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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

**Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development**

Fifth session, 12 and 13 February 2004

Sub-item 4.1 of the provisional agenda

**Assessing the relevance of the programme of work for 2003-2004**

Note by the secretariat

**Introduction**

1. The present note summarizes the results of the UNECE secretariat's survey, which attempts to assess the relevance of the current programme of work of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8). The survey was conducted during the summer of 2003 through a questionnaire, which was distributed to the Government bodies of member States responsible for industry and enterprise development programmes, as well as to other WP.8 stakeholders – industrial associations, labour unions, private companies and academia, which participate in the activities of WP.8 and events, organized under its auspices.

**Questionnaire**

2. The questionnaire reproduces the headings of the WP.8 work programme by programme element and by executive body (team of specialists) entitled to implement the programme element in question (see Annex). These entries needed to be assessed as “highly relevant”, “relevant” or “irrelevant”. In view of the secretariat, this double-checking would permit to assess the relevance of a programme element as such and compare it with that of the practical activities of its implementing body (team of specialists).

## Major results

3. The secretariat received 29 replies to the questionnaire from 15 member-States and one international organization (EBRD). The following countries participated: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Slovenia and Ukraine. Of the total of 29 replies, 20 were replies from Governments and 9 from other stakeholders – civil society associations and private companies. In a number of cases several replies were received from Government bodies of the same country, and the total number of questionnaires returned exceeds the total number of participating countries. As many as 7 replies assessed the relevance of only some programme elements and/or Teams of Specialists.

4. The aggregated data on replies received are presented in Table 1. From this, one can see that the majority of respondents assessed the elements of the WP.8 programme as “highly relevant” or “relevant”: for all programme headings their combined number exceeds 22 (out of total of 29).

5. “Industrial Restructuring” programme element followed by the “Activities of the TOS on Industrial Restructuring” and “Women’s entrepreneurship” obtained the largest number of “highly relevant” marks (respectively, 25, 24 and 18), while respectively 2, 3 and 8 respondents assessed these headings as “relevant”.

6. When both “highly relevant” and “relevant” marks are summed up, the “Activities under the TOS on Quality Management Systems”, “Activities under the TOS on Women’s Entrepreneurship” and “Digital Economy Development” have the same scores of 25 each, although the distribution of “highly relevant” and “relevant” marks is different for each entry. The other program elements and activities obtained lower scores of 22 or 23.

7. While the number of “irrelevant” marks is small, one can note that each of the following entries received two of those: “Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation (Youth Entrepreneurship)”, “Activities under the TOS on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation” and “Chemical Industry Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development (CHEMISEED)”.

8. When extracted from the overall body of replies (Governments plus other stakeholders), the sample of replies by member-Governments follows the general pattern of assessments, giving the highest ranking to the same activities as all respondents taken together. One also notes that as compared with the whole population of respondents the Governments are more conservative in their assessment: relatively more activities are qualified as “relevant” as opposed to “highly relevant”. Along the same lines, all the “irrelevant” marks were put by Governments.

## Conclusions

9. The number of observations being too small, one would abstain from detailed comparisons and far reaching conclusions on the relevance of individual programme elements. This being said, the limited sample of replies attests to the fact that the WP.8 stakeholders generally assess its programme as relevant for member-countries, and, given the geographical composition of respondents, for transition economies in particular. Further refinement of the WP.8’s work programme in the interests of the majority of member-countries would require consultations with Government representatives and other parties involved in the activities of the Working Party.

**Table 1**

**Replies to the Questionnaire on the relevance of the WP.8's programme of work**

Activities	All replies			Governments			Other		
	HR	R	IR	HR	R	IR	HR	R	IR
Industrial Restructuring	25	2	0	18	1	0	7	1	0
Activities under the TOS on Industrial Restructuring	24	3	0	17	2	0	7	1	0
Chemical Industry Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development (CHEMISEED)	15	7	2	11	5	1	4	2	1
Activities under the TOS on CHEMISEED	15	7	1	11	5	1	4	2	0
Quality Management Systems (QMS)	18	5	0	11	5	0	7	0	0
Activities under the TOS on QMS	17	6	0	11	5	0	6	1	0
Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation (Youth Entrepreneurship)	17	8	2	9	7	2	8	1	0
Activities under the TOS on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation (Youth Entrepreneurship)	15	7	2	7	7	2	8	0	0
Women's Entrepreneurship	18	8	1	11	6	1	7	2	0
Activities under the TOS on Women's Entrepreneurship	16	9	0	11	7	0	5	2	0
Digital Economy Development	16	9	0	10	7	0	6	2	0
Activities under the TOS on Internet Enterprise Development	16	7	0	10	6	0	6	1	0

**Legend: HR – highly relevant; R – relevant to a certain extent; IR – irrelevant**

**Source: questionnaires returned by member States**

## **Annex I**

### **Questionnaire**

#### **1. Programme Title: Industrial Restructuring and Sustainable Industrial Development**

##### **1.1 Sub-programme Title: Industrial Restructuring**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

##### **Activities under the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring (TOSIR)**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Comments:**

#### **1.2 Sub-programme Title: Sustainable Industrial Development – Chemical Industry Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development (CHEMISEED)**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

##### **Activities under the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Comments:**

#### **1.3 Sub-programme Title: Quality Management Systems (WMS)**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Activities under the Team of Specialists on QMS**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Comments:**

**2. Programme Title: Development of Entrepreneurship**

**2.1 Sub-programme Title: Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation (Youth Entrepreneurship)**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Activities under the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation (Youth Entrepreneurship)**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Comments:**

**2.2 Sub-programme Title: Women's Entrepreneurship**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Activities under the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Comments:**

**3. Programme Title: Emerging knowledge-based economy**

**3.1 Sub-programme Title: Digital Economy Development**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Activities under the Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development (TSIED)**

highly relevant       relevant to a certain extent       irrelevant

**Comments:**