



# European Union's support through technical assistance in the field of TBT

Thematic session on Technical Assistance, WTO TBT Committee

27 October 2020

*Aurelien Pastouret, DG DEVCO*

*European Commission*

# Outline

- Providing TA to developing countries in the field of TBT
- Intervention logic
  - Areas of interventions (macro, meso, micro levels and regional cooperation)
  - Methods of intervention
- Recent examples: intra-ACP programme on TBT
  - TBT programme (2013-2017)
  - Upcoming programme with UNIDO on TBT including a COVID-response

# Acute challenges for developing countries



**Compliance** is needed with an increasing number of standards and regulations



**Different standards for the same products** exist in different countries and within regions which cause diseconomies of scale



Developing countries' quality systems have only **limited or no international recognition**, implying additional costs for producers as tests or certificates have to be performed abroad

# An efficient QI system: a game changer for developing countries



QI allows enterprises to demonstrate **compliance** with national or international technical regulations, which is a condition *sine qua non* for **launching products on the market**



Furthermore, compliance with international standards is also a key **enabler for SMEs to climb up the value chain**, raise productivity per worker and increase their revenue levels



A broad-based adoption of international standards also allows generating **economies of scale**

# Added value of EU provision of TA on TBT matters

- The growing importance of TBTs in the multilateral trade context
- EU's support toolbox is a wide-ranging one:
  - Support to investments
  - Encourage investment climate reforms
  - Value chains improvements
  - Capacity building and training
- Innovative tools: EIP integrated approach, support to AfCFTA, EBA, GSP, GSP+ schemes

# Intervention logic: areas of investigation

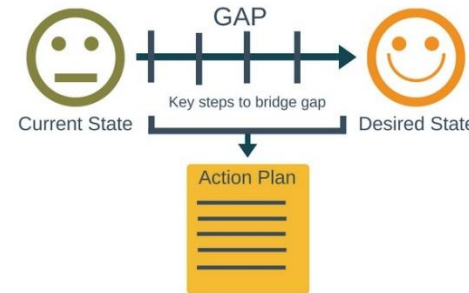
Domestic requirements regarding consumer protection



Identification of stakeholders



Export market requirements



Gap analysis and assessment of support options



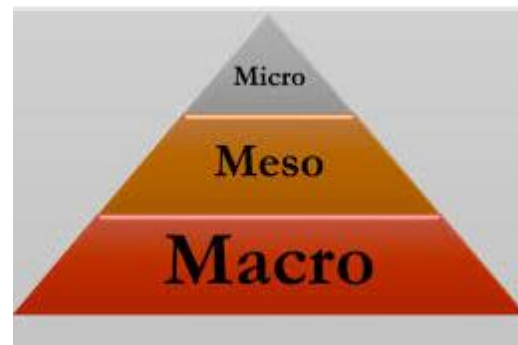
# Intervention logic: areas of intervention

**Macro** (policy level)



**Meso** (infrastructure level)

**Micro** (enterprise level)



**Regional** (Macro and Meso levels)

# An example of EU intervention at macro level

## **Support to accreditation of laboratories in Indonesia**

*In Indonesia, the 'ARISE Plus Indonesia' project has been providing assistance to further enhance the country's export quality infrastructure and national quality assurance systems that are improving the compliance of Indonesia's export to technical requirements in international markets especially in the EU. The assistance is focusing on agri-food, fisheries, wooden products and cosmetic preparation sectors.*

*The 2nd component of the ARISE+ Regional for ASEAN is fully dedicated to the harmonisation of standards, accreditation and conformity assessment, as well supporting, at sector level, the integration of the pharmaceuticals and food sectors. The EU support in this area is among the largest compared to other donors.*



# An example of EU intervention at meso level

## **Congo Brazzaville Quality Support Programme**

**Budget for the Programme:** 12.4 million €

**Period:** 2015-2020

**Description:** Under the 'Projet de Renforcement des Capacités Commerciales et Entrepreneuriales II' (PRCCE II), the EU supports Sanitary and Phytosanitary quality infrastructures in Congo Brazzaville. The project has a budget of EUR 12.4 million and has started in 2015. Under component 3 of the PRCCE II, the EU Delegation is accompanying the National Agency for Normalisation & Quality with the following activities: strategy of the agency, three-year action plan, training modules, long-term technical assistance, equipment and training for laboratories. More specifically, two laboratories have been identified to receive equipment and technical trainings. One will be in charge of water analysis and liquid products including fruit juices and the second will be in charge of solid food products (fruit and vegetables, eggs, honey, etc.). The provided equipment should enable the certification and control of food products in Congo. The action plan for the agency will focus in particular on the clusters and value-chains to be supported by the PRCCE II and is driven by market considerations.

# An example of EU intervention at micro level

## **Promoting Regulatory Convergence**

**Budget:** 87 million €

**Period:** for the period 2013- 2021,

**Description:** With an overall envelope of EUR 87 million, the 'Reussir le Statut Avancé' (RSA) programmes are geared to promoting regulatory convergence to the EU acquis as a means to boost the competitiveness of the Moroccan economy and facilitate access to the EU market. Examples of projects implemented in 2019 under these programme include a technical assistance project in the area of pesticides control for the benefit of the Moroccan food safety authority ONSSA.

# An example of EU intervention at regional level

## **ECOWAS – West Africa Quality System**

**Budget for the Programme:** 12 million €

**Period:** 2014-2018

**Description:** The EUR 20 million regional programme ‘West Africa Quality System’ (WAQS) that has just ended aimed at reinforcing ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure. Guinea-Bissau benefited from many technical training at regional level; some of them were carried out on the spot. Some 60 regional standards were adopted at technical level and has now to be implemented. The development of a National Quality Policy with plans and matrices was also validated at technical level. A number of 35 laboratories were accredited - or the scope of their accreditation expanded to other domains - during the programme in the region.

# Methods of intervention

- **TA embedded in a broader trade-related programme**
  - Assistance to export promotion agencies, strengthening business enabling environment
- **TA part of a sector support programme**
  - Covering the entire VC from assistance to producers until export promotion
- **TA targeted on specific components of QI**
  - Targeting specific obstacles in the national/regional QI
- **Project approach** as the most common intervention method (capacity building)

# Two recent examples of TA in the field of TBT (global/intra-ACP programmes)

## TBT programme (2013-2017)

- Strong demand-driven approach
- Synergies with specialized TA providers
- ST projects → to trigger LT responses
- Focus on sectors of high economic importance to ACP countries
- Merging of projects (international/inter-regional dimensions)

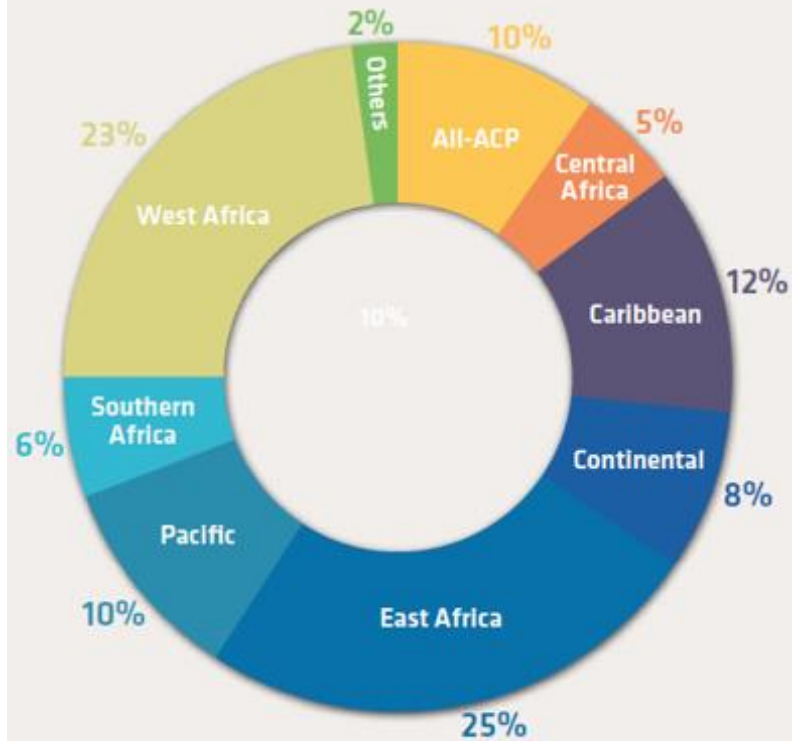
## Upcoming programme on TBT

- Support ACP countries in their response to the pandemic
- Enhanced capacity and increased asset base of regional and continental Q&RI institutions
- Improved capacity of economic operators to comply with standards, technical regulations

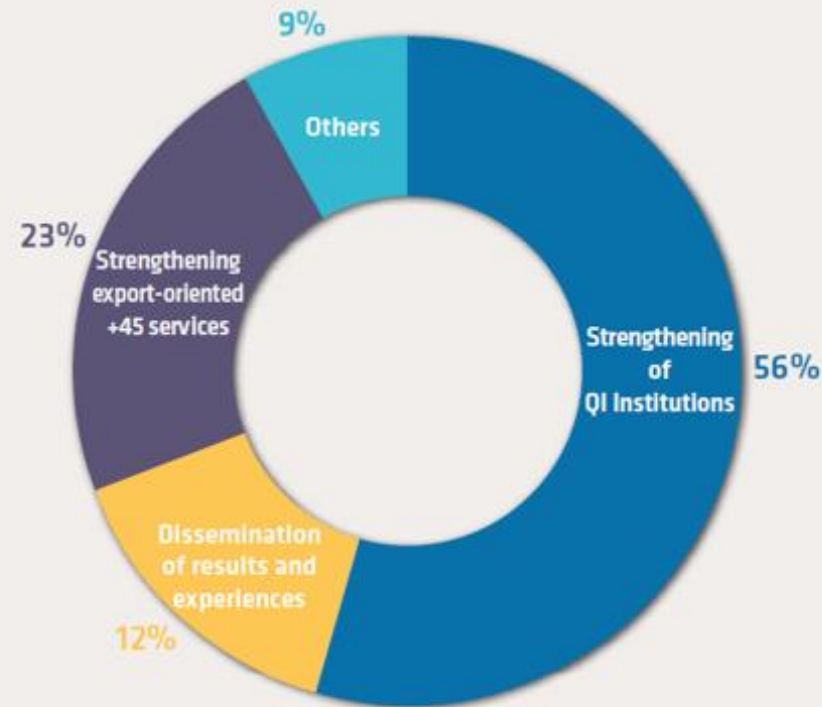
# TBT programme results (2013-2017)

## Outreach in Numbers

Projects' geographical distribution



Projects by area of support



**N.B.** results observed from **global TBT programmes** such as this one are extensible to similar programmes we are implementing at **regional/ national level**



# Questions?

<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/tbt/en/>

DEVCO-C4@ec.europa.eu