Supporting MSMEs across UNECE Region: existing workstreams and recent activities

Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
MSME-related work-streams in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division

**Trade Facilitation**

- UN/CEFACT standards
- Regional Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

**Market Access**

- Online training on the use of international standards to support MSMEs recover from COVID-19
- COVID-19 Impact Assessments on MSMEs in selected countries
- Gender Responsive Standards

**Traceability**

- Toolkit on Enhancing Transparency and Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector

**Innovation & Competitiveness**

- Policy Handbook on Supporting Innovative High-Growth Enterprises in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus
- Handbook on Business Incubators for Sustainable Development in the Central Asian Sub-region
### UNDA Project:
“Global Initiative towards the post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSME sector”

**Period:** 2020-2022

**Jointly implemented by:**
UNCTAD, DESA, ESCWA, ESCAP, ECLAC, ECE, ECA.

### Activities include (among many others):

#### Analytical work:
Two policy papers discussed today:
- COVID-19 impact assessments targeting female-owned MSMEs in Armenia
- COVID-19 impact assessments targeting female-owned MSMEs in the Republic of Moldova
- See 2021 SCTCS (studies for: Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Serbia)

#### Capacity building:
- Webinar series “Empowering MSMEs to harness the opportunities from transitioning to sustainable trade and a circular economy in the context of the post-COVID 19 recovery” held in May-June 2022
# Female-owned MSMEs policy papers: key recommendations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Policy recommendations</th>
<th>Examples of UNECE tools contributing to pursuing policy recommendations</th>
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<td>Addressing the financial crisis</td>
<td>UN/CEFACT White Paper on Integrated Services for MSMEs in International Trade (ISMIT)</td>
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<td>Reducing trade-related exploratory costs</td>
<td>ECE online self-paced training programme of studies on standards implementation for MSMEs</td>
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<td>Supporting business growth, including through strengthening the entrepreneurial spirit</td>
<td>ECE Report Supporting Innovative High-Growth Enterprises in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus</td>
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<td>Bolstering the participation of female-owned MSMEs in trade policymaking processes</td>
<td>UN/CEFACT Recommendation No. 40 (Consultation approaches Best Practices in Trade and Government Consultation on Trade Facilitation matters)</td>
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<td>Supporting knowledge generation for gender-responsive trade policies</td>
<td>ECE Gender-Responsive Standards</td>
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<td>Further enabling people to strike a work-family balance</td>
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2022 MSMEs webinar series: subject areas

- MSMEs & entrepreneurship
- Sustainable trade and trade facilitation
- Innovation
- MSME development in SPECA countries
- MSMEs green resurgence in SPECA
- Circular economy
PR of Kazakhstan @AlimbayevYerlan introduced policy and practice on supporting SMEs & circular economy in at the UNECE series of webinars “Empowering MSMEs to harness the opportunities from transitioning to sustainable trade and a circular economy”.

Key characteristics of CBMs

- Slowing loops (life extension)
- Narrow loops (efficiency)
- Close material loops

Compared to traditional equivalents:
- Greater collaboration (both within and across VCs)
- Access > ownership – reverse logistics becomes important
- Emphasis on design, product life, and functionality...
- Decentralized patterns of production and consumption

At SOMA™ we believe in a sustainable and green future, powered by biotechnology.
ECTD contribution to the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Accelerators of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Roundtable sharing accelerator practices for SDG 5

07 April 2022, 10:00 - 12:00 CEST
Registration on regionalforum.unece.org
Key take-aways from UNECE’s work

• MSMEs must be at the centre of a green transition due to their high proportion in the GDP and employment, innovative and flexible nature.

• MSMEs must be integrated into green global value chains.

• Particular attention should be given to female-owned MSMEs given their vulnerable position in the global economy.

• Lowering trade barriers and showcasing export opportunities through e.g., trade facilitation measures, raising awareness and support with standards compliance can lead to a significant boost for MSMEs.

• Digitalization and innovation can present an opportunity for MSMEs. Growing evidence of the potential transformative role of innovative high-growth SMEs (IHGEs).

• Fast growing area but lack of expertise, especially in transition economies.

• Requires cooperation and experience sharing at all levels in the public and private sector.

• UNECE offers a range of important tools to facilitate the green resurgence in the MSME sector.
Compendium of guidance material to support micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in the post-COVID-19 green resurgence

- Practical toolkit to provide hands-on support for MSMEs and policymakers
- Based on the findings from the webinar series and further research
- Specific chapter on SPECA

All materials, presentations and recordings of the webinar series will be available under: https://unece.org/info/events/event/367326