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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

134th meeting
Geneva, 1 July 2024

Decision relating to the Enabling inclusivity by gender mainstreaming the quality infrastructure for trade

Submitted by the Secretariat

Draft decision

The Executive Committee hereby approves the extrabudgetary project entitled “Enabling inclusivity by gender mainstreaming the quality infrastructure for trade” as contained in the present document ECE/EX/2023/L.7.



**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TECHICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

Project title: Enabling inclusivity by gender mainstreaming the quality infrastructure for trade		
Expected timing/ duration: July 2024 - May 2026		
Objective and brief summary of the project: Standards shape the products that surround us. They also help facilitate trade. It is important to ensure that all human beings are properly represented in the processes that develop the standards that affect them, especially women and that this gender mainstreaming occurs throughout all institutions of the quality infrastructure for trade. Building upon work within the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), and notably recent extra-budgetary projects on gender-responsive standards (E330 on “Enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”/ July 2019 to August 2022 and E312 “Enhancing usage and uptake of the standards for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”/ July 2018 to July 2019), this project will raise awareness and build capacity on gender mainstreaming in standards development bodies and the government agencies involved in the quality infrastructure for trade. The International Standardization Organization (ISO) has agreed to participate in the coordination and roll out of this project on a self-funded basis. The project will help beneficiary countries develop a workable gender action plan and to roll it out, including by defining actionable targets, monitoring and evaluation and developing recommendations on the best way forward. Target institutions include agencies with a remit on metrology, market surveillance, conformity assessment, accreditation, standardization and education. The objective of the project will be achieved by implementing the following activities: A1.1. Preparing three national “gender action plans on gender-responsive standards” within the national standards bodies; A1.2. Preparing three national strategies on gender mainstreaming in the national quality infrastructure; A1.3. Conducting a series of agency-specific national training/brainstorming workshops on gender mainstreaming in the national quality infrastructure; A2.1. Organizing three launch events in the respective capitals; A2.2. Organizing the final conference (Istanbul); A2.3. Developing technical reports and training materials; A2.4. Participating in key events worldwide to disseminate the results and raise awareness.		
Link to the SDG targets: 5.1, 5.5, 5.b, 5.c, 9.1, 17.10, 17.18		
Expected results of the project: EA1. Increased national capacities of gender mainstreaming throughout the quality infrastructure for trade bodies and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. EA2. Improve awareness of national stakeholders on standards and gender mainstreaming in relation to trade.		
Target group and beneficiaries of the project: This project intends to target three beneficiary countries: two in the UNECE region (Albania and Georgia) and one in the African region (Benin). The project targets the national standardization bodies as well as all of the government agencies related to quality infrastructure (potentially multiple ministries such as Trade, Health, Veterinary, Transport).		
Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work: This project directly contributes to the objective of the subprogramme 6 “Trade” “to strengthen trade facilitation and electronic business, regulatory cooperation and standardization policies, agricultural quality standards and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond” of the UNECE programme budget for 2024. This project reflects the recommendation 4 of the Evaluation of the E330 project (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/INF.3). The project will be implemented under the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) which at its 33 rd Session encouraged member States to consider financing follow-up work on capacity-building for gender action plans decision 11 (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/2).		
Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of staff): 1 month/G5; 2 months/P4		
Estimated extra budgetary resources:		
Donor Germany	Amount (€) 700,000	
Project Manager: Lance Thompson 26.02.2024	Section/Division: Market Access Section / Economic Cooperation and Trade Division	
Cleared by Programme Management Unit: Nicolas Dath-Baron 26.02.2024	Approved by EXCOM¹	25.03.2024

¹ See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

Annex
Results-based budget for the extrabudgetary project

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (€)
EA1. Increased national capacities of gender mainstreaming throughout the quality infrastructure for trade bodies and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	A1.1. Preparing three national “gender action plans on gender-responsive standards” within the national standards bodies (capacity building with national standards bodies) 3 national consultants x \$3,264.17 x 8 months (Albania, Benin and Georgia)	78,340
	A1.2. Preparing three national strategies on gender mainstreaming in the national quality infrastructure (capacity building with national quality infrastructure agencies/bodies) 3 national consultants x \$3,730 x 7 months (Albania, Benin and Georgia)	78,330
	A1.3. Conducting a series of agency-specific national training/brainstorming workshops on gender mainstreaming in the national quality infrastructure (develop workshops/training) 3 national consultants x \$3,730 x 7 months (Albania, Benin and Georgia)	78,330
EA2. Improve awareness of national stakeholders on standards and gender mainstreaming in relation to trade	A2.1. Organizing three launch events grouped with a focused workshop Contractual services (rental venue and catering, interpretation, translation of background materials, printing, graphic design) x \$28,000 x 3 countries Travel of 3 staff x \$3,000 x 3 countries Travel of 3 international experts x \$3,000 x 3 countries	138,000 84,000 27,000 27,000
	A2.2. Organizing the final conference (Istanbul) Travel of 38 experts \$3,000 Travel of 2 staff x \$3,000 Travel of 3 consultants x \$3,000 Contractual services (rental venue, catering, interpretation, translation of background materials, printing, graphic design) x \$24,000	153,000 114,000 6,000 9,000 24,000
	A2.3. Developing technical reports and training materials Contractual services (including translation, layout, design, printing) x \$50,000	50,000
	A2.4. Participating in key events worldwide to disseminate the results and raise awareness 2 staff x 2 missions x \$3,000	12,000
	Budget summary	588,000
	1% coordination levy	7,000
Evaluation		14,000
13% of Programme Support Costs		91,000
Total		700,000