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ETHIOPIA, JUNE 1

UNIDO LAUNCHES THE FIRST HUB IN ETHIOPIA TO SUPPORT CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Ethiopian Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoTI), the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), UNIDO and the Federal Small and Medium Manufacturing Industry Promotion Authority (FeSMMIPA) have inaugurated the "Creative Hub Ethiopia". The Hub has been realized within the framework of the UNIDO project "Phase 2 (Extension) of the Technical Assistance Project for the Up-Grading of the Ethiopian Leather and Leather Products Industry" financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

The Creative Hub has been designed with the intent to foster innovation and economic development by promoting creativity, digitalization and knowledge sharing. The facilities – located within FeSMMIPA premises in the heart of Addis Ababa – have been equipped with advanced machineries and include co-working areas, laboratories and a coffee space. The Hub will enable a wide range of services to designers and innovative entrepreneurs such as seminars and workshops, trainings, prototyping techniques, social events, and networking sessions. Moreover, it will offer the possibility to access to digital instruments (such as 3D printers, laser cutters, digital library etc.) and will encourage digital payments with the newly-launched "Telebirr".

The Creative Hub Ethiopia puts creativity at the centre of every decision-making process, as a key to understanding and interpreting the global market and its evolutions. It will be a suitable platform for existing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as well as operators (especially women-owned companies, operators in design, leather, fashion, textile, others) to promote products development, sales activity and services, as well as to experiment new solutions and sharing experiences.

The contribution of the new generations is of paramount importance for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and rapidly re-inventing a "new normal", fostered by the digital transformation and knowledge sharing.

Source: <https://tii.unido.org/>

SAINT PETERSBURG, JUNE 2-5

EXPERTS VOTE FOR THE TRANSITION TO A "GREEN" ECONOMY AT THE SPIEF-2021

On June 2, on the sidelines of the SPIEF, Sergey Korotkov took part in a round table within the framework of the business program of the St. Petersburg International Environmental Forum on the topic "Issues of the transition to a green economy."

The organizers of the round table are the Committee for Nature Management, Environmental Protection and Environmental Safety of St. Petersburg and ANO "Ravnopravie".

Among the participants were:

- Aleksey Mayorov, Chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Agrarian and Food Policy and Environmental Management;
- Natalya Sokolova, head of the section "Ecology and environmental protection" of the expert council under the profile Committee of the Federation Council, chairman of the board of ANO "Ravnopravie";
- Denis Belyaev, Chairman of the Committee for Nature Management
- Maxim Lapin, Chief Financial Officer, Member of the Management Board of the Moscow Exchange;
- Dmitry Aksakov, Vice President of VEB.RF Corporation;

- Denis Shulakov, First Vice President of Gazprombank;

- Vadim Kulikov, Head of the Project Group of the International Fund for Technological Development of the International Bank for Economic Cooperation and others.

Alexey Mayorov, Chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Agrarian and Food Policy and Environmental Management, in his speech drew attention to the implementation of the Ecology national project in the framework of achieving the national development goals of the Russian Federation. Thus, indicators for the regions have already been formed, as well as mechanisms for attracting funds to achieve them have been identified. In addition to budget financing, Mr. Mayorov noted the need to attract large investors and enterprises to regional environmental projects.

Experts agreed that green financing can solve a number of problems in the long term, including providing the region with a comfortable and safe environment through the inflow of additional financial resources, creating additional jobs, and strengthening measures to prevent man-made accidents.

Natalia Sokolova noted that at the moment in Russia there is practically no practice of attracting green finance to regional projects. To consolidate efforts in this direction, experts regularly gather at the negotiating table, and the result of this event within the framework of SPIEF-2021 will be a Public Resolution on Environmental Protection and Ecological Development of the Russian Federation. The resolution will combine the initiatives and proposals of the participants in environmental activities to improve legislation and state policy in the field of environmental protection. A public resolution is sent to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and specialized federal authorities.

Natalia also noted the prospects of using private investments with state participation - a concession agreement or a public-private partnership as an option to raise funds for environmental projects.

Sergey Korotkov spoke about the experience of the UNIDO Centre in the Russian Federation in the implementation and implementation of international "green" projects. An important current project of the Center - Environmentally sound regulation and final destruction of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the enterprises of Russian Railways and other owners. This project aims to create mechanisms for the safe disposal of PCBs in the framework of Russia's fulfillment of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

"The focus of UNIDO is new technologies and inclusive sustainable industrial development," Korotkov said in his speech.



Dmitry Aksakov spoke about the fact that WEB.RF is developing a taxonomy of green finance in Russia. VEB.RF has almost ready a taxonomy of "green" financing in Russia; he noted "green" guarantees for VEB.RF loan products as one of the important instruments.

"Only 4% of our economy in its composition corresponds to the principles of taxonomy," said Denis Shulakov. The first vice-president of Gazprombank believes that it is necessary. In his opinion, it is necessary to create a "league" of green companies that will attract investors, as well as to change the mindset regarding "green" financing using a scientific approach.

At the end of the meeting, Natalya Sokolova said that all proposals and ideas will be presented to

the Federation Council in the framework of the meeting of the section "Ecology and Environmental Protection" on June 25. The ecologist believes that constructive proposals can form the basis of legislative initiatives for the development of green financing for projects in the regions of Russia.

AZERBAIJAN, JUNE 9

UNIDO SUPPORTS INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN AZERBAIJAN

Seeking to advance key development areas allowing a smooth transition to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), Azerbaijan is looking for ways to transform its economy with an increasing emphasis on building innovation ecosystems, ensuring technological learning, supporting the job market transformation and providing educational services that meet the emerging demands for new professional skills.

UNIDO supports the Innovation Agency of Azerbaijan by convening international experts for technological learning and skill boosting innovation. The UNIDO project "Development of an innovation ecosystem and support infrastructure, including a Digital Education and Innovation Centre in Azerbaijan" builds on best practices in developing innovation ecosystems, as well as support infrastructure to enhance the competitiveness of local enterprises. In addition to fostering knowledge transfer, one of the project's main focuses is leveraging strategic partnerships among the public and private sectors, as well as with academia, improving access to the necessary technical resources.

As part of its entrepreneurial ecosystem support initiative with the financial support of the Government of Slovenia, UNIDO and the Innovation Agency of Azerbaijan, held webinar series to share experiences by Slovenian experts from the public and private sector across thematic areas, such as key ingredients of a successful start-up community, impact of each player on a start-up

ecosystem, government support to start-ups and entrepreneurs, e-Health ecosystems, multifaceted business strategy development and marketing.

Drawing on diverse expert and knowledge pool, which is continuously expanded during such e-learning initiatives, the project will establish the Digital Education and Innovation Centre (DEIC) that will become a knowledge hub designed to host specialized webinars on 4IR technologies, smart energy, climate change mitigation, circular economy, industrial safety and security, developing skills for the 4IR and overcoming professional gender gaps.

Source: <https://tii.unido.org/>

MOSCOW, JUNE 18

SCHNEIDER GROUP HELD A WEBINAR ON EU'S GREEN DEAL, EMISSION REDUCTION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WESTERN BUSINESSES IN RUSSIA

On June 18, the Schneider Group webinar took place online, where experts from various industries discussed the future for Russian companies in the reality of EU's Green Deal

Part of European Green Deal policy, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism will put a carbon price on imports of certain goods from outside the EU. Exporters to Europe will have to pay additional tax, based on the amount of carbon emitted during goods production. For every Russian business, exporting to EU and not meeting European carbon-emission standards, this means potential competitiveness loss because of rising cost.

Experts from Schneider Group, TMK, PepsiCo and UNIDO discussed the risks for various industries in Russia caused by the potential introduction of a carbon tax and possible support measures from the Russian government as part of the transition of local producers to fit new green standards.

A PepsiCo representative shared the company's experience in reducing industrial emissions.

The main speakers of the event were:

–Ekaterina Kalinina, Head of Real Estate and Regulatory Practice, Schneider Group;

–Sergey Korotkov, Director of the UNIDO Center for International Industrial Cooperation;

–Mikhail Popov, Vice President, TMK;

–Alexander Grishkov, Senior Director for Sustainable Development in Russia, PepsiCo;

–Christoph Spank, Head of Marketing Research, Schneider Group.

MOSCOW, 23 JUNE

TRANSEUROPEAN CENTRE HELD AN ONLINE CONFERENCE ON AUTOMATED INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS MONITORING

On June 23-24, an online conference was held on the topic “Experience of equipping enterprises with automatic systems for continuous monitoring and accounting of industrial emissions. Solutions for the automatic control and regulation of industrial pollution”.

The event was organized by the Trans-European Centre for Trade and Finance. The centre specializes in the development of professional contacts for industrial and investment cooperation between Russia, Kazakhstan and other countries of Eastern Europe and Great Britain.

During the conference various engineering and consulting companies from Europe and Russia shared their experience in the field of monitoring and assessment of industrial emissions, limit standards and air quality control.

Director of the UNIDO Center for International Industrial Cooperation Sergey Korotkov made a

presentation on the topic “Digitalization: Development of Technologies for the Benefit of Sustainable Development. UNIDO Approach”.

In his speech, Sergey noted that, according to UNIDO reports, ADP technologies, when applied to industrial production, offer enormous potential for economic growth and improving human well-being, as well as protecting the environment and achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

According to UNIDO, in the global volume of patents granted for advanced digital manufacturing technologies, only 10 countries have an above average market share. These countries are (in order of market share): USA, Japan, Germany, China, Taiwan, France, Switzerland, United Kingdom, South Korea and the Netherlands. Together, they account for 91% of all global patent families. They account for almost 70% of exports and 46% of imports in the world.

“In Russia, the digitalization of industry as a whole is proceeding at an average pace, it is quite possible to achieve competitive advantages. One of the reasons for the low rates is a shortage of personnel; engineers, as a rule, have a traditional, conservative education”, said Mr. Korotkov.

MINSK, JUNE 29

UNIDO IS READY TO LAUNCH A PILOT PROJECT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF BELARUS'S TRANSITION TO THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION TECHNOLOGIES

The draft agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and the Skolkovo Foundation is in the final stage of approval. This was announced on Tuesday by the First Deputy Minister of Economy of Belarus Yuri Chebotar.

“At the final stage is the approval of the draft agreement between the Ministry of Economy and the Skolkovo Foundation on cooperation in the field of innovative, digital and cluster development.

We hope that it will be signed in the near future”, - Mr. Cebotar said at a section meeting on the role of digitalization in the formation of a single scientific and technological space of the Union State at the VIII Forum of the Regions of Belarus and Russia.

He noted that the project provides the startups the opportunity to use the services of expertise, information support, market promotion, search for partners to place orders, as well as consumers in commercialization projects among the industrial partners of the fund in the Skolkovo fund.

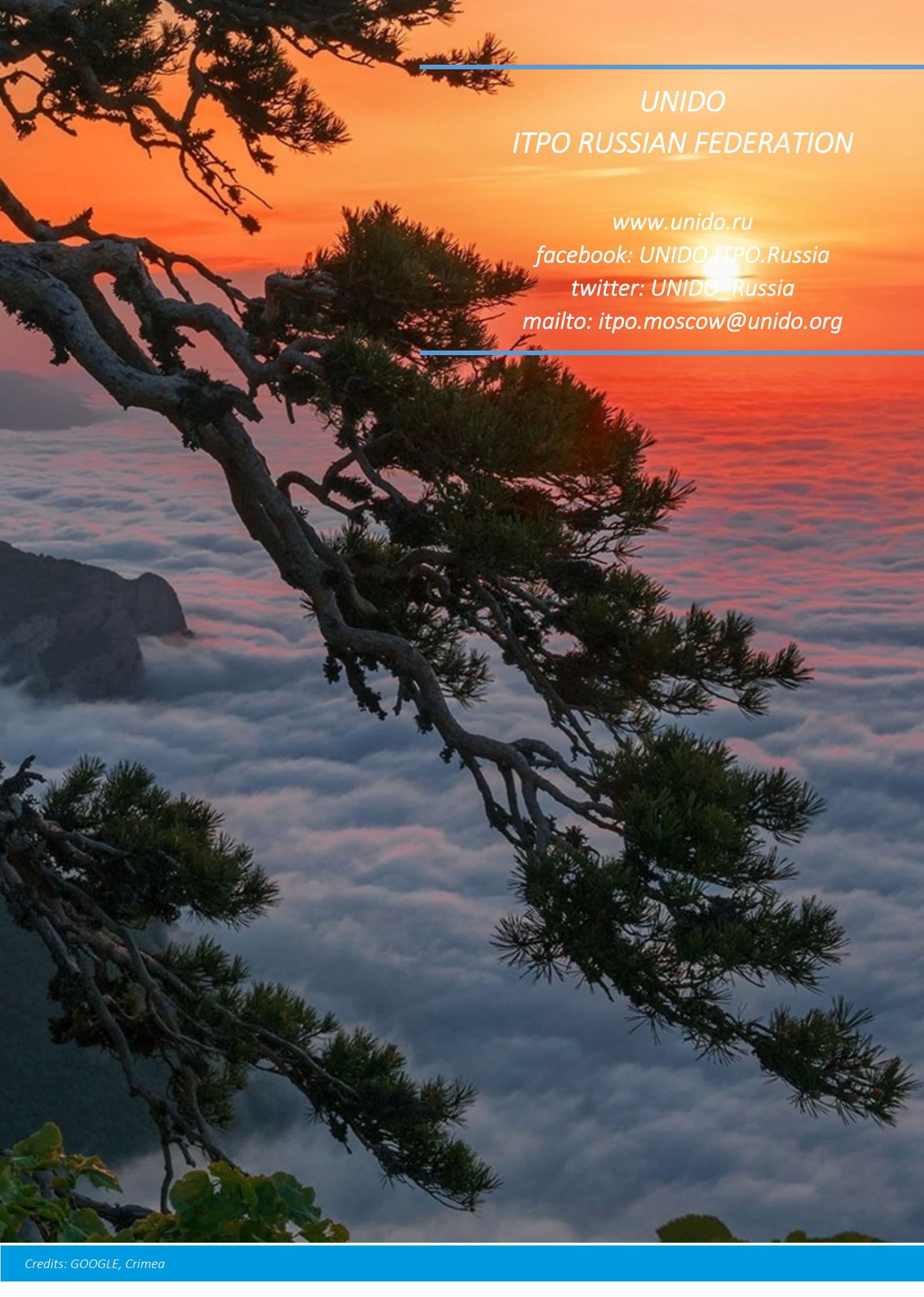
“Today, our countries need a matching innovation and production potential, we need to go further in the implementation of joint projects”, - Mr. Cebotar said.

According to him, the Ministry of Economy, in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Cooperation Organization is implementing a project that is designed to contribute to ensuring the transition of Belarus to the technologies of the fourth industrial revolution. The project provides for the creation of a pilot demonstration center for the development of a smart industry on the basis of a technopark in Brest.

“It is pleasant to note that Russia was the donor of this project, the budget at the first stage amounted to \$ 1 million, of which \$ 400,000 will be allocated for the purchase of equipment. It is expected that the commissioning of the center will take place in 2022”, - Mr. Cebotar said.

According to him, the Ministry of Economy expects that the center will become an important platform for cooperation with the Skolkovo Foundation. According to him, then the project can be "scaled" to two regions bordering on the Russian Federation - Mogilev and Vitebsk regions.

Source: <https://www.finanz.ru/>



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