

# **EAST AFRICA TRADE AND INVESTMENT HUB**

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

### **EAC COMMON MARKET IMPLEMENTATION** **STTA: TRADE IN GOODS EXPERT**

#### **Background**

Trade in East Africa accounts for less than 1% of world trade.

The region, bringing together 5 countries, is characterized by small and disconnected markets, high transport costs, inefficient trade facilitation systems, fragmented markets for services, and low purchasing power when compared to several African peers.

As a means to build economies of scale, increase competitiveness, and bring the region closer to becoming a major trade and investment hub, the East African Community (EAC) negotiated and agreed on a Customs Union in 2005, and a Common Market in 2010. Implementation of the common market is however slow, especially at country level where aligning domestic laws, policies and development strategies to the requirements of the protocol remains a big challenge. Several bottlenecks persist in the implementation of the EAC Common Market across its foundational areas of implementation namely goods, services and capital.

Full implementation of the Common Market is an important but challenging task. It calls for strong implementation by all parties, particularly the Partner States, so as to deliver the rights and freedoms enshrined in the EAC Common Market Protocol. This requires a robust implementation cycle: from planning, implementation and monitoring for results.

Cognizant of this, the EAC Partner States have in the last few years invested more attention to improve the implementation of the protocol, including setting up several implementation structures at the national level. This represents an important step towards implementation of the protocol – several opportunities now exist for identifying measures that are inconsistent to the protocol and which parties are responsible for them. This has also created a regular consultation framework to track whether the required reform actions are being undertaken.

There are however several implementation gaps that one finds at the implementation level, one of which is that the private sector, consumers and civil society and other actors with interest in the implementation process of the EAC Common Market Protocol need to engage more strongly in implementing the protocol. This includes the need for effective participation in the rule-making process, feedback on how the measures they face affect their businesses and consumer choices, and an opportunity to propose which policy actions they believe are best suited to expanding trade and investment across the bloc.

EATIH is therefore seeking to recruit highly qualified **Trade in Goods Expert** with demonstrated experience in the East African Community region to lead the Hub's technical support to the East African Community in implementing commitments to the establishment and implementation of the EAC Customs Union Protocol.

## **Objectives of the Assignment**

By undertaking this assignment, the **Trade in Goods Expert** should contribute to significantly accelerating the pace of reforms in commitments to implement the EAC Customs Union Protocol for the period of implementation of this assignment (2016-18). The expert will be responsible for structuring and leading technical assistance to Hub clients, overseeing Hub support to the region's private sector in respect to implementation of the customs union, and assuring the quality of hub deliverables on goods trade in the EAC.

## **Tasks**

1. Identify, develop and implement opportunities for technical assistance to support implementation of EAC Partner State commitments to implement the EAC Customs Union Protocol.
2. Where required, participate in and offer technical advice as required to relevant stakeholders on issues that affect the free movement of goods.
3. Working closely with EATIH grantees and sub-contractors, oversee the development, implementation and feedback process for all EATIH training for stakeholders on freedom of movement of goods requirements under the CMP.
4. Review and provide quality assurance for EATIH-commissioned products on freedom of movement of goods developments in the EAC.
5. In partnership with Hub staff, clients and internal Hub communications teams, oversee development of communications collaterals to support awareness of and advocacy for implementation of the EAC Customs Union.
6. In close collaboration with the EATIH monitoring and evaluation team, develop, monitor and document periodic data on selected performance indicators to support EATIH project monitoring and reporting.
7. Any other reasonable task as designated by the Coordinator, EAC Common Market Implementation.

## **Estimated Period of the Assignment**

The assignment is expected to be conducted over a period of 12 months – September 2017 to August 2018.

## **Required Profile of Trade in Goods Expert**

- 10 years of demonstrable experience working on development and implementation of trade, investment, regional integration projects or any other similar professional experience.
- Demonstrable grasp of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and derivative trade instruments; and the EAC Customs Union Protocol.
- Proven ability in applying trade in goods expertise to broad range of issues relating to international trade and investments.
- A Bachelor-level degree in economics, law or any other equivalent certification. A Masters degree or admission to the roll of advocates will be an advantage.
- Understanding and prior experience working in support of the East African Community or any other regional economic community.
- Proficiency in spoken and written English.

## **Reporting and Contact Persons**

The Trade in Goods Expert will report to the Hub Coordinator, EAC Common Market Implementation.