

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards
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Supporting MSMEs across
UNECE Region: existing workstreams and recent activities

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UNECE

**75 YEARS OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION
AND COOPERATION IN THE REGION**

MSME-related work-streams in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division



Trade Facilitation

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

Traceability

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



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

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

More focused approach as part of post-COVID-19 recovery effort

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)

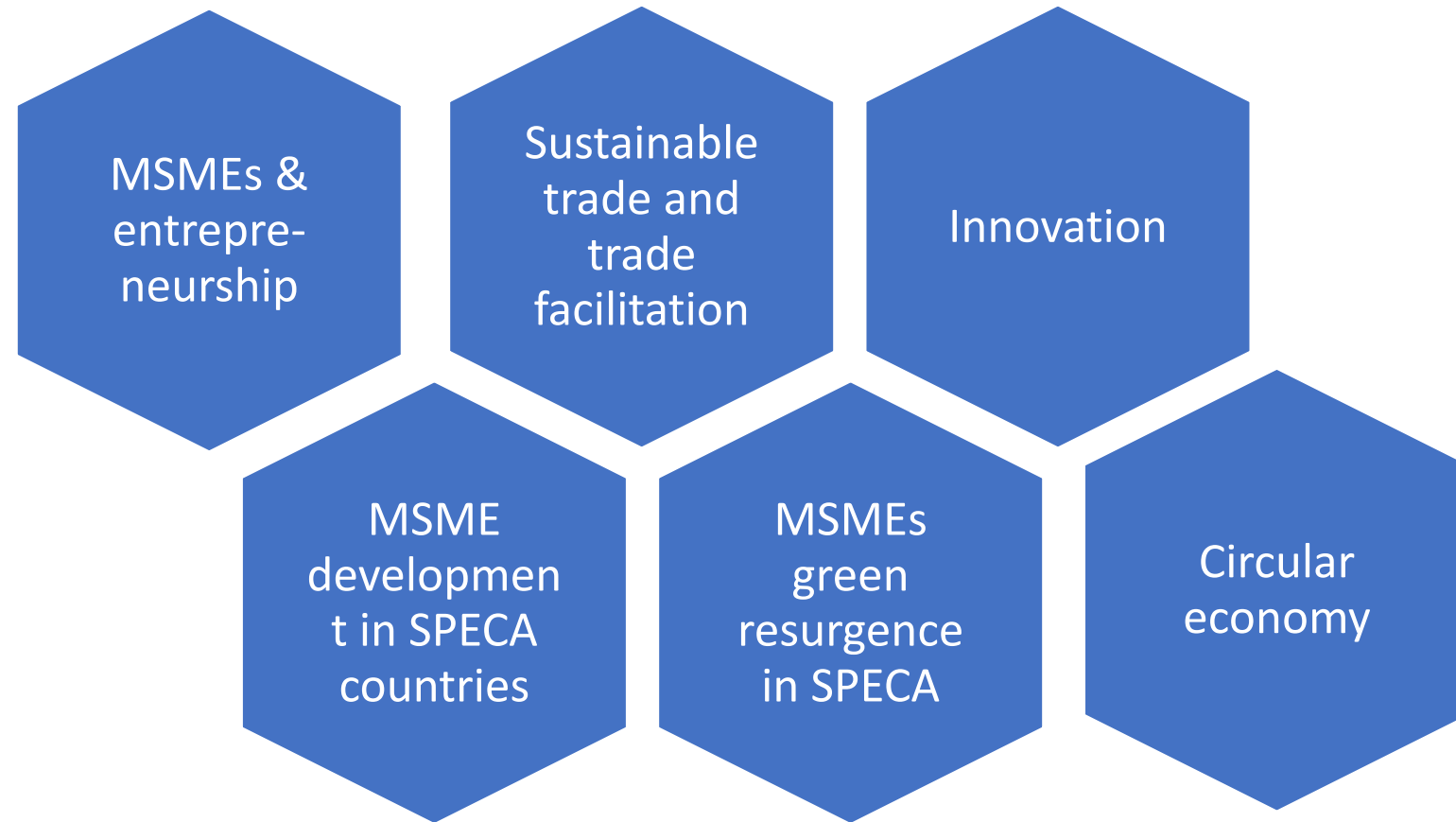
Capacity building:

- 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

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

2022 MSMEs webinar series: subject areas

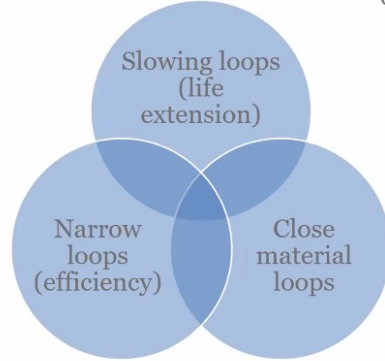


2022 MSMEs webinar series: highlights

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”.

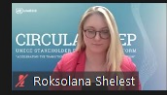
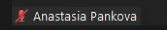


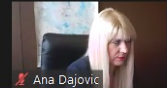
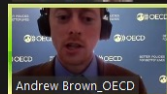


Key characteristics of CBMs



Compared to traditional equivalents:

- Greater collaboration (both within and across VCs)
- Access > ownership – reverse logistics become important
- Emphasis on design, product life, and functionality ...
- Decentralised patterns of production and consumption

At **SOMA™** we believe in a sustainable and green future, powered by biotechnology





Completely Circular Production



Carbon Reduction



Zero-Waste Processes



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.

Forthcoming

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>