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

• 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
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
Key findings

- 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

• 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

• 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.
Thank you

https://unece.org/evaluation-reports

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