

Item 7. Lessons learned from the Studies on Regulatory Barriers to Trade and country follow-ups

UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, 8th session

26 June | 2023



Scope, objectives and structure of the Report



Reflects the **request** of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards at its **seventh session on 27-28 June, 2022**

Provides an **overview of RPBT studies** undertaken since 2012 in selected countries

Summarizes **lessons learned**

Provides options for **possible ways forward**

Addresses emerging trends in the current policy-making agenda

Suggests a set of specific recommendations to further enhance the potential of studies to better contribute to the **attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030**.

RPBT Studies: overview



COUNTRIES COVERED

- Albania
- Armenia
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Serbia
- Tajikistan
- The Republic of Moldova
- Uzbekistan

OBJECTIVES:

- Assist in establishing the required institutional and legislative framework
- Promote information exchange among countries on policies and experience
- Foster greater accountability and transparency

STRUCTURE:

- 5-10 chapters
- Address trade facilitation conditions, regulatory and standardization policies and trade-related infrastructure
- Use UNECE methodology
- UNECE Buy-Ship-Pay reference model
- Feature actor-oriented questionnaires
- Contain complementary Business Process Analysis



Lessons Learned

Trade Facilitation (I)



Access to information is an essential precondition to creating a trade conducive regulatory environment

Recommendation

- Create one-stop-shop user-friendly portal (e.g., Serbia)
- Institute expert trade training facilities (e.g., Georgia)

Consolidating and enhancing public-private dialogue is one of the key enablers of trade

Recommendation

- Set up institutional mechanisms for continued private-public consultations
- Strengthen market support institutions with a research facility to crystalize traders' needs in “white papers”

A paperless trade environment is essential to remove logistics challenges and enhance trade competitiveness

Recommendation

- Take steps towards coordinating and harmonizing customs control procedures, certification, quality assurance and metrological development efforts, including through single window systems
- Undertake periodic verification of how trade procedures apply in practice.

Lessons Learned

Trade Facilitation (II)



Digitalization is a crucial component of delivering efficiencies for cross-border activities

Recommendation

- Take incremental steps with digitalization, addressing the most pressing concerns first (e.g., Kyrgyzstan)
- Equip state agencies with the required digital technologies following international standards
- Introduce new management information technologies for border control agencies

Reducing at the border inefficiencies can enhance supply chain security and foster transparent, consistent and predictable trading environment

Recommendation

- Ensure cross-border cooperation and cooperation
- Align procedures and formalities (e.g. working days and hours of BCPs in neighboring countries) (e.g., Tajikistan)
- Develop and share common facilities and joint controls and the establishment of one stop border post controls (e.g., Uzbekistan)

Lessons Learned

Regulatory and Standardization Policies (I)



Incorporating risk management best practices is an essential step for improving the regulatory environment

Recommendation

- Integrate regulatory impact assessments for the development of technical regulations and standards-setting (e.g., Kazakhstan)

Market surveillance strategies and mechanisms can help foster trust among consumers and economic operators

Recommendation

- Establish proper enforcement policies, track-and-trace warning systems and internal procedures to ensure that enforcement actions are proportional to the health and safety risks and the seriousness of the breach

Lessons Learned

Regulatory and Standardization Policies (II)



Metrology plays an important role in improving export competitiveness and structural transformation in the countries concerned

Recommendation

- Strengthen the research capacity of metrology laboratories to facilitate the development of new measurement methods and legal metrology to cover all base units, starting with those related to priority sectors.

Strengthening budget resources is necessary for addressing capacity shortfalls in the area of standardization, conformity assessment and metrology institutes

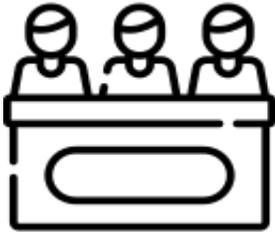
Recommendation

- Ensure adequate and necessary resources are allocated to address capacity shortfalls

Performance Impact of RPBT Studies



All reviewed countries showed progress



Improved implementation rate of **trade facilitation** measures (Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan: twofold increase since 2015)



Progress in regulatory cooperation - new RTAs with dedicated charters or provisions on technical regulations, standardization and mutual recognition agreements



Achievements in the field of **accreditation, standardization and market surveillance**

The Way Forward



- **Review** the current **evaluation methodology** and **Include new policy areas** in its analysis, if requested by a member State;
- **Pivot to new thematic angles** and explore how complex emerging trends such as the green transition, circular economy and digitalization affect countries' regulatory agendas;
- **Offer sector-specific studies** to address countries' requests (e.g., elective chapters, zooming in on particular products of relevance);
- **Conduct implementation reviews** to evaluate countries' implementation rate of recommendations under RPBT Studies and make proposals for further technical and capacity building assistance;



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THANK YOU

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