



Swiss Program on Capacities for Trade Policies (C4TP)

Strengthened capacities of governments in trade policy making to ensure favourable framework conditions to engage in inclusive and sustainable trade

The C4TP offers on-demand targeted support to governments of developing and least developed countries to improve their capacities in trade policy making. Through this support, beneficiary countries are better placed to provide favourable framework conditions to engage in inclusive and sustainable trade, thereby contributing to economic growth and greater resilience.

Rationale

Trade policies are central to foster economic development, ensure trade resilience in times of crisis and foster recovery. In many developing countries, however, trade officials lack expertise to craft domestic trade policies conducive to sustained and inclusive economic growth and to adequately defend their interests in trade negotiations in multilateral, regional and bilateral fora, as well as to translate the results of negotiations into national policies. This is also true for emerging trade topics, for instance related to e-commerce, environment, MSMEs, gender and sustainability.

With the COVID-19 pandemic leading to an unprecedented disruption of the global economy and world trade, open trade policies are more essential than ever to stimulate economic and social development. At the same time, effective trade rules are needed to prevent countries from unilaterally resorting to protectionist measures that could further exacerbate the current situation. Both objectives require resources and skills that are often beyond the possibilities of many developing and least-developed countries.

Objectives and activities

The objective of the C4TP is to equip trade-policy makers of beneficiary countries with the necessary knowledge, negotiating skills, analytical methods and networking capabilities to devise, negotiate and implement an effective and conducive trade-policy to their country's economy (including economic recovery).

SECO country/region

Global and selected
SECO partner
countries

Main funding partners

Switzerland (SECO)

Implementing partner

GFA Consulting
Group

St. Gallen Endowment
for Prosperity through
Trade

Duration

2021-2024

Total budget

CHF 4,000,000

SECO contribution

CHF 4,000,000



The program will offer support at two levels:

1. in the collection and access to high-quality data on trade and
2. in building up human capacities for effective use of these data in negotiations and trade policy formulation in areas such as trade in industrial goods, agriculture, services, rules of origin, SPS/TBT, trade remedies, trade facilitation, intellectual property, public procurement or dispute settlement.

C4TP will develop tools to respond to sustainability and inclusiveness concerns in the formulation of trade policies, such as environment impact assessment of trade agreements or analysis of the impact of specific trade policies on gender.

The scope and the modalities of support are defined together with the beneficiary countries based on their expressed needs. Interventions can include on-the-job training, workshops, blended learning, support to technical analyses, legal drafting or research design, network and awareness raising, staff exchanges. In addition, all beneficiary countries benefit from a tailor-made access to the high-quality trade database created by Global Trade Alert (GTA) and are coached by the GTA team to effectively access and interpret such data in the formulation of their trade policy.

Governance Structure

The GFA Consulting Group Program Management Unit (PMU) plans and monitors the activities under the C4TP. It works with a wide network of experts including experts from Swiss institutions recognized for their trade policy expertise. Depending on the interventions foreseen in the beneficiary countries, a local program manager ensures on the ground implementation and monitoring. A Program Steering Committee including the PMU, the GTA team and SECO governs the overall program. Specific country-level steering arrangements are established on a case-by-case basis.

Results expected

The results achieved with the C4TP will depend on the design of the specific country interventions but can be classified in one of three following categories:

Outcome 1: Improved trade negotiations capacities

Outcome 2: Implementation of trade agreements and unilateral trade policy facilitated

Outcome 3: Improved cooperation among trade policy stakeholders at the national and regional levels

In addition, all interventions will aim at increasing awareness and consideration of sustainability and inclusiveness issues in the formulation of trade policy.

How to get involved

GFA contact details are indicated below. Where available, the Swiss cooperation offices (being part of the Swiss Embassy) can also follow up on requests regarding the C4TP.

Further information and contact details

C4TP at SECO: info.wehu.cooperation@seco.admin.ch

GFA Global Consulting Group: info@gfa-group.de / www.gfa-group.de

St Gallen Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade: office@sgept.org

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