



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Single Market : regulatory environment, standardisation and New Approach
Standardisation

Vademecum on European Standardisation

Part V

Technical assistance and Standardisation

Chapter 2

European Community TBT related technical assistance to developing
Countries – EC submission to the TBT committee

15 November 2003

Status of the document: EC Working Document of September 2003

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EC submission to the TBT Committee

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TBT RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. Introduction

Following a number of requests from developing countries, and with a view to further enhancing transparency, this document provides information about the programming of TBT related assistance within the European Commission and possibilities for obtaining such assistance. It also aims to help developing countries understand the EC system.

The link between trade and development has been designated as one of the priority areas for the European Community's (EC's) development co-operation. The trade dimension is taken into account in all the relevant levels of decision making on how to allocate funds for assistance - thus providing a possibility of developing countries to benefit from EC development aid for TBT purposes.

As part of its efforts to respond to technical assistance needs in the TBT field, the EC is funding a number of projects around the world. An updated list of European Commission and EU Member States' technical assistance activities in the TBT field is attached.

2. Technical assistance programming within the European Commission

The majority of EC development co-operation programmes are carried out in accordance with various agreements between the EC and developing countries.

The development co-operation cycle starts with the programming phase that leads to the development and adoption of multiannual (typically five year) **Country and/or Regional Strategy Papers** (CSPs and/or RSPs). CSPs provide a framework for co-operation programmes based on a number of factors, including the partner country government policy agenda, an analysis of the partner country's situation and the activities of other major partners. RSPs provide a similar framework for regions. The strategy papers point to where EC assistance should be directed, including a description of the priorities pursued and the focal sectors. The papers also highlight how EC activities integrate with the activities of other donors and contain an outline of the specific EC contribution to the agreed co-operation goals.

There are presently 120 CSPs and 15 RSPs. Information about the CSPs and RSPs can be found on the Internet sites:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/csp_rsp/csp_en.cfm and
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/sp/index.htm.

National and Regional Indicative Programmes are management tools that are included in the CSPs and RSPs. They define in more detail the selected areas/sectors of co-operation to be financed and appropriate measures and action for attaining the

set objectives. Where appropriate, these programmes include an indicative resource allocation.

The next steps are **programme/project identification, preparation and appraisal**. This includes discussions with the partner country to determine the intervention network, one or more identification missions, and the drafting and finalisation of both a project identification sheet and a financing proposal. The partner country is closely involved throughout this process.

The following phase is **the implementation of the programmes/projects**. The implementation and its follow up are generally managed by the responsible European Commission Delegation in the partner country in co-operation with the European Aid Co-operation Office of the European Commission in Brussels. The beneficiary government or regional organisation in close co-operation with the delegation draws up terms of reference, carries out tendering and contracting of the projects/sub-projects and proposes revisions or modifications in the programme/project when required.

The final step is **evaluation**, which feeds back into the overall programming. Strategy papers and indicative programmes are regularly reviewed and can be adjusted in view of needs and performance. The review process is the occasion to assess or reassess the coverage of specific themes such as trade development in general or assistance in the TBT area.

3. Information about EC technical assistance

Further information about EC trade related assistance can be found on the Internet sites:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/global/development/trta/index_en.htm

It is also possible to ask for information from the European Commission Delegations in partner countries. A list of the EC Delegations is available on the Internet site:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/index.htm. In countries to which no Delegation is accredited, the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels should be contacted.

A list of EC Member State agencies working in the development field is available at the Internet site:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/organisation/dev_links_en.cfm.

The EC also provides various types of assistance to countries that have applied to become members of the European Union. The assistance is based on the priorities identified in Accession Partnership Agreements with these countries. Information about these EC programmes/projects can be found on the Internet site:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/fiche_projet/.