

## **Independent Review of the Project:**

# ***Strengthening the National Capacities of Selected UNECE Countries for Evidence-Based Regulatory and Procedural Trade Policies to Achieve SDGs***

# Background on the project



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- Funded from the 10th Tranche (2016-2019) of the [UN Development Account](#), for a total amount of [\\$620,000](#)
- The project supported the expected accomplishment (d) “[Enhanced national capacity of member States for trade policy development and implementation](#)” of the Trade subprogramme of UNECE, as reflected in the Programme plans for 2016-2017; 2018-2019 and 2020
- UNECE secured [additional funding in 2020 to address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis](#) in this area of work.
- Implemented [from January 2017 to December 2020](#) in 3 countries: [Armenia, Georgia and Serbia](#)

# Background on evaluation



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- The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the [UNECE Evaluation Policy](#)
- The evaluation methodology complied with the [revised UNEG norms and standards](#) and with the [OIOS COVID-19 Response Evaluation Protocol](#)
- 5 OECD/DAC evaluation criteria were used in this evaluation:
  - Coherence
  - Effectiveness
  - Efficiency
  - Relevance
  - Sustainability



- Project was **very relevant**, feeding into global, regional and national strategies of the three beneficiary countries for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade;
- **UNECE added value in terms of its COVID-19 response**, providing member States with a trusted, objective overview of multi-agency and cross-departmental issues;
- The project was **very coherent**, complementing the achievement of the SDGs, the work of the United Nations system, the direct beneficiaries and the business community;

# Key findings



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- The project **achieved most of what it set out to accomplish in terms of activities, outcome and impact;**
- The project was **very effective in introducing gender analysis to UNECE's work**, by offering separate assessments on female entrepreneurs to member States as part of the studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade;
- The project was **very sustainable** because it was specifically designed to develop tools that would be used in the beneficiary countries after its completion
- The **human and financial resources have been used efficiently and are commensurate to results**

# Recommendations



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- UNECE could consider this model to be a pilot project that could be rolled out to other countries in future.
- The gender-based work can be replicated in the UNECE region and in other regions.
- Further disseminate the results of assessments by translating the recommendations into national languages of the beneficiary countries.
- Continue to provide high-level analysis of national responses to the COVID pandemic.
- UNECE has a role to play in providing Governments with the voice the most vulnerable into the design of future projects.

# Implementation of Recommendations



## Transparency enhances accountability

- All recommendations were accepted or partially accepted in the signed [Management Response](#)
- [Progress Reports will](#) enable to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations.
- These documents, as well as the [Evaluation report](#) are or will be available in [Open UNECE](#)
- Implemented recommendations will also be reflected in future [Annual evaluation reports](#) to be presented to EXCOM.



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# Thank you

<https://unece.org/evaluation-reports>

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