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Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Twenty-fifth session

Geneva, 2 (pm) - 3 December 2015

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work

Intersessional implementation plan for the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization policies

Submitted by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. During the first meeting of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards from August 31 to September 2 the Draft programme of work of the trade subprogramme for 2016 -2017 (ECE/CTSC/2015/7) was endorsed and recommended it for approval to the UNECE Executive Committee.
2. The following outputs/activities are to be delivered during the biennium 2016-17 by WP.6:
 - (a) **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies**
3. Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies
 - i) *Substantive servicing of meetings*
Annual sessions of the Working Party (6 half-day meetings)
 - ii) *Parliamentary documentation*
Reports of the Working Party (two reports); set of documents for the annual sessions of the Working Party, including reports of the ad hoc team of specialists on regulatory techniques and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (approximately 14 documents);

(b) Other substantive activities

Non-recurrent publications

- (i) Guide on education on standards-related issues (1)
- (ii) Guidelines on best practice in market surveillance (1)
- (iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits
- (iv) Information kit on standardization policies (1)
- (v) Explanatory videos on agricultural standards, trade facilitation and regulatory issues (2 videos)
- (vi) Technical material
- (vii) Maintenance of the website providing meeting documents, publications and other information on activities related to the subprogramme (2)

(c) Technical cooperation

- (i) Seminars to support the implementation of standards, recommendations, and guidelines on data harmonization, single window, trade facilitation and policy issues in general

II. List of planned activities and outputs of WP.6 in 2015-2016

4. Within this broad mandate, the Secretariat proposes to undertake the following activities:

Outreach

- Develop and maintain a knowledge management system on WP.6 activities and corresponding update of website and procedures of preparing, organising and storage of documents on both the local network and on the website
- Prepare and disseminate 2 newsletters on current developments

Meetings

(a) To prepare and service the 26th Annual Session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation

- (i) 14 documents
- (ii) 6 half day meetings
- (iii) Reporting

(b) Support the work under the sectoral initiatives:

- (i) Earth-moving machinery
- (ii) Explosive environments
 - Revision of the CROs
 - Development of Market surveillance guidelines
- (iii) Telecoms
- (iv) Pipelines

(c) To prepare and service the 14th MARS Group Annual meeting [in Turkey] (timing and location to be confirmed).

Overall purpose: Promote an integrated and coherent approach to market surveillance based on best practices and international standards, with a special emphasis on best practices for countering sub-standard and counterfeit goods, exchange best practices between the region's MS authorities, etc.

- Identify and invite the Market Surveillance Authorities of at least 10 UNECE member States.
- Organize 4 webinars (February, March, April and June 2016)
- Update the online database on MS (<http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/marsdbase.html>),
- Update to the information on global and regional market surveillance networks
- Finalization of the Market Surveillance Model initiative
- Reporting

(d) To prepare and service 6 webinars of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM):

Overall purpose: To develop guidance and best practices on establishing regulatory frameworks for addressing the risks that confront consumers, citizens and communities.

- To collaborate with ISO/TC 262 and ISO/TC 292 in developing work on disruption related and supply chain risks.
- Identify and involve regulators in the group's work: in particular Chief Risk Management Officers
- Finalize a recommendation aimed at improving consistency of risk management legislation.
- Develop guidelines for regulators to use when assessing risks

(e) To support the activities of the STARTed Group on "Education on Standards-related issues"

Overall purpose: Bringing the toolbox of standards to Universities and higher education institutions

- To organize one meeting of the STARTed Group
- Continue the cooperation with the League of European Research Universities and the University of Geneva

(f) To promote and advocate for the use of standards in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

- Liaise with the ISO TC 262 on "Risk Management"
- Participate in the development of new and revision of existing standards under the ISO/TC 262
- Contribute to UNECE and UN-wide initiatives on SDG implementation and support the participation of standards organizations
- Contribute to the work of the UNECE task force on "Energy efficiency in buildings"

(g) To promote and advocate for the use of standards in the context of the implementation of the Sendai Framework of Action

- Liaise with ISO/TC 292 on "Security and Resilience"
- Act as co-coordinator of a task force on "Cooperation with UN Agencies"
- Participate in the development of new and revision of existing standards under the ISO/TC 292
- Review and summarize existing standards that are relevant for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for action
- Contribute to the UNISDR Guide on "Words into Action" on standards

(h) Participate at the 48th annual meeting of Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC), during the second half of 2016 (date /location to be confirmed).

- (i) Cooperation with the World Trade Organization: WP.6 will participate in all the meetings of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement in 2016 and provide updates on its activities at each of them.
- (j) Cooperation in the OECD initiative on “Fostering the contribution of international organisations to better rules of globalisation”
 - Participation in the research on how the governance of international organization affects their decision-making and impact
 - Participation in one meeting per year
 - Development of a case study on UNECE governance structure
- (k) Contribution to the work of the E15 initiative on “Strengthening the global trade and investment system for sustainable development”, specifically the task force on “Regulatory coherence”
 - Participation in 2 meetings
 - Finalization of a thinkpiece on Regulatory Cooperation
- (l) Continue the cooperation with U-Penn University on the Project of “Regulatory excellence”

III. Publications and on-line collection of best practice

- 5. Non-recurrent publications:
 - (a) Revised Recommendations on “Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies”
 - (b) Educational modules under UNECE model programme on education on standardization
 - (c) Guidelines on best practice in market surveillance
 - (d) Wikihow on Regulatory cooperation in English and Russian
- 6. Promotional Material
 - a) Information kit on standardization policies
 - b) Explanatory videos on agricultural standards, trade facilitation and regulatory issues

IV. Additional resources being sought

- 5. Given additional resources, the Working Party will:
 - Develop a wiki-based online tool in regulatory cooperation and technical cooperation area (alike the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide at <http://tfig.unece.org/index.html>) enabling information sharing and educating public in main principles, work areas and achievements behind WP.6 work.
 - Develop capacity-building for governments and in mainstreaming the use of standards in the management of disaster risks
 - Respond to requests for capacity-building by member states
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