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Economic Commission for Europe

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Programme of Work

Programme 17 - Economic development in Europe Strategic Framework for 2018-2019

Subprogramme 6 Trade

Subprogramme 06: Trade

Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen trade facilitation and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond

<i>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Performance measures</i>			
		<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>2016-2017</i>	<i>2014-2015</i>	
(a) Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business	(a) (i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by the ECE	Target	24	22	24
		Estimate		22	24
		Actual			?
	(ii) Number of page views of ECE key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, as a proxy for their use	Target	900,000	900,000	–
		Estimate		900,000	–
		Actual			–
(b) Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory	(b) Number of new and/or revised recommendations and tools for regulatory cooperation adopted by the ECE	Target	1	2	1
		Estimate		2	1
		Actual			?

cooperation

(c) Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards	(c) (i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce adopted by the ECE	Target	25	25	25
		Estimate		25	25
		Actual			?
	(ii) Number of implementations of existing, new or revised ECE agricultural quality standards by member States	Target	1,000	1,000	1,000
		Estimate		1,000	1,000
		Actual			?
	(iii) Number of opened PDF files with ECE recommendations and standards on agricultural produce, as a proxy for their use	Target	45,000	45,000	–
		Estimate		45,000	–
		Actual			–
(d) Enhanced national capacity of member States for the implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools	(d) Number of new national actions to implement ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools	Target	4	4	–
		Estimate		4	–
		Actual			–

Strategy

The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme contributes to the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system, especially in the ECE less economically developed and landlocked developing countries. It takes into account the international recognition of trade as a key vehicle for achieving sustained economic growth, the elimination of poverty and greater regional integration by United Nations summits and conferences on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.

The subprogramme will work to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments by supporting the reduction of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade caused by differences in trade procedures, standards and documents and divergent regulatory approaches and standards for manufactured and agricultural products that hamper market access. More specifically, the subprogramme will promote:

- (a) Simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce through development and maintenance of international trade facilitation instruments to support international supply chains and the integration of countries into the global economy. These instruments include global standards and best practices for moving from paper-based to automated electronic processes and for harmonizing and simplifying business practices in international trade;
- (b) A predictable, transparent and harmonized regulatory environment by strengthening the convergence of regulations and by promoting international standards and best practices in regulatory cooperation, conformity assessment, market surveillance and risk management in regulatory systems;
- (c) Trade in agricultural produce through the development of up-to-date agricultural quality standards used by Governments and the private sector and through explanatory materials.

The subprogramme will support Governments, especially the region's less economically developed and landlocked developing countries, in their national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations in national and regional trade facilitation strategies, trade policy and regulatory regimes.

The subprogramme will work through partnerships with national, regional and international experts and stakeholders. These include Governments, intergovernmental and non-

governmental organizations as well as the private sector, with a particular emphasis on obtaining high-level guidance.

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is political will and cooperation among Governments and international organizations; (b) there is demand from public and private sectors for UNECE standards and recommendations; (c) member States provide the necessary information; (d) there is active participation by experts in ECE technical meetings; and (e) donors provide extrabudgetary funding.
