



International
Trade
Centre



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Ready4Trade Central Asia and sustainable trade

2021 SPECA Economic Forum
Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan
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Ready4Trade Central Asia (R4TCA)

Project Overview

Objective

Promote Central Asia trade - intra-regional and international - through enhanced business environment, empowered business and enabled cross-border e-commerce

Project Scope

4 years intervention: 2020 to 2023

5 CA countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Country presence: establishment of 1 local office in each country

2-phase approach - inception + implementation - to custom fit country's priorities

Components

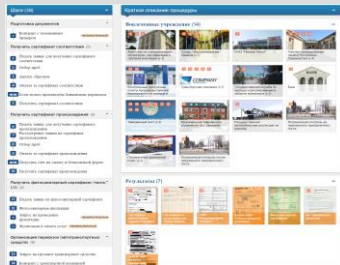
- 1 - Resolving non-tariff barriers** on selected intra and extra regional trade flows
- 2 - Building SME's capacity** to comply with cross-border requirements
- 3 - Enabling cross-border e-commerce**
- 4 - Enhancing women's participation in international trade**

Trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction



Trade facilitation plays a special role in reducing costs and time to trade, and increasing SMEs competitiveness by improving efficiency of the processes through digitalization, harmonization and simplification to contribute to sustainable trade and development

Providing transparent and simplified processes for sustainable trade



- Trade Facilitation Portals created in **5 CA countries**
- More than **95 product-groups** mapped across the region
- More than **30,000 users** this year of Tajikistan TP
- TFP just launched in **Kyrgyzstan**
- Proposed simplification recommendations leading to **~60% decrease in time to trade**

Supporting digitalization and efficiency of procedures



- **National e-commerce strategies** being developed for **Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**
- **Comprehensive e-commerce legislation** being prepared for **Kazakhstan** (jointly with UNCTAD)
- **SMEs' capacity to trade through online channels strengthened** through capacity building, advisory services and partnerships. To date, **155 SMEs** (including **97 women-led SMEs**) in Central Asia have been supported by the project
- **Virtual Border Line Management** for reduced queues at the border
- Support for acceding The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border **Paperless Trade and digitalizing formalities** in the framework of

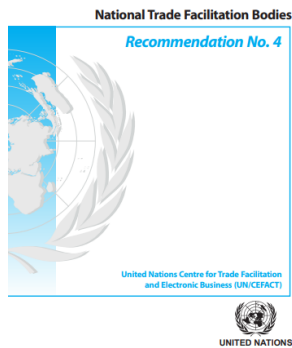
Fostering women and SMEs participation in trade



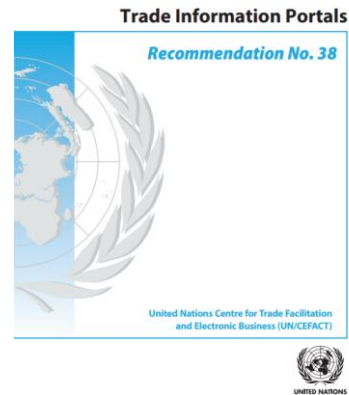
- More than **300 border officials** trained across the region on gender responsive trade facilitation
- Trainings on **gender disaggregated trade data** for policy making on the way
- **Capacity and confidence building trainings** for women traders planned
- **167 SMEs (56 women owned)** across regions benefited from export management coaching missions
- **20 courses** of online regional training curriculum available for SMEs

ITC leverages partnerships with UNECE and its recommendations

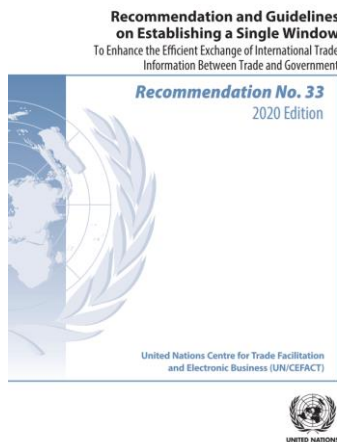
UNECE



UNECE



UNECE



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- Implementation of reforms from Trade Facilitation Roadmaps developed by UNECE in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Thank you!

<https://www.intracen.org/ready4trade/>