

ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER)

ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER) was established at its 1st meeting held on March 1, 2010. It deals with carrying out various economic researches.

One of the EPSCER's key responsibilities is to develop and periodically review the ECO Plan of Action (PoA) on Economic Research. The initial PoA was based on the four pillars: Pillar 1: Development of the "ECO Economic Development Strategy"; Pillar 2: Integration of ECO Member States via economic research by way of brainwave; Pillar 3: Implementing the ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP) and Pillar 4: Provision of accurate analytical economic publications to the ECO's high level decision making bodies.

EPSCER at its second Meeting held on November 7, 2012 along with the 1st meeting of the Editorial Board of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) adopted a decision to initiate the ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP). The main goal of the latter Programme was set forth to resolve prolonged implementation of sectoral projects in Directorates of ECO Secretariat. Such step was meant to enable sectoral Directorates to involve in action-based projects with practical demonstration impact, rather than research projects.

The 3rd meeting of EPSCER was held on August 20-21, 2013 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan.

During 2013-2014, the Members of the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER) were able to: (i) analyze, (ii) provide academic citation and peer review, (iii) issue certificates of confirmation of abstracts/articles/papers and, (iv) confirm the selection of 80 economic research papers out of the total number of 300 academic papers initially submitted to ECO Secretariat. The EPSCER Members were also able to sit through all scientific panel sessions of the ECO Economic Forum with the objective to select the finalist 10 awardees from aforementioned 80 papers that received detailed deliberations during the three days' Forum proceedings (September, 2013). The authors were granted Certificates of Awards signed by ECO for "*ECO Best Economic Research*" and valuable gifts on behalf of the Organization. The papers of the finalist awardees, discussed and selected by the ECO Economic Forum, were then published in the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ).

On December 7, 2021 EPSCER held its 6th meeting to consider acute issues relating to the ECO regional economic research. It discussed policy and regional strategy support to the ECO's core activity areas, including Transport & Communications, Trade & Investments, Energy, Minerals and Environment, Agriculture & Industry, Human Resources and Sustainable Development and Tourism.

The 7th meeting of EPSCER is expected to be held in 2024, since previously it was postponed several times due to various reasons.

Any query regarding Economic Research and Statistics may be forwarded to asanov@eco.int.