volume of US\$1 million through Turkish Airlines**. Additionally, an average of **40 regional/global conferences organized in Istanbul** position Istanbul as a center of development debates, attracting development thinkers and actors to this city.

¹ The Istanbul Hub hosts UNDP, UNWomen, UNICEF, UNV, UN SSU and UNDSS.

It should also be noted that the strong capacities established in Istanbul **actively contribute to the ongoing UNDP reform and strategy building** for implementation of the new Strategic Plan through consultations and direct appointments by the Executive Office. This engagement includes shaping UNDP's strategic vision in key areas such **as private sector and foundation engagement for achievement of the SDGs, innovation for development as well as future UNDP organizational structure**. As such, Turkey's impact will go much beyond that of the development impact and the capacities, but to a much longer term, shaping the future of UNDP and its work.

This progress report is prepared within the framework of the Partnership Framework Agreement and to build the basis for the annual consultation to be held in March 2018. The report takes stock of the 2017 progress and presents some priority areas of cooperation for 2018.



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2. Progress in 2017

The annual consultation held in March 2017 resulted in a number of key action points with a view of further strengthening the impact and visibility of the partnership with Turkey. Throughout the year, these points have been considered a priority and taken as a benchmark in the action plans and various formal and informal progress reviews. Some of these points as well as their progress are summarized below:

Visibility and outreach of the partnership between Turkey and UNDP increased: *the Istanbul Regional Hub intensified its efforts on visibility and prepared a visibility guideline to be shared with the CO's implementing the Catalytic Facility and Impact Investment Facility projects. The Draft of visibility Guidelines have been shared with MFA and MoD. Following the MFA approval, these guidelines are currently in use by the CO's. UNDP also used various opportunities around key global development events to emphasize the visibility of Turkish contribution. For example, the Regional Hub organized a side event and set up an informative booth in the SSC Expo on 'Turkey-UNDP Partnership in Development'. UNDP's communication team strengthened its efforts to increase the visibility of the Istanbul Regional Hub, the contribution of the Government of Turkey as well as the results achieved through this partnership. IICPSD organized seven side events during the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in September 2017 also improving the visibility of the Center and Turkey's contribution.*

Strong engagement of various actors of Government of Turkey at all stages of IRH and UNDP organized events (in organization and as participants): *Acknowledging the strategic importance of substantively engaging Turkey in all global/regional events, IRH worked in close cooperation with the Government of Turkey in organization of various meetings including the Istanbul Innovation Days (October 2017), National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conference (November 2017), SSC Expo and its side events (November 2017) and the upcoming Istanbul Development Dialogue (April 2018) with a view to integrate the inputs of the partners and more substantively engage with Turkish expertise. Emphasis on this priority will continue in 2018, ensuring a more strategic involvement of the Government of Turkey in UNDP initiatives.*

Stronger engagement of TIKA and Turkish embassies in UNDP projects at the local level: *UNDP continued to have a strong communication and coordination with TIKA and facilitated this engagement with relevant regional Hubs such as the Regional Center for Africa in Dakar, Senegal. As agreed during the consultation, IRH management sent a communication to UNDP COs in the region to facilitate closer cooperation with Turkish Embassies and TIKA Offices. An increased number of reports of stronger dialogue and closer cooperation with TIKA offices and embassies are received from the Country Offices in the region (e.g. Bosnia Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan). These areas of cooperation include partnership in ongoing work of TIKA as well as possible direct cooperation in areas of mutual interest.*

LDCs and Implementation of Istanbul Plan of Action: *While the progress regarding operationalization of the LDC Options Paper has been limited, Turkey continued its commitment towards the advancement of the LDCs. 2017 marked a key milestone towards achievement of the SDGs, with an agreement to locate the LDC Technology Bank in Gebze TUBITAK MARTEK premises and the pledge of the Government of Turkey during the 72nd UN General Assembly to provide funding for this initiative. UNDP will continue to provide technical and logistical support in establishment of this facility in Gebze.*

On the other hand, partners of the Turkey-UNDP Partnership for Development Programme agreed to ensure that half of the projects funded through the Phase 2 of this programme would be allocated to the LDCs.

Closer involvement of private sector in development challenges: *As discussed in the March 2017 consultation, the Workshop on Advancing New Way of Working was conducted in 18-19 May 2017 in close partnership with UNDP. In line with the objectives of NWOW initiative, stronger involvement of the private sector in crisis response as well as achievement of the SDGs was promoted through initiatives such as the Business Call to Action (a flagship initiative of the IICPSD) and Connecting Businesses Initiative, which aims to build alliances and networks for private sector's engagement before, during and after crises. On the other hand, a joint side event was organized with MFA and IICPSD on the role of the private sector in achievement of the SDGs in the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2017, also emphasizing the*

contribution of Turkey to this topic. Throughout 2017, UNDP strengthened its efforts for higher level of collaboration between IRH and IICPSD in advocacy and programming areas for stronger impacts in this area and established a *modus operandi* for stronger cooperation. This includes partnership in organization of key events as well as collaboration in country support.

Other modalities of Development Cooperation: *There has been a more limited progress in other modalities of partnership between Turkey and UNDP, particularly on sharing of Turkey's expertise with partner countries. Although the parties agreed to look closer into the Junior Programme Officer (JPO) modality and possible expert exchange schemes, limited progress has been made to move forward with the JPO modality. The main reason is that launching this modality is not a priority of the Government, particularly considering the regulatory challenges. On the other hand, expert exchange modality will also not be included in the new phase of the PFD Programme, which has a narrower focus and modality including only triangular cooperation. On the other hand, such exchanges will continue to take place through secondments and intensified efforts in participation in key global development events.*

As seen above, much progress has been achieved on the priorities set forward for 2017 cooperation, with some key follow up actions to be considered for 2018 priorities.

Turkey-UNDP Partnership at Regional Level - Istanbul Regional Hub and the Regional Programme

Istanbul Regional Hub

In 2017, the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) continued to grow and further cement its position as a leading regional center of knowledge and excellence in UNDP, anchoring the Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS's Regional Programme, as well as increasingly hosting global and cross-regional initiatives. Currently, the Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) accommodates **156 UNDP personnel** (staff, consultants and interns – see Table 1 below) including over 50 Turkish nationals, with about 25 Turkish specialists involved in the Regional Programme implementation. The IRH also hosts a **UNDP Global Policy Centre, the Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD)** (with US\$ 4 million funding since 2011 and another US\$ 1 million contribution agreed at the end of 2017), as well as other UN agencies such as the **Regional Office of UN Women, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, and UNICEF.**

The Istanbul Regional Hub works within a regional framework through provision of advisory services and technical support to UNDP programme countries and specific regional activities to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge throughout the region. Besides providing the office premises and utilities for the IRH, the **Government of Turkey** also delivered on its commitment to support the UNDP Regional Programme for Europe and CIS by pledging **\$15 million contribution for 2014-2018**. The earmarked budget for the **Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS for 2014-2017 is \$53.6 million, including \$13.6 million from UNDP regular core resources**, but the RP managed to mobilized additional funding, making it \$72 million by the end of 2017. Major donors are the Governments of Turkey, Finland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania as well as the EC, Swiss Development Co-operation, Austrian Development Agency, Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development, the Global Environmental Facility and other partners.

In addition to regional activities and projects and advisory/technical services to UNDP country offices, IRH employed other modalities aiming to provide seed funding to country-level initiatives (e.g. Catalytic and Scaling up Facility; Regional Impact Investment Facility). In this context, the IRH also implemented the pilot **Turkey-UNDP Partnership in Development Programme**, as an alternative programme modality to strengthen Turkey's triangular cooperation, funding specific UNDP projects in Abkhazia/Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kosovo* (UNSCR 1244) and the Comoros. As of March 2018-as this report is prepared, UNDP and Government of Turkey is working on the continuation of these lines of cooperation.

* All references to Kosovo in this report should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).



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The overall focus of the IRH is to help **17 countries and one territory in Europe and CIS** build and share solutions to address the challenges and achieve: inclusive and sustainable growth; stronger systems of democratic governance; resilience building and risk management; and contribution to global development agenda and effective development cooperation. The IRH has also taken a prominent role in the region in making efforts to bring Agenda 2030 to the national level. To support roll-out of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Istanbul Regional Hub has been organizing various forums and events to understand emerging needs around SDGs and to discuss available tools and expertise at global, regional and national levels to further mainstream SDGs into development planning, nationalizing and localizing SDGs on the ground.

It hosts and implements not just the regional projects within Europe and the CIS, but also increasing number of global projects outside of Europe and the CIS region. For example, the Global Environment Finance advisors based at the IRH guide and oversee about 137 global, regional and country projects (annual portfolio of \$89 million) covering the ECIS, Arab States and Africa regions. In 2016, the IRH HIV, Health and Development Team was joined by the respective teams from UNDP Hubs based in Arab States and Africa.

The IRH is a venue of choice for various international fora, workshops and meetings, with about 85 events hosted and/or organized by the IRH in 2017 in Istanbul (41) and in the region (45)¹, including:

- UN/UNDP Regional meeting – Planning and implementing 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Europe and CIS;
- UNDP Women Leadership for Gender Equality Initiative for ECIS Region;
- Regional CD/DRR/DCD meeting;
- Regional Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security (UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women);
- UNDP corporate training on Quality Assurance;
- the Regional UNDP-ILO Meeting of Experts;
- a Global meeting of HR Directors or all UN Agencies; as well as
- the Regional HR and Operation Managers Workshops;

Various regional conferences, Community of Practitioners meetings, including on governance, sustainable development, private sector, gender equality; quality assurance and RBM; communications; as well as partnerships and resource mobilization were also held in Istanbul to facilitate the peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange.

Currently, about 30 global and regional events are on the agenda of the IRH, including such events as the 4th Istanbul Development Dialogues, Regional Meeting of UN Resident Coordinators/UNDP Resident Representatives for Europe and the CIS, Istanbul Innovation Days, etc.

The IRH continued to establish itself as a thought leader in the region and beyond. During 2017, it produced and/or supported over 30 knowledge products and publications, including such as Being LGBTI in the Western Balkans, Gender equality in public administration – a snapshot from Eastern Europe, Clima East: shifting ground, Assessment of the Impact of Migration and Displacement on Local Development and The New World Project in Action.

This year, through detail assignments 13 Country Office colleagues at various levels of responsibility worked with the IRH, being exposed to the regional context and support. Over 35 interns from diverse academic backgrounds have also been a part of the IRH, getting exposure to development issues and a first-hand impression of daily work at regional level.

UNDP also made a corporate decision to create a stronger presence of technical expertise in Istanbul to facilitate strong cross-regional collaboration, synergies and fertilization. For instance, starting from 2017, the Istanbul-based HIV, Health and Development (HDD) Team is now joined by two HDD teams from Arab States and Africa hubs, creating a cross-regional cooperation.

In 2017, the IRH received 430 service requests from the country offices in Europe and CIS. The support requests were mainly related to Governance and Peacebuilding (21.6%), Sustainable Development (16.7%), Energy, Climate and DRR (14.4%), followed by GEF (12.1); KM Innovation (8.6%); RBM and M&E (5.1%) as well as Gender (4%); Communications (3.5 %); Operations (2.8%); HHD (1.8%); and Partnerships (1.6%).

¹ Full list of the meetings organized in 2017 is presented in Annex-I

Table 1

Current personnel (based in Key Plaza, Istanbul Regional Hub)						
Agency	Internationally recruited staff	Locally recruited staff	Service Contracts	Individual Consultants/ Secondments	Interns	Total
UNDP (including):	83	31	9	24	9	156
1. Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS (RBEC)	19	23	5	17	9	73
2. Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)	42	7				49
3. Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy (BERA)	2					2
4. Bureau of Management Services (BMS)	7					7
5. OAI	6	1				7
6. UNDP Global Policy Centre for Private Sector in Development	5		4	6		15
7. UNDP BPPS Private Sector and Foundations Team	2			1		3
8. UN Office for South-South Cooperation	1					1
UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office	10	9	1	1	2	23
UNICEF Regional Office	4	1				5
TOTAL (UN and UNDP)	98	41	10	25	11	185

In 2017, the Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) continued to grow and remain the strongest and most advanced UNDP regional hub, whereas Europe and CIS region is the best performing region of UNDP in terms of program implementation. Country Offices in the RBEC region grew remarkably not only by size, but also results and positive impact on people's quality of life. It directly helped to create **thousands of new employments** around the region, supported **strengthening all countries' governance systems** and design and deliver **better public services** and worked with again all countries on designing policies and measures for dealing with the **climate change and improving environment**.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mainstreaming in the region continued to be the highest priority. Mainstreaming, acceleration and Policy support (MAPS) missions of the Hub's advisors supported five countries¹ in the development of their national strategies for SDGs integration and localization, and supported three countries participating in the High-Level Political Forum² and their presentations of Voluntary National Reports. The SDG Innovation Lab concept, presented by Armenia and RBEC as a side event during the Forum was singled out as a corporate standard in the discussions for the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

IRH together with the country offices pioneered the first regional UNDP campaign on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sourcing and coordinating visually compelling stories from 22 Country Offices with a different SDG covered each month. Finally, IRH developed a guidance note on Gender Equality and SDGs for Europe and CIS, in collaboration with UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF for UNCT and their partners.

As part of the wider regional UN system, UNDP made substantive contributions into policy work and led many inter-agency initiatives in the Europe and the CIS region. During the UN Development System reform discussion, this region has been frequently referred to as a role model in terms of how policy coherence and strategic cooperation can be achieved at the regional level.

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Turkmenistan

² Azerbaijan, Belarus and Tajikistan

During 2017, RBEC's ongoing work with new and emerging donors, and deepening of partnerships with major International Financial Institutions (IFIs) active in the region helped programme countries benefit from new sources of development finance and expertise. RBEC in 2017 also established the Regional Impact Investment Facility (funded partially with the generous contribution of the Government of Turkey) for country offices to incentivize innovative approaches to resource mobilization and growth. Turkey remained a major partner of RBEC in 2017. Significant resources were also invested in engaging with Turkish private companies with business interests throughout the RBEC region.

IRH and the country offices have been successful in positioning UNDP as a partner of choice for various stakeholders. In 2017, UNDP continued to offer significant value for money to the European Commission and increasingly with other EU-affiliated structures such as the European Investment Bank (EIB). The first direct project for which UNDP is contracted by the European Investment Bank (EIB) for rehabilitation work in Eastern Ukraine started in 2017. A new MOU with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) made a breakthrough in its partnership in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. Concrete cooperation with EBRD was planned in Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. Partnerships with the World Bank and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) were developed in Serbia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

RBEC also launched a new regional project on justice for missing persons and victims of war crimes in the Western Balkans, which, following the closure of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in 2017, is critical to keeping reconciliation moving forward. A new regional cooperation platform among National Human Rights Institutions and Ombuds-institutions of the 5 Central Asian countries was launched jointly with OHCHR.

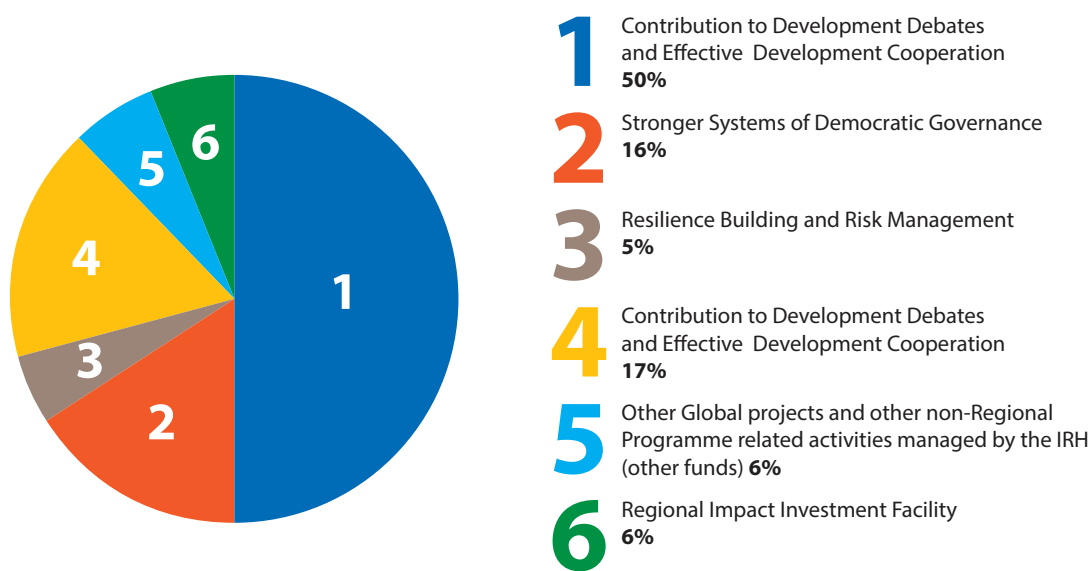


Photo: UNDP Eurasia

2017 Progress of the Regional Programme 2014-2017

The overall delivery of the Istanbul Regional Hub has amounted to \$19.8 million in 2017 (\$21 million including commitments for the Impact Investment Facility) through more than 30 regional and global projects in different areas arranged around the UNDP RBEC Regional Programme. The below table presents a brief snapshot of the overall spending of the Regional Programme, including the spending of Turkey's contribution in 2017, highlighting some of the major results.

2017 Expenditure



Regional Programme main area 1

: Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

Total expenditures in 2017

: \$10,5 million (\$10,573,095)

Of which spending from Turkish contribution

: \$0,5 million (\$524,536)

Major highlights

- Preparation and launch of the Regional Human Development Report, including in several countries in the region;
- Development of guidelines and toolkits on integrated service delivery for public employment and social welfare institutions in Western Balkans (WB); facilitation of policy dialogue in the Western Balkans on the social and employment reforms for improving labour market participation of the vulnerable groups;
- Completion of the survey aimed to understand the socio-economic status of Roma and non-Roma in the Western Balkan countries, covering 4592 Roma and 2168 non-Roma households. Results are currently being analyzed and the report being compiled. Introduction of innovative so-called micronarratives methodology for qualitative research on Roma returnees and access of Roma to employment and environmental risks in Western Balkans;
- Aid for Trade project benefited over 24,000 individuals, supported export contracts of nearly \$300 Million, and guarantee fund leveraged \$4.8 Million in credits. Small producers in rural areas created 306 new jobs;
- Provision of advisory services to 11 pre-MAPS countries; preparation of SDGs dashboards for four countries including Azerbaijan, BiH, Moldova, Belarus; Rapid Integration Assessment tool advocacy and support in seven

countries including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Serbia, BiH; establishment of inter-agency team on SDGs in Istanbul; Increasing the focus on inter-agency engagement on MAPS;

- Partnership with ILO firmed up and joint work extended in Moldova, Ukraine, Albania and Azerbaijan. Regional dialogue in November;
- UN Development Group thematic working group on social protection has transformed into Issue-Based Coalition on Social Protection with wider participation of UN agencies. Joint Policy Messages prepared by Issue-Based Coalition on Social Protection in the region;
- Upscaling of the actions on climate change adaptation/mitigation through advisory services to the Fijian COP23 Presidency; Capacity development for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to climate action implementation in 8 countries and National adaptation planning in 10 countries; Resource mobilization and access to climate finance and the regional awareness raising through “Climate Box”, presented at COP23;
- Systematic support for low-carbon and climate development of the countries in the region, in the context of the SDGs; Climate Change education and awareness – regional Climate Box;
- Provision of sustainable gender-sensitive energy solutions to rural communities in Central Asia (CA) through the Green Villages initiative. 4 countries were supported in complying with Montreal Protocol obligations through capacity development, investment in the manufacturing/servicing sectors, gender-sensitive awareness campaign.



Photo: UNDP Eurasia

Regional Programme main area 2

: Stronger Systems of Democratic Governance

Total expenditures in 2017

: \$3,34 million (\$3,338,321)

Of which spending from Turkish contribution

: \$0.06 million (\$63,364)

Major highlights

- Training for sub-national government officials in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine on applying “Islands of Integrity” methodology and how to conduct corruption-risk assessments and design integrity plans. Regional seminar on “Corruption-Free Cities of the Future” in Albania attended by more than 80 participants from sub-national governments, academia and CSOs, results of which will feed into the development of an interactive online Guide on Corruption-Free Cities; Regional Conference on Business Integrity in Kiev, Western Balkans regional business integrity workshop and side event on Business Integrity and Open Contracting;
- Regional conference on innovations in governance convened in Chisinau, Moldova resulting with policy and programmatic recommendations to improve efficiencies in the public sector;
- Very successful advocacy campaign on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Human Rights Day OutSpoken;
- Support to the Regional HIV Legal Aid Network with the expansion of its programme and services, managed to enroll 4 additional members (2 from Tajikistan and 2 from Ukraine) increasing the total number of members to 36 in 10 countries in 2017;
- Mobilization of 7 million USD to scale up UNDP’s support to countries to build capacities in sustainable procurement and sustainable manufacturing and waste management in the health sector;
- Regional conference on parliamentarians for gender equality, in Chisinau 3-4 to take forward the recommendations of the regional report “Strengthening Women’s Political Participation: An analysis of the impact of women’s parliamentary networks in Europe and Central Asia”; Sub-regional workshop on next steps in taking forward the initiative on advancing gender equality in Western Balkans and Turkey; Production of Regional study on Gender Equality in Public Administration;
- Support to five Country Offices in Gender Equality Seal: Albania, Armenia, Turkey - Silver Certification, Moldova got Gold, Kosovo in 2018, and Kyrgyzstan in revalidation process;
- Hosting of two national policy dialogues in Chisinau and Skopje to take forward the recommendations from the regional Policy Brief: Investing in social care for gender equality and inclusive growth in Europe and Central Asia.
- Rolling out of a curriculum on objective reporting by two data journalism institutes. Participatory analysis of civic space led to a meeting by Civil Society Forum to inform new programming.
- Enabling CSO and public sector to tap new and open data and new technologies and identifying applications to open contracting.
- Engagement of 5500+ in person and online by the Ministry of Data to find solutions to social issues.



Regional Programme main area 3

: Resilience Building and Risk Management

Total expenditures in 2017

: \$1,14 million (\$1,142,885)

Of which spending from Turkish contribution

: \$0.39 million (\$389,862)

Major highlights

- Groundwork research and dialogue processes into Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) as it relates to ECA region, including on national Plans of Action and online extremism established
- Training on conflict analysis, early warning and mediation for ministries and government think-tanks in Central Asia and Afghanistan
- Delivery of eight analytical pieces on topical issues through partnership with independent Turkish think-tank EDAM.
- Establishment of Civil society platform for implementing SDGs in South Caucasus
- Adaptation and piloting of the SCORE methodology in Ukraine and Moldova to assess community dynamics and entry-points for social cohesion.
- Production of Bi-weekly Risk Monitor digest of events and potential risks across the region with Risk Navigator piloted as guidance for action in response to specific context.
- Strengthening of the regional network of Political and Development Advisors through peer exchange support.
- Regional Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security aimed to strengthen youth engagement in peacebuilding with 39 participants from 19 countries, organized by UNDP, UNFPA and PBSO.
- Strengthening of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) solutions through the new regional knowledge exchange platform and facilitation of policy dialogue on climate change and security. Governments and COs now have an easy access to DRR, post-disaster needs assessment expertise and regional best practices on municipal resilience in South-Eastern Europe; Development of toolkit for Disaster Risk Reduction mainstreaming into development;



Photo: Vasily Ponomarev, Svetlana Zagirova, Dmitry Kaverin, and Igor Lavrinenko / UNDP Flickr



- Facilitation of the establishment of a high-level Ministerial forum on DRR in partnership with academia.
- Regional conference in Risk Informed Development; Strengthening of the South-East Europe sub-regional capacity in Urban Risk Management - municipal level DRR connectivity models developed for 6 Balkan countries/ territories;
- Under the Environment and Security Initiative, development and presentation of Climate Change and Security (CCS) assessment; Regional training in Budapest, Hungary with the Regional Environment Center; Uranium regional conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan;
- Series of trainings and workshops organized on various topics - participation on ethnic minorities for the officials of Turkmenistan; DRR & Media, DRR and Gender and Investing in municipal resilience regional workshops for the South-East Europe region in Belgrade; GARD training for Almaty International Airport; Regional Post-Disaster Needs Assessment training in Almaty; Capacity building session of the South Caucasus Country Offices in early warning, preparedness and response.
- Development of regional guidance on gender equality and DRR, in collaboration with UN Women; Compilation of UNDP gender mainstreaming approaches in DRR programming in Europe and CIS;
- Support to initiation of a crisis response point for women and girls living with and affected by HIV from the conflict areas;
- Establishment of a model(s) for right sensitive social support to women and girls living with HIV and affected by violence;
- Conduct HIV and AIDS advocacy and community mobilization campaign for women who have experienced rights' violations and violence due to the military conflict;

Regional Programme main area 4

: Contribution to Development Debates and Effective Development Cooperation

Total expenditures of the regional programme

: \$3,58 million (\$3,584,230)

Of which spending from Turkish contribution

: \$0,65 million (\$650,416)

Major highlights

- IRH and RBEC country offices are recognized as a key global player in social innovation; in 2017 IRH continued to support the country offices in embracing new approaches and methodologies in governance. Such are the establishment of City of Skopje Innovation Lab (FYR Macedonia) and the world's first National SDG Innovation Lab (Armenia);
- Launching a research and policy paper "Growing government innovation labs: an insider's guide" co-authored with FutureGov;
- Designing the Innovation strategy for the Islamic Development Bank Group
- Embedding innovation in the revised UNDP Project Management Manual; training for over 20 Country Offices in ECIS, RBA and RBAS regions in the UNDP Project Cycle Hacker's Kit;
- Produced a report on "Scaling up the Impact of Development Interventions", co-written with Brookings;
- Second Global Crowdfunding Platform, focusing on crowd-investment for Small and Medium Enterprises (11 Country Offices from 4 regions);
- New Social Impact Bonds in Montenegro and Armenia (in partnership with Sitra);
- Enhancing the capacities of the countries in introducing innovation for better monitoring and reporting on SDGs implementation (ex. new data to track poverty, air pollution, internal migration; establishment of methodologies or measuring of the SDGs Tier III indicators);
- Jointly with IFC and WB, hosted an event "How Donors Turn into Investors: From Funding to Financing the SDGs"
- Support to Country offices to mobilize over USD 700,000 to experiment with new approaches to social finances, welfare system, public sector innovation, Islamic finance and data for SDGs
- Engaging with Turkish Companies/companies with regional offices in Turkey from a programmatic perspective
- Enhancing the visibility of the Istanbul Regional Hub – launch of a newly designed website, 192,000 views in only few months; Year-long SDG campaign, reaching 7 million people on social media; Dedicated campaigns on gender, governance, sustainable development, climate change; Istanbul Development Dialogues with 5 million Twitter impressions; more compelling and visual donor outreach; Dedicated donor campaigns: Finland 100 on social media, Turkey-specific content during EXPO; Systematic production of news content (Russia contribution to UNDP climate fund mentioned in the New York Times)



Other Global projects and other non-Regional Programme related activities managed by the Istanbul Regional Hub (other funds)

Total expenditure : \$1,15 million (\$1,153,168)

Regional Impact Investment Facility: \$1,25 million funded from Turkish Funds, disbursed in late 2017 for implementation during 2018.¹

Following two successful rounds of the Catalytic Facility funded by Regional Programme (UNDP and Turkish Funds), in 2017 UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS established a Regional Impact Investment Facility. It aims to support country offices (COs) in creating space for generating new development solutions to address emerging priorities and challenges. Eleven country offices the facility and used the resources as seed in co-funding promising programmes partnering with IFIs, governments, private sector, and other development partners. Regional Impact Investment Facility supported only those initiatives from country offices that have a significant resource mobilization potential, and that represent investments into the new promising growth areas for the COs in the coming years.

Countries benefitted from the Facility: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine.

¹ This Facility is implemented through allocations made to the Country Offices. Hence the figures indicate the planned expenditures through these allocations.

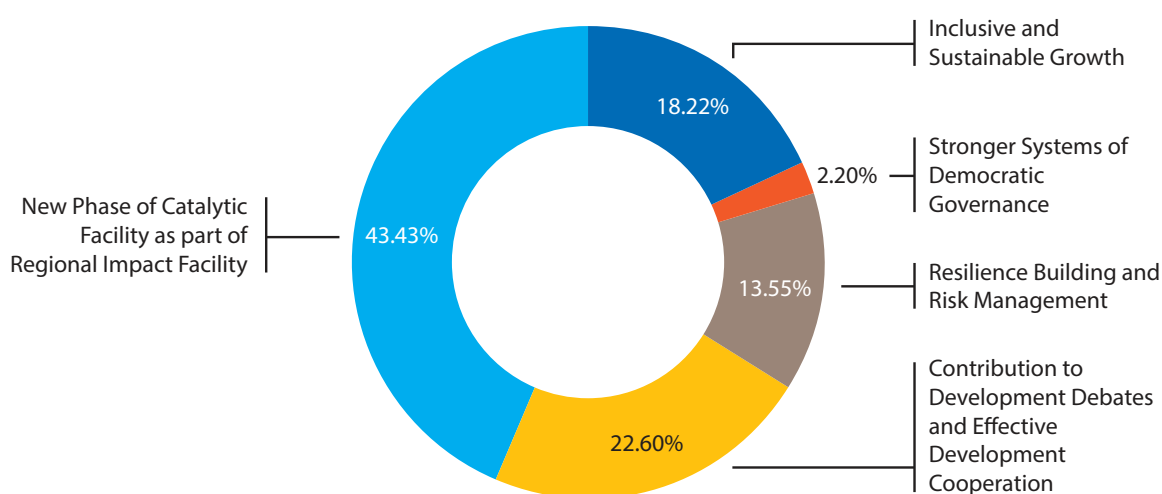
Total expenditure of the Regional Programme 2017 : \$21,04 million (\$21,041,699)

Of which spending from Turkish contribution : \$2,88 million (\$2,878,178)

In 2017, Turkey remained one of the top three donors to the Regional Programme in 2017, together with the Global Environment Facility and European Commission.

The 2017 was the last year of the previous Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS 2014-2017. **The new regional programme for Europe and CIS** for 2018-2021, which was developed under extensive consultations with the country offices and partners, was endorsed by the UNDP Executive Board in its first regular session in January 2018. It is grounded in the new UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021 which focuses on helping countries eradicate poverty in all its forms, accelerate structural transformation for sustainable development and build resilience to crises and shocks by strengthening development pathways.

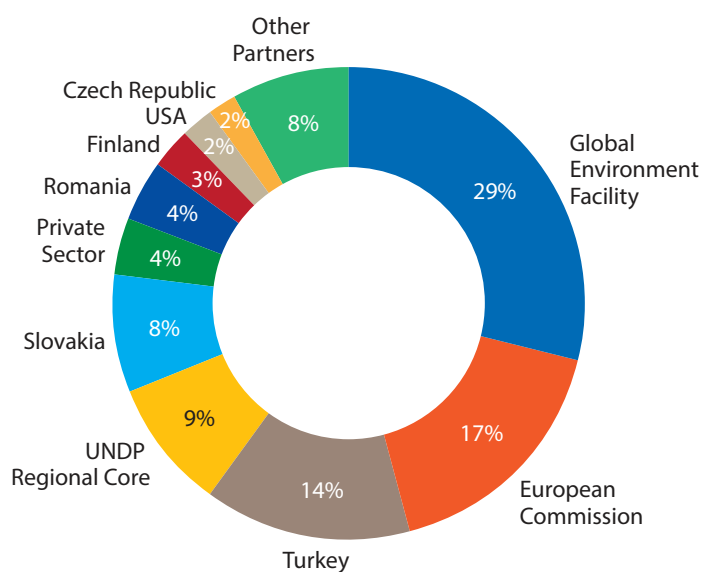
From Turkey's contribution (January-December 2017) - \$2.87 million



Delivery by Major funding sources

Sources of Funding	\$ million
Global Environment Facility	\$6.09
European Commission	\$3.61
Turkey	\$2.88
UNDP regional core	\$1.98
Slovakia	\$1.78
Private Sector	\$0.84
Romania	\$0.75
Finland	\$0.58
USA	\$0.45
Czech Republic	\$0.40
Russia	\$0.39
Austria	\$0.32
UN Agencies	\$0.30
UNDP HQ and other units	\$0.22
UK	\$0.20
Other Contributions	\$0.24

Top 10 funding sources



Turkey and UNDP partnering in key multilateral settings

Throughout the year, IRH co-chaired with Turkey and other Member States a series of very successful and widely attended strategic events intended to drive SDG progress in the region and sharing of experiences among countries, some selected ones are as below¹:

Istanbul Development Dialogues 2017, focused on development challenges posed by disaster, conflict, socio-economic risks and shocks in the context of SDGs and sustainable development. Attended by over 300 participants from the region, the Dialogue helped UNDP and its partners to better manage the challenges posed by disaster, conflict, and socio-economic risks and external shocks that could weaken or reverse hard-earned development gains in the region;

Istanbul Innovation Days 2017, co-hosted with NESTA and McKinsey brought together over 160 practitioners and innovators from over 50 countries and 40 innovation labs and startups to explore the evolution of the public-sector innovation labs and shifting paradigm on knowledge management;

5th Global Conference on National Evaluation Capacities “People, Planet and Progress in the SDG era”, which was launched by Deputy MFA of Turkey and UNDP senior officials. More than 500 participants from governments, parliaments, UN entities, International Organizations, private sector and evaluation networks from more than 110 countries made it the largest global regular event on evaluation;

Global South-South Expo 2017 was hosted by Government of Turkey in close coordination with UN Office for SSC (UNOSSC) in Antalya from 27 to 30 November 2017. The theme of this Expo was “South-South Cooperation in the Era of Economic, Social and Environmental Transformation: Road to the 40th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40)”. 2017 Expo was unprecedented in participation, mutual learning and knowledge sharing among practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation.

More than 800 delegates over 120 Member States took part in the four-day event, attending 37 sessions, including 3 high-level leadership roundtables, 11 high-level plenary sessions, 1 regional workshop, 1 ministerial meeting, a workshop for mayors and high-level city representatives, a high-level Director Generals forum, 17 side events, and multiple networking and partnership sessions. These sessions were organized by close to 50 institutional partners representing UN member States, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders. Turkic Council was also one of the members of the organizing committee, as a sign of close cooperation. Tens of thousands of other people were reached through social media.

Youth, Peace and Security in Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region was organized in 23-25 May in Istanbul, as a consultation event bringing together young people from 19 countries and territories of the region. The event, which was co-organized with UNFPA and UNDP resulted in a report which was fed into the Secretary-General's report on this topic.

¹ More detailed report of these meetings is presented in Annex-II

Turkey and UNDP Partnership in action at country level

Turkey-UNDP Partnership for Development Project, Phase 1

On the basis of the PFA and further to consultations between UNDP and the government of Turkey, UNDP and Turkey launched the first phase of Turkey-UNDP Partnership in Development Programme with a budget of 500,000 USD for the period 2015-17, enabling to implement pilot projects in the key areas identified in the PFA. The first phase of the Programme generated significant value added to help achieve results on the ground in four countries selected by Turkish Government and UNDP. These four projects were:

1. Developing Capacities for Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Skills Development in Kosovo
2. Development of Bee-farming in Karakalpakstan through application of advanced technology" (Uzbekistan)
3. Community Resilience through Inclusive Agricultural Value Chains in Abkhazia (Georgia)
4. Support to strengthening Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation Capacities in Comoros in the Context of Post-2015 Agenda

The programme was designed as an evolving instrument, which will complement UNDP's existing global, regional and country-level engagement modalities, as well as Turkey's own modalities of engagement in development cooperation. Therefore, the first phase was regarded as a pilot phase which was seen as a successful model by the partners. Based on this experience, partners are willing to continue this engagement.

For Turkey, replenishing this programme represents an opportunity to enrich the wide-ranging and important bi-lateral cooperation with new modalities for triangular cooperation. Turkey's development cooperation is generally based on bilateral cooperation. On the other hand, influencing global and regional development agenda requires active participation in multilateral development cooperation platforms, including through programmatic cooperation that involve (i) a recipient country, (ii) Turkey as a donor, and (iii) UNDP as an implementing partner. In this context, the programmes that promote Turkish development experience on an international platform and contribute to fostering the multilateral dimension of Turkey's development cooperation approaches, can generate additional visibility for Turkey as a global player and can ensure that Turkish expertise can be more effectively engaged in Turkey's development cooperation. This is even more relevant in countries where Turkey's geographical access is limited (e.g. no TIKa presence, etc).

The first phase of the programme drew attention from several countries in the region and donors. A regional programmatic instrument to facilitate cooperation between Turkey and UNDP in third countries that enables the participation of other partners has been seen as an innovative partnership and a model for triangular cooperation. This is manifested through a wide range of partnerships established during the implementation of the specific projects, including beneficiary country governments, UNDP COs, TIKa CCOS, Turkish Embassies, IICPSD and private sector organizations such as BUTGEM. As such the first phase of the programme has allowed to test such a multi-stakeholder approach, together with its lessons learned, which will be essential in the new phase under approval, and for successful implementation of the SDG initiatives in the region and beyond. The first phase of the programme helped clarify the added value of UNDP as a facilitator among a number of actors, particularly for soft assistance type of projects. This value added is even more critical in locations where Turkey does not have a representation. Additionally, the involvement of Turkish embassies and TIKa offices in partner countries provided significant opportunity for better ownership and motivation at the local level. One other issue to mention is the need for planning for visibility at the onset to ensure that the support provided by the Government of Turkey is communicated consistently at all levels.

The final progress report of this programme is available and shared with partners.

Catalytic and Scaling Up Facility, Support Mechanism and Results

The Istanbul Regional Hub supported a number of selected country-level initiatives of catalytic nature through the **Catalytic and Scaling up Facility** (2015-2017). While the initiatives are relatively small in volume, the Facility provides an enabling mechanism to support the UNDP country offices to accelerate the achievement of development priorities at country level closely linked to global and regional strategic priorities.

This Facility, with the contribution from Turkey, has benefited almost the entirety of the region advancing their development priorities ranging from employment, innovations, conflict and disaster risk reduction, to the implementation of the SDG agenda. As such, these contributions were instrumental in upscaling the region's innovation and public service capacity as well as its readiness for Agenda 2030.

Starting 2017, the Catalytic and Scaling-up Facility has been upgraded as the RBEC Regional Impact Investment Facility to support the countries in creating business and ensuring sustainability by bringing returns.



Some selected initiatives funded through these facilities, clustered according to thematic areas are as below:

- Integration of **data and innovation** for policy making (Public innovation labs in Armenia, Georgia, the FYR of Macedonia, Moldova and for disabilities related policy making in the FYR of Macedonia, for peace building in the Georgian-Abkhaz context in Georgia)
- **Youth engagement for peacebuilding** in Kyrgyzstan, and in the FYR of Macedonia
- **More effective employment programmes** (through Youth skills observatory in Moldova, for reintegration of Roma returnees in Serbia, labour market inclusion for women in Ukraine)
- **Stronger risk and disaster management** (through evidence-based decision making on DRR in BiH, through PPPs in Armenia)
- **Energy efficiency** prototypes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, for agro-based industries in Turkey

Building Statistical Capacity to Monitor SDGs (Azerbaijan)

The initiative supported the establishment of the statistical monitoring framework and the National Information Portal on SDG implementation in the country. The Portal is the single national online information source on SDG for state agencies, private sector, scientific and educational institutions, civil society, media, regional and international organizations. Through a series of training, capacities of the State Statistics Office were strengthened on the monitoring and reporting of the SDGs, and on innovative approaches to the data production.

Sustainable energy solutions in rural households (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan)

Building on and complementing the 'Green Village' concept which aims to support sustainable means of economic activities in rural settings, the projects implemented in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan tested the prototypes and deployed decentralized renewable energy sources (e.g. solar heater, solar drier, rocket stoves, etc.), increased practical knowledge at the household level and institution setting for financing opportunities, while reducing the use of woods for cooking and heating.

Health Procurement Reform (Ukraine)

Building on the existing UNDP programme on procurement of medicines, the initiative supplemented the existing UNDP programme on procurement of medicines, and supported the preparation for establishing a new health procurement agency through drafting of the concept Strategy on the public procurement reform, and provided capacity development support to the various stakeholders. It also developed and piloted two online platforms in selected oblasts – one to ensure patients' right to information and access to free medicines piloted in Rivne oblast; and another, to allow medical professionals to monitor the stock of medicines and maintain warehouse inventory in Kiev city and Dnipro oblast, which will be rolled out nationwide.

Integrated Resource Efficiency in Agriculture and Agro-based Industries (Turkey)

To improve the comparative advantages in the agriculture and agro-based industries in the Southeast Anatolia Region in Turkey, the initiative looked into the resource inefficiency in the sectors, in particular, water, energy and human capital. Through strategic analyses and pilots on the ground, the initiative produced a framework to improve efficiency in 10 selected agricultural products, and a model on integrated resource efficiency in the agriculture and agro-based industries. It also strengthened local capacities on resource efficient agricultural practices were improved in Batman and Sanliurfa through trainings and seminars. The initiative also made a breakthrough in bringing the concept of ecosystem services in agricultural production for the first time to the region. With the success of the initiative, the country office and its partners are exploring the potentials to apply the approach in other industrial sectors in the Southeast Anatolia Region.

Youth-Centered Skills Observatory (Moldova)

This ambitious pilot carried out an analysis of the skills mismatch and underutilization and generation of 'safe-to-fail' experimental solutions to improve youth employability. The initiative supported the Experiment Lab to produce key analytical work and conduct experiments in its effort to become part of the national institutional framework to support evidence-based policy making on youth participation in the labor market. The Observatory has been established under the National Institute for Economic Research of Moldova. More than 2,000 youth were engaged in the experimentation, data collection and analysis processes, including those relate to the measurement of the soft-skills mismatch and underutilization, and labor mobility for youth. The Lab is aligned to national Employment Strategy, supported by UNDP and recently approved by the Government, and is sustainable from the institutional and financial standpoints.



Photo: Arben Llapashtica / UNDP Flickr

Partnerships With Private Sector, Civil Society and Turkey-Based Intergovernmental Organizations

Private Sector

UNDP-through the work of its various bodies- supports engagement of the private sector in sustainable development as a key actor, through advocacy for inclusive business and brokering partnerships for action in the field. In addition to brokering partnerships with various private sector companies in the programme countries and advocating for change in regional platforms, Istanbul Regional Hub also supports a stronger engagement of Turkish private sector in sustainable development challenges while also facilitating sharing of knowledge of the good practices in Turkey, building on the dynamic private sector and markets in Turkey.

While partnership with Unilever continued in 2017, IRH also strengthened its dialogue with other Turkish private sector companies such as Limak, Sütaş, TAV, Zorlu Holding and Turkish Airlines. The partnership approach followed is two-fold: (i) facilitate partnerships at the country level for inclusive business models in support of the SDGs: develop initiatives in priority sectors such as sustainable tourism, skills building and agro-businesses (ii) engage more strongly with the private sector for advocacy purposes in events such as Istanbul Development Dialogues and Innovation Days as a means to facilitate dialogue. These partnerships are also critical in establishing a broader understanding among the country offices in the region, on the possible role and possible modalities of partnership with private sector for sustainable development. Istanbul Regional Hub plans to organize capacity development events in 2018, bringing in key private sector actors to serve this purpose.

Istanbul Regional Hub and IICPSD have established an increasing level of coordination and collaboration in the area of private sector engagement for sustainable development and cooperates in bringing in private sector in key UNDP events as well as for capacity development of programme countries for more impactful engagement of the private sector.

Civil Society Organizations

Building on its presence in Turkey, UNDP explored opportunities for partnering with the civil society in various forms such as cooperating in regional/global events as well as contributing to their work. These organizations include associations and foundations as well as innovation platforms such as Imece.

In 2018, various teams in the Istanbul Regional Hub started engaging with Imece, a Turkish, Istanbul-based non-governmental organization, active in the field of innovation for development, impact investment, and promoting the involvement of the private sector in sustainable, inclusive development. Currently, the UNDP Regional Innovation team is working with Imece on co-organizing the 2018 SIX Wayfinder Conference, one of the leading global meetings on the future of social innovation, and on testing and piloting innovative financing solutions for development. UNDP is also working closely with Imece on reaching out to Turkey-based private companies, making a business case for the SDGs and searching for possible entry points for sustainable development partnerships. For example, we will be joining efforts to take full advantage of the launch of the B Corps programme in Turkey, capitalizing on the momentum and interest of leading companies in Turkey to join the sustainable development movement. UNDP is also supporting Imece with substantive input on their programmes and projects, leveraging the wealth of thematic expertise in the hub, on various topics ranging from gender equality, all the way to impact investment and others.

Intergovernmental Organizations

Turkic Council: UNDP continued its efforts to strategically engage with the intergovernmental organizations established in Turkey. One of the key partners with which UNDP strengthened its cooperation in 2017 was Turkic Council. This partnership which is mainly geared around organization of international events and

organizations, started in 2015 with the International Conference on ICT for Development. In May 2016, a MoU providing the framework of future cooperation between UNDP and Turkic Council was signed, covering development areas such as digital transformation, tourism, investment promotion and renewable energy.

Turkic Council and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) organized an International Conference themed "Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: Holistic Approaches from Education to De-Radicalization" in 20-21 October 2016. Since then, the two sides have been actively cooperating in other organizations in support of the SDGs, and recently focusing on programmatic partnership primarily in the area of preventing violent extremism and in on sustainable tourism in the future.

Global South-South Cooperation Expo (SSC Expo) organized in November 2017 was a key event in which UNDP and Turkic Council cooperated. While the Turkic Council was actively present in the organizational committee of the SSC Expo, UNDP IRH and Council co-organized a side event 'Good Practices of South-South Cooperation for Implementation of the SDGs: Development Through Transformation' in the margins of the Expo.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation-Permanent International Secretariat (BSEC-PERMIS): The Organization for Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) is a leading regional cooperation organization in the Black Sea area working to foster interaction and harmony among its members, as well as to ensure peace, stability and prosperity, encouraging friendly and good-neighborly relations in the Black Sea region. Today, BSEC serves as a forum for cooperation in a wide range of areas for its 12 Member States: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Turkey hosts the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) of the BSEC in Istanbul, hence UNDP Regional Hub and BSEC maintain a continuous dialogue also building on the logistical convenience, and search for areas of cooperation. While the staff movements in BSEC in 2017 hampered this dialogue at the technical level, recent interactions with the BSEC indicates a strong opportunity for cooperation in the area of the SDGs.



Photo: Mahmut Serdar Alakuş / UNDP Flickr

3. Priority Areas of Cooperation for 2018

Building on the status of the partnership and the progress achieved in 2017, the priority areas for cooperation in 2018 are suggested as below:

Increasing impact and visibility of the partnership

UNDP-Turkey Partnership in third countries will be strengthened in 2018 through a collaborative model engaging UNDP country offices, TIKA offices and Turkish Embassies, with the replenishment of Turkey-UNDP Partnership in Development Programme-Phase 2. Based on the successes of the first phase the second phase will be one of the instruments to make this partnership more visible globally. UNDP-Turkey Partnership will be continued to be presented as an innovative partnership contributing to the implementation of Agenda 2030.

In addition, continued efforts will be made to increase the **visibility and impact of the partnership between UNDP and Turkey at the country level**, through joint events co-organized by UNDP COs and Turkish Embassies/ TIKA Programme Coordination Offices. These events can be linked to the milestones in the implementation of projects funded by the *Turkey – UNDP Partnership in Development Programme*, similar to the event held in February 2018 in Sarajevo with the participation of TIKA offices and the Embassy. The visibility guidelines prepared for the use of all initiatives and projects supported by Turkish cooperation will be used extensively.

Open for discussion at the 2018 Annual Consultation and beyond, the following key **global events** can provide a good opportunity to increase the visibility of the partnership and to strengthen Turkey's positioning in the international development cooperation arena:

- Potential joint events with the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the UN on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2018
- Key events on the SDG Agenda,
- Global SSC Expo
- Other events deemed appropriate by the partners.

UNDP will increasingly prioritize participation of Turkish government and private sector representatives to serve for the visibility of Turkey in key global and regional events (e.g. IDD, SDG consultations, etc.) organized by UNDP or its partners. UNDP will continue to centrally engage with the Government of Turkey to ensure that the participation of Turkish actors is maximized in events such as the Istanbul Development Dialogue and Istanbul Innovation Days.

Similarly, Turkey's contribution to the global SDG agenda through commitments such as the UN LDC Technology Bank will provide opportunities for high level visibility at the global level, with the launching event of the Technology Bank. UNDP will continue to support this initiative as needed. Linked to this initiative, UNDP will provide all forms of support and expertise for launching of the TUBITAK incubation center established in TUBITAK Premises to serve for a broad regional coverage.

Moreover, should Turkey consider a **possibility of increasing its contribution to UNDP's core (regular) resources**, efforts to ensure maximum visibility of such a contribution will continue, given the importance of core funding for UNDP's sustainability in the current constrained resource environment.

Partnership with Turkey in key Multilateral Development Platforms

While there are currently no concrete plans for joint events, the very positive experience of partnering in key Multilateral Development Platforms, which yielded important results and amplified the partnership, provides the basis for future joint approaches. Therefore a proactive and flexible approach to identifying opportunities in 2018 should be maintained in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to ensure the continuation of the fruitful cooperation.

Turkey – UNDP Partnership at the country level

Second Phase of Turkey-UNDP Partnership in Development Programme

All four projects under the Regional Programme entitled “Turkey-UNDP Partnership in Development” were completed in 2017. The second phase of *Turkey-UNDP Partnership in Development Programme* was prepared in consultation with the Government of Turkey (MoD, MFA and TIKA) and is under approval process. The primary aim of the programme will be to create innovative partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs. The geographical priorities of the programme will be determined in line with the requests of the Government of Turkey.

The implementation modality is expected to be the same as in the first phase. The programme will continue to be managed by the UNDP IRH with close coordination with other partners such as MFA, MOD, TIKA and UNDP CO. UNDP Country Offices, in coordination with TIKA Country Coordination Offices in recipient countries will play the main implementing function. If TIKA does not have a coordination Office in the project country, Turkish embassies and TIKA headquarters will be informed to ensure coordination. The budget of the programme will be \$500,000, from Ministry of Development of Turkey as in the first phase. The programme will enable funding of specific initiatives to be selected by the Programme Board, following a Call for Proposals, tentatively planned for May-June 2018.

During the first phase of the Programme, some of the COs and Embassies of Turkey, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Moldavia and Kyrgyzstan, requested to benefit from the Programme and presented their concrete project proposals. Unfortunately, the resources in the first phase were not sufficient to cover all those requests. Therefore, UNDP IRH advised Turkish Embassies and TIKA Offices to send their requests to the MFA or TIKA HQ. There have been some positive developments of strengthened cooperation and dialogue between CO's and MFA.

Partnerships with Intergovernmental Organizations and Private Sector

a) Turkic Council

In 2017, UNDP and Turkic Council worked to co-develop a joint project in the field of preventing violent extremism at the regional level, but this project did not materialize. Other discussions for the tourism sector were not prioritized by Turkic Council.

On the other hand, there is still room for partnering in multilateral settings and events, bringing in the expertise and experience of the countries of Turkic region. This proved to be useful in events such as SSC Expo and other events organized by Istanbul Regional Hub.

b) Black Sea Economic Cooperation-Permanent International Secretariat (BSEC-PERMIS)

UNDP will continue to engage with BSEC in broad regional topics and mutually ensure that partners attend each other's events to further seek opportunities for cooperation. One concrete area of cooperation in ongoing initiatives is the “Black Sea Project Promotion Facility” which was established through a voluntary contribution of \$1 million by the Russian Federation to the BSEC PERMIS. The objective of this Facility is fostering regional cooperation, achieving sustainable development, strengthening real economy, supporting small and medium-size enterprises. BSEC PERMIS. UNDP IRH and BSEC discussed opportunities for cooperation around this facility. It was also agreed to organize technical meetings with the expert teams to further explore opportunities of cooperation.

c) Cooperation between UNDP and the Private Sector

UNDP will continue to engage with the private sector on issues around achieving the SDGs. While 2017 has been productive in terms of more strongly engaging with the Turkish private sector in the area of development, UNDP will focus its efforts to further develop various means through which the private sector can engage in the SDGs agenda. While the work of the IICPSD is critical in shaping the private sector strategy of UNDP in the new Strategic Plan period, IRH and IICPSD will increasingly cooperate to make this a reality.



Photo: Kerim Belet / UNDP Flickr

4. Conclusion

In 2017 the strategic partnership between UNDP and the Government of Turkey was further strengthened through successful completion of several country-specific development projects, cooperation in multi-lateral forums and joint organization of events and side events. 2017 has also been a critical year for UNDP, as the new Strategic Plan (2018-2021) and Regional Programme for Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States were adopted. These documents strongly underline the critical role of partnerships for implementation of the SDGs and addressing the complex challenges of our time.

It is important to note that the partnership with Turkey remains a model for other countries in the region and beyond, particularly considering the multi-level nature of this partnership. Since the signature of the Partnership Framework Agreement in 2011, this partnership gained significant depth from a multitude of perspectives, engaging various actors of Turkey (government, private sector, academia, regional organizations based in Turkey, etc.) and modalities of cooperation. There is however, still space for growth and for further enhancement of the cooperation both in the Europe and CIS region and beyond.

The launch of Agenda 2030 in 2015 created a foundation for scaled up cooperation between the government of Turkey and UNDP, and as the new Strategic Plan and the new Regional Programme are adopted as the guiding documents for this partnership. The complex challenges of achieving the 2030 Agenda and the imperative to move from funding to financing development require impactful, scalable partnerships with bilateral, multilateral, private-sector and civil society partners. It is with this understanding that working in partnership to achieve concrete and scalable results remains at the heart of this regional programme.

The new regional programme for Europe and CIS is grounded in the new UNDP Strategic Plan which focuses on helping countries eradicate poverty in all its forms, accelerate structural transformation for sustainable development and build resilience to crises and shocks by strengthening development pathways. The new regional programme will aim to support programme countries in: (1) accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development through more effective governance systems; (2) addressing poverty and inequalities through more inclusive growth; and (3) building resilience to shocks and crises. Achieving these objectives will only be possible with partnerships and strong IRH presence, capacity and support. As such, continued partnership with Turkey will strongly contribute to the work of UNDP at all levels-global, regional and country level.



Photo: Vasily Ponomarev, Svetlana Zagirova, Dmitry Kaverin, and Igor Lavrinenko / UNDP Flickr

Annex I

Events

2017 HIGH LEVEL/GLOBAL UN EVENTS ORGANIZED BY ISTANBUL REGIONAL HUB

#	Event Name	Dates
1.	Istanbul Development Dialogues (2017): #Riskandresilience	23-24 March 2017
2.	Regional Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security (UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women) for countries of Europe and the CIS	23-25 May 2017
3.	Fifth Global Conference on National Evaluation Capacities 2017 (UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, Government of Turkey, and UNDP RBEC)	16-20 October 2017
4.	Istanbul Innovation Days	31 October - 2 November 2017
5.	Global South-South Development EXPO 2017, Side Events	27-30 November 2017

2017 EVENTS HOSTED AND/OR ORGANIZED BY THE ISTANBUL REGIONAL HUB IN ISTANBUL

#	Event Name	Dates
6.	DPAD/DESA and UNDP Workshop, Modelling Tools to Inform National Policies for Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda	23-26 January 2017
7.	UNDP Crisis Response Unit corporate crisis response regional training for the selected country offices in Europe and the CIS, and Arab States	30 January - 3 February 2017
8.	Annual UNDP Peace Development Advisors Programme Meeting on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention, UNDP HQ and country offices from all regions	6-7 February 2017
9.	Regional Dialogue on (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions for Eurasia (UNDP, UNFCCC Secretariat, and the UNDP/UNEP Global Support Programme)	21-23 February 2017
10.	Regional meeting – Planning and implementing 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Europe and CIS (UN RC/UNDP RRs from ECIS, UN Agencies)	21-22 March 2017
11.	HIV Health and Development Cross Regional meeting on Rights of LGBTI	22-24 March 2017
12.	UNDP Women Leadership for Gender Equality Initiative for ECIS Region	24-26 April 2017
13.	Regional Meeting of Practitioners Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction for Europe and the CIS	25 April 2017
14.	Regional Global Environment Facility Meeting of Practitioners for Europe and the CIS	26-28 April 2017
15.	Meeting of the regional Issue -Based Coalition on Social Protection (UNDP, ILO, UNICEF)	28 April 2017
16.	Inception Workshop of the UNDP-GEF Global Access to Genetic Resources, Nagoya Protocol Project	27-28 April 2017
17.	Inter-Regional Being LGBTI meeting on global programming and resource mobilization initiative	26-28 April 2017
18.	The UN cross border operation for the Syria crisis/UNOCHA Meeting	
19.	RBEC Regional Meeting of Country Directors/Deputy Resident Representatives/Deputy Country Directors for 17 countries and 1 territory in Europe and the IS	15-17 May 2017
20.	Open Parliaments and SDGs side event	17 May 2017
21.	Open Contracting For Practitioners: From Ideation To Prototype for Europe and the CIS	25-26 May 2017
22.	SDG16 Indicators Regional Workshop for Europe and the CIS	31 May-2 June 2017

#	Event Name	Dates
23.	Open Data & Open Contracting Data Standards (OCDS) Workshop	for Europe and the CIS
24.	Regional Project Meeting on Reducing Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) and Mercury Releases from the Health Sector in Africa	1-2 June 2017
25.	Reducing Medical Waste in Africa Regional Project Meeting and Board Meeting	1-2 June 2017
26.	Regional launch of Global Human Development Report 2016, jointly with Istanbul Technical University for countries Europe and the CIS	19-20 June 2017
27.	Slovak-UNDP Partnership for Results in International Development Cooperation – annual meeting	20-21 June 2017
28.	Czech-UNDP Partnership for Results in the International Development Cooperation– annual meeting	22-23 June 2017
29.	Business Integrity event co-organized by OSCE/EBRD/UNDP	12 July 2017
30.	Global UNDP Meeting on HIV and Health for UNDP HQ and selected country offices from 5 regions	24-28 July 2017
31.	UNDP Results Oriented Annual Reporting (ROAR 2016) Quality Assurance Workshop for 35 selected country offices from all regions	11-15 September 2017
32.	Sustainable Development Team Review Meeting for Europe and the CIS	29 September 2017
33.	Communications Training for Central Asia UNDP country offices	3-5 October 2017
34.	Results Based Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop for 17 countries and 1 territory in Europe and the CIS	16-17 October 2017
35.	Junior Professional Officers Workshop on Results Based management (JPO Center)	16-20 October 2017
36.	Kick-off Workshop for Data Innovation for UNDP country offices in Europe and the CIS, and in Arab States	16-17 October 2017
37.	UNDP-UN Environment Poverty and Environment Initiative Regional Experts Meeting for ECIS	24-26 October 2017
38.	Countering Violent Extremism Research Conference for country office in Europe and the CIS and in Arab States	29 October – 1 November 2017
39.	Technical Workshop on Preventing Violent Extremism Practice for ECIS -cross regional event (3 regions: Europe and the CIS, Arab States, and Asia-Pacific)	2-3 November 2017
40.	Innovation Facility Team Retreat - UNDP HQ/NY	3 November 2017
41.	Procurement Training II for UNDP country offices in Europe and the CIS	4-8 December 2017

2017 EVENTS ORGANIZED/CO-ORGANIZED BY THE ISTANBUL REGIONAL HUB IN OTHER COUNTRIES

#	Event Name	Location	Dates
1.	Training on planning for Nationally Determined Contributions (COP21) implementation	Belgrade, Serbia	10 April 2017
2.	Training on Media Communications in Disaster Risk Reduction	Belgrade, Serbia	11 April 2017
3.	Training on Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Preparedness and Response	Belgrade, Serbia	12-14 April 2017
4.	Meeting on Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Processing of War Crimes and the Search for Missing Persons	Zagreb, Croatia	18-20 April 2018
5.	UNDP Global Crowdfunding Academy	Cairo, Egypt	26-28 April 2017
6.	Being LGBTI in Eastern Europe (BLEE) Sub-Regional Dialogue	Belgrade, Serbia	27-29 April 2017
7.	Island of Integrity Methodology Workshop	Kiev, Ukraine	17-18 May 2017
8.	Regional Side Event on the Role of Parliaments on the SDGs, preceding Global Open Parliaments Conference	Kiev, Ukraine	18 May 2017
9.	Asset Declaration Workshop (OECD, UNDP)	Tbilisi, Georgia	6-7 June 2017
10.	Regional Launch of the policy brief on Social Care Policies	Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	14-15 June 2017
11.	Data Driven Journalism Summer Institute	Kyrgyzstan	5-30 June 2017
12.	Data Driven Journalism Summer Institute	Tirana, Albania	10 July - 4 August 2017
13.	Black Sea Clean Beach Day	Odesa, Ukraine	26-28 August 2017
14.	UNDP Internal Meeting for CIS and South Caucasus	Batumi, Georgia	28-29 August 2017
15.	Disaster Risk Reduction, Innovation Summer Course (UNDP-CEU)	Budapest, Hungary	24-27 July 2017
16.	UNDP-EU Consultations on Central Asia	Brussels, Belgium	30 August – 1 September 2017
17.	Black Sea Clean Beach Day	Sochi, Russia	1 September 2017
18.	Black Sea Clean Beach Day	Batumi, Georgia	16 September 2017
19.	Getting Airports Ready for Disaster Workshop	Almaty, Kazakhstan	18-22 September 2017
20.	Medical Procurement Workshop	Kiev, Ukraine	21-22 September 2017
21.	New World Global Workshop	Amman, Jordan	1 October 2017
22.	Gender Responsive Parliament Conference; Regional meeting on decision-making for gender equality	Chisinau, Moldova	2-4 October 2017
23.	South East Europe Small Arms Control (SEESAC) Project Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction	Podgorica, Montenegro	3-4 October 2017
24.	Post Disaster Needs Assessment for Resilient Recovery Regional Workshop	Almaty, Kazakhstan	3-6 October 2017
25.	Training of Trainers on Post Disaster Needs Assessment	Turin, Italy	9-13 October 2017
26.	Open Contracting Workshop	Tirana, Albania	12-13 October 2017
27.	South East Europe Urban Resilience Network Regional Workshop	Osijek, Croatia	16-18 October 2017
28.	Regional meeting with Prosecutors and Institutions of Missing Persons	Belgrade	27 October 2017
29.	South East Europe Small Arms Control (SEESAC) and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SAWL) Commissions Meeting	Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6-7 November 2017
30.	Radicalization in prisons RBEC & RBAS	Amman, Jordan	7-8 November 2017
31.	Business Integrity and Open Contracting, Side Event	Vienna, Austria	8 November 2017

#	Event Name	Location	Dates
32.	South East Europe Small Arms Control (SEESAC)/ South East Europe Firearms Expert Network (SEEFEN) Meeting	Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	9-10 November 2017
33.	South East Europe Small Arms Control (SEESAC)/ Regional Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) Training	Albania	13-17 November 2017
34.	Regional Conference on Innovations, Governance and Public Delivery	Chisinau, Moldova	14-16 November 2017
35.	Regional Coordination Meeting for National Human Rights Institutes in Central Asia	Almaty, Kazakhstan	15-17 November 2017
36.	Ministry of Data Black Sea Challenge	Tbilisi, Georgia	15-17 November 2017
37.	Regional Civic Spaces Roundtable	Tbilisi, Georgia	17 November 2017
38.	Human Rights Conference	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	20-22 November 2017
39.	Municipal Resilience Workshop	Belgrade, Serbia	13-24 November 2017
40.	Local Governance and Anti-Corruption	Tirana, Albania	7-8 December 2017
41.	Human Rights Conference	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	20-22 November 2017
42.	Municipal Resilience Workshop	Belgrade, Serbia	23-24 November 2017
43.	UNDP-EU Consultations on Western Balkans and Turkey	Brussels, Belgium	4-6 December 2017
44.	SEESAC/Gender Coach Programme seminar	Montenegro	7-8 December 2017
45.	Local Governance and Anti-Corruption (OECD-OSCE-UNDP)	Tirana, Albania	7-8 December 2017

Annex II

Selected High level/global UN events organized in Turkey in 2017

1. Youth, Peace & Security in Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region: A Consultation and Dialogue, 23-25 May 2017, Istanbul

Thirty-nine young participants between the age of 19 to 35 from 19 different countries and territories from Eastern Europe and Central Asia met in Istanbul from 23-25 May 2017, for the third of the series of regional consultations, organized as part of the process to collect evidence of young people's contribution to sustaining peace. The contribution is used as an input to the progress study commissioned by the Secretary-General "on the youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels", and to present the results of the Study to Member States of the United Nations. The study is prepared under the ground-breaking Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) adopted by the Security Council, in December of 2015, dedicating, for the first time, a full resolution to the positive role young people can and do play in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the prevention of violent extremism.

By the end of the consultations, the youth representatives prepared a report with their inputs to the study, listing the priorities of the young people in this region related to peace and security, their challenges and opportunities. Supporting peacebuilding projects that aim to foster culture of tolerance was highlighted as a priority issues by participants, being able to raise their voice on security related issues, to name few. While ensuring young peoples' freedom from fear is one of the most important ways to contribute positively to peace and security policies in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The consultations meeting was organized by UNFPA, UNDP with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office.

Website : https://www.youth4peace.info/2017_ECA_Consultation_Apply

2. National Evaluation Capacity Conference 2017, 16-20 October 2017, Istanbul



"Development of national evaluation capacities can contribute to eradicating poverty, promoting prosperity and protecting our planet"

Basic facts: The NEC 2017 "People, Planet and Progress in the SDG era" was launched by Deputy MFA of Turkey, myself and IEO Director, with a keynote speech from Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit in the EOSG. More than 500 participants from governments, parliaments, UN entities and

international organizations, UNDP COs, private sector, evaluation networks and associations from more than 110 countries made the NEC 2017 the largest global regular event on evaluation, beating the record of the NEC 2015 held in Bangkok.

The conference objective was (1) to offer participants a platform to present and exchange lessons, innovations, experiences and perspectives in developing and adapting national evaluation capacities in light of the SDG; (2) to explore the implications of the SDGs for principals, principles and practices of evaluation; and (3) to develop partnerships to strengthen national evaluation systems.

Partnerships: The NEC 2017 was co-organized by the UNDP IEO and RBEC, and hosted by the Government of Turkey as main donor of the event. The organization of NEC greatly benefited from RBEC's partnership with Turkey through the 2011 Partnership Framework Agreement, and from involvement of the Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH), which was instrumental in all aspects of negotiations, arrangements and substantive inputs for this global conference (This is the 40th event that the IRH hosts during 2017, in a series of other global, regional and sub-regional events).

The NEC 2017 also benefitted from partnership with the European Evaluation Society currently chaired by the MFA of Finland, as well as with SIDA/MFA of Sweden, NORAD/MFA of Norway, MFA of Netherlands (all of whom also contributed financially to bring participants from LDCs/LICs), AfDB, OXFAM (USA), Green Climate Fund Independent Evaluation Unit, Astana Regional Hub for Civil Service (a partner to UNDP within our emerging donor initiative with Kazakhstan), and a number of evaluation associations from different regions.

Voices heard: The NEC sessions led by evaluation and development professionals, deliberated on: (i) impact of global commitments on national evaluations; (ii) importance of partnerships of public and private sectors and civil societies for stronger national evaluation capacity; (iii) data availability, collection, analysis and use for design of evidence-based public policies with a human rights and gender-responsive lens. Participants also engaged in focused discussions of IRH tailored sessions on (1) traditional evaluation in a world of volatility, increasing disaster and climate risks, and its relevance to resilience; (2) SDGs' data and indicators in model-based approach and Voluntary National Reviews of SDGs; (3) public and private sectors in the monitoring and evaluation of social and environmental impact; (4) measure and evaluation of dimensions of Goal 16 and the factors hampering its progress; and (5) innovative tools and new approaches in measuring impact in real time, for the SDGs.

Conclusions: The framing conclusion and the key messages of the NEC emphasized that (1) evaluation should address the complexity of the SDGs and their achievement, as SDGs are deeply interrelated in various ways; (2) achieving SDGs depends on country-led evaluations that produce evidence of whether of policies and programme are ultimately tied to SDGs, and whether their outcomes and impacts are equitable, relevant and sustainable; and (3) that building national evaluation capacities remains a critical part of this process, where UNDP plays an important role through its Global Advisory Services to programme countries.

3. Istanbul Development Dialogues



UNDP's Istanbul Development Dialogues (2017), held on 23-24 March, focused on risks to sustainable development in Eastern Europe, Turkey, and Central Asia, and on strengthening resilience against those risks. Building on the Istanbul Development Dialogues (2016) and the Dialogue on Inequalities (2015), the Dialogues in 2017 helped UNDP and its partners to better manage the challenges posed by external shocks that could weaken or reverse the region's¹ hard earned development gains. Total attendance was nearly 300; the total number of Twitter impressions for #IDD2017 was 5 million; the event was covered by both national and international media.

In 2015 and 2016, the Istanbul Development Dialogues (IDDs) were devoted to inequalities in the region. This reflected the fact that Eastern Europe and Central Asia is made up of middle-income countries in which basic development challenges like income poverty, poor health and nutrition, and access to communal services have been largely resolved. However, favourable trends in average income levels can hide large disparities within, or deviations from, otherwise positive dynamics (the "tyranny of averages"). By focusing on inequalities, the IDD provides a platform for research, and advocacy, and partnerships to address these disparities. In so doing, they helped call attention in the region to the "no one left behind" dimensions of the global Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). They also lead to the publication of UNDP's report on *Progress at Risk: Inequalities and Human Development in Eastern Europe, Turkey, and Central Asia*.

Shocks, crises, and other risks to development accomplishments pose similar threats. People who are otherwise not threatened by poverty or exclusion can suddenly find themselves unable to make ends meet because of natural disasters, armed conflicts, or socio-economic crisis. If "inequalities" call attention to deviations from otherwise favourable average development outcomes today, then "risk" reflects the chance that individuals who benefit from favourable development outcomes today may not do so tomorrow. Moreover, experience from natural disasters, conflicts, and other crisis situations shows that women, children, the elderly, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and members of other vulnerable groups are particularly likely to face greater risks to life and livelihoods in such situations. Effective policy and programmatic interventions—for both crisis prevention and response—need to be designed and implemented with these vulnerabilities in mind.

"Resilience" in turn refers to efforts to manage these risks, and to reduce the impact of the unfavourable events associated with them. The importance of placing greater emphasis on resilience in development work is apparent in the frequency with which "risk-informed development" narratives (i.e., "if it's not risk-informed, it's not sustainable", "build back better", etc.) were referenced during the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, in the 2015 Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, in the 2015 COP21 Paris Agreement, and in Agenda 2030 and the SDGs—especially SDGs 9, 11, and 13; as well as 14, 15, and 16.

Global developments leading up to IDD 2017 brought new risks and uncertainties for decision makers in the region. Many principles of global and regional cooperation, security, and human rights that have for decades underpinned the international system today are today facing new and unexpected challenges. These are apparent in threats of terrorism and violent extremism, in the politics around the European migration crisis, growing income and wealth inequalities, and sharpening east-west tensions around military conflicts in

¹ Unless otherwise noted, reference is to Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (understood to be with the context of UNSCR 1244 (1999)), Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Ukraine, Syria, and elsewhere. In addition to raising new questions about the effectiveness of global governance institutions, these trends are blurring conventional divisions between development programming, disaster risk reduction activities, and emergency/humanitarian responses to crisis situations. They are also complicating the risk management challenges facing private companies and civil society organizations, as well as state agencies. These issues are particularly relevant for many countries of Eastern Europe, Turkey, and Central Asia—many of which also face significant seismic and climate-related risks; and a number of which never fully recovered from the impact of the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, which was then followed by the “Eurozone” (2010-2012) and then “rouble” (2014-2015) crises.

To help support responses to these challenges, the Istanbul Development Dialogues (2017):

- Presented research, analysis, and programming developments concerning key risks to sustainable development in the region. This took the form of presentations, case studies, videos, and other “applied knowledge” products, which emphasized:
 - Disaster and climate risks—including those associated with seismic dangers and water, land, and biodiversity management challenges;
 - Governance and peacebuilding risks—including those associated with conflict and large refugee movements;
 - Socio-economic shocks and instability, and poverty risks—including those associated with labour migration; and
 - Building resilience against these risks—in the state, private, and third sectors—inter alia via peace building activities, social protection reform (including via the Social Protection Floor Initiative), and disaster risk reduction policies and programming;
- Offered concrete suggestions about aligning regional sustainable development agendas—particularly in terms of the SDGs, and Sendai and Paris frameworks.

IDD 2017 participants and partners (a full list of participants is attached) included:

- Representatives of Ministries of Emergencies, Environment, Water; Institutes of Strategic Studies; and other central and local bodies charged with disaster risk reduction, risk management, and emergency response.
- Private sector partners, including representatives of institutions engaged in the Connecting Business Initiative.
- Civil society partners, included those engaged in the follow-up to the Sendai and World Humanitarian Summits, or otherwise engaged in community-based disaster risk reduction and response.
- Government, civil society, and international organization representatives who help governments and communities to manage socio-economic risks and advocate for social protection floors and social policy reform, as well as development and rights-based approaches to the large migration and refugee flows experienced by the region will also be invited.

4. Istanbul Innovation Days, 31 October - 2 November 2017 'Public Sector Innovation Labs and NextGen Knowledge Management'



The development landscape is interconnected and fast-changing, dominated by risks and opportunities ranging from the changing climate and new technologies to violent extremism and shifting demographics.

Istanbul Innovation Days is an **annual gathering** run by UNDP's Istanbul Regional Hub that seeks to **explore and accelerate organizational learning of the emerging trends and approaches** to development and policy making. The event is held in collaboration with Nesta and McKinsey.

The discussion aimed to address a growing frustration within the Lab community that we have not been successful at creating impact at scale, that our work has taken place at a wrong level of resolution misaligned with the scale of the policy issues we need to address and that as a result we haven't seen a massive sense of urgency or reallocation of public finances toward new approaches we need to achieve SDGs.

Leveraging some of new emerging ways of collaboration (platforms, movements, design for emergence) and building the new infrastructure for R&D requires fresh approaches and protocols for the way forward. Some of the common themes that emerged are: i) the role of Labs not in reducing but absorbing complexity (what capabilities and assets do we need for this, indirectly enabling the shift in entry point for intervention from people to systems and bureaucracy), ii) political leadership, mandate and coverage- if it isn't deliberately given, what's the role of Labs in creating it, what type of alliances (anti-establishment?) and capabilities (e.g. financial innovation) have to be in place?, iii) deliberate shift from problems to conditions and solutions to infrastructure to ensure that the 'new' things are rooted in a new way of doing work.

The 2018 Istanbul Innovation Days will focus on Artificial Intelligence for Development.

Annex III

List Of Projects Funded Under Catalytic and Scaling-Up Facility

Initiative	CO	Year	Amount (USD)	Thematic area
Governance Innovation: Institutionalisation of innovation labs	Armenia, Georgia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova	2015-2016	200,000	Innovation
Regional War Crimes mechanism	BiH and Serbia	2015-2016	100,000	Peacebuilding
Sustainable Energy Solutions in Rural Household in Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan	2015-2016	100,000	Energy Efficiency
Municipal energy tracking systems	Albania	2015-2016	100,000	Energy Efficiency
Risk-informed Urban Development in Armenia	Armenia	2015-2016	100,000	Disaster Risk Reduction
Improving Staff Capacity of the Azerbaijan Service and Assessment Network	Azerbaijan	2015-2016	100,000	Public service delivery
Evidence-based decision-making on DRR at Local Level	BiH	2015-2016	100,000	Disaster Risk Reduction
Micro-narratives on conflict, peace and tolerance in the Georgian-Abkhaz context	Georgia	2015-2016	90,000	Peacebuilding
Counter Violent Extremism in Kosovo	Kosovo	2015-2016	100,000	Peacebuilding
Integration of the SDGs into the national framework with citizen engagement	Moldova	2015-2016	62,000	SDGs
Open data platform for rural agriculture	Montenegro	2015-2016	100,000	Innovation
Service delivery to migrations, refugees and host communities in Serbia	Serbia	2015-2016	100,000	Public service delivery
Youth Facility for Social Cohesion in Kumanovo	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2015-2016	100,000	Peacebuilding
Monitoring and Tracking Tool for National Human Rights Action Plan	Turkmenistan	2015-2016	31,320	Rule of Law

Initiative	CO	Year	Amount (USD)	Thematic area
Health Procurement Reform in Ukraine	Ukraine	2015-2016	100,000	Public service delivery
Support to NHRIs on promotion of human rights in Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	2015-2016	100,000	Rule of Law
Justice Reform Sector Support	Albania	2016-2017	85,000	Rule of Law
Public-Private Partnership on DRR for Resilience	Armenia	2016-2017	50,000	Disaster Risk Reduction
Building Statistical Capacity to Monitor SDGs	Azerbaijan	2016-2017	85,000	SDGs
Deriving Data to Design Better Services for Persons with Disabilities	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2016-2017	85,000	Public service delivery
Effective Community Resilience and Flood Risks Management	Kazakhstan	2016-2017	85,000	Disaster Risk Reduction
Youth for Prevention of Violent Extremism	Kyrgyzstan	2016-2017	85,000	Peacebuilding
Youth-centered Skills Observatory in Moldova	Moldova	2016-2017	80,000	Employment
Reintegration of Roma Returnees	Serbia	2016-2017	85,000	Employment
Promotion of the Agenda 2030 and Operationalization of the SDGs at the National and Sub-national Levels in Tajikistan	Tajikistan	2016-2017	78,400	SDGs
Integrated Resource Efficiency in Agriculture and Agro-based Industries	Turkey	2016-2017	85,000	Energy efficiency
Technical Support on Human Rights	Turkmenistan	2016-2017	85,000	Rule of Law
Labour Market Inclusion of the Most Vulnerable Groups and Women	Ukraine	2016-2017	85,000	Employment
Support to the Government of Uzbekistan in Localization of SDGs	Uzbekistan	2016-2017	90,000	SDGs



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