and Kyrgyzstan and establish expert platform which will serve not only in the course of the project but also for ensuring the continuous cooperation between EEU countries.

Knowledge

The project will consistently use the existing channels, expertise of specialized institutions, testing laboratories, expert community involvement in the UNDP EE projects in partner countries, including UNDP websites and the websites of partners, along with the social media tools to share updates about the results and implementation status of the project. In the meantime the knowledge products of the project, such regulatory documents, testing methodologies, and education/training and awareness rising materials created by the project will be open and available for all the interested parties. Next to this, the project will ensure that all regional events will be organised with full participation of representatives of all partner countries, public events will be widely covered by media to provide the stakeholders updated content about the project and its lessons learnt.

Visibility

To increase the level of awareness among government counterparts, the private sector, and consumer's rights representing NGOs, media, other development partners, and public at large, a communication strategy will be developed. UNDP will use various conventional and non-conventional communications channels, such as UNDP websites, social media, broadcast, print and online media outlets, blog to disseminate project successes. Communications content will be drawn from regional events, project reports, upgrading the testing laboratories technical capacities, database of photos, audio-visuals, etc.

Visibility guidelines of the donor and the implementing agency will be adhered in all publications and outreach materials, and will be agreed between the parties during the preparation process. Logos and other branding and visibility requirements of the project donor and the implementing agency will be applied based on communications policies of both parties.

Sustainability and Scaling Up

The project's intervention logic is galvanized by the development strategy of EEU countries and SDGs, as well as countries' energy sector priorities in line with low carbon development goals under the Paris Agreement. The project is fully supported by all the relevant state stakeholders and is backed up by the knowledge networks, consultations and technical cooperation by all the related agencies. This will undoubtedly ensure the sustainability of the project by providing strong government commitment and smoothly operating regulatory framework.

Next to national priorities, the project will build strong regional cooperation to ensure adequate breakthrough to resolve the energy saving issues in the EEU by harmonized legislative framework introduction and technological interactions and cost effective network of specialized testing laboratories, coupled with the close interaction with private sector will retain the benefits of transferring appropriate signals to manufacturing and retail industries thus strengthening the sustainability of the project results.

Risk Management

Technical and operational risks include risks related to lack of knowledge and skills, and the underdeveloped nature of cooperation between EEU countries. The regulatory framework improvement risks include those related to the weakness in enforcement of standards in MEPS and HEPS, due to low energy prices and absence market surveillance established mechanisms for controlling the market transformation dynamics. However all partner countries in their national energy and climate policies prioritise energy efficiency. Besides that the EEU regulation assumes that the market rules have to be harmonised in all partner countries for creating general rules, including ones related to energy consuming appliances.

Social and environmental risks to the project are minor and summarized in <u>Annex 2</u>. The institutional risks will be mitigated through the creation of formal and not-formal channels of communication, including expert platform, network of testing laboratories, workshops and training sessions.

The risk rating for this project is provided in the UNDP Risk Log found in Annex 3. The overall risk rating for this project is Low. As per standard UNDP requirements, the Project Task leader will monitor risks quarterly and report on the status of risks to the UNDP COs. The UNDP Country Office in Armenia will record progress