

Regional Integration and Trade

KEY INFORMATION

SECTOR	Private Sector and Regional Integration	
LEAD PARTNER	International Trade Centre- ITC	
DURATION	October 2023 to September 2026 – 3 years	
PROJECT LOCATION	Timor-Leste	
TOTAL BUDGET EU		2,920,000.00
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DATE	January 2024	

Background

Timor-Leste has determined to integrate its economy better into the Southeast Asia and with the world trading system, to further develop its economy and reduce poverty in the country.

Membership of ASEAN, WTO and EPA is considered as a key element to diversify the economy that has the potential to contribute to the job creation and poverty reduction for the country.

However, to complete the above three major accession and subsequently implement the commitments made, the Government, the parliament, the private sector and civil society, and the whole country, are facing many problems and challenges, namely in terms of technical capacity to proceed with the preparation and implementation of these agreements.



Project Details

To support Timor-Leste's priority to develop and diversify its economy by increasing its integration within the Southeast Asian region and to the multilateral trading system, this Action will provide technical assistance and capacity building to Timor-Leste in the process of acceding to the ASEAN and WTO respectively, and to the negotiations of the Pacific EPA with the EU.

These agreements under ASEAN, WTO and EPA will have fundamental impacts on Timor-Leste's future economic and trade relations with the existing ASEAN member states and with the rest of the world, as well as on the business operation and people's lives in the country.

The underlying intervention logic for this action is to support the trade capacity building and the integration of Timor-Leste into the regional and global trade systems (SDG 8). More specifically, the Action will assist Timor-Leste to economically integrate itself into the Southeast region and prepare for ASEAN membership, to assist Timor-Leste in the accession negotiations and post accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to help Timor-Leste undergo the EU-Pacific Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations.

This will be done in an integrated and coordinated way to make sure that there are no duplication of support and actions from different donors. The activities conducted in the project will be demand driven and should comply with the needs and requirements of regional integration of Timor-Leste in the organisations and agreements mentioned before.

The **Overall Objective** of this Action is to support Timor-Leste's economic integration and trade in the South East Asia region.

The **Specific Objective** of this Action is to promote trade and regional integration.

CONTACT DETAILS

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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Expected results

Output Area 1 "Coordination" will contribute to improve the coordination and consultation mechanism on the negotiations, accession and implementation of the ASEAN/AEC, WTO and EPA among government agencies, the Parliament, civil society and the private sector. This action is crucial to make sure that there is a clear understanding of the role and responsibilities of each entity in the implementation of the roadmap for the regional integration in the different organisations and agreements.

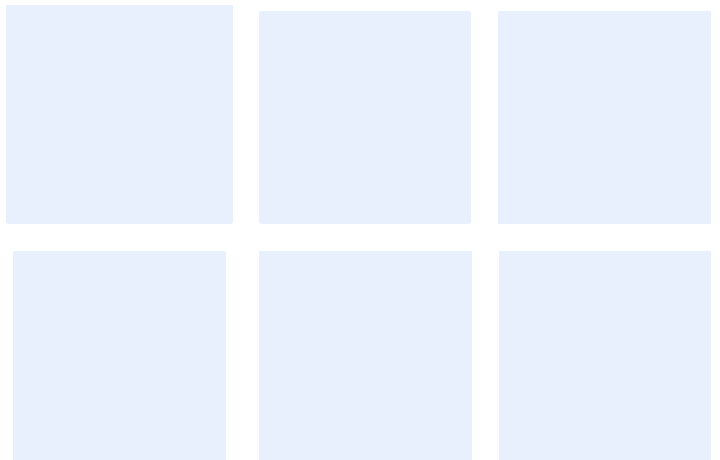
Output 1 will identify the training and capacity building priorities to be supported under Output Area 2 "Capacity Building".

The capacity of Timorese government agencies, the Parliament, civil society and private sector institutions in the negotiations and accession to ASEAN, WTO and EPA will be enhanced and the trade negotiators, policy/law makers and implementers (Ministerial/government agencies officers, regulators, Parliamentarians and private sector and civil society representatives) will have their competences increased with the implementation of the activities under this component.

Finally, the Output Area 3 "Awareness Creation" of trade negotiators, policy/law makers and implementers, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, academics and researchers, media, and other interested parties will be a crucial component to explain the implications of the integration into ASEAN, WTO and EPA. Challenges and opportunities will be identified and explained to all the organisations involved on the process with special assistance to the private sector, SMEs and women-led businesses.

The different components will be directed to all the target audience of the project. This will allow an appropriation of the project and a better understanding of the Government, Parliament and Private Sector and Civil Society regarding the accession implications. The involvement and participation of the project beneficiaries needs to be fostered to improve their capacity and competences.

PROJECTS PARTNER'S LOGOS



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