

Regional Advisor – Trade, Economic Cooperation and Integration



Mr. Mario Apostolov

Mr. Apostolov provides advisory services for Trade and Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogrammes, providing support to the transition economies on trade facilitation and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). He has been also providing support to other subregional cooperation networks in Southeast Europe and the Eurasian Economic Union for over 17 years. He has expertise in national trade facilitation bodies, the Single Window for export, import, and transit clearance, regional trade integration, and trade facilitation reform. Mr. Apostolov has a M.A. from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies at the University of Geneva. He teaches a course on the Dynamics of Regional Cooperation and Diplomacy at the International University in Geneva. His publications cover such diverse areas as trade facilitation, regional integration, and the geopolitics of Christian-Muslim relations.

For more information, email: mario.apostolov@un.org

Technical cooperation in trade and economic cooperation and integration

UNECE technical cooperation in the area of trade concentrates on strengthening the capacity of countries with economies in transition to use international trade standards, trade liberalization and facilitation, notably the standards developed by UN/CEFACT. In particular, the technical cooperation activities are focused on:

- assisting in the practical implementation of trade facilitation measures, procedures and standards, including best practices in the use of international trade and transport documents;
- contributing to the integration of information flows in international trade, notably with regard to using international standards for documents and electronic exchange of data and documents;
- supporting sub-regional integration and providing advice on free trade agreements, notably in Southeast Europe and Central Asia;
- strengthening national capacity to develop policies aimed at promoting inter-sectoral cooperation at sub-regional level;
- promoting national institutions in support of sub-regional economic and trade cooperation.

In the area of Economic Cooperation and Integration the Regional Advisor supports the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). This Programme was launched in 1998 by five Central Asian states with the objective of strengthening regional economic cooperation, with Azerbaijan and Afghanistan joining the programme in 2002 and 2005 respectively. SPECA today has six Project Working Groups: Trade, Transport, Water and Energy, Statistics, ICT for Development, and Gender and Economy. In addition to supporting the work of SPECA, the Regional Advisor coordinates with partner organizations active in Central Asia and provides advisory services upon request on issues pertaining to key aspects of regional economic cooperation and its role in promoting sustainable economic development and rapid integration into the world economy.