The Economic Analysis and Policy Division (EAPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) implements a multi-country multi-year project, to strengthen national capacities for using macroeconomic modelling tools for analyzing development policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Project is funded by the 2030 Agenda Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund (PDF).

United Nations

DESA

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Jointly building Belt and Road towards the Sustainable Development Goals

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Using Macroeconomic modelling tools to achieve SDGs

Background
The scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda requires an intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of all the SDGs and targets, bringing all actors together. The achievement of the SDGs will depend on the concrete actions, including strengthened international cooperation, taken at global, regional, national and subnational levels, by all the stakeholders.
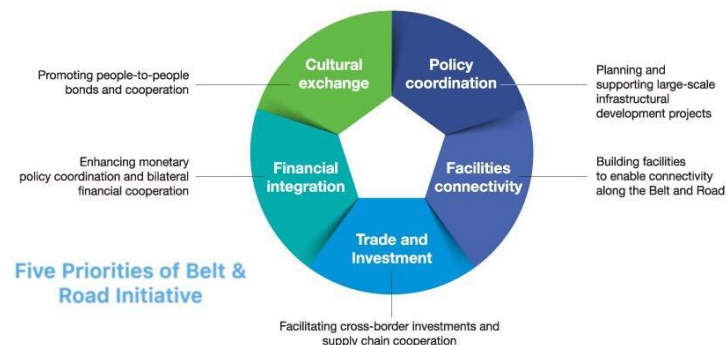
The project activities focus on training of policy-makers and technical staff to enhance their analytical capacities in designing coherent and integrated macroeconomic, social and environmental policies and promoting the achievement of the SDGs. Analytical and modelling tools, tailored to country needs, will be used to facilitate the implementation of capacity development activities and strengthen the capacity of policy makers to integrate macroeconomic, environmental and social policies, in national development strategies for achieving the goal of poverty eradication and other SDGs, under the broad context of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Objective
The Project aims at strengthening the capacities of the policymakers in the countries along the Belt and Road for assessing the potential effects of the Belt and Road for the achievement of the SDGs, and formulating appropriate policies to maximize the potential benefits and manage the potential risks. To this end, the Project will focus on:

– Establishing an institutional network among the countries along the Belt and Road for research on the economic, social and environmental effects of the cooperation activities under the Belt and Road, and on national and cross-county policies to promote and harness these activities for the acceleration of the SDGs;

– Promote capacity development and assists interested Governments in translating the suggested policy options into programmes at the country level and help build national capacities, through policy dialogues at national, regional and global levels.

Expected Accomplishments

– Strengthened capacities of national policy-makers and officials to analyze and formulate more integrated policies, including through the use of modelling tools, such as the enhanced World Economic Forecasting Model;

– Strengthened and deepened engagement for policy analysis and policy dialogues among the policy-makers and experts from the participating countries along the B&R, including engagement with international organizations.

Five Priorities of Belt & Road Initiative

Tools

Macroeconomic Tool: World Economic Forecasting Model (WEFM)

Quantitative Methods: Data Collection and Validation

Partners
The Project will be implemented in close collaboration with national stakeholders and UN country teams in participating countries as well as relevant international organizations.

– Country level: with relevant government offices, UNCT and think tanks

– Regional and global level: Regional Commissions, UNDP, UNCTAD, etc.

Major Deliverables

– Developing modelling tools for each participating country through adjusting and recalibrating the WEFM country models;

– Building national capacity by organizing dissemination/training workshops on the use of modelling tools and quantitative methods at the national level;

– Organizing policy dialogues and exchanges at national, regional and global levels based on the modelling outputs and the deliberations at national and regional level workshops;

– Facilitating national voluntary presentations on the B&R Initiative and SDG outcomes in various multilateral forums;

– Producing and disseminating two project reports, which document the technical analysis and appropriate policy options for the B&R Initiative in connection with the SDGs, to further inform policy-makers and facilitate decision-making at national and regional levels.