

Ready4Trade Central Asia

Supporting inclusive development
through trade and digitalization



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the European Union

UZBEKISTAN

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Dear Readers,

This is our second issue of the Ready4Trade newsletter! The project has been moving along well in Uzbekistan. We are happy to present some of our recent events and achievements below.

Enjoy!

NEWS

Moving past trade flow obstacles in Central Asia: Regional Expert Meeting

On 23 and 24 June, Ready4Trade held a hybrid regional-level meeting bringing together national experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to highlight common obstacles to trade in the region, discuss possible root causes and share experiences on the existing national initiatives aimed at resolving them.



Over 100 participants were in attendance. ITC and local partners first presented their findings and proposed next steps to the participants. The participants then provided their feedback as well as their ideas on potential solutions that the project could undertake to resolve the selected barriers to trade.

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Gender-responsive trade facilitation in Central Asia: regional Training-of-Trainers workshop



Photo: Rini Kools/Shutterstock

How can gender-sensitive border environments across Central Asian countries improve women's participation in international trade?

From 14 to 18 June, Ready4Trade conducted a regional five-day 'Training-of-Trainers' workshop for customs officials on issues and challenges that women face when trading across international borders.

The objective of the workshop was to equip 'master trainers' with the technical and pedagogical tools to autonomously deliver 'gender-responsive trade facilitation' modules to their colleagues in customs administrations and other relevant trade agencies.

Addressing gender-specific obstacles in cross-border trade is essential since women traders and entrepreneurs play a key part in improving the overall economic development of the Central Asia region.

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Moving towards new perspectives and opportunities with Ready4Trade's National Trade Facilitation Portal



Photo: TexBr/Shutterstock

When importing or exporting goods, many SMEs spend extra time and financial resources to gain information on cross-border trade formalities. In order to overcome this issue, the Ready4Trade jointly with the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade (MIFT) and the State Customs Committee (SCC) are developing the National Trade Facilitation Portal (NTFP). The NTFP should serve as a tool to assist SMEs with trade across borders by providing practical information on import and export measures, transit forms and documents, and step-by-step descriptions of commercial formalities for trading particular goods.

On 13 April, the Ready4Trade Central Asia project held an event for various representatives of Uzbek agencies involved in cross-border trade procedures. During the event, the participants discussed the objectives of the Ready4Trade project, best practices for implementation of the Trade Facilitation Portal and any next steps.



Cross-continental collaboration: a video conference exchange between the Australian Border Force and their Uzbek counterparts

Representatives of the State Customs Committee and the State Tax Committee of Uzbekistan traded insights with Australian Border Force officers on 21 April in a video conference.

Australian officers discussed their overall priorities for cross-border e-commerce (revenue collection and de minimis framework) and Australia's Goods and Services Tax (GST) on low-value imported goods. In turn, Uzbek officials shared information regarding the current e-commerce trends in Uzbekistan.

Cross-border management curriculum: orientation meeting with the Association of Exporters

The Ready4Trade project organized an orientation meeting for the representatives from the European Union delegation, Association of Exporters of Uzbekistan (AEU) and other relevant national entities to demonstrate its Cross-Border Management Curriculum online platform called the Virtual Learning Space (VLS).

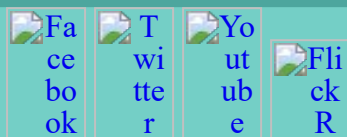
The VLS will be a regional platform meant for testing and review only. Once finalized, the training contents will eventually be uploaded and made available to the SME managers of Uzbekistan on a dedicated national VLS managed by the AEU.

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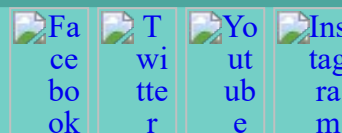
With the project 'Ready4Trade Central Asia', the European Union (EU) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) are joining forces to contribute to the overall sustainable and inclusive economic development of Central Asia by boosting intra-regional and international trade in the region. Beneficiaries of the Ready4Trade Central Asia project include governments, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), in particular women-led enterprises, and Business Support Organizations (BSOs). The project operates in five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



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