



BACKGROUND NOTE

Creation of a new Trade Facilitation Training Facility at the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa: Multi-year grant by Sweden

Project summary

- The creation of a training facility (i.e. centre of excellence) for trade facilitation at the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA) in Arusha, Tanzania.
- Through collaboration with relevant international organizations (IOs) and donors involved in training for the purpose of enhancing implementation of trade facilitation (TF) reforms, provide a more coordinated and better pooled response to the training needs of African countries.
- Through a multi-year grant, Sweden would ensure the full sustainability of the initiative at its inception stage, and its first two years of operation, and support the provision of training courses tailored to the practical implementation of a future WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

The facility would, like TRAPCA's current activities, be aimed at participants from Africa, with a special focus on least-developed countries (LDCs). The training would respond to the needs identified by the participating countries to help them comply with the legally binding provisions in the TFA. The training would draw on the expertise available in relevant IOs (such as WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, World Bank). The courses would additionally provide a platform for exchanging experiences between African government officials and customs officers, thereby contributing to local ownership.

Rationale: filling a void and ensuring a better response

- The TFA is estimated to account for one-third of the value of the Doha Round. The gains from reducing bureaucracy and enhancing cross-border trade is deemed to be greatest in developing countries. At the same time, in order to ensure that such countries are able to reap the maximum benefits from the TFA, technical assistance and capacity building will be required in a number of areas.
- The WTO and UNCTAD needs assessments have pointed to the fact that there will be a need to improve the knowledge base through education, as well as to enhance work practices.

- While there are ample courses and training initiatives in the area of customs modernization in general, run by many donors and IOs, today there is a limited range of courses tailored to the TFA. A new executive training centre for trade facilitation at TRAPCA would help to fill this void for African countries.
- A new training facility at TRAPCA, for the whole of Africa, would also allow better coordination of training activities, better pooling of resources and consistency in teaching.

Background: Why TRAPCA?

TRAPCA was created in 2006 as a collaboration between the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Lund University, and Sida. Sweden has supported TRAPCA continuously since then.

TRAPCA conducts training in trade policy through short courses as well as a master's course. The centre caters mainly for LDCs and the goal of the operation is to increase the trade policy capacity to negotiate and implement trade agreements in the region. TRAPCA is housed in ESAMI's facility in Arusha, Tanzania.

TRAPCA already has extensive experience in providing tailored training courses in cooperation with, for example, the World Bank and the World Trade Institute and regional players such as SADC, COMESA and EAC.

Financing: How much is Sweden putting on the table?

Sweden would grant approximately USD 1.6 million per year to ESAMI for the period 2014-2015 for the creation of a trade facilitation executive training centre at TRAPCA. According to our estimates, this would represent full financing of the training centre's establishment and its operations for two years.