



REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS COOPERATION MECHANISM (ROC-TF)

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ONGOING PROJECTS

- **UN Development Account Project: Evidence-based trade facilitation measures for economies in transition**

Objective: Strengthen national capacities of selected economies in transition in the UNECE region to implement evidence-based trade facilitation measures for better integration into the international rules-based trading system.

Target countries: Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Georgia, Rep of North Macedonia

Key results to date: During the first year, training material with a focus on streamlining formalities) was prepared. One beneficiary country, Ukraine, established a National Trade Facilitation Committee and received training from the project on streamlining formalities and documentary

Upcoming activities : Training seminar on development of benchmarks for measuring progress in TF based on Rec 4.2 TTFMM

ONGOING PROJECTS (2)

- **Project: Enhancing Transparency and Traceability for Sustainable Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector (2019-2022)**

Objective: The overall objective of the EU funded action programme is to improve working conditions and achieve more sustainable production patterns in the global garment and footwear value chains.

Specifically, the UNECE project is to enhance the transparency and traceability along the garment value, as part of improving the due diligence process by private sector actors.

Targets: A global framework for traceability in textile and leather value chains is adopted in 2021 and implemented by at least 1 country and 4 companies by 2022.

Transparency and Traceability Tool, is implemented and operational in at least 3 countries and with 25,000 factories /suppliers by 2022

ONGOING PROJECTS (3)

- **Project - Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into international rules-based trading system**

Target countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

- **Project: Strengthening the capacity of the Kyrgyzstan National Trade Facilitation Council to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (Late 2019-2021)**

Objective: Strengthen the national capacity of Kyrgyzstan to develop an overall strategy and roadmap for effective implementation of priority measures under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

Activities:

- Develop national TF roadmap
- Organize capacity-building workshops for NTFC
- Development of training materials in Russian and Kyrgyz languages
- Development of online portal for NTFC

UPCOMING PROJECTS (2)

- **Building Cross-border cooperation for sustainable trade in the SPECA subregion: Using innovative approaches for the advancement of regional trade (2020-2023)**
- **Objective:** Address the need to review trade practices and build regional cooperation among the landlocked developing countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to align cross-border trade in the subregion to relevant SDGs and targets
- **Target countries** (tentative): Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- **Activities:** (1) analyse business processes for the export of selected (2-3) products with a specific focus on identifying how a switch to international trade based on the respect for sustainable development through specific policy action can affect profitability of business in the SPECA subregion; (2) analyse and propose new products (crops) that can affect positively both trade relations (business efficiency) and sustainable development in the region.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

- **Project- Strengthening the capacity of governments to accelerate the transition to the circular economy for sustainable and inclusive growth within the UNECE region**

Outcomes:

- Improved knowledge of policymakers in the UNECE region on policies, regulations, approaches to the circular economy and existing gaps that hinder application of the circular economy;
- Enhanced capacity national government agencies to implement circular economy approaches and ascertain compliance with national commitments and criteria for advancing such approaches.
- **Target countries:** Serbia, Georgia, Belarus or Moldova, Kazakhstan or Tajikistan

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 34th UN/CEFACT Forum, London, UK 28 October – 1 November 2019
- UN/CEFACT Conference on Single Window- sharing implementation experiences and best practices, 29 October
- UN/CEFACT Conference on Facilitating data exchange – the role of Web APIs, 30 October
- International Conference on UN/CEFACT e-business Standards and UN/LOCODE, 25 - 28 November 2019, Xiamen, China
- Third meeting – UN/LOCODE Advisory Group, 27-28 November 2019, Xiamen, China

OTHER AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Adoption of the [Gender Responsive Standards Declaration](#) which is applicable for any standards body (Currently only India, New Zealand and Thailand have become signatories among the ESCAP membership)
- Establish a contact point for matters related to standards, quality infrastructure and regulatory cooperation matters. This is especially relevant in view of the second part of the “Standards for the SDGs” project due to start later this month
- The project foresees the organization of 2 high-level events and 4 national/regional workshops on the topic of “Standards for the SDGs” and gender responsive standards
- Explore synergies with ESCAP and others– for example these workshops could be held back to back to other regional planned events

THANK YOU

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