

Business process analysis Study of cereal exports from Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan



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PREFACE

Business Process Analysis (BPA) is recommended as the first step to be taken before undertaking other trade facilitation measures related to the simplification, harmonization, and automation of trade procedures and documents. Having a clear and detailed picture of the "as-is" business processes involved in importing or exporting provides a sound basis for the selection and prioritization of trade facilitation measures aimed at streamlining these processes. ESCAP, in collaboration with UNECE and with the support of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)¹ developed the Guide to Business Process Analysis to Simplify Trade Procedures (BPA Guide)² to provide a concise methodology for the elicitation and systematic documentation of existing trade procedures and processes.

Furthermore, ESCAP, in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), developed a guidance on establishing a sustainable trade and transport facilitation monitoring mechanism (TTFMM)³ to help countries in (1) formulating/updating and prioritizing recommendations for advancing trade facilitation and (2) measuring and assessing progress in trade facilitation. Underpinning TTFMM is the methodology called Business Process Analysis Plus (BPA+) which is built on the Business Process Analysis methodology, supplemented by Time Release Studies (TRS) and Time-Cost-Distance (TCD) methodologies. It is envisaged that establishment of TTFMM would enable the countries to monitor and enhance trade facilitation on a continuous basis and in a sustainable manner.

This study fully adopted the BPA methodology to grasp a clear and detailed picture of the "as-is" business processes involved in cereal exports from Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan. At the same time, it partially adopted the TTFMM to measure progress in trade facilitation over certain period of time, identify changes in improvement and remaining bottlenecks, and formulate recommendations for further advancing trade facilitation. While the study depended only on BPA for assessment, the study still provides a detailed view on trade facilitation performance over time along a trade corridor and sheds an insight on how trade facilitation performance can be regularly monitored and improved by conducting BPA and BPA+. In this context, more BPA or BPA+ studies on a regularly recurring basis are encouraged for sustainable monitoring and enhancement of trade facilitation performance.

¹ Available at <https://unnexnext.unescap.org/>

² Available at <https://unnexnext.unescap.org/content/business-process-analysis-simplify-trade-procedures-case-studies>

³ Available at <https://www.unescap.org/resources/towards-national-integrated-and-sustainable-trade-and-transport-facilitation-monitoring>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The report was prepared by Yelena Vassilevskaya. Sangwon Lim from ESCAP and Mario Apostolov from UNECE provided substantive guidance in the process of drafting and revising the report. The draft report was reviewed by the participants of the Technical cooperation Seminar on Implementing Specific Provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; National Trade Facilitation Committee and a Monitoring and Measuring Mechanism for Trade Facilitation held in May 2019, including participants from relevant agencies of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. The report was subsequently further revised and finalized based on review comments received from the Ministry of National Economy and other agencies of Kazakhstan.

The study was financially supported by ESCAP through a UN Development Account project entitled “Evidence-based trade facilitation measures for economies in transition”. The project intends to enhance capacities of national trade facilitation bodies and other stakeholders to develop and implement trade facilitation policies and measures.

The report was edited by Mr. Robert Oliver. Ms. Wannarat Charoensri helped in formatting and finalizing the report.

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