



REGIONAL BUREAU FOR EUROPE AND THE CIS

PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT OFFICE IN RUSSIA



Regional Project “Knowledge Management and Capacity Building in the Russia-UNDP Partnership”

Expert assignments implemented by Russian specialists within the Russian Experts on Demand Programme in 2017-19



Agro meteorology (2 experts)



Monitoring and forecasting of agrometeorological hazards (yield reduction due to meteorological phenomena such as drought) depends on the collection of data from both conventional and satellite sources, and their combination. Cuban specialists through various satellites receive relevant agrometeorological data. However often there is a lack in knowledge for a proper data treatment to obtain processed output data, and combine it with conventional measures.

Two leading Russian experts from the All-Russian Research Institute of Agricultural Meteorology, Kaluga region, supported the Institute of Meteorology of the Republic of Cuba on the use of satellite data in agrometeorology. Russian experts prepared materials for the training of their Cuban colleagues based on many years of relevant work in Russia. From 19 to 30 March 2018, one of the experts is in Cuba to directly consult his Cuban colleagues, as well as deliver a training session, including a presentation of methods for using vegetation indices derived from NOAA / AVHRR images to develop a model for estimating rice yields in Cuba.





Viral hepatitis laboratory systems (2 experts)



Two experts were requested by the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan to support National Program on Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Control in Turkmenistan.

Russian experts from *the Central Research Institute of Epidemiology, Moscow*, joined the WHO technical mission to Turkmenistan in April 2017. The aim of the mission was to overview current Turkmenistan system of epidemiological surveillance and measures to control viral hepatitis (i.e. identification, laboratory diagnosis, treatment, prevention of viral hepatitis) at every level of medical care and provide recommendations for strengthening viral hepatitis response in the country.

One expert has evaluated the existing viral hepatitis services, including organization of the laboratory network, patient identification, referral treatment and care network, reviewed national surveillance system for viral hepatitis, revised testing, diagnosis, care and treatment protocols and consulted the national partners.

The other specialist has developed the check-list for the lab assessment and applied it for assessing the laboratory practices in testing for viral hepatitis, provided inputs to the drafts of adapted WHO LAT, specifically the Facility Questionnaire and System Questionnaire, finalized the check-list and input to WHO LAT, provided recommendations to national partners.



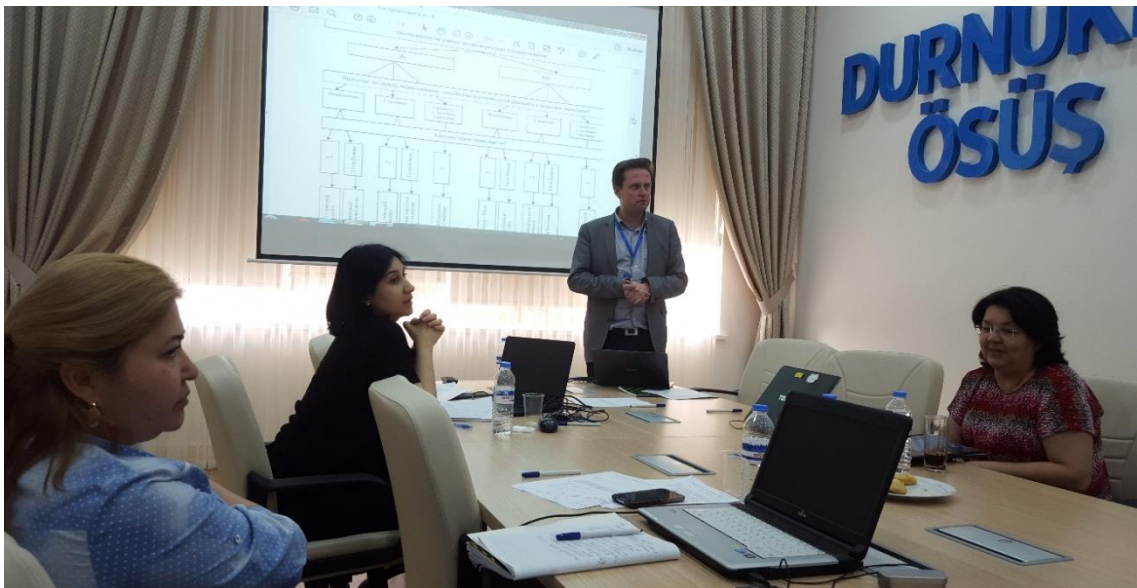


Statistical training for National tuberculosis programme



The technical assistance aims at improving skills of staff of National TB Programme of Turkmenistan in using computer-based statistical packages, such as SPSS or Excel, for statistical inference to conduct analysis of TB epidemiology as a basis for improved, evidence-based policy planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation.

A Russian expert has delivered a 4-day training on use of statistical packages for the staff of the National TB Programme of Turkmenistan in April 2017. After the learning, staff is applying the skills in their day-to-day work and the expert was continuing to provide online assistance to them until the end of December 2017.



Cardio surgery capacity



The aim was to advice representatives of Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic on policy measures and modern cardiology expertise in regards to modernization of the national centers of cardiology.

A Russian expert has carried out an assessment of the condition of the building and equipment of the Research Institute of heart surgery and formulated a proposal (concept note) for the reconstruction of the building, providing it with modern equipment for the organization of the National Cardiac Surgery Center. Expert has provided relevant proposals to the leadership of the Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. Expert has also delivered a lecture on modern approaches to cardio surgery to practitioners in Kyrgyzstan.



Trainings for Medical Social Expertise Commissions of Armenia (5 experts)



Five leading experts of the *Saint Petersburg Institute of Education and Requalification of doctors-experts in medical-social expertise* led by the Head of the Institute Professor Pomnikov provided a comprehensive training for the doctors of Medical Social Expertise Commissions of Armenia on “General, methodological, international rights-based issues of medical-social expertise in view of International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, rehabilitation and abilitation of persons with disabilities”. The training included both general sections for the entire group of medical-social experts, and was successfully complemented by separate thematic group-training for surgeons, therapists and neurologists.

“Extremely useful to learn from the experience of a country that passed a similar development process related to the old systems of disability assessment. The array of rehabilitation services provided by the Russian Government, including the consideration of social aspects and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, is commendable and worth learning from”, said Anna Hakobyan, head of the Division of the Department of Disabled and Elderly Persons of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Armenia.

At the end of the training, the participants received certificates for successful accomplishment of the course. The experts had de-brief meetings with the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and UNDP DRR/RR a.i. UNDP Armenia CO plans to establish an analytical and research platform in Armenia for knowledge generation and exchange on disability issues between similar institutions globally.





Youth entrepreneurship development and infrastructure



Considering average age of population in Tajikistan is 24 years, Government of Tajikistan is willing to utilize young people's energy for development country and creation of job and income opportunities. The main objective of the assignment was to review current institutional set up of youth entrepreneurship in Tajikistan and provide recommendations and clear mechanisms on its improvement using Russian expertise.

Director of the Business Incubator of the Higher School of Economics conducted initial desk review of institutional system of the youth entrepreneurship in Tajikistan. On October 17, a seminar "Measures of support and development of youth entrepreneurship in Tajikistan" took place, at which the expert shared Russian experience in supporting technology projects using the example of the business-incubator of the Higher School of Economics.

During the visit, working meetings were also held with the staff of the Consultative Council on improving the investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, representatives of business incubators, consulting organizations, business support centers and the private sector. On October 20, 2017, at the Accelerate Prosperity Tajikistan, an open lecture was held for young entrepreneurs, university students and other interested parties on the topic "How to start a successful start-up today without large investments?"

As an outcome, a detailed final narrative report indicating issues, lessons learned and recommendations for further institutional development of the youth entrepreneurship was prepared to be used for youth entrepreneurship promotion in Tajikistan. The leading newspaper of the country published an interview with the expert about the development of a start-up ecosystem.





Education for digital economy



The Government of Kyrgyzstan has adopted a targeted program-based approach to create the open and transparent society, raise life standards of people and improve business environment in the country through digital transformation. The four strategic tasks of “Taza Koom” that are to build (1) digital infrastructure, (2) digital government, (3) digital society and (4) digital economy.

A Russian expert has developed recommendations for the Government of Kyrgyzstan, specifically the Government’s office and the Ministry of Education, on a roadmap for elaboration of the National Digital Skills Development Strategy, that will respond to the priorities outlined in the national development strategies, including the Digital Transformation Program (“Taza Koom”) and plans and the ongoing integration processes within the EuroAsian Economic Union.

In the process of developing the Roadmap for the National Digital Skills Development Strategy, consultant has met with a variety of stakeholders, including from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Civil Initiative on Internet Policy, PM Office, State Committee for IT, Governmental Center for Electronic Interaction, KGTU, Kyrgyz Software and Service Developers Association, several schools and universities.



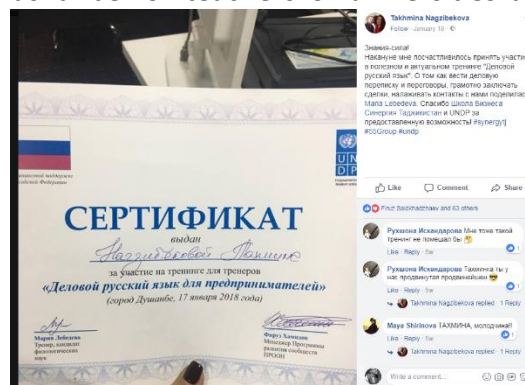
Business Russian for Tajik entrepreneurs: training of trainers



Russian Federation is one of the key trade partner of the Republic of Tajikistan. Unfortunately, many Tajik entrepreneurs and start-uppers, particularly young people, are lacking knowledge of Russian business language while communicating with foreign entrepreneurs.

Head of the Research Laboratory of Innovative Teaching Tools of the Pushkin State Russian Language Institute developed a training program on "Business Russian for entrepreneurs of Tajikistan" based on an analysis of the needs of entrepreneurs in Tajikistan and their specifics of doing business. In January 2018, she was on a working visit to Tajikistan to present and discuss the developed training course. The expert conducted trainings in Kulyab and Dushanbe for teachers of universities and business schools, including Kulyab State University, Tajik National University, the Russian-Tajik Slavic University, the Young Entrepreneurs Club of Tajikistan, business schools. Several business schools and universities are already planning to introduce the developed course into their curriculum.

Agreements were reached on the future cooperation of the Pushkin State Russian Language Institute with partners from Tajikistan, including the Russian-Tajik Slavonic University.





Satellite data and water resource availability and forecast (2 experts)



The main impact of climate change in Cuba includes increased hydro-meteorological disaster risk, lower availability and quality of water, and longer, more frequent droughts, especially in the summer. The importance of having reliable observations of hydrological states and fluxes becomes evident when considering the broad impact of droughts, floods, agriculture, and climate effects on water resources.

Two specialists from the State Research Center for Space Hydrometeorology "Planeta" undertook assignments and provided expert advice to Cuban colleagues on water resource availability and forecast. One focused on remote sensing through satellite images available in Cuba and provided a training on registration, processing, mounting and installation of tools or systems to systematically capture and process hydrological variables. The other focused on interpretation of satellite images for the management of hydrological resources and provided a training on monitoring and forecasting drought, mapping flood extent, predicting flood extent, identifying and monitoring water reservoirs.

Experts consulted the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources and its Provincial Delegations, specialists of National Meteorological Institute and researchers of the Centre for Hydraulic Research at the Havana University of Technology.





Renewable energy – rivers



The purpose of the consultancy was to advise the Cuban national counterparts on the updating of the opportunity study for hydroelectric development in Cuyaguaje River, in Pinar of Rio Province.

A Russian expert has completed his field mission to Cuba in July 2017. He has presented technologies for master planning of hydropower development: “Methodology for automated hydropower potential estimations: Dam siting for hydropower and water storage” and “Flood zone modeling and flood losses estimation using GIS and numerical hydrodynamic models”. Presentations were followed by a visit to the possible hydropower plant (HPP) site in Pinar del Rio province for two days. Previous studies on the river were performed in 1970-1990s. Due to the data limitation of the past studies the focus of the assignment has changed to collecting the data and using the methodology developed in Russia for hydropower potential estimation and comparing it with the previous data.

With the use of the geographic information system technology the expert has performed hydropower potential estimations and locating of HPP sites in the Cuyaguaje River basin. The data was collected and processed: hydrology, topography, restrictions, future consumers, infrastructure (roads, settlements). Recommendations on updating the feasibility study of HPP construction in Cuyaguaje River basin are currently used by the specialists of the HydroEnergia Cuba.





Energy efficiency at education buildings



The objective was share the Russian experience on energy efficiency measures in educational buildings and in cooperation with the Belarussian experts provide comparison of the effectiveness of the various energy efficiency measures implemented in the country.

A Russian specialist has provided the analysis of the energy efficiency measures that are widely implemented in educational buildings in Russia as well as their effects and comparison with those implemented in Belarus. In April 2017 the expert has presented the results of analysis on a special conference in Minsk and has provided consultations to the Belarussian experts.



Energy Management Systems in public sector



The purpose of the consultancy was to remove barriers and promote greater investment in energy efficiency in public sector (buildings and services) in Serbia through the introduction and support for the implementation of Energy Management Systems (EMS) in municipalities and other public entities.

A Russian expert discussed current situation with implementation of Energy Efficiency, Energy management and other related technologies during a four-day mission to Belgrade conducted on 15-19 October 2018 with various stakeholders (Ministry of Energy, Šabac municipality). He also overviewed current Russian experience and presented potential cooperation possibilities elaboration.

As an outcome the expert prepared Inception Report and came up with final recommendations on Serbian EMS and EA (Energy Audit) procedure's improvement. He came to the conclusion that it should be supported by means of enforced international dialogue between technical EE experts with the help of international donor organizations.

The expert's work received strong positive feedback both on governmental and UNDP Country office levels.



Energy management systems at municipal buildings



The task was to share with the Armenian colleagues the best practices from Russia in the area of city energy management system (CENMS) of municipal buildings.

A Russian expert delivered his presentations in June 2017 during the 2-day training session for the representatives of Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources, Ministry of Nature Protection, 16 mayors or representatives of urban communities of Armenia, financial structures, academia and educational institutions. Within the workshop, theoretical and practical principles of urban energy management and the Russian experience in energy management were presented. Besides, several practical tasks were provided explaining the main CENMS principles.

Within training program the expert provided the representatives from different municipalities of Armenian cities with the face-to-face consultations, including practical initial steps for CENMS model implementation. Expert has also provided recommendations for representatives from cities' administration in terms of prospective CENMS implementation.





Energy Management System implementation



Armenia seeks to systematically de-carbonize the existing building stock to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while achieving sustainable development benefits which requires the establishment of municipal Energy Management and Information systems - a commonly used mechanism for achieving sustainable and efficient energy consumption by public buildings in municipality.

A VAC Expert, supported the Project in establishment of municipal Energy Management and Information systems (EMIS) in Armenia. He analyzed the practical experience of the Energy Management System and EMIS implementation in Russia that could be applicable in public sector of Armenia. During his visit to Erevan from 12 to 15 March 2019 he participated in a Technical round-table discussion with relevant stakeholders. The expert also developed the Guidance presenting practical steps of municipal energy management system implementation in Armenia.





Training course for municipal energy managers



Municipal Energy Management System is a mechanism for achieving sustainable and efficient energy consumption by public buildings in municipality. The main aspect of successful ENMS and EMIS functioning is proper preparation and capacity building for local experts, which will be responsible to use all functionality of developed administrative and technical mechanisms. High quality training materials, based on exiting ENMS operation practice, are required for municipal staff responsible for Energy and resource efficiency. Thus, the knowledge sharing conducted in the train-the-trainers format is required to facilitate better adaptation of the proposed scheme to Armenian requirements.

An energy expert in BF Consulting, supported the UNDP-GCF Project “De-risking and Scaling-up Investment in Energy Efficient Building Retrofits” in Armenia by developing a set of training materials for municipal energy managers, prepared practical tasks and examination materials for the future use in the energy managers certification process. He conducted the training in Armenia for municipalities’ representatives during his visit to Erevan from 12 to 15 March 2019 and supported the project with recommendations for further dissemination development.

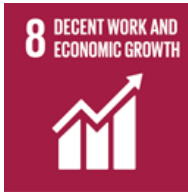


Energy management in buildings



Introduction of Energy Management System (EMS) in Serbia is seriously delayed despite the fact that legal framework is well defined, which requires significant additional effort and support is needed in order to make EMS fully operational in all public entities. In particular, there is a demand in trained professionals in energy management.

A VAC Expert, worked as an Energy management expert and developed the training course for identification and preparation of energy efficiency projects in buildings. He set out the methodology of the training course in a detailed report. Developed training materials are related to buildings energy efficiency standards, energy saving practices and energy management elements as well as financial calculation examples, relevant for public and other types of buildings in Serbia. According to the Ministry of Mining and Energy of the Republic of Serbia the training course will increase local capacity and knowledge level for the topics related to implementation of energy efficiency projects in buildings and promote greater investment in energy efficiency projects in building sector in Serbia.



Aid for Trade: Trade legislation



In 2013, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan adopted a Law “On trade and consumer services”. The Ministry of economic development and trade (MEDT) has been improving the Law and elaborating by-laws for its implementation. The inter-ministerial Working Group elaborated 5 by-laws that are under consideration at the government. The goal of the assignment was to provide recommendations to the Plan on improvement and development of trade, public catering and consumer services in light of implementation of Law on Trade.

A Russian expert conducted the analysis on Law on Trade and consumer services and its drafted by-laws. She provided both general recommendations and specific edits to the texts of the proposed by-laws, made a detailed item-by-item comparison of the Trade legislation of Russia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. She prepared her report on the basis of the analysis and results of the mission to Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The expert presented the findings of her analysis at the 2 days training for the MEDT staff on Russian Federation experience of Law on Trade and similar legislation. The expert also reviewed the Plan on improvement and development of trade, public catering and consumer services in light of implementation of Law on Trade and consumer services and provided her recommendations on improving the by-laws.

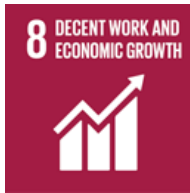


Strengthening trade policy capacity of Turkmenistan



Since 2014, lower hydrocarbon prices have continued to undermine Turkmenistan’s economic performance and Turkmenistan is targeting a gradual transition toward a more diversified, market-driven economy. Turkmenistan does not have a separate trade strategy document. The Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan expressed an interest to cooperate with the UNDP in the area of trade capacity development, including foreign and domestic trade.

A Russian expert has assessed the capacity needs of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan and defined concrete areas for strengthening its institutional capacity to define the country’s trade strategy. She has held meetings and in-depth discussions with the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan, the Trade Research Institute of Turkmenistan, the Chamber of Commerce and the Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists of Turkmenistan. Discussions focused on various aspects of trade policy formulation and implementation. As a result the expert has developed a detailed proposal for future capacity support to the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan (part of the Project Document for the future project).



Provision of consultancy on trade



The aim of the consultancy was to provide the recommendations on introduction of new type of services and improvement of existing one with possibilities taking into account local context and using Russian expertise and to conduct a 2-day workshop for interested parties on opportunities for introduction of new services including use of innovative technologies and applications.

From 26 to 30 November 2018 a Russian expert held a number of meetings, trainings and open lectures for young people, university students, representatives of the private and public sectors of the Khujand city of Sughd region 265 youth, 10 representatives of medium sized businesses and more than 15 representatives of public sector participated in these events where they discussed the role of digital technology in modern business, the global and national ecosystem of digital technology and consumer convenience.

As an outcome the detailed final narrative report indicating issues, lessons learned and recommendations for further institutional development of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sughd region was prepared and agreed with UNDP.





IT startups ecosystem



Despite of stable economic growth in recent years Tajikistan still remains one of the poorest countries in Eastern Europe and the CIS. The development of the IT sector carries a great potential for the Tajikistan's economy and reduction of youth unemployment. Considering average age of population in Tajikistan is 24 years old, Government of Tajikistan is willing to utilize young people's energy for the development of the country and in creation of job and income opportunities. However, Tajikistan still lacks a solid IT-base and needs to develop an educational base for growing of its own IT-specialists.

Head of Innovation Ecosystem Development Department in the Russian Venture Company, supported universities and IT companies in Tajikistan in response to the request of the Government of Tajikistan conducting a masterclass for young IT start-ups and participating in 5-days of Career Opportunities IT event. He also prepared a concept for a two-day workshop on IT start-ups in July 2018. Based on the desk review, the meeting with stakeholders and review of the international best practices of IT-sphere development, the expert also prepared a detailed report on lessons learned and recommendations for further institutional development of the IT sphere.



Technoparks within the universities of Sughd Region



Vice-rector for innovation activities of the Research Tomsk State University (TSU) visited the technoparks of eight universities in Tajikistan to give expert assessment and recommendations on their work and further development.

The experience of TSU turned out to be in demand and interesting for the universities of Tajikistan. To develop the entrepreneurial environment and support start-ups, the Innovative Technology Business Incubator operates in the TSU, and the Venture Fund is the first among Russian universities. In addition, in September 2018, it is planned to open an Entrepreneurship Center on the basis of the Institute of Economics and Management of TSU.

Based on expert's recommendations, the Technological University of Dushanbe has developed a local technopark: a production site for clothing design, a production line for pasta, a high-level computer programming and control of robotic systems. In cooperation with colleagues from TSU, according to the vice-rector, a number of successful and promising projects can be implemented. The parties agreed on signing an agreement on cooperation.

The Russian expert met with the leadership of the business space for young entrepreneurs Accelerate Prosperity Tajikistan and discussed the possibilities of increasing the number of start-ups in the field of information and communication technologies, technological entrepreneurship.





Digital economy



Turkmenistan faces challenges of digital economy development to turn into thriving innovative economy and improve the infrastructure and the quality of human capital.

A specialist from the Moscow School of Management Skolkovo has provided expert support to the development of the National programme on digitalization of the economy in Turkmenistan. UNDP held consultations and a working seminar with the stakeholders and main actors of the process, including the Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Communication, Central Bank, OSCE, Ministry of Education, Union of industrialists and Entrepreneurs, EU liaison office, Ministry of health and medical industry, Ministry of labor and social protection, Ministry of finance, Islamic Development Bank, State Statistics Committee, Institute of Strategic and Sustainable Development.

The expert has explained in detail the technology, mechanisms and advantages that the digitalization brings. “Digital economy improves the quality of life by allowing more efficient provision of social services, improves business and operational procedures, helps to diversify the economy, contributes to the development of the human capital and ensures international economic integration of the country,” explains the expert. Participants of the seminar paid special attention to the topics of transparency, personal security and identification of individuals, interconnectedness of various systems of personal and public services and artificial intelligence.

As a result of the meetings and a seminar, Russian expert prepared recommendations to the National programme and further work with the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan on improvement of the National programme. The National programme is expected to be launched in 2019 and will contribute towards implementation of SDGs in Turkmenistan.





Regional development



Academy of Public Administration under the President of Uzbekistan has undergone significant reorganization reforms in 2017. Based on the reorganization reforms there were made changes in the teaching curriculum with pilot introduction of several new compulsory and elective courses such as “Economic development of regions” and “Territorial development and strategic planning of regional development”.

A well known Russian expert on regional development, has reviewed the teaching curricula on “Economic development of regions” and “Territorial development and strategic planning of regional development” courses and provided comprehensive recommendations on further improvement of the courses. She also provided recommendations to prospective functioning capacity of Regional Development Center opened in the Academy.

During her trip to Tashkent, the expert has delivered a master-class training on regional policy and development, as well as curricular of the master programme. She has also prepared a training programme on regional development for two week and two days courses for mid-level managers of regional governments.





Urban planning



The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has adopted the Concept of the Regional Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for the period 2018-2022. The main goal of the regional policy is to ensure the accelerated socio-economic development of the regions of the republic. The Concept is aimed at the formation and economic development of "centers of regional development" and urban agglomerations and adjacent support territories.

Director of the Institute of Regional Studies and Urban Planning at the Higher School of Economics has provided methodological assistance to the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Institute for strategic studies in the development of business plans for the development of pilot settlements through the analysis of the socio economic development of regions. The expert has visited Kyrgyzstan, presented relevant Russian experience, provided support to a group of national experts on development plans of pilot cities, provided a report with methodological guidance.



City Resilience



The recently adopted Armenia Disaster Risk Management National Strategy considers Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Management as a defining characteristic for resilient societies, emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming DRR into all aspects of risk informed, sustainable development.

Chief Researcher at the Russian Scientific Research Institute of Civil Defence and Disaster Management (VNII GOCHS) has conducted assessment and presented best practices on city resilience to Armenian colleagues. The expert has also provided support with the development of resilient city concept based on existing best practices, formulated the Training Programme and agenda on Urban Resilience in close cooperation with Ministries of Emergency Situations of Armenia and Russia, conducted one-day training for the relevant Armenian ministries and local state authorities, introducing, in detail, the Russian practice.

The expert has formulated and submitted Armenia-Russia joint project proposal aimed at localization of Russian best practices and experience in Armenia.



Smart City



Local government officials and decision makers frequently must deal with different types of electronic data to supply information which is used to manage assets and resources efficiently, which includes data collected from citizens, devices, and assets that is processed and analyzed to monitor and manage traffic and transportation systems, power plants, water supply networks, waste management, law enforcement, information systems, schools, libraries, hospitals, and other community services. Hence, outlining key strategic directions for Smart city development for enhancing urban resilience in Armenia becomes crucial for the development of the country.

Advisor to Head of the Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation, conducted training on mainstreaming Smart City development components on municipal level, in public-private partnership initiatives jointly with the UNDP and Ministry of Emergency Situations.



Smart City



ICT solutions can play a significant role to improve cities, lower their carbon footprint and move towards a more sustainable way of using the resources. Solutions promoted by “smart cities” can generate valuable examples worth replicating. In Moldova, work is underway to create a fully operational and sustainable Green City Lab as the leading innovation, knowledge management and networking platform and a source of expertise for catalyzing sustainable low carbon green city development.

Head of Smart City Lab, Moscow, has shared Moscow experience with the colleagues in Chisinau. Expert has presented on Moscow’s experience with the implementation of ICT solutions and transition towards a Smart City, shared experience of setting up the Smart City Moscow Lab and its business model. He also prepared recommendations to the Moldova colleagues on the business model of the future Chisinau Green/Smart City Lab, including its name/brand and future positioning.



Cultural Heritage



Moldova is going through a difficult transition process in the sphere of culture, preservation of architectural and historical heritage, as well as the development of the tourism industry. Investments in the field of protection and preservation of cultural heritage in the country are mainly perceived as expenses, and the economic and tourism potential of the cultural heritage sector remains to be explored.

Head of the Center for Urban Planning Competencies, RANEP, conducted review of the existing situation in the Republic of Moldova in the area of monuments inspection and restoration, identified and developed effective and feasible measures for the protection and sustainable management of the cultural heritage. During the mission to Chisinau in January 2019 she conducted consultations with representatives of the Agency for Inspection and Restoration of Monuments of the Republic of Moldova. Based on the assessment, the expert came up with recommendations on the modernization of the legislative and regulatory framework in the field of immovable historical and cultural heritage and suggested the approach to the formation of core policies.





Tourism opportunities



Tajikistan noteworthy tourism potential is underutilized. Tajikistan is ranked 107th out of 140 countries in the Worldwide Travel and Tourism competitiveness survey. Tajikistan's tourism sector has substantial weaknesses on ICT readiness (mobile-broadband subscriptions, ICT use for biz-to-biz transactions, Internet users, etc.) and lacks quality tourist service infrastructure, especially in remote and mountainous areas. At the same time, Tajikistan has great potential to become attractive destination for various forms of tourism, such as mountainous, rural, cultural, eco-tourism.

Head of the Center for Territorial Marketing, NRU HSE, contributed to improving tourism industry in Tajikistan. He conducted practical consultations on the promotion of territories, attracting foreign tourists and held a number of meetings and consultations for the staff of the Committee for the Development of Tourism under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and local tourist organizations. The expert also gave open lectures to the youth and representatives of tourism organizations on promoting tourism opportunities in the city of Bokhtar. He conducted workshops on new tourism development trends, country and regional branding, the development of communication strategies and creative advertising campaigns in Dushanbe which will support Tajikistan in increasing tourist potential.





Innovative Technologies for Hazardous Waste Destruction



The assignment was part of a broader task to undertake removal of the packaged high concentration persistent organic pollutants (POP) waste material from Nubarashen burial site and 24 agrochemicals storehouses for environmentally sound destruction. The main task of the assignment was to provide technical-advisory support and expertise on application of environmentally sound, technically and economically feasible technologies developed and operating in Russia.

A Russian expert conducted a feasibility study on application of best available technologies (e.g. УПХ-500) for the Nubarashen POPs/OPs burial site which he visited in July 2017. He has also delivered a workshop for the Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Agriculture, Waste Research Center and other main stakeholders on technical principles used for design of waste incineration facilities. He provided technology schemes, technical features, fields of application, results of testing operations and necessary conditions for practical application of waste incineration facilities.

The expert provided POPs waste destruction technology options and drafted final recommendations and technical justifications. He has presented technical and economic estimates for the Nubarashen POPs/OPs burial site clean-up alternative scenarios.



Hydrometeorology capacity



Tajikistan has a challenging mountainous geography with severe climate conditions and isolated topography with old infrastructure. In such environment, vulnerability of societies to natural disasters increases. The main objective of the assignment was to support building capacity of Hydromet on severe weather data collection, providing accurate weather forecasting, identifying the early warning messaging modality.

Deputy director of the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Hydrometeorological Information - the World Data Center of Roshydromet, assessed the institutional and technical needs of the Tajikistan Agency for Hydrometeorology. The expert has also consulted on the weather forecasting methods efficiency used by Tajikistan Hydromet and visited some automatic meteorological stations to assess their operational capacity. On the basis of the analysis, the expert has provided a comprehensive capacity building strategy/plan, including the list of equipment to determine geophysical processes during the development of air mass and distribution of precipitation in the mountainous areas of Tajikistan.



Mainstreaming sustainable land and forest management in mountain landscapes



The forest cover of Republic of Armenia is not exceeding 11%, but has exclusive environmental and social significance due to its unique biodiversity. However it is already 30 years that, there is no nation-wide forest inventory to provide reliable statistics on country's forest resources and support sustainable forest management. The purpose of the consultancy was to assist in development of full-scale national forest inventory strategy and operational plan for Armenia.

During a week long visit a Russian expert has met with various stakeholders in Armenia, including Ministry of Nature Protection, State Cadaster Committee, Ministry of Emergency Situations, ArmForest. He has consulted Armenian colleagues on best Russian and international forest management practices.

As an outcome, the expert has provided recommendations on cost-effective and nationwide forest inventory methodology and organizational approaches applicable to Armenian realities based on research and experience of other countries and gap analysis of the current local practices in Armenia. He also has drafted project proposal for nationwide forest inventory in Armenia including realistic cost estimations for forest inventory unit with consideration of local specifics.



Cybersecurity capacity



The task was to provide expert's vision for the Strategy of cybersecurity in the Kyrgyz Republic, its Action plan, based on international practices (including Russian ones) and analyses of current situation in the Kyrgyz Republic.

A Russian expert has completed the field mission to Bishkek in May 2017, met with a range of stakeholders at the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic, State Committee of Information Technologies and Communications, Kyrgyz Association of Telecommunication Operators, JSC Kyrgyztelecom, Beeline KG, several businesses and other institutions.

As an outcome of the assignments, the expert has provided full scale proposals of the Strategy of cybersecurity in the Kyrgyz Republic, its Action plan and analysis of the international experience in development of cybersecurity doctrines. The documents are currently used by the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic in the law making processes.



Civil service reforms



Uzbekistan has carried out many reforms in economic, social and political spheres, in which the employees of state bodies have served as a main driving force. However, the civil service system remained largely unregulated with conflicting definitions of a civil servant, and a fragmented approach to recruitment and human resource development in civil service. As a result, staff turnover in some ministries and local administrations have gone up to 30-40% annually. In 2017 Uzbekistan Government has decided to adopt the Law “On civil service” and improve the civil service administration, rights and social guarantees of civil servants.

A Russian expert provided a thorough review of the draft law on Civil service of Uzbekistan. He also defined the scope of civil service laws in other countries (Russia, CIS countries, Czech Republic and others) with similar context to inform Uzbekistan partners on what such laws should regulate in principle. The expert has reviewed the draft law of Uzbekistan on civil service for its conformity/compliance with the ratified international human rights instruments and foreign laws regulating civil service and provided comments to the Articles in the draft law of Uzbekistan on Civil Service. His final report contained recommendations to improve the overall scope, content and provisions of the draft law on Civil Service.



Migration management



Migrants’ remittances in Kyrgyzstan are at the level about or above 30% GDP; by this indicator Kyrgyzstan is the second large recipient of remittances in the world after Tajikistan. Majority of migrant workers abroad occupy relatively low paid jobs in services (retail, catering, cleaning, utilities etc.) and construction in Russia and other countries. Migrants, especially those who stay outside Kyrgyzstan for a long period of time, become less integrated into the Kyrgyz society, remain outside of social security system at home. In order to strengthen their status in receiving countries, many people choose to change their citizenship.

A Russian expert has supported the Government of Kyrgyzstan including the State Agency on Migration to develop recommendations on economic instruments for the protection of the rights of the migrants. The consultant has undertaken a scoping mission to Kyrgyzstan and met with local stakeholders to prepare recommendations. During desc research and building on his experience as the Head of the Center for Demography of the Institute of Social and Political Studies, the expert has assessed the contribution of Kyrgyz migrants to the economies of the main recepiet countries. The expert has outlined main issues and challengies with respect for rights of migrants and has provided recommendations on how to improve the management of the migration system to improve the conditions of migrants.



National accounts (2 experts)



Assessment of housing services allows to take into account the virtual income of citizens, i.e. income not in monetary terms, but in the form of absence of potential costs, such as rental housing. According to international norms, it is important to take these data into account, as they affect GDP accounting. As Turkmenistan is updating the system of national accounts 2008, expert advice was needed on how to transition to assessing housing services in accordance with international methodology. As Russia has made a similar transition and uses similar data for calculations, Rosstat experts were invited to share Russian experience and methodology.

Two Russian experts presented at a training on modern standards for assessing housing services in the system of national accounts. The seminar was held with the participation of employees of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Finance and economy, the Central Bank and the state Committee on statistics of Turkmenistan. Kadyr Kadyrov, Deputy head of the SNA of the state statistics Committee of Turkmenistan noted that the cooperation was fruitful for implementing international standards.

Within the framework of the three-day visit, the experts also held meetings with the leadership of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on statistics, held consultations for the staff of the Office of national accounts.





Public – private partnership capacity building



The Government of Tajikistan has implemented substantial work for the development and promotion of public – private partnership (PPP), including adoption of the Law of PPP and creation of the Center for implementation of public and private partnership projects under the State Committee on Investment and State Property Management of the RT. The main task of the consultancy was to provide recommendations on PPP development based on the Russian experience.

A Russian expert reviewed current institutional set up of PPP process in Tajikistan, had meetings and consultations with PPP Center and Investment Committee, presented experience of Russian Federation on PPP projects implementation at a special workshop and drafted recommendations on improving current institutional set up of PPP process in Tajikistan, including possible initiatives of the PPP Center.



National Statistical Capacity Building for SDGs and SNA implementation



On 20 September 2016, the Government of Turkmenistan formally adopted the SDGs and is working on establishing a comprehensive follow-up and review framework to track the progress towards their achievement. Turkmenstat expressed an interest to strengthen statistical capacity for SDGs and System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008 implementation. The purpose of the consultancy was undertake a scoping mission to Turkmenstat to define concrete areas for strengthening statistical capacity for SDGs and SNA 2008.

A Russian expert made a desk review of the existing materials, including Turkmenstat self-assessment, reports on SDGs indicators mapping and design of the measurement system and other materials related to SDGs nationalization. He conducted consultations with Turkmenstat and relevant stakeholders to define the scope of the joint project in statistical capacity building for SDGs monitoring and SNA 2008 implementation and as a result provided substantial inputs for the future project document on SDGs statistical capacity building.