

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

117th meeting  
Geneva, 8 July 2021

Item 8

Informal Document No. **2021/20**

**Extrabudgetary project**  
**Building Cross-border Cooperation**  
**for Sustainable Trade in the SPECA subregion**

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

<b>Project title:</b> Building Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Trade in the SPECA subregion		
<b>Expected timing/ duration:</b> September 2021 – December 2024		
<p><b>Objective and brief summary of the project:</b>  The project intends to strengthen the capacities of the SPECA landlocked countries to formulate policies and implement innovative solutions for sustainable regional trade focused on improved use of water and other resources for agricultural trade. This objective supports the SPECA countries in their capacity-building efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing the need to review trade practices and build regional cooperation among the SPECA countries. The project focuses on (a) trade and agriculture, notably regarding the efficiency of the use of water and other resources for export products or parts of products in cross-border trade in the SPECA region; (b) balanced development of intraregional supply chains built on the principles of sustainable trade. The project creates an analytical basis and policy recommendations for decision makers in the subregion on how to create an enabling environment for sustainable trade in the SPECA subregion. The objective of the project will be achieved by implementing the following activities:</p> <p>A1.1. Prepare one assessment of the current situation: what gaps in policy and legislative acts should be addressed.  A1.2 At least one business process analysis completed, based on a concrete strategic product identified in the gap analysis to propose innovative process re-engineering to foster business involvement that would be both profitable and contributing to sustainable development.  A1.3. Develop training materials for capacity-building aimed at sustainable trade to be used by UNECE, its partners, and the broader community promoting trade and sustainable development in the subregion.  A1.4. Conduct seven brainstorming meetings/trainings for policymakers on the link between regional trade development and sustainable development.  A1.5. Organize two meetings (consultations) on regional cooperation in technical regulation and standardization, digitalization, e-commerce and the introduction of new production technologies.  A2.1. Organize 2 capacity-building events (for three or four countries each) on how to develop action plans, capacity-building activities, and other practical tools for sustainable trade development that would support the efficient use of water, energy and other resources, building on regional cooperation in technical regulation harmonization and standardization, digitalization and e-commerce as well as food security.  A2.2. Implement one pilot project within the region on sustainable trade in one of the products selected under the project that would influence the water and other resource intensity, the environmental and employment impact of trade, linking water and environment considerations for sustainable trade, and related issues.  A2.3. Draft one subregional action plan on the implementation of sustainable trade to be presented for adoption by the Governing Council; and advisory services to at least one country for its implementation.</p>		
<b>Expected results of the project:</b>		
<p>EA1. Improved understanding among public and private stakeholders of existing gaps and policy solutions on sustainable trade in the subregion, in their connection to water efficiency and other resource management in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.  EA2. Strengthened national and regional capacity to design and implement innovative policy solutions for the advancement of sustainable trade with consideration for water efficiency in the production and trade of selected agricultural products, for the achievement of related SDGs in the region.</p>		
<b>Target group and beneficiaries of the project:</b> This project targets government institutions and policymakers dealing with trade policy and facilitation, water, energy, environment, transport, customs, innovation and related issues in the beneficiary countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.		
<b>Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:</b>		
<p>The project directly contributes to the objectives of subprogrammes 1 “Environment”, 4 “Economic Cooperation and Integration”, and 6 “Trade”: “to improve environmental governance and performance for safeguarding the environment and health”; “to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships in the ECE region”; “to strengthen trade facilitation and electronic business, regulatory cooperation and standardization policies, agricultural quality standards and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond” of the UNECE programme budget for 2021.</p>		
<b>Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff):</b>		
4 months/P4 (Regional Advisor/Subprogrammes 4 and 6); 3 months/G7.		
<b>Estimated extra budgetary resources:</b>		
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount (US\$)</b>	
Russian Federation	249,370	
<b>Project Manager:</b> Mario Apostolov  17.06.2021	<b>Section/Division:</b> Economic Cooperation and Trade Division	
<b>Cleared by Programme Management Unit:</b> Nicolas Dath-Baron <b>Officer-in-Charge</b>  17.06.2021	<b>Approved by EXCOM<sup>1</sup></b>	08.07.2021

<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

**Annex**  
**Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project**

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Improved understanding among public and private stakeholders of existing gaps and policy solutions on sustainable trade in the subregion, in their connection to water efficiency and other resource management in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.	A1.1. Prepare one assessment of the current situation: what gaps in policy and legislative acts should be addressed. 1 international consultant to prepare assessment report \$10,000 (\$5,000 x 2months) 7 national consultants to prepare background information for the overall assessment: 21,000\$ (\$3,000 x 7 months) Travel of 1 staff x \$2,500 Individual contractor to support the above work x \$8,000 (\$4,000 x 2 months) Operational costs \$500	42,000 10,000 21,000 2,500 8,000 500
	A1.2. At least one business process analysis completed, based on a concrete strategic product identified in the gap analysis (e.g. wheat, cotton, fish, dried fruit, citrus fruit or another product), with a view to propose innovative process re-engineering to foster business involvement that would be both profitable and contributing to sustainable development. 1 international consultant to prepare the business process analysis \$10,000 USD (\$5,000 x 2 months) 4 national consultants to prepare the background data for the business process analysis \$12,000 (\$3,000 x 4 months) Travel of 2 staff x \$5,000 Travel of 6 participants to seminar on the discussion and approval of the BPA report \$2,000 Contractual services to organize the BPA \$3,000 Individual contractor to support the above work x \$4,000	46,000 10,000 12,000 5,000 12,000 3,000 4,000
	A1.3. Develop training materials for capacity-building aimed at sustainable trade. These will be used by UNECE, its partners, and the broader community promoting trade and sustainable development in the subregion (government agencies, academia, the business community, and civil society). 1 international consultant to prepare the training materials \$10,000 (\$5,000 x 2 months) 2 national consultants to support preparation of the training materials x \$6,000 Travel of 1 staff x \$2,500 Contractual services to support organisation of trainings x \$4,000 Individual contractor to support the above work x \$4,000	26,500 10,000 6,000 2,500 4,000 4,000
	A1.4. Conduct seven brainstorming meetings/trainings for policymakers on the link between regional trade development and sustainable development, with special reference to regional trade, water management, food security, energy efficiency, the circular economy, and regional cooperation in technical regulation and standardization, as well as digitalization and the development of e-commerce. 2 travels of staff to organize brainstorming sessions, the rest will be organized online: \$2,500 contractual services to support the organization of brainstorming sessions online \$5,000 Individual contractor to support the above work x \$4,000	14,000 5,000 5,000 4,000
	A1.5. Organize two consultations on regional cooperation in technical regulation and standardization, digitalization, e-commerce and the introduction of new production technologies. International consultant to conduct consultations x \$5,000 National consultant to prepare the background for these consultations x \$3,000 Individual contractor to support the above work x \$4,000	12,000 5,000 3,000 4,000

EA2. Strengthened national and regional capacity to design and implement innovative policy solutions for the advancement of sustainable trade with consideration for water efficiency in the production and trade of selected agricultural products, for the achievement of related SDGs in the region.	A2.1. Organize 2 capacity-building events (for three or four countries each) on how to develop action plans, capacity-building activities, and other practical tools for sustainable trade development that would support the efficient use of water, energy and other resources, building on regional cooperation in technical regulation harmonization and standardization, digitalization and e-commerce as well as food security. National consultants to conduct capacity-building x \$3,000 Travel of 2 staff x \$2,500 Individual contractor to support the above work x \$10,000 Contractual services x \$7,000	25,000  3,000 5,000 10,000 7,000
	A2.2. Implement one pilot project within the region on sustainable trade in one of the products selected under the project that would influence the water and other resource intensity, the environmental and employment impact of trade, linking water and environment considerations for sustainable trade, and related issues. 1 international consultant to develop and implement the pilot project x \$10,000 1 national consultant to prepare the background information \$3,000 Travel of 1 staff \$2,500 Travel of participants to seminars related to the pilot project \$13,000 Contractual services to support the project implementation \$4,000 Individual contractor to support the above work \$10,000	42,500  10,000 3,000 2,500 13,000 4,000 10,000
	A2.3. Draft one subregional action plan on the implementation of sustainable trade to be presented for adoption by the SPECA Governing Council; and advisory services to at least one country for its implementation. International consultant to prepare the background for the subregional action plan \$5,000 1 national consultant to support the work in the region \$3,000 Travel of 1 staff to prepare the work on the subregional action plan \$2,500	10,500  5,000 3,000 2,500
Budget sub-total		218,500
13% of Programme Support Costs		28,400
1% coordination levy		2,470
<b>Total budget</b>		<b>249,370</b>