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Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development

Sixth session, 10 and 11 February 2005

Sub-item 4.3.2 of the provisional agenda

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Progress Report

1. The fourth Meeting of the Team of Specialists (TOS) on Youth Entrepreneurship was held on 12-13 February 2004. The meeting adopted new Terms of Reference of the TOS focusing on youth entrepreneurship development.
2. The participants in the Meeting expressed a desire to continue its activity in the following areas:
 - Review of national policies on youth especially integration of youth and entrepreneurship policies;
 - Development of cooperation amongst national youth organizations in the UNECE region especially in sub-groupings;
 - Development and creation of youth entrepreneurship development centres in CIS countries;
 - Review of security issues of youth;
 - Collect best practice in school business and prepare publication on this issue;
 - Development of legal basis for social entrepreneurship, collect best practices in this field;
 - Develop match-making of needs and possibilities in youth entrepreneurship.
3. The TOS contributed to the organization of a two-day Training Workshop on “The Development of Entrepreneurship and the SME Sector in the Republic of Moldova” which was held in June 2004 in Chisinau. The following made voluntary contribution to travel and make

presentation and consultations with parliamentarian, high-level policy-makers, experts and NGOs:

- Ms. Sonia Heptonstall: Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs: Microcrediting & Social Enterprise;
- Ms. Rachel Golden: Overcoming Obstacles to Growth and Development;
- Ms. Krisztina Takacs Floreano: The Importance of Entrepreneur-Education in Economic Growth;
- Mr. Tomislav Bogdanic: Creation of Moldavian Entity within the World Youth Bank System and Match-Making of Youth-related Economic.

4. The TOS on Youth Entrepreneurship contributed to the creation of an Association of Youth Organizations called "International Youth Centre - IYC". This organization, registered by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 28 April 2004 under ? 2086, comprises National Youth Committees and youth organizations of the CIS countries plus Latvia. The basic goals of IYC are to assist in:

- (a) the development of youth organizations of the CIS countries and other states;
- (b) the coordination of their activity; and
- (c) their integration in the international youth movement.

5. The preparation of the following sub-regional projects are under way:

- Creation of the electronic international youth newspaper IYC;
- Development of youth business in countryside;
- Creation of the Youth Resource Centres;
- Organization of an information network of national youth associations; and
- Development of an international exchange of information and young people between youth organizations which are included in the IYC structure.

6. IYC intends to participate in international youth events in St.-Petersburg (Russian Federation), Polotsk (Belarus), and also in the 3rd World Festival of Youth to be held in Barcelona (Spain).

7. The Entrepreneurship for Youth Empowerment – EYE, an international project initiative with Headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland), has been developed from the activities and recommendations of the Team of Specialist. It aims to become an advocacy coalition of interested parties –from Governments, civil societies as well as from the private sector – who share an interest in economic growth and sustainable development through education and entrepreneurship, with the specific aim of youth employment and youth inclusion. The Inauguration meeting of EYE took place in 27 September 2004 in Lausanne (see programme at <http://www.educationhumanitas.org/EYE.html>).

8. In cooperation with the World Youth Bank (WYB) Network, the TOS decided to start a Project on "UNECE match-making of needs and requirements of all stakeholders in youth prosperity". The objective is to promote, empower and implement "Good governance capacity-building" in all UNECE member countries. The "Match-Making" beta version is posted on the

WYB web-page at <http://www.w-yb.org/unecematchmaking/index/php>, aiming to be operational in 2005.

9. The Bureau of the Team of Specialists TOS provided assistance to the development of a Project proposal for the creation of a Belarusian Youth Entrepreneurship Development Centre – one stop shopping for youth.

10. The Working Party WP.8 may wish to consider the status of this sub-project in the light of the recommendation of the WP.8 Enlarged Bureau to initiate a new programme on entrepreneurship and enterprise development.
