



Welcome to the eighth edition of our Newsletter!

We are pleased to share the eighth Newsletter on the [European Union](#) (EU)'s '[Facilitating the process of Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO](#)' project, which is implemented by the [International Trade Centre](#) (ITC). The project was conceived to assist Uzbekistan's accession application to the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO), to facilitate the country's participation in the global economy, leveraging WTO membership to modernize its economic activity.

The issue focuses on support extended to Uzbekistan between July and September 2022, in particular on assistance to prepare the next set of accession documentation that stems from the 5th Working Party Meeting (WPM), which took place on 21 June 2022.

Submissions of these negotiation inputs will form the basis of the 6th WPM. During the quarter, work was also finalized to facilitate the compliance of national legislation on intellectual property rights with the requirements of the WTO TRIPS Agreement.

A highlight during the quarter was the delivery of a comprehensive series of 13 workshops to the private sector in all of the country's regions. Entrepreneurs from all regions of Uzbekistan discussed the benefits and opportunities that can be expected to be gained from accession to the WTO.

This newsletter is also available in RUSSIAN and in UZBEK.

More information on our project is available on our websites in [English](#), [Russian](#) and [Uzbek](#) languages.

For any enquiries, contact us: WTOAccessionUZB@intracen.org

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Happy reading!



NOTA BENE from our team:

Kindly note that you have been included in the mailing list of our newsletter following your participation to one of our events. If you wish to unsubscribe, you can do so [here](#).

Обращаем внимание, что вы были включены в список нашей новостной рассылки по итогам участия в одном из наших мероприятий. Если вы хотите отказаться от рассылки, пожалуйста, пройдите по этой [ссылке](#).

Сиз ахборотнома почта рўйхатимизга бизнинг тадбирлар бирида иштирок этганлигиз натижасида киритилганлигизни эслатиб ўтамиз. Ушбу обунани бекор қилмоқчи бўлсангиз, келтирилган [хавола](#) орқали уни рад қилишингиз мумкин.

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IMPLEMENTATION: PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The project operates against a set of targeted objectives:

	The Uzbek government will be better equipped to draft the documents and develop its negotiating positions as required by the WTO accession process
	The executive and legislative branches will be better informed to develop specific sectoral laws and regulations as needed to comply with Uzbekistan's new international commitments
	The policymakers' understanding of the WTO accession process and its legal framework will be reinforced
	Uzbekistan will have an increased capacity to comply with WTO Rules, in particular with regards to the SPS/TBT & Trade Facilitation Agreements of the WTO
	ITC's work will increase the business sector's - including women's associations- awareness of the WTO accession process and benefits

For a clear view the activities and achievements in the past quarter are discussed along the project's five objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1

Informed drafting of documentation & negotiating positions required for WTO accession process

A key objective of WTO accession is the negotiations between the acceding country and WTO Members about the former's existing trade and economic policies and how to adjust them to comply with the WTO Agreements.

The project facilitates this process by drafting required amendments to the negotiation documentation. During the quarter, the project helped with updating and drafting the WTO accession documents required by the 5th Working Party Meeting (which took place on 21 June 2022 at the WTO), and which has to be provided before the next WPM takes place.

This included replies to questions from WTO Members on the foreign trade regime of Uzbekistan and the update of a set of WTO accession documentation such as the Legislative Action Plan (LAP), notification on subsidies and checklists on Customs Valuation, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, as well as on state trading enterprises (STEs). Submission of this documentation will facilitate the holding of the 6th WPM.

OBJECTIVE 2

Enhanced capacity for the development of specific sectoral laws and regulations to align Uzbekistan's national trade policy with the requirements for WTO membership

One of the crucial WTO accession requirements concerns the compliance of specific national laws with the WTO Agreements. A milestone achievement during the past quarter was the finalization of work on drafting changes required to Uzbekistan's national legislation related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), to bring it in compliance with both the WTO TRIPS Agreement and other international intellectual property conventions.

The project also scrutinized the country's trade remedy laws for compliance with WTO rules. Recommendations on national legislation related to anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures were prepared to align them with the WTO trade remedies regime.

At the request of MIFT, the project, furthermore, conducted an analysis of ten national laws on natural monopolies and subsidies that are subject to the activities of the Anti-Monopoly Commission. To enable the review, the laws were translated from Russian into English, and a GAP-analysis was conducted to establish their coherence with the WTO Agreements

OBJECTIVE 3

Increased understanding by policymakers of the WTO accession process and legal framework

To support understanding and build capacity among relevant government officials about the workings of the WTO and the technical aspects of accession, the project provides training and technical assistance.

In support of these endeavours, over the past three months, the project made progress with the implementation of a course on WTO Law and Practice that will be taught at the selected Tashkent-based university. To enable academic staff to present the WTO regulatory framework to students, a series of short, tailored training sessions and guest lectures were offered to the personnel of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED).

Four UWED professors received the training during the one-week trade policy courses of the Summer Academy at the World Trade Institute (WTI) in Bern, Switzerland. In addition, to facilitate better understanding of the TBT and SPS Agreements as well as on trade negotiations and negotiation techniques, two in person-trainings were organized by the WTO for UWED academic personnel and interested students.

OBJECTIVE 4

National institutional capacity strengthened on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Trade Facilitation (TF) compliance in line with WTO obligations

The project stands ready to provide further support with the strengthening of institutional capacity on the application of TBT- and SPS-related measures in compliance with WTO rules. A needs identification mission, as discussed with the national partners, will take place in November 2022.

OBJECTIVE 5

Enhanced awareness of stakeholders, including women's associations, about WTO accession

One of the key aims of the project is to build greater awareness among the private sector about the benefits and opportunities from accession to the WTO and Uzbekistan's subsequent integration into the global economy.



Some of the entrepreneurs at the regional workshops held for the private sector to explain the benefits of WTO membership. Photo: ITC

In the interest of this goal, the project embarked on a comprehensive awareness-raising workshop series in regions of Uzbekistan between July and September 2022. The series was held in person in all the regions of Uzbekistan, namely Andijan, Bukhara, Djizak, Fergana, Kashkadarya, Khorezm, Namangan, Navoi, Samarkand, Surkhandarya, Syrdarya, Tashkent, as well as in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The workshops focused on explaining the objectives and workings of the WTO and highlighted the benefits that could flow from Uzbekistan's membership of the WTO, particularly for private sector stakeholders. The response from participants to the workshop was very positive. 399 representatives of Uzbekistan business community, including 61 women, took part in the events. The workshop also gave occasion to distribute two information guides prepared under the project on export promotion measures as well as a more general guide on WTO law and practice, made available in Russian.

Further opportunities to educate the private sector on WTO accession are under the lens in collaboration with the MIFT.

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