

PROJECT “Support to the Facilitation of Trade between CEFTA Parties”

The project is financed by the EU and as such signed between the EC, GIZ who is main implementing agency and ITC. CEFTA Parties are the beneficiaries of the project. The value of the project is 3 million euros. The project will last for 3 years – from 2017 until the end of 2019. The project has 4 components:

Component 0 (horizontal) - Public-private sector consultations. Main activities: creation of informal Regional Business Advisory Group (RBAG) that will, first of all, engage private sector to provide necessary inputs for defining NTBs in the two sectors to be selected, and to monitor (or at least be informed) on elimination of NTBs (after those NTBs are validated by the CEFTA Parties). If possibilities allow and if the work of these RBAGs shows as feasible and achievable, they will be used for consultative purposes in component 2 and 3, as well. Meetings will be held at national and regional level with the aim of exchange of experiences and best practices. In RBAG all necessary key players from private sector are to be included (importers, exporters, operators, freight forwarders, customs agents, representatives of business/chamber associations, etc.). If appropriate regional associations/platforms can be involved (CIF, CEFTA Chamber Forum, etc.).

Overall coordination of the activities in this component will be provided by GIZ and implementation by ITC.

Component 1 – NTBs elimination in selected sectors. Main activities: identification of NTMs in selected sectors, their classification and analysis, cross-checking with relevant EU acquis and international standards, recommendations for their removal and support for elimination of most trade distortive market access barriers (support to drafting new legislation or rules for procedures to eliminate market access barriers, upon the validation of recommendations by relevant policy makers of CEFTA Parties). Trainings on NTBs will be provided.

Overall coordination of the activities in this component will be provided by GIZ and implementation by ITC with possible involvement of EU MS organisations/agencies.

Component 2 – Documents and data submission requirements. Main activities: collection, systematisation, and mapping data based on Business Process Analysis (BPA) methodology. Upon analysing and cross-checking of documentary requirements with EU acquis and international standards, advisory activity to simplify, reduce and harmonise documentary requirements will be performed. Trainings on BPA will be provided.

Overall coordination and implementation of the activities in this component will be provided by ITC, though GIZ local experts will be involved in advisory activity of reduction, simplification and harmonisation of documentary requirements.

Component 3 – Simplification of clearance procedures. Main activities: assessment and comparison of state of play in CEFTA Parties related to the national AEO Programmes, gap analysis on legislation, , setup CEFTA AEO Working Group for the project purpose as a project group, launch and run regional piloting of mutual recognition of AEO in CEFTA, developing CEFTA Joint risk management and joint risk profiling, developing AEO Joint Risk Management implementation and procedure manual, involvement of other governmental agencies related to the clearance of goods. Trainings are to be provided.

Overall coordination of the activities in this component will be provided by GIZ and implementation by sub-contracted Consultant Company with strong background, knowledge and experience with the EU AEO.