



PAGE 4: (B.1) YOUR CASE STORY: TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

Q1: TITLE OF CASE STORY

The EPA Development Programme (EPADP) implementation process – West Africa – ECOWAS Commission

Q2: CASE STORY ABSTRACT

This case story addresses the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Development Programme, a programme related to the renewal of the trading regime between the West Africa region (WA) and the European Union (EU).

The overall goal of the EPADP is to build a competitive regional economy that is harmoniously integrated into the global economy and stimulates growth and sustainable development. Specifically, the programme is aimed at supporting the West African region to draw full benefit from the opportunities offered by the EPA and reduce the negative effects of the agreement.

Tools for making the EPADP operational have had to be developed as part of the programme's implementation process. They include a period specific priority projects matrix, an EPA Regional Fund, and a Competitiveness Observatory. These tools facilitate the mobilization of EPADP funding sources through, inter alia, the programming of existing EU funding vehicles, the coordination and channelling of mobilized resources, and the monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the EPA and the EPADP.

Given the magnitude of existing Aid for Trade needs in the WA region, it is important to continue the smooth implementation and monitoring of the EPADP by means of tools such as those put in place for its operationalization.

Q3: LONG DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE STORY

1. Issues addressed

The EPA was signed by West Africa in July 2014 in connection with the renewal of the trading regime between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the EU. The development dimension is a key element of the agreement. The WA region prepared the EPADP in order to give shape to the commitment on the part of WA and the EU to negotiating an EPA favourable to sustainable development. The process of preparing the programme was described in a case story submitted in 2012. The present case story highlights the programme's implementation process.

The process presented several challenges to be overcome, including:

- the mobilization of resources to fund and operationalize the EPADP in order to assure the West African States of the effective implementation of EPA-related reforms and facilitate the conclusion of negotiations;
- the coordination and channelling of mobilized resources;
- the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the EPA, including its impact with respect to the agreement's objectives.

To meet these challenges in the EPADP implementation process, suitable tools and arrangements, involving the major West African stakeholders as well as the EU and its member States, had to be put in place. These tools and arrangements include the priority projects matrix for 2015-2019, the EPA Regional Fund, and the West Africa Competitiveness Observatory.

2. Objectives

The overall goal of the EPADP is to build a competitive regional economy that is harmoniously integrated into the global economy and stimulates growth and sustainable development. Specifically, the programme is aimed at supporting the WA region to draw full benefit from the opportunities offered by the EPA and reduce the negative effects of the agreement.

The 2015-2019 priority projects matrix, the EPA Regional Fund and the Competitiveness Observatory are geared towards making the EPADP operational and enabling its monitoring and evaluation.

3. Implementation

The main tools agreed on and prepared for operationalizing the EPADP are summarized below:

- Adoption of the priority projects matrix for 2015-2019. The preparation of the matrix reflects one of the principles of the EPADP, which takes a long term view, but it is implemented in five year periods. The EU has committed to funding the matrix, assessed at EUR 6.5 billion, and this represents the EU's contribution to EPADP implementation for the period 2015-2019. This contribution is one of the pillars of the consensus reached by the two parties on the EPA in July 2014. The priority projects matrix focuses on improving the competitiveness of the economies. In particular, it takes account of the concerns expressed during the preparation of West Africa's market access offer and concentrates on trade facilitation, subsectors that will be helped or harmed by liberalization, and subsectors with potential for development in intracommunity trade or on the EU market so that the region can exploit the opportunities presented by the agreement.

The programming process for the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for West Africa takes account of the activities identified in the 2015-2019 EPADP priority projects matrix.

- Preparation of the framework document for the EPA Regional Fund

The WA region was prompted to begin creating the EPA Regional Fund because of the number of different funding sources for the development component of the EPA, their varying procedures, the multiple recipients, and the unwieldiness that could hamper resource mobilization and use. The Fund is an important tool for channelling and coordinating support for EPADP implementation. With the creation of the EPA Regional Fund, resources to support the EPA and Aid for Trade in the WA region more generally are less fragmented. The WA prepared a framework document for the EPA Regional Fund that sets out the Fund's objectives and guiding principles, its operating procedures, and its institutional apparatus. The document is now under discussion with the EU. The ECOWAS Commission included a disbursement in its 2015 budget as its contribution to the Fund's operationalization.

- The main goals of the Competitiveness Observatory, one of the joint bodies planned in the institutional framework provided for under the agreement, are to make reference indicators available on the competitiveness of the sectors of production, to monitor trends in the different parameters of that competitiveness, and to provide guidance on priority support measures for its improvement. The WA prepared a draft document that specifies which stakeholders are to be involved in the monitoring, the scope of the monitoring, the primary relevant indicators given the targeted objectives, the methodology, and the Observatory's legal form and status. The document underscored the need not only to measure the region's overall competitiveness (including a general overview of the States' economies and societies), the competitiveness of certain sectors or value chains and the performance of the specific sectors, but also to track the implementation of commitments undertaken under the EPA. This document will be discussed with the EU with a view

to agreeing on a credible and transparent mechanism for evaluating competitiveness that will ensure that the results will be accepted by all parties, including the EU.

4. Problems encountered

- Difficulties in reaching consensus among the parties on how to set up the tools for making the EPADP operational.
- Insufficient implementation capacities of the regional stakeholders, which must improve their modes of involvement and adapt to the new challenge presented by the EPA.

5. Success factors

- Real commitment on the part of regional stakeholders, including at the political level, to having the tools for EPADP operationalization available.
- Involvement of regional implementation agencies with know-how and experience in the implementation of trade related programmes in West Africa; this facilitates an ownership of EPADP implementation by West African stakeholders, in conformity with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.
- Regular meetings, including joint meetings of the ECOWAS and WAEMU Commissions, to plan and refine all aspects of the tools for putting the EPADP into operation.
- Participation of competent experts, both in the region and from abroad.

6. Outcomes achieved

Setting up the tools to make the EPADP operational ensures:

- greater visibility of the various forms of support to be mobilized by the region;
- better participation by the lenders funding the EPADP;
- coherence and synergy among national and regional trade development funding vehicles;
- streamlined procedures and greater absorption of the resources mobilized under the EPA;
- a mechanism to measure competitiveness and compliance with commitments undertaken under the EPA.

The signing of the EPA by the EU and WA has sparked renewed interest among development partners, including EU member States seeking to make a tangible contribution to its implementation through cooperation instruments such as Aid for Trade

7. Lessons learnt

- Aid for Trade programmes must cover a broad range of activities that affect many stakeholders.
- The implementation of such programmes must occur in logical stages and activities must be well coordinated; this requires that relevant and effective tools for operationalization be put in place and that significant human and financial resources be mobilized

**Q4: Please add here web links
to project/programme materials**

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Q5: YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

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Q6: FUNCTION Public sector

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Q7: FUNDING PARTNER
Tick the appropriate box(es) *Respondent skipped this question*

Q8: Additional information *Respondent skipped this question*

Q9: START DATE OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME *Respondent skipped this question*

Q10: STATUS OF PROJECT PROGRAMME *Respondent skipped this question*

Q11: DURATION OR, IF ONGOING, EXPECTED DURATION OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME *Respondent skipped this question*

Q12: COST OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME *Respondent skipped this question*

Q13: Additional information *Respondent skipped this question*

Q14: TYPE OF FUNDING FOR PROJECT/PROGRAMME *Respondent skipped this question*

PAGE 7: (C.3) ABOUT THE CASE STORY**Q15: PROJECT/PROGRAMME TYPE** Regional**PAGE 8: (C.3) ABOUT THE CASE STORY****Q16: SINGLE COUNTRY/CUSTOMS TERRITORY** *Respondent skipped this question***PAGE 9: (C.3) ABOUT THE CASE STORY****Q17: REGION (If the region does not appear in the drop down menu, please enter manually)** West Africa**PAGE 10: (C.3) ABOUT THE CASE STORY****Q18: MULTI-COUNTRY (Enter all countries or customs territories)** Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo**PAGE 11: (C.4) ABOUT THE CASE STORY****Q19: CASE STORY FOCUS** Other (please specify):
Tick the appropriate box(es) See summary**PAGE 12: (C.5) ABOUT THE CASE STORY****Q20: HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME** *Respondent skipped this question*
Tick the appropriate box(es)**PAGE 13: (C.6) ABOUT THE CASE STORY****Q21: WHAT WERE THE OUTPUTS OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME?** Other (please specify):
Tick the appropriate box(es) See summary**Q22: Additional information (maximum 300 words)** *Respondent skipped this question***PAGE 14: (C.7) ABOUT THE CASE STORY****Q23: WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME?** Other (please specify):
Tick the appropriate box(es) See summary**Q24: Additional information (maximum 300 words)** *Respondent skipped this question*

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Q25: WHAT WERE THE IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME?
Tick the appropriate box(es)

Other (please specify):
See summary

Q26: Additional information (maximum 300 words)

Respondent skipped this question

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Q27: LESSONS LEARNT?
Tick the appropriate box(es)

Other (please specify):
See summary

Q28: Additional information (maximum 300 words)

Respondent skipped this question

Q29: PROJECT OR PROGRAMME MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK?
Tick the appropriate box(es)

Other (please specify):
See summary
