

**External evaluation of the project “Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic” (February 2019)**

**Final Progress report on 31 December 2019**

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Date of implementation/comments
1	<b>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</b>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 (<a href="http://www.unece.org/trade/meetings.html#0/0/0/39818">http://www.unece.org/trade/meetings.html#0/0/0/39818</a>). 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.</li> <li>Mika Vepsalainen, 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.</li> </ul>	Mika Vepsäläinen, Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section	<p><b>Implemented in May 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The results of the project were shared with the member States during the SCTCS 2019 annual session: (i) representatives of the three beneficiary countries reported on project achievements and follow-up activities to sustain achievements beyond the international funding cycle under agenda item 8b presentations are available at: <a href="http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50609">http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50609</a> (ii) Project evaluation report were shared with member States under agenda item 8 (b).</li> <li>The secretariat reported, under agenda item 8b, that discussions were underway with UNCTAD to ensure Kazakhstan's and Kyrgyzstan's access and use of the software that was being developed by UNCTAD to enable countries to update the NTM legislation published on UNCTAD TRAINS (see report of the meeting, paragraph 57).</li> <li>UNCTAD expressed readiness to roll out the project in other ECE countries under agenda item 6 (see report of the meeting, paragraph 46)</li> </ul>
2	<b>Upon request from member states, UNECE should stand ready to review the content produced by the project and ensure it is both up</b>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation. Ensuring the sustainability of the project results beyond the international funding cycle.</p> <p>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</p>	Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section	<p><b>Closed as of 30 June 2019</b></p> <p>Actions have been taken to ensure implementation in a follow up project. UNECE has handed over the information to UNCTAD at the end of the project and stand ready to further participate in another project,</p>

<p><b>to date and compliant with MTS requirements on a regular basis.</b></p>	<p>communication between government agencies. The software will be launched during the second half of 2019.</p>		<p>should the request be made by member States.</p> <p>UNCTAD will work closely with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to ensure access and use of the software that was being developed by UNCTAD to enable countries to update the NTM legislation published on UNCTAD TRAINS. Ensuring such access will involve a follow up project, which will be implemented by UNCTAD (lead) in cooperation with UNECE (support) upon receipt of explicit requests from the Governments</p>
<p><b>3 UNECE could check that trainees have submitted their certificates prior to travelling to workshops.</b></p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. 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.</p>	<p>Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section</p>	<p><b>Closed as of December 2019</b></p> <p>No similar projects have been implemented in 2019. Should similar projects be launched, UNCTAD and UNECE will integrate the submission of certificates as part of the training course requirements</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation. 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.</p>	<p>Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section</p>	<p><b>Implemented in May 2019</b></p> <p>Representatives of the three countries did not raise this need during their interventions at the 2019 annual session of the Steering Committee or during their discussions with the secretariat.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation. 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.</p>	<p>Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section</p>	<p><b>Closed as of December 2019</b></p> <p>UNECE and UNCTAD decided to pool efforts under the UNECE regional training workshop that was scheduled to be held in November 2019. The workshop was to be held as part of the UNECE-led United Nations Development Account Project, and was to focus on evidence-based tools for measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals (SDGs). The said workshop was not held due to the UN</p>

<p>UNECE should continue to create synergies between projects.</p>			<p>financial issues.</p>
<p>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 &amp; Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women traders, for example.</p>	<p>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. Hana Daoudi, UNECE Market Access Section will encourage Governments to publicize project activities during the implementation phase.</p>	<p>Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section</p>	<p><b>Implemented during 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2019</b></p> <p>The decision to publicise the results of the project is up to the Governments. Both Kazakhstan and Belarus decided to publicize the results of the project in May 2019 as part of their reporting on project achievements to the annual session of the Steering Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The press release by Belarus is available at: <a href="http://www.ecopress.by/ru/news/8/detail/237472/back.html">http://www.ecopress.by/ru/news/8/detail/237472/back.html</a></li> <li>-The press release by Kazakhstan is available at: <a href="http://mfa.gov.kz/en/geneva/content-view/kazakhstan-stal-predsedatelem-rukovodasego-komiteta-eek-oon-potencialu-i-standartam-torgovli">http://mfa.gov.kz/en/geneva/content-view/kazakhstan-stal-predsedatelem-rukovodasego-komiteta-eek-oon-potencialu-i-standartam-torgovli</a></li> </ul>
<p>7 UNECE can continue to support governments by using annual progress reports, the Steering Committee or roundtables to document progress.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation. 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.</p>	<p>Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section</p>	<p><b>Implemented in May 2019</b></p> <p>Representatives of the three beneficiary countries participated at the 2019 annual session of the Steering Committee (see comments under recommendation no.1)</p>
<p>8 This is the first collaboration of its kind between UNECE and UNCTAD and could be further developed.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation. UNECE is constantly seeking to expand this collaboration. 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</p>	<p>Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section</p>	<p><b>Closed as of December 2019</b></p> <p>See comments under recommendations 2 and 5.</p>

	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.		
<sup>9</sup> <b>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.</b>	UNECE accepts this recommendation. 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.	Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section	<b>Closed as of December 2019</b>  Any follow up project will feature, under a separate section, an analysis for ensuring proper targeting of female traders, enterprise owners, managers and policy makers. No follow up projects were implemented during 2019.