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**Unit**



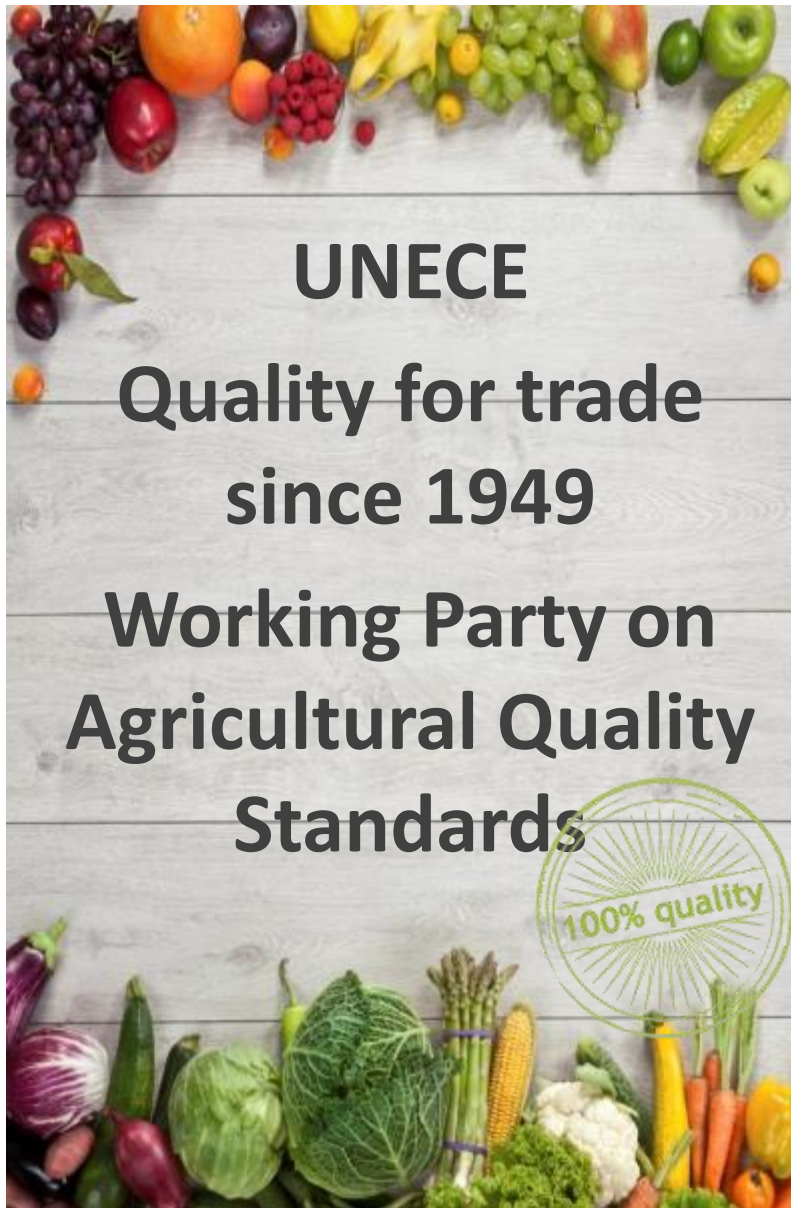
# **Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)**



**CEFACT Plenary session**

**3 April 2017**  
**Palais des Nations**

# Four Specialized Sections developing marketing standards for



- 🍏 **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** (56 standards; Lists of Varieties; Explanatory Guides for Sweet Peppers, Pineapples, Chilli Peppers, Persimmon)
- 🍏 **Dry and Dried Produce** (28 standards; Guides for Walnuts and Dried Chilli Peppers; Colour Gauges)
- 🍏 **Seed Potatoes** (1 standard; Guides to Seed Potato Field Inspection; Guide to Seed Potato Diseases, Pests and Defects)
- 🍏 **Meat** (16 standards, plus 2 **egg** standards)

# Some figures

**In 2016 UNECE managed an active pool of 600 experts (with a further 1000 on consultative lists)**

- Organized **5 regular meetings (Geneva)** (total attendance 220)
- Organized **2 training workshops and a technical meeting** with 180 (past 8 years – trained over 1800 experts)
- Organized **2 advisory missions**
- Published **23 new standards in 3 languages**
- Organized **3 special events**



**Carried out 2 case studies:**

- BPA dried grapes – Uzbekistan
- Pre-shipment Food loss and impact of standards study Kenya

**Started new work on:**

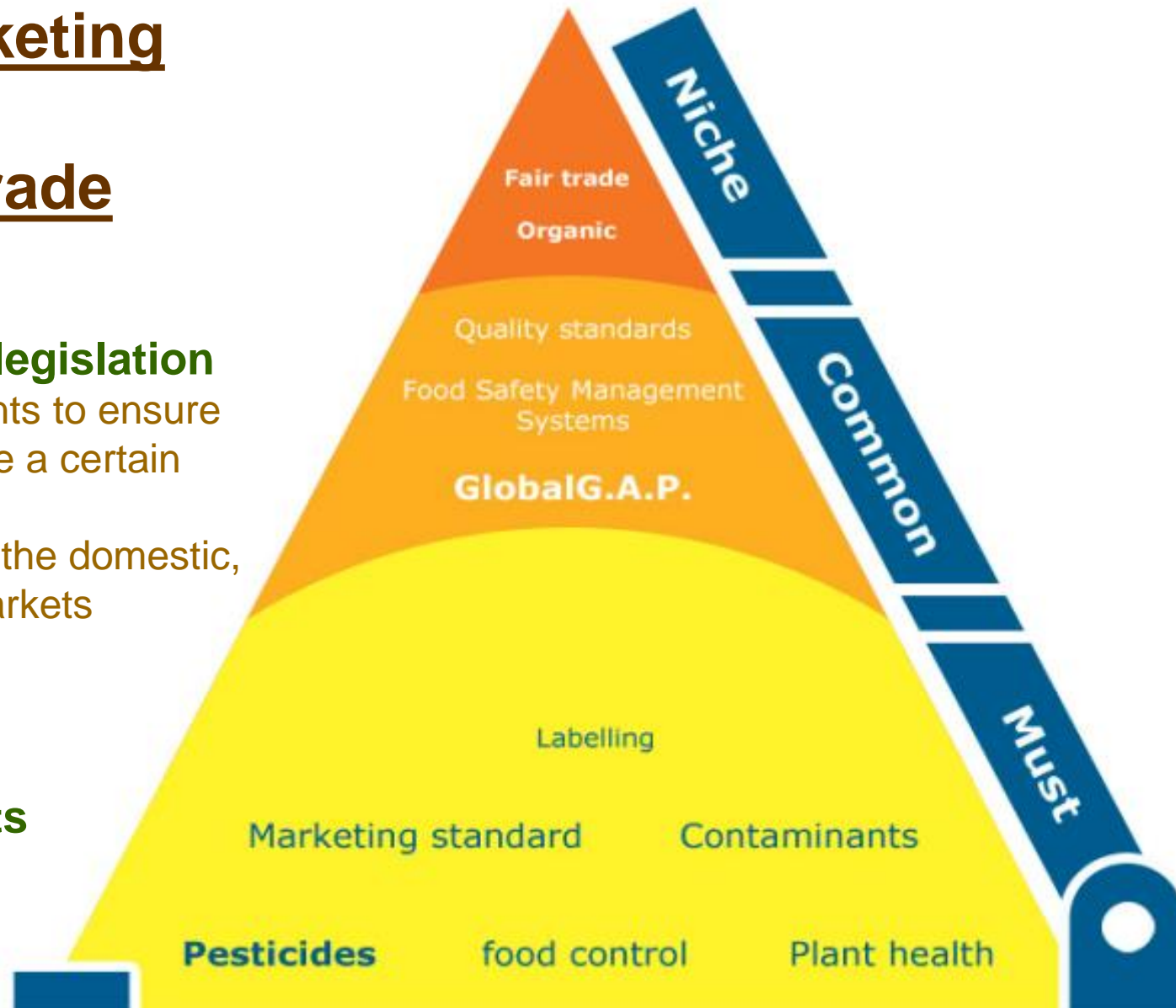
- Food loss related to quality standards
- Eating quality
- Traceability labelling requirements and marketing standards

# UNECE standards are voluntary marketing standards for international trade

## incorporated into national or regional legislation

- As export requirements to ensure that the produce have a certain quality level
- As a requirement for the domestic, export and import markets

## incorporated into commercial contracts



# Training at inspection points – ports and inspection points

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# AGRICULTURE TRADE FACILITATION IN GREECE

TRADE



**Developed a strategy for agriculture exports with simplified and automated procedures**

**Step 1: Analysing supply chains for agriculture exports**

**Step 2: Implementing key projects for Agriculture Trade Facilitation**



## The Result:

Adopted - Approved trader scheme

Adopted - Automated risk based control in agriculture exports

### Physical Controls:

YEAR

2012



2015

NUMBER

59.599

22.310

# Traceability Discussion Group

## Working Party 7

TRADE



## UNECE labelling requirements the code mark discussion

- UNECE's agricultural quality standards require products to be marked with the
  - **name and physical address of the packer and/or dispatcher/shipper** (or **optionally a code mark** officially recognized by the national authority),
  - the name of the product/variety, and the country of origin (optionally district), as well as the class and size of the product. (see examples)
- As long as **traders are known and trusted = ok**, but
- **Problems:**
  - fraud
  - **officially recognised code marks sometimes difficult to verify**
  - Labels not always fully legible



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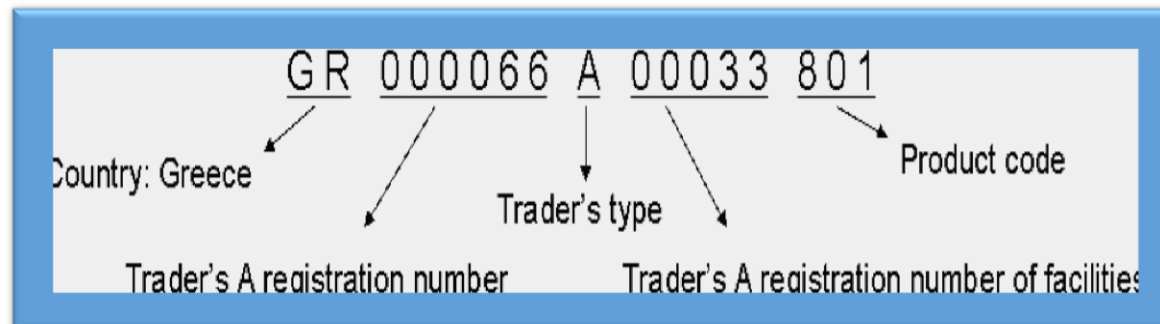
# Traceability Discussion Group

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## Officially recognized code marks



# Traceability Discussion Group

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Discussions centred around following issues:

- A Global Registry for Inspection/Certifying Agencies, which issue code marks
- The possibility of harmonizing the existing code marks (and eventually developing a harmonized code mark system)

# Traceability Discussion Group: Key Points

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Preliminary results:

- **Support for the establishment of a registry at the UNECE for national inspection/certifying agencies, which issue code marks.**
- No support for developing a harmonised system of codification (too **complicated** and very **challenging** for the national agencies to change the existing national codification systems for harmonization. It requires time, money and will receive opposition from current users; **national priorities may differ**)
- **No support for codification and harmonization of** company/batch/lot/items

# Traceability Discussion Group: Key Points

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- Next Steps:
  - Finalization of the Recommendations from the Discussion Group
  - Collection of Case Studies on Traceability

# Meetings and Training workshops 2017

Working Party 7 (5 annual sessions; 6 training workshops)



**TRADE**

- **Training: Sustainable cross-border trade Balkans and Greece, Thessaloniki, 22-24 March 2017**
- Annual session: Seed potatoes: 29-31 March 2017**
- Annual session: Fresh Fruit and Vegetables 2- 5 May 2017**
- **Training: Cross border cooperation, Fergana Valley, Tajikistan, May 2017**
- Annual session: Dry and dried produce: 5-7 July 2017**
- **Training: Cross border trade Fresh Fruit Central Asia, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 10-14 July 2017**
- **Training: Cross border trade- meat: August 2017, Dublin, Ireland**
- **Training: UNECE-OECD-ESCAP Sustainable Agriculture Trade, Indonesia, September 2017**
- **Training: International workshop – cross border agriculture trade (meat and e-certificates) – Nanjing, China, September 2017**
- **Technical meeting: Seed potatoes – Netherlands, September 2017**
- Annual session: Meat: 6 November 2017**
- Annual session: Working Party: 7-8 November 2017**
- Sustainable Development goals and standards conference: 7 November 2017**



**THANK YOU  
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# UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers

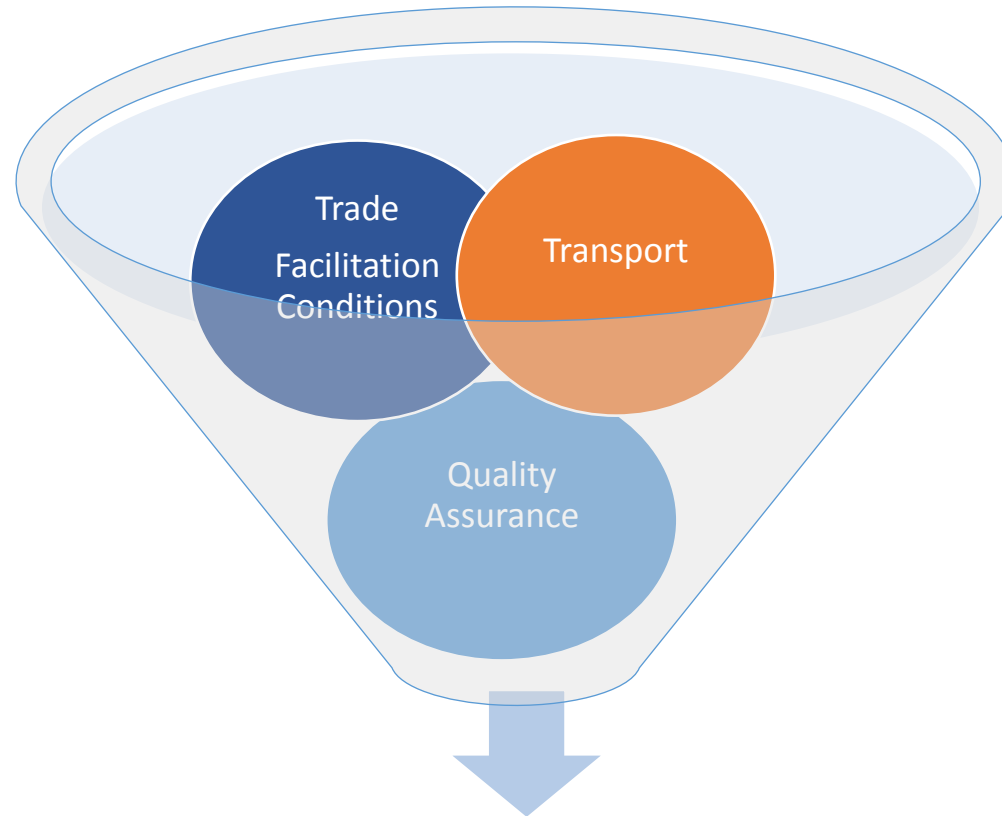
- **Scope:** behind and at border regulatory and procedural trade barriers
- **Evidence based:** face-to-face interviews with supply chain players, using actor-oriented questionnaires
- **Participatory approach:** close consultations with national stakeholders
- **Implementation:** Belarus (2011), Kazakhstan (2012), Tajikistan (2013), Kyrgyzstan (2014), Albania (2015), Republic of Moldova (2016), Serbia (to be launched in 2018), Georgia (to be launched in May 2017) and Armenia (launching date to be decided).

<https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/studies-on-regulatory-and-procedural-barriers-to-trade.html>

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



# Behind and at the border Horizontal analysis



**Cost of trade  
financial and time wise**



# Horizontal analysis



## Information Sources

### Secondary

Previous studies

Laws, policy documents  
and government  
decisions

Development plans

### Primary

Face-to-face interviews:  
Representatives of national  
authorities & trade support  
institutions

National authorities

Logistics service  
providers, transport  
operations, trade and  
enterprise support  
associations

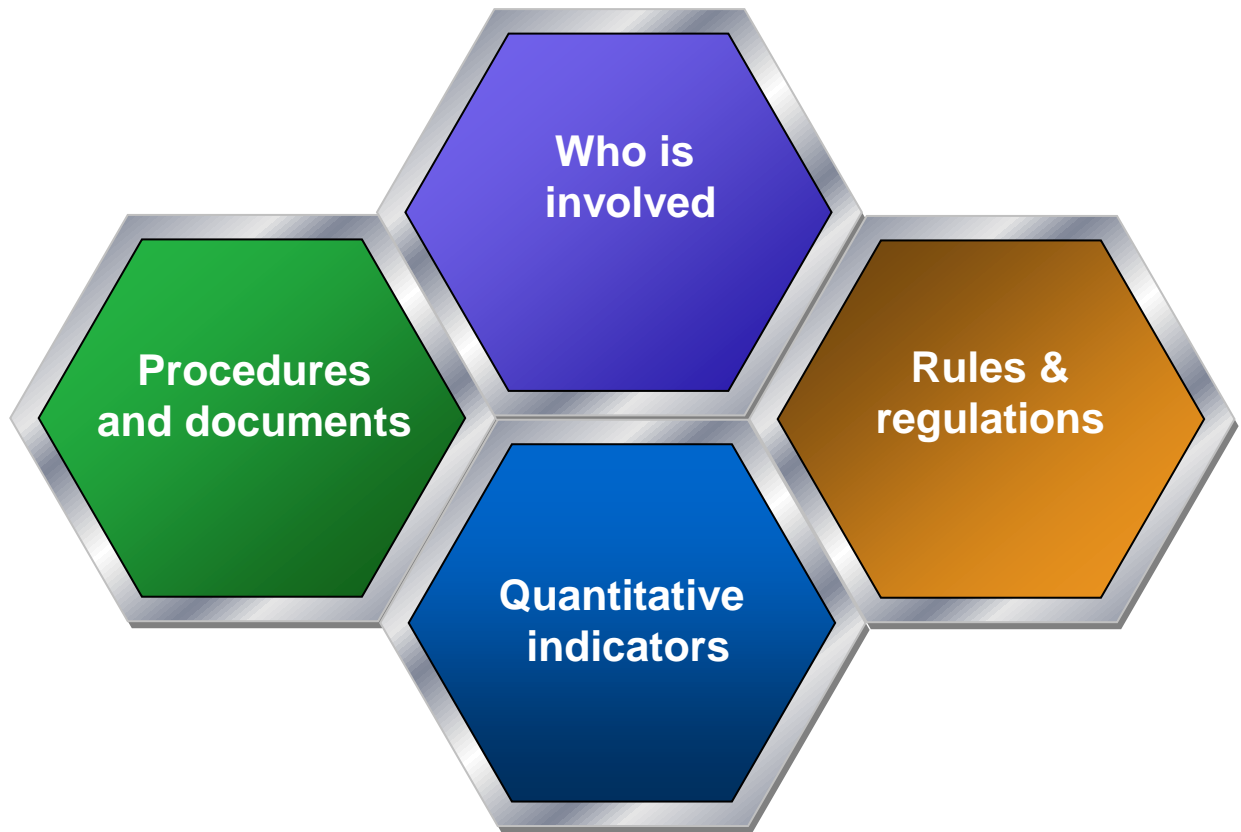
### Primary

Face-to-Face interviews:  
Traders from priority sectors

Traders engaged in lead  
sectors , with a special  
focus on those  
representing small and  
medium enterprises.

# Business Process Analysis

Only products that appear (based on the results of the horizontal analysis) to have the most cumbersome procedures



# Findings and issues of relevance to CEFACT

- The WTO trade facilitation agreement: the risk of fragmenting reforms around distinct areas while limiting the scope of trade facilitation reforms
- Whole-Government approaches (e-governments ) and Single Windows.
- The growing necessity , in light of SDGs) of mapping the development implications of trade facilitation measures (beyond the transaction cost argument)