



Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade

The case of SPECA countries

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Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT) as part of the inter-governmental discussions



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"The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) oversees and guides the development of international norms and standards, procedures and best practices that reduce the costs associated with export and import processes and increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of goods and services."

Forum for Policy Dialogue

- Review and endorse standards and recommendations developed by WP.6 and WP.7

Analytical Studies

- **Reviews the results of demand-driven studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade with action-oriented recommendations**

Technical Cooperation

- Targeted capacity-building activities to facilitate implementation of recommendations and standards

RPBT Studies: Overview and the Way Forward



- RPBT Studies address **trade facilitation conditions, regulatory and standardization policies and trade-related infrastructure.**
 - RPBT Studies consist of **5-10 chapters.**
 - Use UNECE **methodology**, feature actor-oriented **questionnaires** and contain complementary **Business Process Analysis.**
 - Cover **10 countries**, including **4 SPECA countries** (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan). Forthcoming: Turkmenistan.
 - Pivot to **new thematic angles** and explore how complex emerging trends such as the **green transition, circular economy and digitalization** affect countries' regulatory agendas.
- Document on the **Lessons learned from the RPBT Studies and country follow-ups**, presented at the UNECE SCTCS, 8th session (ECE/CTCS/2023/5) provides an overview, key lessons learned and options for the way forward.



Lessons Learned and Key Recommendations: Trade Facilitation



Lessons Learned



Recommendations

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Set up **institutional mechanisms** for **continued** private-public **consultations**
- Strengthen **market support institutions**

- Take steps towards **coordinating and harmonizing customs control**
- Undertake **periodic verification** of how trade procedures apply in practice

- Take **incremental steps** with **digitalization**, (e.g., **Kyrgyzstan**)
- **Equip** state agencies **with** the required **digital technologies** following international standards

- Ensure **cross-border cooperation**
- **Align procedures** and formalities (e.g., **Tajikistan**)
- **Develop** and share **common facilities** and joint controls (e.g., **Uzbekistan**)

Lessons Learned and Key Recommendations: Regulatory and Standardization Policies



Lessons Learned

Risk management best practices are **essential** for improving the regulatory environment

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

Metrology plays an **important** role in **improving export competitiveness** and structural transformation

Strengthening budget resources is necessary for **addressing capacity shortfalls**



Recommendations

- **Integrate regulatory impact assessments** in the standards-setting (e.g., **Kazakhstan**)

- **Establish proper enforcement policies**, track-and-trace warning systems and internal procedures

- **Strengthen the research capacity** of metrology laboratories

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

RPBT Studies for SPECA Countries



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2014

2023*

Forthcoming

Kazakhstan

*2023 Study on **expanding the export of industrial and agricultural products** from Kazakhstan

1 product (vegetable oil)

3 pillars:

- Trade profile and export potential
- BPA
- Quality infrastructure

2014

Tajikistan

2015

2023*

Forthcoming

Kyrgyzstan

*2023 Study on **enhancing export potential of agricultural products** from Kyrgyzstan:

2 products (dried apricots and plums)

3 pillars:

- Trade profile and export potential
- BPA
- Quality infrastructure

2023*

Forthcoming

Uzbekistan

*2023 RPBT Study for Uzbekistan with a particular focus on MSMEs

- Profile of MSMEs and the challenges they face
- BPAs in the sectors of handicrafts, textiles and electronics, and dried fruits and vegetables

RPBT Study for Turkmenistan



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- At the **7th session** of the SCTCS held on 27-28 June 2022 the Government of Turkmenistan had **requested support** for conduct a study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade (ECE/CTCS/2022/2).
- The project has been **included in the Programme of work** of the SCTCS, which was endorsed at the 8th session of the SCTCS on 26-27 June 2023.
- Extrabudgetary project on Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Turkmenistan was **approved** at the **130th meeting of the EXCOM** on **9 October 2023**.
- Expected **duration**: November 2023-October 2025
- **Findings** of the Study can **contribute** to:
 - SDGs 8.2; 17.10 and 17.11
 - Turkmenistan's ongoing trade reforms, also as part of the WTO accession process.



Thank you!

*More information is available on the UNECE website:
<https://unece.org/trade/studies-regulatory-and-procedural-barriers-trade>*

