

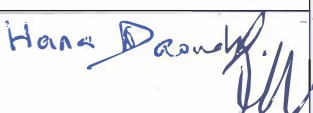


MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	Independent Review of the UNECE Project: “Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic”		
Period of Review:	1 May 2016 to 31 October 2018		
Date of Evaluation Report:	19/02/2019		
Approved by	Chief, Programme Management Unit Catherine Haswell	Date	Signature
		10/05/2019	
Cleared by:	OiC, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli	10/05/2019	
Prepared by:	Manager of the evaluation Hana Daoudi	10/05/2019	

Recommendation 1

The project will remain relevant as the three beneficiary countries continue their process of regulatory harmonisation and expanding their network of global partners. UNECE could consider this model to be a pilot project that could be rolled out to other countries in future

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation. It will share the experience gained with member States and use this project as a reference model when designing similar projects.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

- Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section is sharing the results of this project with member States, as part of the annual session of the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (<http://www.unece.org/trade/meetings.html#/0/0/0/39818>). Representatives from the three countries were invited to share their experience during the 2018 session and will be updating member States on follow-up activities and emerging needs during the 2019 session, scheduled to be held on 28-29 May in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Mika Vepsäläinen, Market Access Section will reiterate UNECE’s readiness to roll out the project in other countries during the 2019 annual session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards. A similar statement will also be made by UNCTAD.

Recommendation 2

Upon request from member states, UNECE should stand ready to review the content produced by the project and ensure it is both up to date and compliant with MTS requirements on a regular basis.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation. Ensuring the sustainability of the project results beyond the international funding cycle.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Hana Daoudi, UNECE Market Access Section is in discussion with UNCTAD to ensure that the three countries will have access to UNCTAD's new software for enabling communication between government agencies. The software will be launched during the second half of 2019.

Recommendation 3

UNECE could check that trainees have submitted their certificates prior to travelling to workshops

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. UNCTAD's online training course about UN Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) non-tariff measures (NTM) classification system and data collection is available in English only. As some national experts do not have a strong command of the English language, obtaining the certificate would be of limited value. The experts were advised to take the training course to gain a broad understanding before the intensive 3-day training that was organized in Geneva at the early stage of project implementation. The training was delivered in Russian and the material was translated into Russian.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Hana Daoudi, UNECE will check, within the context of future training activities, that trainees submit their certificates before the face-to-face training in circumstances where the experts have good command of the English language.

Recommendation 4

UNECE could assist organising trainees to set up a self-managed and closed social media group in 2019 and nominate a group administrator. This initiative requires no further financial input.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation. The work and organization leading to the establishment of a self-managed and closed social media group needs to be based on the experts' initiative.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section stands ready to advise on the thematic issues that the group needs to take into account during the first few months to ensure information sharing and continuity of group discussions. This recommendation will be shared with the group for their consideration and decision on action.

Recommendation 5

Sending the experts to UNCTAD training workshops will help them to share knowledge more widely on practical issues. Further cross-collaboration within the UN is an option that should be further explored by UNECE. UNECE should continue to create synergies between projects.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation. This recommendation is important for ensuring that the national experts are kept abreast of new developments in the field and for expanding their collaboration with counterparts in other countries. UNECE is also collaborating with UNCTAD under other projects.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Hana Daoudi, UNECE Market Access Section will keep experts informed of UNCTAD training activities of direct relevance to the three beneficiary countries and UNECE countries with economies in transition. UNCTAD will participate in the UNECE regional training workshop, to be held in November 2019 under the UNDA 10th tranche project by Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section.

Recommendation 6

The inclusion of business and the media before, during and after the policy reform process can lead to increased ownership of new policy regulations. More communications by the media in cooperation with market support institutions in future UNECE projects about its tools and output would increase use by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women traders, for example.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation. Governments tend to prefer publicizing reform results, including projects, upon successful completion. This was the case of the three beneficiary countries.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Hana Daoudi, UNECE Market Access Section will, as appropriate, encourage Governments to publicize project activities during the implementation phase.

Recommendation 7

UNECE can continue to support governments by using annual progress reports, the Steering Committee or roundtables to document progress.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section has organized the participation of representatives from the three beneficiary countries at the upcoming Steering Committee session (28-29 May 2019) to brief member States on follow up activities and emerging needs.

Recommendation 8

This is the first collaboration of its kind between UNECE and UNCTAD and could be further developed.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation. UNECE is constantly seeking to expand this collaboration.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Hana Daoudi, UNECE Market Access Section and UNCTAD are pooling efforts to assist Georgia in implementing key recommendations emerging from the UNECE study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. The recommendations pertain to further consolidating trade facilitation and maritime transport development. A joint paper will be presented to the Government during the second half of 2019

Recommendation 9

In late 2018, following the close of the project, a mandatory gender field has been added to all UNECE projects. Therefore, future projects should clearly present the gender perspective in both its planning and evaluation.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section will ensure that future projects feature, under a separate section, an analysis for ensuring proper targeting of female traders, enterprise owners, managers and policy makers.