Sixth Six-Monthly Progress Report

ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the European Union - (ARISE) Plus

8th May to 7th November 2020

Programme No. ACA/2016/389774

**Service Contract No.
EUROPEAID/138416/DH/SER/MULTI**

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ARISE PLUS FACT SHEET

Programme Title	ASEAN Regional Integration Support by EU (ARISE Plus)
Programme Number	ACA/2016/389774
Service Contract	EUROPEAID/138416/DH/SER/MULTI
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABAC	ASEAN Business Advisory Council
ACCSQ	ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality
ACCC	ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee
ACCP	ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection
ACD	ASEAN Cosmetic Directive
AC-SPS	ASEAN Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
ACSS	ASEAN Community Statistical System
ACTD	ASEAN Common Technical Dossier
ACTR	ASEAN Common Technical Requirements
ACTS	ASEAN Customs Transit System
ACTS-IP	ACTS Information Portal management
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AECB	ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint
AEGFS	ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety
AEO	Authorised Economic Operators
AFAFGIT	ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit
AFAFIST	ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport
AFAMT	ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport
AFFA	ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations
AFTA	ASEAN Free Trade Area
AHEEERR	ASEAN Harmonised Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulatory Regime
AGVCBP	ASEAN Goods Vehicle Cross Border Permit
AMS	ASEAN Member State
API	Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient(s)
APLAC	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
APSC	ASEAN Political-Security Community
ARAC	ASEAN Political-Security Community
ARASFF	ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety
ARISE	ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
ASCC	ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU
ASEAN	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASEAN-CBTP	Association of South East Asian Nations
APSC	ASEAN agreement on the Facilitation of the Cross-Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicle
ASEC	ASEAN Secretariat
ASI-CT	ASEAN Statistical Indicators-Consolidated Template
ASOA	ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture
ASPSC	ACCSQ's 2016-2025 Strategic Plan for Standards and Conformance

ASSIST	ASEAN Solutions for Services, Investment and Trade
ATFJCC	ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee
ATFW	ASEAN Trade Facilitation Work Plans
ATT	Authorised Transit Trader
ASW-SC	ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee
ATIGA	ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement
ATR	ASEAN Trade Repository
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BE	Bio-equivalence
BFSDAS	Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics
CCAD	Community and Corporate Affairs Directorate
CCA	ASEAN Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of ATIGA
CCI	ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment
CCBWG	Customs Capacity Building Working Group
CCC	ASEAN Customs Coordinating Committee
CCS	ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services
CECWG	Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group
CEN-CENELEC	European Committee on Standardization – European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation
CIFOCOss	Chronic Individual Food Consumption Database – summary statistics
CLMV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam
COB	Council of ASEAN Insurance Bureaux
COST	Committee on Science and Technology
CPTFWG	Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group
CRD	Community Relations Division
DSG	Deputy Secretary General
DG-DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
EC	European Commission
EDSM	Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism
EEE	Electrical and Electronic Equipment
EU	European Union
EUABC	EU-ASEAN Business Council
FA	Financing Agreement
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GIFT	Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
ICH	International Council for Harmonization
IGDRP	International Generic Drug Regulators Program
KE	Key Expert(s)
KLTSP	Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan

JNKE	Junior Non-Key Expert
LSAD	Legal Services and Agreements Directorate
MIS	Management Information System
MPAC	Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement
MSME	Micro-, Small-, and Medium-Sized Enterprises
MST	Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand
NKE	Non-Key Expert
NAB	National Accreditation Body
NFAB	National Focal Points for Accreditation
NTM	Non-Tariff Measure(s)
NTR	National Trade Repository
NTTCC	National Transit Transport Coordinating Committees
PCPMD	Programme Coordination and Project Management Division
OWP	Overall Work Plan
PFPWG	Prepared Foodstuffs Product Working Group
PIC/S	Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme
PPWG	ACCSQ Pharmaceutical Product Working Group
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PWG	Product Working Group(s)
SC-AROO	Sub Committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin
SNKE	Senior Non-Key Expert
SPCD	Strategic Plans for Customs Development
S&T	Science and Technology Division
STOM	ASEAN Senior Transport Officials
SOM AMAF	Senior Officials Meeting ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
TA	Technical Assistance
TAT	Technical Assistance Team
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TFD	Trade Facilitation Division
TFWG	ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group
TRIM	Trade-related Investment Measure
TTCB	Transit Transport Coordinating Board
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
VCO	Visibility, Communication and Outreach
WGDSA	Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis, Dissemination and Communication
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Overview

The ARISE Plus sixth six monthly progress report covers the period 8th May 2020 to 7th November 2020. The activities carried out support the ASEAN economic integration effort and are guided by the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.

Following a successful Mid-Term review of the programme in Jan 2020 an extension was signed in August 2020 extending the programme until November 7th 2022, with an additional €7.4 million taking the project to 5 years and €22.5 million. The focus of the activities during the extension period will be on ensuring key outputs delivered to-date contribute to major results, and on ensuring sustainability of the results. The resources made available during the extension will provide support to ASEAN Economic integration efforts during a critical period that includes ASEAN's recovery from the impact of Covid19.

The reporting period covers project activities that were implemented during the Covid 19 pandemic, In addition to the ASEAN countries, most of the home countries where the international experts are based, have experienced more than one stringent lockdown. Borders have remained closed in most countries and all travel restricted or completely blocked The inevitable consequence of this has been a number of workshops and ASEAN official meetings being postponed or held virtually. The ASEAN Secretariat had remained closed during the period with most staff working from home. Despite this, the project has demonstrated its resourcefulness and strong support to ASEAN, by holding 10 ASEAN workshops and meetings using teleconferencing tools, and involving 818 participants. With workshops being conducted largely online, it is worth noting there has been a massive reduction in the use of incidentals compared with other reporting period. The project team is planning for the lack of physical meetings during 2021 and all the signs are that ASEAN official meetings will be conducted virtually next year.

The project has refined its remote management working practices with weekly project meetings involving all key experts and long-term non-key experts, with additional meetings amongst groups of experts working on specific activities. In light of the long-standing travel restrictions as a result of Covid19, the EUD is working with the project to ensure both international and regional experts are able to work from home and the temporary lifting the 80/20 rule on work done by experts outside the region. has enabled several activities that were on hold to restart The project has continued strong engagement with the relevant counter parts in the ASEC and Sectoral Bodies using teleconferencing tools such a Skype, Zoom and Blue Jeans to ensure continuation of activities.

Despite the substantial impact of Covid 19 on travel and physical meetings, a total of 36 major activities were implemented during the reporting period with the key results achieved during the reporting period highlighted below.

Major results during the reporting period

For additional details please refer to Section 1 of the report under respective activities.

Seamless movement of goods in ASEAN becomes a reality through the live run of the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS)

The project has made notable advancement in the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) initiative. The ACTS aims to facilitate the seamless movement of goods by road within participating ASEAN Member States (AMS). ASEAN achieved a major breakthrough in "free movement of goods by road", with the technical assistance and facilitation of EU ARISE+, which resulted in the first two live runs of the movement of goods under the ACTS been successfully completed. The first loaded truck departed from Singapore on 23 October 2020 and arrived safely in Thailand on 24 October 2020. The second live transit along the North-South Corridor successfully took place on the 28 October 2020 from Singapore to Thailand passing through Malaysia.

ACTS entered full live operations on 2 November 2020 after three phases of pilot testing. Six participating AMS along the north-south and east-west transit transport corridors are Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, with Myanmar joining in 2021

The progress to-date is the result of concerted expert inputs by the project to establish all the systems that make-up the ACTS and facilitation between the different stakeholders. These stakeholders include, the ASEAN Customs Directors-General, ASEAN Senior Transport

Officials (STOM), the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB), Customs Coordinating Committee (CCC) and its working groups, the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Association (AFFA), National Transit Transport Coordinating Committees and the ASEAN Secretariat at the regional level, national level customs and transport authorities and DHL Global Forwarding, City Zone Express and VCargo Cloud and partners from the private sector.

ACTS supports the ASEAN economic integration objectives to double intra ASEAN trade and to reduce cross border trade costs by 10%. The system will benefit traders, producers and consumers by providing a transparent and integrated customs transit system that saves time and cost. Consumers will be able to enjoy access to affordable and quality products.

Opportunities for seamless movement of goods in ASEAN expanded through piloting of multimodal transport

The ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Multimodal Transport (AFAMT) further enhances the seamless intra-ASEAN movement of goods

The piloting of AFAMT was endorsed by the Senior Transports Officials and members of the ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG). AFAMT support teams for the pilot stage were set up in Thailand and Vietnam. These teams consisted of the Ministries of Transport, freight forwarding associations; Thai International Freight Forwarders Association (TIFFA), Vietnam Logistics Busines Association (VLA) and a number of multimodal

transport operators. The first multi-modal transaction from Thailand to Vietnam was successfully carried out between 30th October to 2nd November 2020 through a combination of road and sea.

To further support the live operations of this transport agreement in 2021, ARISE+ has developed a framework for a liability insurance scheme for Multimodal Transport

Operators, conducted analysis of liability schemes of ASEAN Member States and alignment with AFAMT, produced a comparative study between ASEAN and EU on multimodal transport and developed the Implementation Framework for AFAMT. The successful operationalisation of AFAMT will enhance ASEAN economic integration by ensuring all 10 AMS have equal access to the benefits of free movement of goods across international borders.

Legal Review of ATIGA conducted to support ASEAN in enhancing regulatory environment for trade in goods

One of the demand-driven activities supported by the project has been the Legal Review of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) as part of the overall General review. ATIGA is the legally binding agreement governing trade in goods between the ASEAN Member states and encourages free flow of goods, reduction of barriers to trade and reducing transaction costs and increasing transparency.

The legal analysis and comparative benchmarking of the ATIGA as part of the general review, ARISE+ has been drafted and submitted as an Interim Report to the Coordinating Committee for ATIGA (CCA) and the ASEC Trade Facilitation Division. The report took into account all relevant ASEAN developments, applicable World Trade Organisations (WTO) obligations and the relevant international Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs). The 337-page Interim Report was submitted and presented

on the 25 June 2020. It is currently being reviewed by the ASEAN Member States (AMS).

Responding to further demand from ASEAN Member States, the project prepared a summarised version of the interim report in a reader friendly format. The Interim Report and summary matrix were acknowledged as a comprehensive document that offered good scope and in-depth analysis which will facilitate AMS in the General Review of ATIGA. ARISE+ received further demand for domestic consultations from the Ministry of Trade Indonesia. The consultation meeting was held on the 8 September 2020 and participated by all the relevant Indonesian Ministries responsible for the General Review of ATIGA. The meeting served as an effective platform to provide feedback to the questions and suggestions made by the Indonesian Government.

Effective implementation of ATIGA supported to improve regulatory transparency for business

ARISE+ has continued its engagement with the AMSs' authorities in charge of the respective National Trade Repositories (NTRs) as part of the implementation of ATIGA.

The project continued the work on populating the ASEAN Trade repository with NTMs, through identification classification packaging and submitting to AMS for validation. Once this process is completed the individual measures are linked and uploaded to the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR). Significant progress was made during the six-month period, particularly with Cambodia,

Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, with increasing ownership by AMSs. In comparison to the 336 NTMs uploaded to the ATR in 2018, as of end October 2020, a total of 3,244 NTMs have been uploaded to the ATR. This has led to a significant increase in the degree of ASEAN trade-related legislative and regulatory transparency, in line with Article 13 of the ATIGA on the ASEAN Trade Repository. This output gives the private sector access, through the ATR, to the latest information on NTMs that influences decisions and facilitates trade within the ASEAN Region.

Substantial increase in validated NTMs uploaded to ASEAN Trade Repository
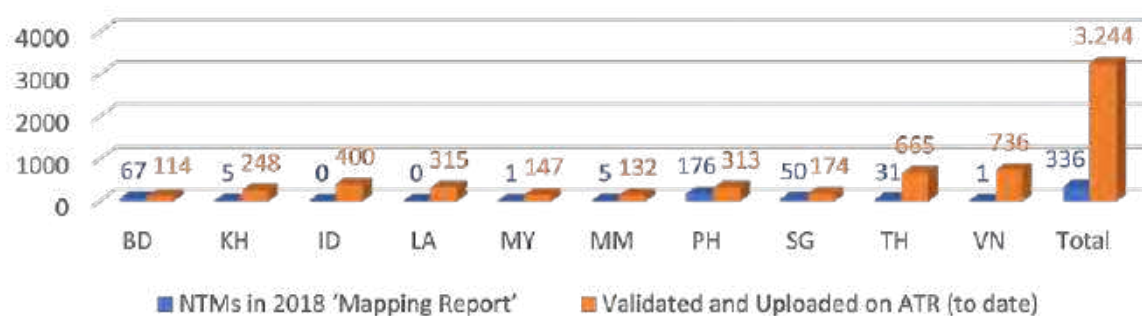
ASEAN food safety and quality enhanced through harmonised regulatory regime

ARISE+ has over many years contributed to the realisation of a harmonised regulatory regime for Food Safety in ASEAN, most recently through the development of the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement At the regional level, ARISE Plus has been working with the technical working groups, Prepared Food Product Working Group (PFPWG), Health Cluster 4 and the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on crops, fisheries and livestock.

One of the milestones achieved during this reporting period is the draft ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement, better known as the AFSRF Agreement is finalised and is now awaiting formal endorsement by the senior officials which include the Senior Official Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) and the Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development.(SOMHD)

Once the agreement is signed and comes into force upon ratification by all ASEAN Member States (AMS) The agreement will promote improved food safety in the region, ensure consumers have better access to safe food and stimulate intra-ASEAN Trade in food products under a single regulatory regime and associated implementing instruments.

ASEAN supported by EU to monitor progress of the SDG 2030 agenda

ARISE Plus has successfully supported the ASEAN Statistical Community, for the publication of the inaugural ASEAN Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs) Baseline Report 2020. The report presents data at the regional and national level that serves as the baseline for selected SDGIs. Cooperation on SDGIs data collection and coordination across the 10 ASEAN Member States was supported by the project in conjunction with the Working Group on SDGIs, ASEANstats, and the National Statistical Offices. In conjunction with the release of the report, an online SDG database portal was launched on 23 October 2020, which provides stakeholders transparent access to SDGIs statistics.

The baseline report and online portal will serve as a good evidence-based points of reference for monitoring progress towards the 2030 Agenda and planning at the national, regional and international level.

ASEAN supported to enhance the AEC integration agenda through the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the AEC Blueprint 2025

ARISE+ has provided strategic support to the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate (AIMD) of ASEC to conduct the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the AEC Blueprint 2025. Through an expert team, the project has supported AIMD in the assessment of the 23 sectoral workplans, from a compliance monitoring perspective, conducted a comprehensive literature review of external studies on the AEC integration efforts and contributed to the drafting of Preliminary MTR Report which was submitted to the High-Level Task Force on Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) on 1 November 2020 for review and finalisation prior to submission to the 19th AEC Council Meeting on 10 November.

In addition, the project has provided technical expertise to engage businesses operating in the ASEAN region to seek their views and sentiments on AEC integration efforts including priority areas for improvement. This included a survey of 505 foreign businesses operating in the region,

from the 14 dialogue partners of ASEAN (including the EU, UK, Japan, USA, Korea, Russia, China, India, Canada, New Zealand). Next steps will include focus group discussions with the Joint Business Councils from the 14 dialogue partners, a focus group discussion with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and AMS representatives and a business sentiments survey of ASEAN businesses. These business inputs will be integrated into the MTR Report and will shape recommendations for AEC integration efforts from 2021 to 2025 and beyond.

ARISE+ regional and national projects connected

Efforts to coordinate the ARISE+ regional and national projects came to fruition during this reporting period when the first Informal ARISE+ Regional coordination meeting took place on 24 June 2020. The event brought together participants from DG DEVCO F2, EU Delegations (EUDs) from 8 ASEAN Member States (AMS), TAT project teams from 2 ARISE+ regional projects and 5 ARISE+ national projects (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Indonesia and Vietnam). The coordination initiative was led by the EUD Indonesia, who also moderated the meeting. The event was supported technically by the ARISE Plus regional project who provided expert input in the form of a matrix mapping complementary areas between projects, and a matrix of the EU's contribution to 22 AEC Blueprint 2025 elements across the various regional and national ARISE+ projects, one of the largest portfolios amongst ASEAN Dialogue and Strategic Partners.

The discussions highlighted how the coordination efforts can help promote EU's support to ASEAN, create synergies and further coordinate between bilateral, regional and efforts from HQ, as well as the importance of the ARISE+ flagship projects for the European Commission. Follow-up
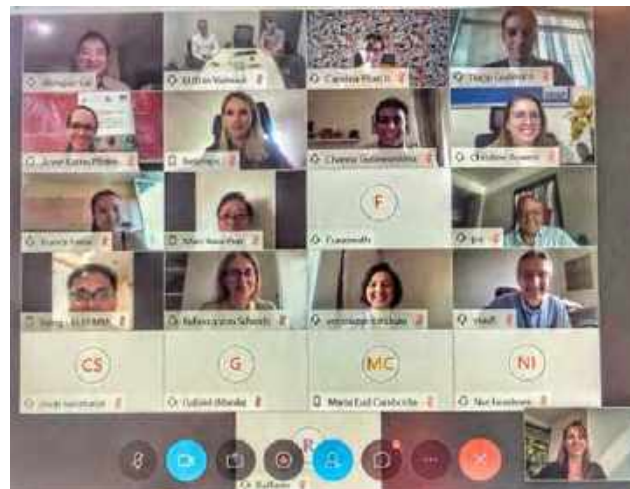
activities included sharing of executive summaries from progress reports of each project and the compilation of a contacts list of ARISE+ projects and the sharing of flash reports and newsletters between the projects. A concept note for the conduct of thematic webinars in priority areas was developed and will guide next steps.

Anticipated highlights and major results of the next reporting period

Launch of AEC Blueprint 2025 Mid-Term Review (MTR) Public report

Major activities will include conclusion of the ASEAN Business Sentiments Survey, focus group discussions with ASEAN Business sectoral bodies, and the finalisation, design and launch of the AEC Blueprint 2025 MTR Public report. The AEC Blueprint 2025 MTR Public report which will be the most significant AEC document of the past five

years, providing insights into AEC integration progress, lessons learnt, challenges and shaping of the AEC integration agenda until 2025 and beyond. The findings of the report will be disseminated to a large audience including ASEAN Member State governments, members of the ASEAN business community, think-tanks and foreign businesses operating in ASEAN. The launch will provide substantial visibility of the EU support provided to the MTR of the AECB through the report, leaflets, audio-video presentations and a launch event.

ACTS launch, outreach and enhancement

A VIP launch of the ACTS will be held during the next reporting period which will allow for seamless movement of good via road transport, between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The launch event will feature the Director-General of DG DEVCO, the Head of International Relations unit in DG TAXUD, the Ambassador of the EU to ASEAN, ASEAN Secretariat Secretary General, Senior officials from the AMS and senior executives from the Freight Forwarders Association and companies such as DHL. The launch was accompanied by substantial promotion and outreach including press releases, promotional leaflets, banners and video. The ACTS software will be upgraded with version 3.3 of the software release which will involve nine change requests approved by the ACTS Change Management Board. Other highlights will involve capacity building and technology transfer to support the joining of ACTS by Myanmar in 2021.

Expansion of Multimodal Modal pilot with Thailand and Vietnam

Work on the multi modal pilot with Thailand and Vietnam will continue. This will include the conduct of surveys to evaluate the efficiency of existing AMS Customs clearance procedure for multimodal transport and the number of Customs transit declarations. A Cost-Benefit Analysis of implementing AFAMT by ASEAN Member States will also be developed to demonstrate the benefits to AMS.

ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF) agreement signing and implementation

The AFSRF Agreement is at a final stage of development. It is designed to facilitate improved co-ordination among the different bodies involved in food safety risk management in ASEAN and enable the transposition and implementation of harmonised technical requirements across ASEAN Member States. The work on the drafting of AFSRF Agreement has been completed, including a legal review and the acceptance of the draft agreement by the Task Force established for this purpose. The Task Force is awaiting formal endorsement by the Senior Economic Officials namely, SOM AMAF, SEOM and SOM-HD.

During the next reporting period, the project will support the implementation of the ASFRF Agreement through the development of legal instruments or protocols for each of the elements that are to be implemented. ARISE+ will facilitate consultations to identify the priority areas for which ASEAN should develop these protocols.

ASEAN Guidelines on Traceability for Food and Feed finalisation

The adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines on Traceability will provide ASEAN Member States a means to implement a key principle of the ASEAN Food Safety Policy in a harmonised manner. The incorporates the principle that food safety has to be assured across the total food chain. The ASEAN Traceability Guidelines will serve as an essential tool for the implementation of this principle and the realisation of the AFSRF. A major workshop is planned during the next reporting period with AMS representatives from the ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (ARASFF-NCP) and other ASEAN Bodies from the Agriculture, Health and Trade sectors to reach consensus on a final draft of the ASEAN Guidelines on Traceability that will be presented to the ARASFF-NCP and other relevant ASEAN bodies in the 3 sectors for endorsement in early 2021.

Continued support for ATIGA implementation and transparency

ARISE+ will continue to support the work to identify, classify, package, validate and upload all AMSs' remaining TBT NTMs by the end of the next reporting period. The target will be to identify, validate and upload onto the ATR 5000 validated NTMs in total to provide legal transparency for the private sector. These will cover Tariff nomenclature, MFN tariffs, preferential tariffs offered under the ATIGA and other Agreements of ASEAN with its Dialogue Partners; Rules of origin; and all remaining sub-categories under category 4 on NTMs. It is expected to lead to greater awareness and utilisation of the ATR by the private sector operating in ASEAN.

ATIGA legal review completed

During the next reporting period, the ATIGA legal review will be completed including benchmarking against the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). A regional workshop will be held to obtain the feedback and commentary from the sectoral bodies and a Final report will be developed. Technical Materials will be used to present the findings of the ATIGA legal review to SEOM and the Chairs of the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies.

Data collection for SDG indicators extended

Data collection for SDG indicators will be extended beyond the current 67 regional indicators and 134 country indicators through technical assistance and capacity building for AMS to submit SDG indicators. Capacity of ASEANStats will also be enhanced in the compilation, reporting and dissemination of regional SDG indicators.

The capacity building and TA is expected to help address some of the coordination challenges and quality issues at national level. ASEANStats and AMSs will have the opportunity to improve the technical capacity to deal with missing data and data aggregation and estimation, and to learn how important aspects of the information can be emphasized in their reporting. This will help support sustainability of the delivery and reporting of SDG indicator information.

First official coordination meeting and webinars of ARISE+ regional and national programmes

Th First Official Coordination meeting of ARISE+ regional and national projects is expected to be held with the facilitation of the EUD Indonesia. The meeting will discuss and agree in specific topics and project contributors to a series of webinars covering topics such as:
· Private sector engagement and capacity building including regional on-line tools available to the private sector ATR/NTR, ASSIST, and E Platform
· National implementation of Regional agreements e.g. ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)
· Export quality infrastructure and Harmonisation and internationalisation of standards
· Trade facilitation from Customs Transport Transit perspective
· Support for SDGs including SDG indicators and data collection

The development of mini-case studies covering EU support to ASEAN Economic integration and best practices in the topics covered by the webinars, will also be explored. ARISE+ Regional will compile information provided by the respective regional and national ARISE+ projects and update the Programme Coordination Matrix. This matrix will capture KPIs from the ASEAN Economic Blueprint Strategic Plans and from the ASEAN Economic Integration monitoring framework.

SECTION 1 PROGRESS ON PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Component 0: Management and Outreach

Sub Component 0.1 Programme Management and Coordination

Outcome

> *Programme resources managed to ensure the efficient and effective realisation of outcomes at all levels.*

Following a successful Mid-Term review of the programme in January 2020 an extension was signed in August 2020 extending the programme until November 7th 2022, with an additional €7.4 million of funding taking the project to 5 years and €22.5 million. The focus of the activities during the extension period will be on ensuring key outputs delivered to-date contribute to major results, and on ensuring sustainability of the results. The resources made available during the extension will provide support to ASEAN Economic integration efforts during a critical period that includes ASEAN's recovery from the impact of COVID-19.

The project has refined its remote management working practices with weekly project meetings involving all key experts and long-term non-key experts, with additional meetings amongst groups of experts working on specific activities. The project has continued strong engagement with the relevant counter parts in the ASEC and Sectoral Bodies using teleconferencing tools such a Skype, Zoom and Blue Jeans to ensure continuation of activities.

Despite the substantial impact of COVID-19 on travel and physical meetings, a total of 36 major activities were implemented during the reporting period resulting in a total of 280 outputs. To gain a visual picture, Figure 1 below provides a results[1] chain summarising the major indicators for the reporting period. A cumulative results chain covering the programme from inception until the end of reporting period 6 is provided in Section 2 Internal Monitoring Assessment, together with a detailed visual overview of outputs and results.

Results chain

**Figure 1: results Ch
Six-monthly
reporting period 6**

8 **major results**

26 **intermediate results**

280 **major outputs**

Activities

36 — Major Activities Implemented

10 — Workshops Held

818 — Participants at Workshops

5 — AMS hosting workshops

Inputs

386.5 — KE days

1258.5 — SNKE days

101 — JNKE days

€ 9,928.69 — Incidentals

4 — Key experts (KE)

50 — Senior non-key experts (SNKE)

5 — Junior non-key experts (JNKE)

12 — Backstopping staff

RESOURCES

During this reporting period, ARISE Plus has mobilised the resources shown in the table below.

	Budget WP3	SMR6	Balance
KE Days	836	386.5	449.5
SNKE Days	2,867	1258.5	1,608.5
JNKE days	205	101	104
Incidentals	€ 1,356,530	€ 9,928.69	€ 1,346,601.31

A more detailed breakdown is provided in Section 3, where the resources used are reported at activity level, aggregated to the component and programme level**.**

A key objective of this reporting period was the coordination between the ARISE+ regional and national projects. The first Informal ARISE+ Regional coordination meeting took place on 24 June 2020. and brought together participants from DG DEVCO F2, EU Delegations (EUDs) from 8 ASEAN Member States (AMS), TAT project teams from 2 ARISE Plus regional projects and 5 ARISE Plus national projects (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Indonesia and Vietnam).

The coordination initiative was led by the EUD Jakarta, with the event being supported technically by the ARISE Plus regional who provided the matrix mapping of complementary areas between projects, and a matrix of the EU's contribution to 22 AEC Blueprint 2025 elements across the various regional and national ARISE Plus projects. This clearly demonstrated that in terms of support to Economic integration the EU has one of the largest portfolios amongst ASEAN Dialogue and Strategic Partners.

After the event, the projects continued the sharing of flash reports and newsletters. A concept note for the conduct of thematic webinars in priority areas was developed and will guide next steps in the coming months.

In addition the Team leader has engaged in:

- Regular consultation all relevant stakeholders, including high level officials in ASEAN and EU Delegations;
- Provided strategic inputs to the AEC pillar of the ASEAN Secretariat;
- Managed the team of Key and non-Key Experts, including the reviewing of ToRs for NKE's,
- Monitoring of performance and outputs using internal monitoring tools;
- Reported regularly to the EU Delegation on progress achieved in implementing the programme;

- Participated actively in M&E activities, including corrective action and integration of best practices learnt from the previous 3 years;
- Ensured coordination across all ARISE Plus components, including those to be implemented at the national level in the future.

Sub Component 0.2 Demand Driven Contingency

Outcome

> *Demand-driven activities facilitated* **to support the implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025**.

No additional or new requests for support were put forward during the reporting period, which is most likely to be reflection of the impact of COVID-19.

Sub Component 0.3 Visibility Communications and Outreach (VCO)

Outcome

> *Communication objectives of the AEC is achieved whilst providing visibility to ARISE PLUS as a flagship programme of the EU and the strategic nature of the EU's support.*

The Team Leader in conjunction with the Key Experts and the backstopping team improved visibility of project during this period. This was primarily done via the project website http://ariseplus.asean.org, EU-ASEAN newsletter, EU-ASEAN Bluebook and articles in other portals. The ARISE Plus Team is working closely with the contractor, charged with providing the EU Delegation visibility, in the development of the ACTS launch video and associated promotional brochures and banners.

ARISE Plus Website Articles:

1. ACTS – Corona Virus Update (http://ariseplus.asean.org/acts-covid19/)
2. Virtual Conferences support Preparatory Activities for the Implementation of the Pilot of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (AFAMT) (http://ariseplus.asean.org/virtual-conferences-afamt/)
3. 1st ACTS Start-up Dialogue for Pilot Live run and subsequent ACTS Live Operations (http://ariseplus.asean.org/acts-startup/)
4. Webinar ASSIST for Trade in Services Outreach Event: ASEAN Solution for Your Business (http://ariseplus.asean.org/event/webinar-assist/)
5. Workshop on Increasing Effectiveness of Harmonisation of Standards in ASEAN (http://ariseplus.asean.org/event/harmonisation-standards/)

6. Virtual Outreach Event on ASSIST for Trade in Services (http://ariseplus.asean.org/event/outreach-assist/)
7. Virtual Event on the Development of the ASEAN Framework for Pharmaceutical Regulation (http://ariseplus.asean.org/event/pharmaceutical-regulation/)
8. Workshop on the Outstanding Issues on ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Organic Agricultural Products (http://ariseplus.asean.org/event/mra-workshop/)
9. AFAMT Pilot to be implemented in Thailand and Vietnam in October 2020 (http://ariseplus.asean.org/afamt-2020/)
10. Workshop on Developing National Food Safety Emergency Preparedness and Response (http://ariseplus.asean.org/event/national-food-safety/)
11. Major Success for ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) (http://ariseplus.asean.org/acts-news/)
12. ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators Baseline Report Launched (http://ariseplus.asean.org/event/sdgi-launch/)

ARISE Plus Flash Reports:
1. Virtual events support Preparatory Activities for the Implementation of the Pilot of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (AFAMT)
2. ASSIST for Trade in Services: ASEAN Solution for Your Business
3. Virtual Outreach Event on ASSIST for Trade in Services
4. Virtual Event on the Development of the ASEAN Framework for Pharmaceutical Regulation
5. AFAMT Pilot to be implemented in Thailand and Vietnam in October 2020
6. Workshop on Developing National Food Safety Emergency Preparedness and Response
7. ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators Baseline Report Launched
8. Major Success for ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS)

Component 1.0: Trade Facilitation and Transparency

Component 1 on Trade Facilitation and Transparency is organized on the basis of three Sub-Components of activities in order to: 1) logically reflect the areas of ARISE Plus intervention mandated under the ToRs; 2) better organize the provision of support in light of the results to be achieved and the needs expressed by ASEAN during the coordination meetings and consultations held within the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in AWP1 and AWP2 (i.e., SEOM, ATF-JCC, CCA, CCS, CCI, , Viet Nam's 2020 Chair, ASEC, ABAC, etc.); and 3) leverage on the combined resources of each cluster of activities for purposes of achieving the overall trade facilitation results mandated under ARISE Plus.

Particularly noteworthy is the significant progress that has been achieved during the last 6 months of project implementation, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, with respect to the progressive operationalization of the *ASEAN Trade Repository* under Sub-component 1.1. In fact, the number of validated non-tariff measures (NTMs) uploaded on the ATR has grown from 1,936 to 3,244, equivalent to an impressive 68% increase. One new case was recently filed under the system of *ASEAN Solutions for Investment, Services and Trade* (ASSIST), the revolutionary *e-Platform for Consultations with the Private Sector* has been piloted and launched (to date, 10 such e-consultations have been launched), and the legal assessment and comparative benchmarking for the *General Review of the ATIGA* has been submitted to the *Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the ATIGA* (CCA), with a 377 pages *Interim Report* and a summarized Matrix that have received praises from ASEAN Member States (AMSs), CCA and the *Senior Economic Officials Meeting* (SEOM).

Going forward, Component 1 shall continue to follow the planned support and focus will be placed on the progressive implementation of the ATR (completion foreseen for end of 2021, as per the AMSs' determinations within CCA and SEOM), continuing support of private sector engagement (management of the e-Platform and re-launch of Roundtable Discussions on Trade Facilitation through dedicated webinars), and high-level legal support to AMSs and the ASEAN Secretariat vis-à-vis the crucial process of General Review of the ATIGA. On demand activities shall remain available to ASEAN with respect to ASSIST (primarily outreach activities and IT and operational support of the ASEAN Secretariat) and the possible establishment of an independent NTM panel/rapporteur to support AMSs (within CCA and/or SEOM) in the resolutions of NTMs and/or alleged NTB cases.

Sub-Component 1.1 ATIGA Implementation with Focus on Transparency and NTMs

Outcome

Enhanced trade-related regulatory transparency and progressive NTMs' streamlining through the effective operationalization of the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR) and the network of AMSs' National Trade Repositories (NTRs).

Activity 1.1.1 Supporting the Effective Implementation of the ATIGA (ATR and NTRs), including Identifying, Classifying and Notifying NTMs

Activity 1.1.1	Supporting the Effective Implementation of the ATIGA (ATR and NTRs), including Identifying, Classifying and Notifying NTMs
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	ASEC's TFD, SEOM, ATFJCC, CCA, ATR/NTR Focal Points in AMSs and Private Sector in ASEAN.
Tasks Status	**Deployed** four Senior Non-Key Experts (SNKEs) to engage with the AMSs' authorities in charge of the respective NTRs and of web-linkages to the ATR. The objective continued to be the gathering of all relevant NTMs in the ATR sub-categories of SPS and TBT, as well as, for the CLMV and Indonesia, the other non-SPS and non-TBT NTM sub-categories, in order to properly classify them in accordance with the 2012 UNCTAD NTMs Classification, '*package*' them for upload onto the ATR, verify them within ARISE Plus, submit them to the respective AMSs' authorities for validation, and upload them onto the ATR by web-linking them to the NTR and/or to the available national online databases. Work was conducted in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, with increasing ownership by AMSs and significant progress during the six-month period going from May to November 2020. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs Delivered	• Interim Reports and/or Final Reports (depending on the individual SNKE's ToRs), containing the detailed account of all work being so far done by the SNKEs in relation to the SPS, TBT and non-SPS/TBT NTM sub-categories that were identified, collected, classified and '*packaged*' in the respective AMSs, for verification by ARISE Plus, validation by AMSs and subsequent upload by AMSs on the ATR under the sub-categories on SPS (4.1), TBT (4.2) and non-SPS/TBT NTM (4.3 to 4.15), have been produced in either Word files or Excel spreadsheets. The documents produced by the respective SNKEs are filed as **ANNEXES 1 - 5.** • In order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SNKEs held several webinars with all AMSs' ATR/NTR Focal Points and competent authorities (but for Brunei Darussalam and Singapore), especially during the period when the strict lockdowns prevented physical meetings and travel within the region. Significant progress has been achieved during the last 6 months of project implementation, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, with respect to the progressive operationalization of the ATR. In particular, the number of validated non-tariff measures (NTMs) uploaded on the ATR by AMSs has grown from 1,936 in May 2020 to 3,244 to date, equivalent to an increase of 68%.
Problems Encountered	• Greater '*buy in*' and ownership has been displayed by all AMSs during the semester, at different speeds and degrees of engagement, and to a

Activity 1.1.1	Supporting the Effective Implementation of the ATIGA (ATR and NTRs), including Identifying, Classifying and Notifying NTMs
	lesser degree with the Philippines and Malaysia due to the severity of the respective lockdowns and changes in Government. Significant progress was made in Thailand. In general, at the national level and in most AMSs, the ATR/NTR-related work keeps suffering from a lack of inter-ministerial coordination and systematic delays for the unavailability of line agencies to meet and timely advance the identification and classification work. This is an area where the ability of ARISE Plus Regional to build institutional capacity is limited, but greater synergies with the ARISE Plus National Programmes should be considered and achieved. • So far, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has not resulted in any implementation problems, with all SNKEs still engaging either directly or electronically with their counterparts in the respective AMSs' Governments and with a number of *Zoom/Teams/Webex/BlueJeans* video calls and virtual coordination meetings having been organized.
Lessons Learned	It appears that, with a few AMSs having taken the lead and a critical mass of NTMs having been validated and uploaded onto the ATR, the other trailing AMSs have progressively displayed more ownership and engaged more effectively. A sense of competition has formed and better progress is being made, also as a consequence of the continuous capacity building that the ARISE Plus SNKEs have delivered to the AMSs' ATR/NTR Focal Points.

| **Overall Result to-date** | • Significant increase in the degree of ASEAN trade-related legislative and regulatory transparency, in line with Article 13 of the ATIGA on the ASEAN Trade Repository. The process of identification, classification and '*packaging*' of the respective AMSs' SPS and TBT NTMs for upload on the ATR is:

 Completed in Cambodia (SPS and TBT), Indonesia (SPS and TBT), Lao PDR (SPS and TBT), Malaysia (SPS), Myanmar (SPS and TBT), the Philippines (SPS), Thailand (SPS), and Viet Nam (SPS and TBT); and

 Ongoing in Cambodia (non-SPS/TBT NTM sub-categories), Indonesia (non-SPS/TBT NTM sub-categories), Lao PDR (non-SPS/TBT NTM sub-categories), Malaysia (TBT), Myanmar (non-SPS/TBT NTM sub-categories); the Philippines (TBT); and Thailand (TBT), and Viet Nam (non-SPS/TBT NTM sub-categories).

 • With respect to the ATR sub-category 4 on NTMs, to date the following quantitative results have been achieved or are on target to be achieved by the end of December 2020 (vis-à-vis the baselines provided in the May 2018 '*Mapping Reports*'. It should also be recalled that all NTMs on the ATR in 2018 were not in line with the ATR methodology and the vast majority of the information was also inaccurate, incorrect or |

outdated). Please note that the numbers in **green** are final (*i.e.,* validated and uploaded on the ATR):

AMS	NTMs in 2018 'Mapping Report'	Validated and Uploaded on ATR (to date)	Collected, but not yet Validated by AMSs (to date)	Expected by 31 December 2020
BD	67	114	n.a.	> 150
KH	5	248	0	> 300
ID	0	400	227	> 500
LA	0	315	0	> 350
MY	1	147	141	> 300
MM	5	132	31	> 150
PH	176	313	37	> 350
SG	50	174	n.a.	> 400
TH	31	665	263	> 900
VN	1	736	0	> 900
TOTAL	336	3,244	699	> 4,300

- Major improvements were also achieved in terms of the quality and uniformity of the information uploaded on the ATR (accessible at https://atr.asean.org/index.php/links/search/) and in terms of the AMSs' ATR/NTR Focal Points' understanding of the methodology, approach and requirements to progressively operationalize and maintain the ATR.

Activity 1.1.2 Supporting the Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of the ATIGA

Activity 1.1.2	Supporting the Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of the ATIGA
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	CCA and ASEC's TFD
Tasks Status	**Assisted,** on CCA's demand, with the discussion and advancement of the process of General Review of the ATIGA, with a particular focus on the legal review of the ATIGA in light of ASEAN developments, WTO/WCO obligations and relevant international Preferential Trade Agreements. ARISE Plus was tasked by CCA to conduct the legal analysis and comparative

Activity 1.1.2	Supporting the Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of the ATIGA
	benchmarking for the General Review of the ATIGA and provided progress update, at the CCA meeting held virtually on *BlueJeans,* on 25 June 2020. **Status**: Ongoing
Outputs Delivered	The *Interim Report* on the General Review of the ATIGA was presented to the CCA on 25 June 2020 and is currently still being discussed among AMSs. The *Interim Report* cannot be circulated to the EU for reasons of confidentiality, as mandated by the AMSs within the CCA.
Problems Encountered	N.A.
Lessons Learnt	N.A.

Overall Result to-date	Dedicated '*on demand*' assistance was provided to the CCA in order to conduct the legal analysis and comparative benchmarking of the General Review of the ATIGA, as mandated by the AFTA Council, with the 377 pages *Interim Report* submitted to CCA on 24 June 2020 and a summarized and reader-friendlier '*Matrix*' submitted to CCA on 30 September 2020.

Sub-Component 1.2 Trade Facilitation and Private Sector Engagement

Outcome

Private sector engagement is enhanced through increased participation in the activities of ATF-JCC and other ASEAN sectoral bodies, in line with the applicable Guidelines for Private Sector Engagement, and by greater usage of ASSIST, including in the areas of trade in services and trade-related investment measures.

Activity 1.2.1 Full Operationalisation and Management of ASSIST, Including in the Services and Investment Sectors

Activity 1.2.1	Full Operationalisation and Management of ASSIST, Including in the Services and Investment Sectors
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	SEOM, ATF-JCC, CCA, CCS, CCI, SID, AMSs' ASSIST Focal Points, ASEC's TFD and Private Sector
Tasks Status	• **Held** 2 dedicated outreach events (upon invitation and '*on demand*') on ASSIST for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services, as well as on the new features of ASSIST Website (*i.e.,* anonymity features, tutorials, enhanced processes, etc.), for the benefit of selected ASEAN private sector organizations (*i.e.,* in Jakarta, Indonesia, at a webinar organized

Activity 1.2.1	Full Operationalisation and Management of ASSIST, Including in the Services and Investment Sectors
	on 30 July 2020 by the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia, which saw the unprecedented participation of over 400 participants from Indonesia's private sector; and in Vientiane, Lao PDR, at a '*hybrid*' webinar organized by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR for its private sector organizations on 26 August 2020. **Status:** Completed • **Supervised and finalized**, upon the demand of SEOM and ATF-JCC, the translation into all ASEAN languages other than English of the *ASSIST Toolkits* with the Standard Operating Procedures for the private sector, the 5 Tutorials, and standardised ASSIST Outreach Materials, in order to create greater awareness among the public at large, especially SMEs and MSMEs in all AMSs. **Status:** Completed • **Provided** regular ('*on demand*') support to the ASEAN Secretariat (*i.e.*, ASSIST's Central Administrator) to manage the ongoing ASSIST cases (1 new case filed in Q3 of 2020) and to address a multitude of technical issues (*i.e.*, procedural matters, IT glitches, dashboard management, support to AMSs, etc.). **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs Delivered	The translations of the ASSIST Toolkits to '*train-the-trainers*' and for them to create awareness on the use of ASSIST with the ASEAN private sector, were completed. They are available in **ANNEXES 6, 7 & 8**.
Problems Encountered	• In light of the scarce utilisation of ASSIST for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services, the focus of the technical assistance by ARISE Plus shall remain on building greater awareness on ASSIST among ASEAN's private sector, so as to promote greater utilization of the existing systems and trade facilitation. ARISE Plus' intervention remains demand-driven and caters to AMSs' needs and initiatives. • So far, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has not resulted in any implementation problems, with two on-demand ASSIST Outreach webinars organized in Indonesia and Lao PDR. Support to the ASEC is still regularly being provided electronically via e-mails, *WhatsApp* and with a number of *Zoom* Video Calls and with virtual coordination meetings being organized.
Lessons Learnt	Greater awareness and continuing outreach initiatives are necessary in order for ASEAN's business sector to increase its utilization of ASSIST. The new anonymity features have played a positive role in increasing the rate of ASSIST utilization and should continue to be further socialized among

Activity 1.2.1	Full Operationalisation and Management of ASSIST, Including in the Services and Investment Sectors
	ASEAN's private sector, representative organizations and lawyer/law firms. The Toolkits that were developed and translated into all ASEAN languages other than English, should now allow for greater reach by AMSs' Governments within their respective domestic business constituencies. ARISE Plus remains committed to support ASEAN vis-à-vis ASSIST, on demand.

Overall Result to-date	• 1 new case has been filed during the period and is being dealt with by the ASEC and the responding AMS. • ASSIST Toolkits have been developed and translated into all ASEAN languages for '*train-the-trainers*' events that are intended to enable AMSs to do increased outreach and awareness creation among their respective private sector constituencies.

Activity 1.2.2 Supporting the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee

Activity 1.2.2	Supporting the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	ATF-JCC; ASEC's DSG for AEC; ASEC's TFD; SEOM; CCA; CCC; TWFG; ASW-SC; ACCSQ; AMSs and Private Sector
Tasks Status	• **Prepared**, submitted and discussed with ASEC's TFD (on 3 July 2020) the informal update report on the relevant trade facilitation activities conducted by ARISE Plus for the ATF-JCC meeting held virtually on 20-21 July 2020. • **Further supported** the Pilot Phase of the operationalization of the "*ePlatform for Consultations with the Private Sector*", which is now available at https://e-platform.asean.org/login (available only to the Actors endorsed by the ATF-JCC and invited by the ASEC). The *e-Platform* was piloted until June 2020 and is now fully operational. To date, 11 separate e-consultations have been launched by ABAC and the EUABC. IT support was also provided by ARISE Plus in order to address several glitches and access problems. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs Delivered	The full operationalization of the "*ePlatform for Consultations with the Private Sector*" was achieved. The *ePlatform* is now available to eligible users at https://e-platform.asean.org/login and is being used.
Problems Encountered	In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ATF-JCC meetings took place virtually and ARISE Plus was unable to present directly its progress update, which was delivered by the ASEC. The 5th Roundtable Discussion on Trade

Activity 1.2.2	Supporting the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee
	Facilitation, which was planned back-to-back with the ATF-JCC's meetings of May and then July 2020, where the ceremony to formally launch the "*ePlatform for Consultations with the Private Sector*" would have been held, has been twice rescheduled and shall hopefully take place in 2021 in Viet Nam.
Lessons Learnt	N.A.

Overall Result to-date	The various ASEAN trade facilitation initiatives being supported by ARISE Plus (*i.e.*, "*ATR/NTRs progressive operationalization*", the holding of "*Roundtable Discussions on Trade Facilitation*" particularly on the implementation of the "*NTMs Guidelines*", the socialization of "*ASSIST*", and the roll-out of the "*e-Platform for Consultations with the Private Sector*") are progressing smoothly and the results achieved through the assistance provided by ARISE Plus have been endorsed and referenced by ASEAN at ATF-JCC and SEOM level.

Activity 1.2.3 Strengthening Public-Private Cooperation

Activity 1.2.3	Strengthening Public-Private Cooperation
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	ABAC, EABC, ATF-JCC, ASEC
Tasks Status	• **Coordinated** with ASEAN's private sector, particularly within the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the EU-ASEAN Business Advisory Council (EABC), and the ASEC's Trade Facilitation Division and the Enterprise & Stakeholders Engagement Division, in order to advance private sector engagement with ASEAN institutions, notably with respect to the *ARISE Plus Roundtables on Trade Facilitation*, the implementation of the *NTMs Guidelines*, the use of *ASSIST,* the creation of awareness on the *ATR*, and the launch of the "*e-Platform for Consultations with the Private Sector*". **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs Delivered	N.A.
Problems Encountered	The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the opportunities for ARISE Plus to access high-level events organized by ABAC (*i.e.*, ABIS or other regular ABAC meetings), as well as EUABC events and selected AMSs' business organizations' gatherings, such as VCCI in Viet Nam, Kadin in Indonesia, FTI in Thailand, and EuroCham events in AMSs. As a consequence, fewer outreach events were held and ARISE Plus slowed

Activity 1.2.3	Strengthening Public-Private Cooperation
	down in its drive to create awareness on its flagship tools catering to the private sector.
Lessons Learnt	Greater use of social media, in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and with selected partner organizations within ASEAN's private sector (*e.g.*, ABAC and EUABC, as well as AMSs' business associations and EuroCham chapters), is being piloted in order to compensate the fewer outreach opportunities.

Overall Result to-date	• ASEAN's private sector has been systematically engaged for purposes of creating greater awareness on and utilization of ASSIST, for purposes of increasing its consultations with the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, primarily within the ATF-JCC and through the informal Roundtable Discussions on Trade Facilitation (see Activity 1.2.2).
	• The *ePlatform for Consultations with Private Sector* was fully operationalized and has seen very promising utilization by ABAC and the Joint Business Councils, with several consultations started and properly engaged by ASEAN Institutions.

Sub-Component 1.3 'On-Demand' Activities

Outcome

Legal certainty, commercial predictability and trade facilitation are enhanced through specific on-demand support for, inter alia, self-certification of goods of ASEAN origin, the trade facilitation related activities of the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Connectivity, and the transposition of regional agreements at national level.

Activity 1.3.1 General Review of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)

Activity 1.3.1	General Review of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	CCA, AMSs, ASEC
Tasks Status	• **Conceptualized**, researched, drafted and submitted to the CCA on 24 June 2020 the *Interim Report* for the legal analysis and comparative benchmarking of the ATIGA for purposes of the General Review of the ATIGA, in line with the ToRs given by the AFTA Council, the CCA and the ASEC. The 377 pages *Interim Report*, was presented to the CCA on 25 June 2020 and is currently still being analysed and discussed among AMSs. The focus of the *Interim Report* was placed on the legal review and comparative benchmarking of the ATIGA in light of all relevant ASEAN developments, the applicable WTO/WCO obligations, and the

Activity 1.3.1	General Review of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)
	relevant international Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs). <u>The *Interim Report* cannot be circulated to the EU for reasons of confidentiality, as mandated by the AMSs within the CCA.</u> • **Prepared**, '*on demand*' by CCA the summarized *Interim Report* by means of a reader-friendly '*Matrix*', which was submitted on 30 September 2020. <u>The '*Matrix*' of the *Interim Report* on the General Review of the ATIGA cannot be circulated to the EU for reasons of confidentiality, as mandated by the AMSs within the CCA.</u> • **Participated**, '*on demand*' by the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia, to the domestic consultations held on 8 September 2020 among all relevant Indonesian Ministries involved in the process of General Review of the ATIGA. ARISE Plus illustrated the *Interim Report* and provided feedback to the questions and suggestions made by the Indonesian Government, which proved very useful. <u>The SNKE Report on Indonesia's Domestic Consultations on the General Review of the ATIGA cannot be circulated to the EU for reasons of confidentiality, as mandated by the AMSs within the CCA.</u> **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs Delivered	The *Interim Report* on the General Review of the ATIGA was submitted and presented to the CCA on 24 and 25 June 2020, respectively. It received the praise of several AMSs and the Chair of the CCA, as well as of the ASEC for its scope, comprehensiveness and depth of analysis. In order to assist AMSs to analyse it and factor it into their discussions and deliberation on the General Review of the ATIGA, given the massive size of the Interim Report (*i.e.*, 377 pages), a '*Matrix*' was prepared to summarize the key analytical sections, conclusions and recommendations.
Problems Encountered	The COVID-19 pandemic prevented the physical convening of two regional workshops that would have allowed the socialization and discussion of the *Interim Report* among all AMSs and the ASEC. As a consequence, the planned '*high-level peer review*' has also been delayed to a later date. In order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, ARISE Plus has offered AMSs to hold '*on demand*' bilateral webinars where AMSs can discuss the *Interim Report* at individual AMS level with ARISE Plus and ASEC. ARISE Plus shall then revise the draft *Interim Report* and submit the draft *Final Report* to CCA.
Lessons Learnt	N.A.

Overall Result to-date	N.A.

Activity 1.3.2 Supporting the Implementation of the NTMs Guidelines

Activity 1.3.2	Supporting the Implementation of the NTMs Guidelines
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	SEOM, ATF-JCC, CCA ACCSQ, AMSs' Regulators
Tasks Status	Due to the lack of demand from the beneficiary this activity is delayed.

Component 2.0: Standards and Conformity Assessment in Particular Healthcare and Agro-based Product

Sub-Component 2.1 Supporting the Development of Quality Infrastructure and Related Policies in ASEAN

Outcome

> *Technical barriers to trade for intra-ASEAN trade are reduced through the adoption of policies, mutual recognition arrangements, harmonisation of regulatory regimes and the development of the quality infrastructure and supporting mechanisms for market integration.*

Activity 2.1.1 Supporting ACCSQ to Implement the ACCSQ Strategic Plan for Standards and Conformance

Activity 2.1.1	Supporting ACCSQ to Implement the ACCSQ Strategic Plan for Standards and Conformance
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ACCSQ, Product Working Groups under ACCSQ and Regulatory Agencies in ASEAN.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	**Study Visit** to CEN/CENELEC management centre for young standards professionals from ASEAN Member States was planned. **Status:** Postponed
Outputs delivered	N.A
Problems encountered	The on-going travel restrictions due to COVID-19 has delayed the activity.
Lessons learnt	N.A

Overall result to-date	Communications between CEN-CENELEC Management Centre (CCMC) and ACCSQ facilitated by ARISE Plus are on-going.

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Activity 2.1.4 Transposing National Commitments into National legislation

Activity 2.1.4	Transposing National Commitments into National legislation
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Myanmar Electrical and Electronic Equipment Safety Authorities, Joint Sector Committee, Electrical and Electronic Equipment MRA.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• Support continued to be provided to Myanmar in the development of its Electrical and Electronic Safety Regulations to support participation in the ASEAN Harmonised Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulatory Regime (AHEEERR), and Myanmar's implementation of the EEE MRA. • On going communications on progressing the implementation with the authorities and development of training material for conformity assessment bodies. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	• Safety Mark logo has been approved by the Executive Committee (EC) of the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar. • Training Material for conformity assessment bodies has been developed. **(ANNEX 9)**
Problems encountered	• The official draft of EEE Safety Regulations have been formulated and reviewed in conjunction with the authorities in Myanmar. The authority responsible for implementing new regulations in Myanmar now has concerns on compatibility of Myanmar's Consumer Protection Law. It is under this law that the EEE regulations are proposed to be implemented. There are now proposals either to amend the Consumer Protection law or to place the EEE regulations under the Myanmar Export and Import Law. Further progress in implementation depends on the authorities resolving these concerns. • Missions to Myanmar could not be made for conducting training due to the ongoing COVID-19 travel restrictions
Lessons learnt	The development of the draft regulations were undertaken in consultation with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DOCA), who are our counterparts and were the initiators of this work. The national legal office responsible for new legislation was involved to review the text at a later stage. New unexpected issues on the consistency of the regulations with existing laws were raised at this stage. Deeper involvement of national legal authorities to clarify and confirm main issues at an early stage is advisable when attempting to introduce new regulations to avoid unexpected obstacles and delays.

Overall result to-date	Work completed:
	i. Development of Electrical Equipment Safety regulations,
	ii. Preparation of information booklet,
	iii. Preparation of Training Materials for Certification Bodies and Surveillance Bodies
	iv. Support in establishing priority lists for control and register of suppliers.

Sub-Component 2.2 Supporting the Harmonisation of Standards and Compliance to International Standards

Outcome

Market integration advanced with the increased number of standards harmonised in ASEAN that are aligned with international standards which are adopted by regulatory authorities and referenced by ASEAN businesses and industry.

Activity 2.2.1 Supporting Harmonisation of Standards

Activity 2.2.1	Supporting Harmonisation of Standards
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Working Group 1 of the ACCSQ, Product working groups, National Standards Bodies in Member States, Trade and Industry in ASEAN and regulatory agencies in Member States
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• A workshop for Working Group 1 (WG 1), representatives of National Standards Bodies and Product Working Groups (PWGs) was organised (through video conference) to review and redesign the process for identification of standards to be harmonised in ASEAN and the adoption of ASEAN harmonised standards by Member States.
	• Consultations were undertaken with Working Group 1 to review and update the ASEAN Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Standards.
	• Proposals have been made to support Working Group 1 in proactively identifying standards for harmonisation.
	Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	• Recommendations have been made at the virtual workshop held on August 18th 2020 for adoption by WG 1 on the following:
	o Defining harmonisation in the context of ASEAN
	o Explanation of Harmonisation of Standards in practical terms
	o Revised process for harmonisation and flow chart indicating roles of all the parties.
	(See ANNEX 10)
Problems encountered	N.A

Activity 2.2.1	Supporting Harmonisation of Standards
Lessons learnt	It was observed that effective and productive workshop can be implemented through video conference facilities. The use of video conference platform has resulted in full participation by all Member States.

| Overall result to-date | • A revised process that clarifies the responsibilities of all parties involved in the harmonisation of standard has been developed after deliberation with WG 1.
• A methodology for identification of standards that are selected for harmonisation has been developed and proposed for adoption by WG 1. |

Sub-Component 2.3 Supporting the Market Integration and Enhancing Food Safety in Agro-based Sector

Outcome

Reduced barriers for trade in food products and essential food safety levels ensured across AMS through the establishment of an integrated regulatory framework for food safety based on harmonised standards and measures.

Activity 2.3.1 Developing and Implementing a Regulatory Framework for Food Safety

Activity 2.3.1	Developing and Implementing a Regulatory Framework for Food Safety
Main Beneficiaries engaged	PFPWG, Health Cluster 4, ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on crops, on fisheries and on livestock.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	The work on the drafting of the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement (AFSRF Agreement) has been completed, including the completion of the legal review and the acceptance of the draft by the Task Force established for this purpose. The Task Force is awaiting formal endorsement by the Senior Economic Officials namely, SOM AMAF, SEOM and SOM-HD. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	N.A
Problems encountered	The planned work on the identification of implementing instruments for the AFSRF Agreement may be undertaken upon establishment of the ASEAN Food safety Coordinating Committee which will happen after the agreement comes into force upon ratification of the Agreement by all Member States. In the interim the term of the Task Force has been extended.

Activity 2.3.1	Developing and Implementing a Regulatory Framework for Food Safety
Lessons learnt	Some adjustments to the future work on this are required as to the expected longer waiting period for all 10 Member States to ratify the Agreement. As the Task Force will continue to function in the interim period, views of the Task Force will be sought on the support needed

Overall result to-date	AFSRF Agreement is in the process for full endorsement by SOM AMAF, SEOM and SOM HD.

Activity 2.3.2 Implementing the MRA on Inspection and Certification Systems of Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuffs

Activity 2.3.2	Implementing the MRA on Inspection and Certification Systems of Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuffs
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Prepared Foodstuffs Product Working Group (PFPWG), the Joint Sector Committee for the MRA on Food Hygiene and Members State's food safety regulators.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	Training module/programme for panel of evaluators (approved experts) who will conduct evaluations of ASEAN Member State food safety Systems A Programme has been developed and submitted to counterparts for comment
Status: Delayed
Gap Analysis for food safety systems conducted in requesting Member States (Myanmar). Initial investigations have been conducted remotely by the expert based in Europe. A report and recommendations have been developed and provided to the authorities in Myanmar.
Status: Delayed
(see ANNEX 11, ANNEX 12 & ANNEX 13)
Outputs delivered	• Training module/ programme
• Preliminary Gap Analysis for Myanmar
Problems encountered	The expert for the Training of Evaluators and for the Gap Analysis is based in Europe and has been unable to work in the region due to the combination of COVID-19 travel and visa restrictions. A limited amount of work has been undertaken remotely for both the tasks in the permitted 20 % home-based work. Discussions are ongoing with the EU Delegation to exceptionally amend this rule in order to face the challenges posed by the current pandemic and sanitary situation.
Further implementation is delayed due to the ongoing restrictions in place and non-availability of home-based workdays outside the region.

Activity 2.3.2	Implementing the MRA on Inspection and Certification Systems of Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuffs
Lessons learnt	N.A

Overall result to-date	Documented procedures for the implementation of the MRA on inspection and certification systems of food hygiene for prepared foodstuffs have been developed and adopted; 3 Member States' have been provided support to review their legislation to ensure compatibility with the MRA on inspection and certification systems of food hygiene for prepared food products to enable participation.

Activity 2.3.3 Supporting the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety

Activity 2.3.3	Supporting the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ARAC, ASEAN Health Cluster 4 (Ensuring Food Safety), ASEAN Food Safety Regulators.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	The following tasks were identified for the plan year: • **Consulting** with ASEAN Health Cluster 4 (AHC4) and other related ASEAN Bodies on enhancing ARAC's governance and operations. • **Assisting i**n the development of technical reports for the identification and initiation of risk assessment needs in ASEAN; • **Supporting** AHC4 and ARAC secretariat in updating its operations and procedures and in identifying risk assessment needs and other technical work. Progress has been withheld during the six-month reporting period due to the continuing travel restrictions preventing the deployment of expert and the organisation of the planned workshop. Status: Delayed
Outputs delivered	N.A
Problems encountered	The workshop in April 2020 could not be rescheduled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions imposed by Member States Government. A subsequent workshop with ARAC has been planned and this will be conducted remotely.
Lessons learnt	N.A

Overall result to-date	• A set of recommendations have been documented for follow-up in order to enhance the operations of ARAC by reviewing its governance and operating procedures, widening its scope of work and launching new activities. These have been re endorsed by AHC 4 and work items were decided. • New areas of work have been identified: Risk assessment on arsenic and cadmium and developing a Risk profile of pesticides used in leafy vegetable among ASEAN Member States. Revision of Procedures /details for Request of Risk Assessment Output / Scientific Opinion and annexes which are part of the *SOP 1: Prioritisation and Commissioning of Risk Assessment* endorsed by AHC 4

Activity 2.3.5 Establishing Rapid Alert Systems for Food and Feed (RASFF) in Member States and integrating them in the ASEAN Rapid Alert Systems for Food and Feed (ARASFF)

Activity 2.3.5	Establishing Rapid Alert Systems for Food and Feed (RASFF) in Member States and integrating them in the ASEAN Rapid Alert Systems for Food and Feed (ARASFF)
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ARASFF Steering Committee, PFPWG, ASEAN Health Cluster 4 and the authorities responsible for food safety and agriculture in Member States.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• Support for identified AMS (Myanmar and Viet Nam) in developing a national RASFF was planned but could not be implemented due to COVID-19 travel and limitations due to the 20 % home based work days limit. **Status:** Delayed • Following the workshop held in the previous reporting period on the 'ASEAN Guideline on the Traceability System for Food and Feed', a revised draft was developed and consultations on the document have continued through electronic means. This document will be deliberated at the workshop planned for November 30th 2020. **Status:** Ongoing • Providing inputs on traceability to ASEAN Health Cluster 4 capacity building on emergency response and preparedness on traceability (October 14-16, by way of video conference) **Status:** ongoing **(See ANNEX 14)**
Outputs delivered	Final Draft *ASEAN Guideline on the Traceability System for Food and Feed*

Activity 2.3.5	Establishing Rapid Alert Systems for Food and Feed (RASFF) in Member States and integrating them in the ASEAN Rapid Alert Systems for Food and Feed (ARASFF)
Problems encountered	• Support for identified AMS (Myanmar and Viet Nam) in developing a national RASFF was planned but could not be implemented due to travel restrictions • Plans for a Workshop for ARASFF Steering Committee/National Contact Points on enhancing the operations of ARASFF to embed ARASFF within the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework could not be implemented due to the ongoing restrictions.
Lessons learnt	N.A

| Overall result to-date | • The ASEAN Guideline on Traceability for Food and Feed is at its final stage of adoption.
• Support provided to authorities in the Philippines to review and upgrade the implementation of the national rapid alert system and preparations for facilitating submission of alerts into ARASFF.
• Review of national preparedness Lao PDR on the development of a national rapid alert systems for food and feed completed and recommendations to develop a national system made. |

Activity 2.3.6 Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture

Activity 2.3.6	Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Senior Officers, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting of Agriculture and Forestry Ministers the Experts Working Group on Organic Agriculture (EWG-OA), the ASEAN Sectoral Working Groups on Crops, on Fisheries and on Livestock and Working Group 2 of the ACCSQ.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• The development of the Organic Agriculture MRA the associated ASEAN Organic Agriculture Certification Scheme and ASEAN Organic Mark has progressed through a series of revised draft versions of documents which were circulated to EGG-OA members for comments. The comments have been reviewed and recommendations for resolving concerns and comments of Member States have been proposed. • A virtual workshop was held on September 8th 2020 to discuss EWG-OA Members comments and develop a consensus on outstanding issues. • Revised versions of the Draft MRA and the ASEAN Organic Certification Scheme, reflecting recommendations of the September 8 workshop have been developed for consideration by the EWG-OA.

Activity 2.3.6	Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture
	Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	Draft versions of Organic Agriculture MRA, and the ASEAN Organic Agriculture Certification Scheme reflecting a high level of consensus have been developed, together with annexes that deal with acceptance of suitable standards, acceptance of national certification schemes and use of an ASEAN Organic Mark. **(ANNEX 15 & 16)**
Problems encountered	It has not been possible to conduct a physical workshop as planned however As an alternative, deliberations were conducted through the circulation of questionnaires followed up by a video conference discussion. While some delay was experienced it is not significant.
Lessons learnt	It was noted that consensus of all Member States on the text of the MRA required that a high degree of flexibility was incorporated to accommodate differences in the national approaches, while ensuring that essential principles to ensure credible certification are not compromised.

Overall result to-date	• Baseline data on organic agriculture regulations, standards and certification in ASEAN Member States has been established through a study conducted; • A common approach to future harmonisation and mutual recognition of certification of organic agricultural products in ASEAN has been adopted by ASEAN Experts representing national competent authorities. • Draft versions of Organic Agriculture MRA, and the ASEAN Organic Agriculture Certification Scheme and a proposal for the ASEAN Organic Mark have been developed.

Activity 2.3.7 Training in Food Safety

Activity 2.3.7	Training in Food Safety
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Health Cluster 4, PFPWG, Food Safety Regulatory Agencies in ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Health Cluster 4, ASEAN Consumers and Universities.

Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• Development of training modules and delivery on a pilot basis for:
	   o Risk-Based Food Inspection Approach and Certification at the Regional Level
	   o Investigating Foodborne Disease Outbreaks

Activity 2.3.7	Training in Food Safety
	o Capacity Building on Food Hygiene for the officials of food authorities. **Status:** Delayed • Consultation with ASEAN to deliberate on the establishment of an education and training platform on food safety. **Status:** Delayed **(see ANNEX 17 – ANNEX 20)**
Outputs delivered	Concept Note on the establishment concept of an ASEAN Education and Training Platform/Network on Food Safety.
Problems encountered	The work on the development of the training modules were delayed as the selected experts are based in Europe and could not travel to the region. Work undertaken was limited to preliminary development of training modules that was undertaken in the 20 % of the home-based days as allocated. Discussions are ongoing with the EU Delegation to exceptionally amend this rule in order to face the challenges posed by the current pandemic and sanitary situation. The planned workshop for deliberating the ASEAN Education and Training Network on food safety were delayed due to COVID-19 travel and visa restrictions and the consumption of the 20 % of the home-based days outside the region. Discussions with the ASEAN Member States is ongoing and the workshop will be held remotely once the member states are in a position to provide the information.
Lessons learnt	Progress is expected in the next 2 reporting periods, with the amendment of the 20% home-based days rule for experts outside the region and remote working arrangements with the AMS, particularly the provisions of information.

| **Overall result to-date** | • A proposal detailing the concept of an ASEAN Education and Training Platform/Network on Food Safety has been developed and submitted to ASEAN Stakeholders review.
• Information on food safety training needs has been compiled which is guiding the training course development. |

Sub-Component 2.4 Support to the Pharmaceutical Sector

Outcome

The adoption of a common approach and agenda for pharmaceutical regulation that enhances the regulatory systems for pharmaceuticals in turn facilitating the production of pharmaceuticals and improving access to medicines in ASEAN.

Activity 2.4.1 Strengthening the Pharmaceuticals Regulatory Framework

Activity 2.4.1	Strengthening the Pharmaceuticals Regulatory Framework
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Pharmaceutical Product Working Group (PPWG), ASEAN Health Cluster 3 under the ASEAN Health Ministers, Health Division and the Standards and Conformance Division of the ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	Contributing to the development of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Framework: • Consultations were held with ASEAN regulators and a discussion paper on the proposed Framework for ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulation was developed and circulated to PPWG Members for review and comment. • A workshop to deliberate on the scope and objectives and outline content of the proposed ASEAN pharmaceutical regulatory framework, its phased development and supporting infrastructure was conducted through video conference on September 2nd, 2020. • Following the workshop, a document containing the principles and outline content of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework was developed and circulated to the PPWG Members for review. **Status:** Ongoing **(See ANNEX 21 & 22)**
Outputs delivered	• Discussion paper: *Framework for ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulation* • *ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework - Principles and Outline* • Workshop: Scope and objectives and outline content of the proposed ASEAN pharmaceutical regulatory framework
Problems encountered	Some delays were experienced as the physical workshop planned for discussing the *ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework* was not possible. This was replaced through the circulation of documents review of comments and was followed up with a workshop through video conference.
Lessons learnt	Effective deliberation through video conference facilities is a viable option for developing concepts and policy documents.

Overall result to-date	• A review of existing PFPWG initiatives by Member States (ACTD, ACTR, GMP MRA undertaken and the concept paper discussing enhancing and linking these initiatives through the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework developed.
	• A draft of *the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework - Principles and Outline* developed and submitted to PPWG for consideration and adoption.

Activity 2.4.2 ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Bioequivalence (BE) Study Reports of Generic Medicinal Products

Activity 2.4.2	ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Bioequivalence (BE) Study Reports of Generic Medicinal Products
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Pharmaceutical Product Working Group (PPWG), ASEAN Health Cluster 3 under the ASEAN Health Ministers.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	Training Course structure outline and programme has been developed for ASEAN Officials to be equipped to conduct evaluations of Bioequivalence Centres who seek recognition under the MRA. **Status :** Delayed
Outputs delivered	N.A
Problems encountered	Preparatory work was undertaken by the ARISE Plus experts, however the actual detailed development of the course content and implementation was not possible due to the COVID-19 travel and Visa restrictions and the limited allocation for home based work-days. With the amendment of the 20% home-based days rule for experts based outside the region, by the EU Delegation due to the pandemic situation, the work has recommenced. The first training workshops will be conducted from 22-26 March 2021 remotely.
Lessons learnt	N.A

Overall result to-date	The Procedures for the Implementation of the BE MRA have been developed and adopted
	An outline of the course content and programme of training of evaluators for the BE MRA with has been developed.

Activity 2.4.3 Establishing an ASEAN Pharmaceuticals Laboratories Network

Activity 2.4.3	Establishing an ASEAN Pharmaceuticals Laboratories Network
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Pharmaceutical Product Working Group (PPWG), ASEAN Health Cluster 3, ASEAN Drug Regulators.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	Assist the representatives from Official Pharmaceuticals Laboratories to develop its priorities and action plans and elaborate its role in the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	Plans for the operationalisation of the ASEAN Pharmaceuticals Laboratories Network. **(ANNEX 23)**
Problems encountered	N.A
Lessons learnt	N.A

Overall result to-date	Draft proposal of initial action plan for the ASEAN Network of Pharmaceutical Laboratories have been developed for the review of the Network Members.

Activity 2.4.4 Combatting Falsified Medicines in ASEAN

Activity 2.4.4	Combatting Falsified Medicines in ASEAN
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Pharmaceutical Product Working Group, Health Cluster 3, ASEAN Drug Regulators.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	This activity is on hold as it has not been a priority item for PPWG. ASEAN Health Cluster 3 has indicated interest and follow-up is planned in the next work plan period.

Activity 2.4.5 On Demand support for updating and existing harmonised technical requirements for pharmaceuticals

Activity 2.4.5	On Demand support for updating and existing harmonised technical requirements for pharmaceuticals
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Pharmaceutical Product Working Group, ASEAN National Drug Regulatory Agencies (NDRAs)

Activity 2.4.5	On Demand support for updating and existing harmonised technical requirements for pharmaceuticals
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	This activity is on hold due to lack of beneficiary demand.

Component 3.0: Customs, Transport and ACTS

Sub-component 3.1 Customs Measures

Outcome

Enhanced harmonisation of the Customs environment within ASEAN in support of the facilitation of ASEAN trade with more effective partnerships between Customs Authorities and the business community.

Activity 3.1.1 Supporting Enhancement of Customs Clearance Procedures (SPCD 04)

Activity 3.1.1	Supporting Enhancement of Customs Clearance Procedures (SPCD 04)
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Customs Directors-General; Customs Coordinating Committee (CCC) and its Working Groups; the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB); the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA). ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Joint Business Councils, EU ASEAN Business Council ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• ARISE Plus has developed a concept note for proposed follow-on support for the enhancement of Customs clearance procedures that relate in part to multi-modal transport. This concept note has been shared with counterpart personnel in the Customs Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat, and with ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG). • To accompany this concept note, ARISE Plus has prepared an explanatory covering letter for members of the CPTFWG. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	The concept note for proposed support for this activity is attached to this report at **ANNEX 24.**

Activity 3.1.1	Supporting Enhancement of Customs Clearance Procedures (SPCD 04)
Problems encountered	The complexity of the cross-cutting issues between Customs and Transport counterpart sectors has caused some delay in formal endorsement of the activity.
Lessons learnt	An in-depth assessment of prior and on-going AMS activities is beneficial in the provision of effective technical support.

Overall result to-date	ARISE Plus has captured AMS reactions to the proposed support methodology, and a clear way forward in support of this activity has been proposed, with a view to enhancing the way ASEAN Customs Authorities manage clearance of multimodal transport consignments.

Activity 3.1.2 Supporting Partnership with Businesses and the Trading Community (Strategic Plan of Customs Development (SPCD) 06)

Activity 3.1.2	Supporting Partnership with Business and the Trading Community
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Secretariat; ASEAN Customs Directors-General; Customs Coordinating Committee (CCC) and its Working Groups; the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB); the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA). ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Joint Business Councils, EU ASEAN Business Council
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• This activity has been continued from AWP2. • ARISE Plus has developed a concept note and accompanying questionnaires for the main public and private sector groups on the proposed methodology for supporting this SPCD. The concept note has been updated to incorporate comments by members of the ASEAN Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG). • ARISE Plus has analysed the replies to the questionnaires, and has produced an interim report (Goran) at **ANNEX 25** to this report, along with a number of attachments. • ARISE Plus has proposed to run a workshop back to back with an ASEAN Customs meeting, to analyse the results of the questionnaires and agree future AMS strategy in this activity. **Status:** Ongoing, to be continued under WP3
Outputs delivered	• Replies to the questionnaires have been analysed for the main regional and national bodies with a role in business partnerships, and a way forward recommended.
Problems encountered	A limited number of completed replies received to the questionnaires

Activity 3.1.2	Supporting Partnership with Business and the Trading Community
	The date of the proposed workshop has been delayed due to the pandemic. However, discussions are underway to undertake this workshop remotely.
Lessons learnt	An in-depth assessment of prior and on-going AMS activities is beneficial in the provision of effective technical support.

Overall result to-date	ARISE Plus has proposed clear way forward in support of this activity, with a view to enhancing the way ASEAN Customs Authorities manage partnerships with business and the trading community.

Activity 3.1.4 Supporting Customs Enforcement and Mutual Assistance Processes (SPCD09)

Activity 3.1.4	Supporting Customs Enforcement and Mutual Assistance Processes (SPCD09)
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Customs Directors-General; Customs Coordinating Committee (CCC) and its Working Groups; the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB); the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA). ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Joint Business Councils, EU ASEAN Business Council ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• Initial analysis has been carried out of the relevant ASEAN Strategic Plan of Customs Development (SPCD 10) on Customs Enforcement and Mutual Assistance, with Brunei as country coordinator. This analysis is relevant to the mutual assistance required under the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) in cases of irregularity. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	N.A
Problems encountered	Delays encountered, partly because of the advent of the COVID-19 virus, in ARISE Plus support for Customs integration activities under previous ARISE Plus Annual Work Plan 2 have had a knock-on effect in delaying ARISE Plus support for this activity.
Lessons learnt	Careful planning and assessment of counterpart needs are essential to the delivery of sound technical assistance activities, for the benefit of counterpart sectors.

Overall result to-date	There are no practical results yet under this activity.

Activity 3.1.5 Assistance to Narrowing the Development Gap in Customs (SPCD 13)

Activity 3.1.5	Assistance to Narrowing the Development Gap in Customs (SPCD 13)
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Customs Directors-General, Customs Coordinating Committee (CCC) and its Working Groups, the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• In the context of the gap analysis carried out by ARISE Plus under a previous work plan, it was recommended that additional support is to be provided under this SPCD for post-clearance audit functions (PCA), and integrity. • Following responses from ASEAN Member States, the PCA activity has now been dropped as AMS have already received the necessary support intra-regionally on this topic, with ARISE Plus continuing its support on Customs integrity. • A concept note on proposed ARISE Plus support for Customs integrity has been developed, and distributed for comments to AMS at the 26th CCBWG Meeting, which was held inter-sessionally from 23 March to 15 April 2020. These comments have been incorporated into the concept note, which is attached the expert interim report at **ANNEX 26** to this report. • A workshop on integrity has been proposed based on the concept note and discussions with AMS. • With the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, AMS requested additional time to study the plans, as well as the date of the integrity workshop. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	A concept note has been prepared, and AMS comments received and incorporated, on proposed methodology, content and timing for the support for the implementation of this SPCD.
Problems encountered	The main challenge to conducting this technical support activity has been the time required to obtain AMS approval. The proposed workshop was delayed due to the pandemic situation. However, ARISE Plus has facilitated discussions between the member states to hold this workshop remotely over the next few months.
Lessons learnt	It is challenging for AMS Customs Authorities with limited manpower resources to allocate the necessary staff participate in multiple technical support activities at the same time, leading to delays in implementation.

Overall result to-date	The initial preparatory stages to the provision of ARISE Plus support for this activity have been arranged, which will improve the way Customs Authorities deal with integrity-related issues in providing trusted services to relevant stakeholders in Customs and Excise fields.

Sub-component 3.2 Transport Measures

Outcome

An enhanced cross-border transport environment implemented within ASEAN, for the benefit of the private sector cross-border trading community and passengers.

Activity 3.2.1 Operationalising the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST)

Activity 3.2.1	Operationalising the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST)
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB), National Transit Transport Coordinating Committees (NTTCC), ASEAN Senior Transport Officials (STOM), ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group and ASEAN Secretariat; the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA), ASEAN Council of Bureau (COB).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• The main driver for operationalising AFAFGIT is the implementation of the ACTS system in the region. ACTS has been deployed in six Participating Member States (PMS), namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Phase A (simulated business scenarios) and a phase B (parallel run) of the ACTS Pilot have been completed, together with the live operational phase C of the pilot. This enabled the system to go live on the 2nd November 2020. • The legal framework for ACTS is now fully in place for 8 AMS, with Philippines and Indonesia to ratify Protocol 2 of the AFAFGIT. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	Proposals have been made to ASEAN Member States for consideration of the Sub Working Group of the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG) on ACTS (SWG-ACTS) and the Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG) to upgrade ACTS functionality with the development of a Transport Monitoring System (TMS) which would facilitate the full operationalisation of both AFAFGIT and AFAFIST.
Problems encountered	The ACTS implementation schedule has been delayed due to the interruptions to cross-border movement of goods caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Activity 3.2.1	Operationalising the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST)
	Thailand and Vietnam have encountered last-minute difficulties in implementing the necessary supporting Customs and transport legislation at national level to support cross-border movement of vehicles carrying goods-in-transit.
Lessons learnt	Senior level Government commitment in ASEAN Member States is vital if complex project such as ACTS are to succeed.

Overall result to-date	ACTS has been successfully implemented in the six Participating Member States.

Activity 3.2.2 Supporting implementation of the Action Plan for the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multi Modal Transport (AFAMT)

Activity 3.2.2	Supporting implementation of the Action Plan for the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multi Modal Transport (AFAMT)
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB), National Transit Transport Coordinating Committees (NTTCC), ASEAN Senior Transport Officials (STOM), ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group and ASEAN Secretariat; the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• In support of the implementation of AFAMT, ARISE Plus has developed the following: o A framework for a liability insurance scheme for Multimodal Transport Operators in ASEAN; this is annexed to the expert report at **ANNEX 27** to this report, along with an analysis of Thailand's liability regulations for MTOs o An analysis of liability schemes of ASEAN Member States and alignment with AFAMT; this is annexed to the expert report at **ANNEXES 28 - 30** to this report o A pilot strategy for the AFAMT pilot was developed by ARISE Plus, attached to interim expert report at **ANNEX 31** to this report o In line with this strategy, a pilot for AFAMT implementation was started in October 2020 and is ongoing. o Implementing Framework for AFAMT, attached to interim expert report at **ANNEX 31** to this report o A comparative study between ASEAN and EU on multimodal transport, attached to interim expert report at **ANNEX 31** to this report

Activity 3.2.2	Supporting implementation of the Action Plan for the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multi Modal Transport (AFAMT)
	• The AFAMT platform at https://afamt.asean.org has been updated, and contains information for users and a multi-modal transport e-learning module with voice-over. The final expert report is at **ANNEX 32** to this report.
	• ARISE Plus has produced a Feasibility Study (FS) of introducing transit and ACTS measures in the facilitation of multimodal transport operations in ASEAN. This FS is attached to the expert's final report at **ANNEX 33** to this report.
	• ARISE Plus has produced a concept note on follow-on activities recommended in the Feasibility Study of introducing transit and ACTS measures in the facilitation of multimodal transport operations in ASEAN. This note is annexed to the expert interim report at **ANNEX 34** to this report, which is a cross-cutting issue under activity 3.3.3 below.
	• The immediate way forward proposed by ARISE Plus is to develop two surveys as follows:
	○ Survey with MTOs and national freight forwarders in AMS to gather relevant data and estimates on multimodal transport in ASEAN & evaluate efficiency of existing AMS Customs clearance procedure; and
	○ Survey with AMS Customs authorities to gather relevant data on Customs transit including the number of Customs transit declarations & evaluate efficiency of existing AMS Customs clearance procedure.
	Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	• A framework for a liability insurance scheme for Multimodal Transport Operators in ASEAN
	• An analysis of the liability arrangements for MTOs in Thailand
	• An analysis of liability schemes of ASEAN Member States and alignment with AFAMT
	• A comparative study between ASEAN and EU on multimodal transport
	• A pilot strategy for the AFAMT pilot
	• Implementing Guidelines for AFAMT
	• STE expert reports and related annexes are at **ANNEXES 27 to 30** to this report.
Problems encountered	Some of the data required for analysis of AMS legal frameworks is not available online in English. Some difficulties have been encountered in obtaining the necessary background information.

Activity 3.2.2	Supporting implementation of the Action Plan for the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multi Modal Transport (AFAMT)
Lessons learnt	Coordination between public and private sector groups is essential for AFAMT to be effectively implemented.

Overall result to-date	ARISE Plus support has provided a solid basis for the implementation of AFAMT which has started with a Pilot between Thailand and Vietnam.

Activity 3.2.3 Supporting the Implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of the Cross-Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicles (ASEAN-CBTP)

Activity 3.2.3	Supporting the Implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of the Cross-Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicles (ASEAN-CBTP)
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB), National Transit Transport Coordinating Committees (NTTCC), ASEAN Senior Transport Officials (STOM), ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group and ASEAN Secretariat; ASEAN Council of Bureau (COB).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• Progress on this activity is awaiting responses from ASEAN Member States on the following deliverables from ARISE Plus: ○ Revised Implementing Guidelines for the ASEAN-CBTP ○ Action plan for the CBTP Pilot and ○ Two CBTP procedural manuals, for the public and private sectors. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	The AFAMT platform at https://cbtp.asean.org has been updated, and contains information for users in passenger transport. The interim expert report is at **ANNEX 35** to this report.
Problems encountered	The need to await reactions from AMS. The Pilot implementation of ASEAN CBTP is still pending ratifications of pilot countries to the ASEAN CBTP Agreement. Cross-border land transport among several ASEAN Member States have been suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic.
Lessons learnt	Strong demand and involvement from ASEAN Member States would accelerate the progress of these activities.

Overall result to-date	ARISE Plus has supported a firm basis for the operationalisation of the passenger agreement ASEAN-CBTP.

Sub-component 3.3 ACTS Implementation

Outcome

The ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) installed and operating live within a ratified legal environment on the ASEAN north-south and east-west transit transport corridors.

Activity 3.3.3 Rolling Out of ACTS in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) countries

Activity 3.3.3	Rolling Out of ACTS in CLMV countries
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Customs Directors-General; ASEAN Senior Transport Officials (STOM); the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB); Customs Coordinating Committee (CCC) and its Working Groups; the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA); National Transit Transport Coordinating Committees (NTTCC); ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group and ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	- ACTS is installed in six Participating Member States (PMS), Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and several ACTS training sessions of public and private sector stakeholders have been completed under the previous reporting period. - Following the completion of ACTS phases A (business scenarios) and B (parallel run), and phase C (the live run). Preparations were made for launching live operations on 2nd November 2020. - ARISE Plus has held a series of bi-weekly conferences with PMS in conjunction with the ACTS Central Management Team (CMT) in order to stimulate progress and engagement for ACTS live implementation. - Subsequently ARISE has held a number of weekly ACTS conferences with PMS, to start up ACTS transactions in November 2020. The summaries of discussions are held at **ANNEX 36** to this report as ACTS start up notes to file. - Additional bi-lateral conferences have been held with the banking community in Cambodia and Malaysia, to resolve queries relating to ACTS Customs guarantees. - Short-term expertise has been contracted to support ACTS implementation, and the interim report is at **ANNEX 34** to his report. - ARISE Plus has delivered refresher ACTS training to public and private sector stakeholders. - Three explanatory documents, attached at **ANNEXES 37** to **39** to this report, have been developed to assist PMS in their preparations for ACTS live implementation, in particular relating to registration of Principal traders, obtaining of Customs guarantees and transport permits, and the definition of potential routes for the ACTS start-up phase C, as follows:

Activity 3.3.3	Rolling Out of ACTS in CLMV countries
	o Immediate actions document prepared by CMT o Matrix of preparatory ACTS actions to be taken o An ACTS start-up 'scenarios' document, to define in detail the actions necessary for ACTS operations to be started in October 2020, shared between Customs and transport sectors of ASEC and PMS • ARISE Plus has overseen successful live runs of ACTS under the start-up phase • ARISE Plus has managed the production of ACTS publicity material in the form of promotional leaflets, banners and video available on the ACTS Information Portal at https://acts.asean.org. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	• Preparatory arrangements, refresher training and documents to manage ACTS start-up; • Promotional ACTS publicity and visibility material has been produced in the form of a promotional video available on the ACTS Information Portal at https://acts.asean.org, in addition to an ACTS leaflet and roll-up banner. • The launch of the luve operations of ACTS took place on the 2nd November 2020. Arrangements have been made for the formal ACTS launch event, to take place virtually and is planned for the 30th November 2020. The concept note for this event is at **ANNEX 40** to this report.
Problems encountered	The advent of the COVID-19 virus has delayed ACTS start-up. The reintroduction of cross-border transport of goods has been slow complex with additional sanitary procedures that have acted to cause difficulties with ACTS transport operations. Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam considered it necessary to impose last-minute legal obstacles to ACTS, which has further delayed the project. Changes in personnel in National ACTS Project Teams in some PMS have led to a reduction in national ACTS expertise, and a need for more training by ARISE Plus.
Lessons learnt	In-depth preparation at national level is essential if a large complex project such as ACTS is to be successful. National training expertise is essential for sustainability and cascade training in ACTS at national level.

| **Overall result to-date** | Although there have been delays, the ACTS system and related procedures have been effectively installed in PMS, and the necessary training and training material have been provided. This acts as a good basis for the implementation of ACTS on a live operational basis. The launch of live operation of ACTS took place on 2nd November 2020. |

Activity 3.3.4 Developing the Capacity of the ACTS Central Management Team (CMT)

Activity 3.3.4	Developing the Capacity of the ACTS Central Management Team (CMT)
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Customs Directors-General; ASEAN Senior Transport Officials (STOM); the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB); Customs Coordinating Committee (CCC) and its Working Groups; the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA); National Transit Transport Coordinating Committees (NTTCC); ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group and ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• The CMT has been responsible for managing the execution of the ACTS pilot, with day to day support from ARISE Plus; this has involved arranging regular video conferences with PMS and the development of supporting documentation and operational ACTS action guides; • ARISE Plus has provided day to day additional technical expertise to the CMT, in order to improve their skills and knowledge. • The ACTS applications are now under the management of the CMT with technical and managerial support as needed from ARISE Plus. This strategy will help to ensure future ACTS system resilience and sustainability by the transfer of knowledge, capacity and skills to ASEAN counterpart staff in the ACTS CMT. • Additional ACTS environments are being setup and will be operational soon in Central Services to further facilitate CMT's day to day operations. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	• The knowledge and skills of CMT members have been enhanced by technical support from ARISE Plus. • The ACTS applications are now under the management of the CMT with as needed support from ARISE Plus. • Setup of additional ACTS environments in Central Services is progressing well.
Problems encountered	Minor delays in setting up additional ACTS environments due to priorities in other activities.
Lessons learnt	Full participation of the CMT is vital if ACTS implementation is to be successfully sustained.

Overall result to-date	The expertise of the CMT on ACTS has been expanded to the extent that prospects are now good for the planned ACTS live operational release.

Activity 3.3.5 Carrying Out a Functional Upgrade of the ACTS

Activity 3.3.5	Carrying Out a Functional Upgrade of the ACTS
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Customs Directors-General; ASEAN Senior Transport Officials (STOM); the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB); Customs Coordinating Committee (CCC) and its Working Groups; the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA); National Transit Transport Coordinating Committees (NTTCC); ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group and ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• Development of ACTS version 3.2.0 has been completed along with all relevant specification documentation updates, user and training documentation updates and extensive testing by ARISE Plus.
	• ARISE Plus has also completed ACTS installation, testing and deployment of ACTS version 3.2.0 in the live environments in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Thailand. Installation of the latest version in ACTS Central Services (CS) has been successfully completed. Singapore and Vietnam require on-site support by ARISE Plus, which has been delayed by the advent of the COVID-19 virus. ACTS 3.1.0, currently installed in Singapore and Vietnam, and ACTS 3.2.0, installed in other four PMS, are interoperable and compatible versions of ACTS, so this does not pose any issues for Live operations.
	• ACTS 3.2.0 has been tested successfully by the four PMS with the daily remote assistance provided by ARISE Plus.
	• Work on development of ACTS version 3.3.0 has started.
	• PMS were assisted daily as needed with any operational ACTS issues via email and/or conference calls by the ACTS IT Implementation Team.
	• Helpdesk and corrective maintenance services were provided to participating AMS (PMS), to ensure business continuity of ACTS, and all bugs identified were fixed and included in ACTS 3.2.0 software release.
	• Nine (9) ACTS change requests previously agreed by SWG-ACTS are undergoing detailed analysis and relevant integration into ACTS version 3.3.0.
	• A new set of twelve (12) change requests (CR) were approved by the most recent meeting of the SWG-ACTS on 13-14 August 2020. ARISE Plus will carry out detailed analysis of these, including extra information gathering where necessary. The Change Management Board has approved some of these CRs, and these CRs will be

Activity 3.3.5	Carrying Out a Functional Upgrade of the ACTS

	integrated into ACTS as per agreed by CMB schedule. The rest of the CRs will be scheduled for further discussion and approval.
	
	 • Three additional ACTS IT subsystems with initial description of tentative scope were agreed upon by SWG-ACTS. There are:
	
	     o Transport (truck) movement monitoring (Transport Monitoring System, TMS);
	
	     o Organisation and management of goods inspection activities; and;
	
	     o Self-registration online of traders in ACTS.
	
	 • Detailed analysis meetings will be organised to deliberate detailed specifications of these systems.
	
	 Status: Ongoing

Outputs delivered	• ACTS change requests (CR) have been developed and included in ACTS 3.2.0 software release, which has now deployed in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Thailand. These CRs are at **ANNEX 41** to this report. • The nine (9) Change Requests that have been approved by CMB will be implemented in version 3.3.0 of ACTS software release. The CRs are at **ANNEX 42** to this report. • All corrective issues relating to software bugs identified during the pilot were resolved and fixes included in ACTS 3.2.0 software release. • Three additional ACTS IT subsystems have been agreed to by SWG-ACTS and will be analysed in detailed in a set of Analysis Meetings. • Following proposals by the ASEAN transport sector, ARISE Plus has initiated consideration of an additional issue, namely the integration of the general transit philosophy and specific ACTS functionality into multi-modal transport in ASEAN, as described under activity 3.2.2 to this report. • Interim short-term technical reports are at **ANNEXES 43 to 50** to this report.
Problems encountered	The advent of the COVID-19 virus has delayed deployment of version 3.2.0 of ACTS in Singapore and Vietnam where on-site technical support from ARISE Plus is required. Generally, few other problems were encountered in this activity, which progressed with good cooperation from ASEAN Member States and professional CR development by the ACTS IT Implementation Team.
Lessons learnt	Recruitment of suitable ICT staff from the region at national and regional level has been essential to ensure sustainability of ACTS operations and future system resilience.

Overall result to-date	ACTS functionality has now been enhanced with the previous CRs having been successfully applied to the latest version of ACTS 3.2.0 and successfully installed in four PMS. With the additional changes recently agreed by AMS, the functionality and user-friendliness of ACTS will be enhanced.

Component 4.0: ASEAN Economic Integration Monitoring and Statistics

Sub-component 4.1 ASEAN Economic Integration Monitoring

Outcome

> *Through the operationalisation of the AEC 2025 M&E Framework analysis, reporting and awareness on the progress of AEC integration facilitated and ASEAN research, capacity and awareness strengthened to facilitate the implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025.*

Activity 4.1.1 Developing an Internal ARISE Plus Monitoring System and an Integrated Monitoring Framework for ARISE Plus Regional and National Projects

Activity 4.1.1	Developing an Internal ARISE Plus Monitoring System and an Integrated Monitoring Framework for ARISE Plus Regional and National Projects
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	ARISE Plus TAT of regional project, EU Mission To ASEAN, ASEAN Integration Monitoring Division (AIMD)
Tasks status	**ARISE Plus regional project internal monitoring:** • Undertook monitoring analysis for 6th progress report, and develop monitoring reports to support management, decision making and planning **ARISE Plus regional and national projects monitoring and coordination** • Undertook first informal ARISE Plus programme coordination meeting/workshop with European Commission DEVCO F2, programme managers from EUDs and TATs of ARISE Plus regional and national projects on 24 June 2020 • Maintained contact with ARISE Plus national and regional projects and compiled data of EUD programme managers and key members of TAT for ARISE Plus Regional, IPR, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	**ARISE Plus regional project internal monitoring:** • Summary and section on monitoring with monitoring analysis for 6th progress report **ARISE Plus regional and national projects monitoring and coordination:** • Meeting minutes and presentation from first informal ARISE Plus programme coordination meeting/workshop **(ANNEX 51 & 52)**

Activity 4.1.1	Developing an Internal ARISE Plus Monitoring System and an Integrated Monitoring Framework for ARISE Plus Regional and National Projects
	• Concept note for ARISE Plus programme coordination committee including recommendations for thematic webinars in priority areas **(ANNEX 53)** • Contact list of ARISE Plus projects **(ANNEX 54)** • SNKE reports **(ANNEX 55 & 56)**
Problems encountered	Some activities like the ARISE Plus programme coordination meeting were delayed due to COVID-19 but held by June 2020.
Lessons learnt	The robust internal monitoring, reporting and learning system has been applied at all levels of the project (events, activities and components) and provided relevant analysis including the internal mid-term and 2-year assessments which contributed to the external mid-term review of the project. There was strong enthusiasm from the European Commission, EUDs and project TATs for the continuation of the ARISE Plus programme coordination activities. The European Commission highlighted how coordination meetings can help promote the EU's geopolitical interests, create synergies and further coordinate between bilateral, regional and efforts from HQ, as well as the importance of the ARISE+ flagship projects for the European Commission.

Overall result to-date	Enhanced management and decision making in the ARISE Plus regional project enabled through a robust internal monitoring, reporting and learning system. The ARISE Plus regional project and the EU Delegation Indonesia have led the commencement and facilitation of ARISE Plus programme coordination activities involving DG DEVCO, EUDs and the TATs of ARISE Plus regional and national projects. This has created awareness on synergies and potential areas for collaboration amongst the projects.

Activity 4.1.2 Supporting Implementation of AEC 2025 M&E Framework

Activity 4.1.2	Supporting Implementation of AEC 2025 M&E Framework
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	• ASEAN Economic Community Council • High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) • ASEAN Integration Monitoring Division (AIMD) ASEC • Standards and Conformance Division (SCD) ASEC
Tasks status	• Supported AIMD in the conduct of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of AEC Blueprint 2025, especially in developing the Draft Preliminary MTR Report. This was presented to DSG Rillo and AEC Department Directors on

Activity 4.1.2	Supporting Implementation of AEC 2025 M&E Framework
	09 October 2020 and to the Focal Points of the High-Level Task Force on Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) on 12 October 2020. The revised draft Preliminary MTR Report was submitted to the HLTF-EI on 1 November 2020 for further review and finalisation for submission to the 19th AEC Council Meeting on 10 November 2020. • Developed Compliance Monitoring (CM) worksheets to guide AEC desk officers/sectoral bodies in assessing the implementation of their sectoral work plans and draft an overview of the implementation and monitoring mechanisms of the AEC Blueprint 2025 as part of the MTR and supported initial data analysis based on CM assessment inputs submitted by sectoral bodies. • Conducted a comprehensive literature review of relevant external studies as part of the MTR, including: policy briefs, journal articles, and academic studies on AEC Blueprint 2025 elements produced in the last five years by external organisations; policy and academic studies assessing the impact of COVID-19 on global value chains (GVCs), economic integration and development in ASEAN; and an in-depth thematic review of literature on the state, outcomes, and impacts of key elements of the AEC Blueprint 2025. • Engaged with the 14 ASEAN Joint Business Councils (JBCs) from the dialogue partners through meetings, supported AIMD to develop the Foreign Business Sentiments Survey (FBSS) questionnaire as part of the MTR. Piloted the survey with the JBCs. Developed online version of FBSS and 14 survey links one for each of the respective JBCs through SurveyMonkey platform. Data collection for the survey is on-going and will be completed by end of November 2020. The Focus Group Discussion with foreign businesses is expected to be held in late November 2020. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	• Preliminary MTR report of the AEC Blueprint 2025 • CM assessment worksheets for remaining sectoral workplans and elements of the AEC Blueprint 2025 covering all sectors, for example, good regulatory practice, transport, e-commerce, ICT, energy, sustainable economic development, agriculture, tourism, minerals, science and technology, MSMEs, private sector participation, global economy, statistics, and monitoring **(ANNEX 57)** • Database comprising of 239 policy briefs, journal articles, and academic studies on AEC Blueprint 2025 elements produced in the last five years by external organisations **(ANNEX 58)** • A database comprising 134 policy and academic studies assessing the impact of COVID-19 on global value chains (GVCs), economic integration and development in ASEAN **(ANNEX 59)**

Activity 4.1.2	Supporting Implementation of AEC 2025 M&E Framework
	• A content matrix of 20 recently-published journal papers on ASEAN economic integration and GVCs with policy recommendations • Thematic review of literature on the state, outcomes, and impacts of key elements of the AEC Blueprint 2025, covering following: B.1. Effective Competition Policy; B.2. Consumer Protection; B.3. Strengthening Intellectual Property Rights Cooperation; D.1 Strengthening the Role of MSMEs; and D.4. Narrowing the Development Gap • Meeting minutes with JBCs **(ANNEX 60)** • Final FBSS questionnaire **(ANNEX 61)** • Online version of FBSS and 14 links for each of the JBCs on Survey Monkey platform **(ANNEX 62)** • SNKE reports **(ANNEX 63 – ANNEX 67)**
Problems encountered	Work was carried out during a period where the COVID-19 pandemic was prevalent across ASEAN. Movement of ASEC staff, experts and other ASEAN stakeholders was severely curtailed with most staff, experts and stakeholders working from their respective homes. Second week into the run of the FBSS, realised the need to translate the questionnaire from English to Russian, Chinese and Korean to encourage and increase participation of foreign companies from Russia, China and South Korea that are operating in the ASEAN region.
Lessons learnt	Despite the force-majeure situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong working spirit together with extensive use of online platforms for meetings meant that substantial progress was made across all tasks, on-track with the planning in the AWP3.

Overall result to-date	• ASEAN has been well supported to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the AEC Blueprint 2025 for the remaining period of its implementation (2021-2025) through high quality technical inputs for the conduct of the MTR of AEC Blueprint 2025 including drafting of key sections of the MTR report and a review of external research publications. A feedback mechanism for engaging the foreign business sector operating in ASEAN has been established with strong participation of the 14 Joint Business Councils (JBCs) and the current deployment of a Foreign Business Sentiments Survey (FBSS).

Activity 4.1.3 Demand-driven Support for Research, Capacity Building and Outreach Activities to Assist the Implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025

Activity 4.1.3	Demand-driven Support for Research, Capacity Building and Outreach Activities to Assist the Implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	• ASEAN Economic Community Council • High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) • ASEAN Integration Monitoring Division (AIMD) ASEC
Tasks status	• Drafted AIMD Communication and Publications strategy for 2020 to 2025 • Drafted design and prototype for AEC eNewsletter • Drafted articles based on key sections and findings of the Flagship ASEAN Integration Report (AIR) 2019, updated as appropriate, covering 6 major AEC sectors, including packaging and write-up as user-friendly and engaging material and for publishing them on AEC Monitoring website. • Drafted inputs for an enhanced ASEAN Economic Integration Brief (AEIB) template. • Provide demand driven support to other publications required by AIMD including recommended best practices (for structure) and designs for ASEAN Policy Brief Edition 2 and ASEAN Policy Brief Edition 3. **Status:** Ongoing
Outputs delivered	• Draft AIMD Communication and Publications Strategy for 2020 to 2025 • Draft AEC eNewsletter prototype and suggested templates **(ANNEX 68)** • Draft Articles based on key sections and findings of the Flagship ASEAN Integration Report (AIR) 2019, covering 7 major AEC sectors **(ANNEX 69)** • Inputs to enhanced concept and template for ASEAN Economic Integration Brief (AEIB) **(ANNEX 70)** • Best practice guidelines; inputs to designs for ASEAN Policy Brief Edition 2 and ASEAN Policy Brief Edition 3 **(ANNEX 71)** • SNKE reports **(ANNEX 72 – ANNEX 74)**
Problems encountered	Despite the COVID-19 pandemic all planned tasks have progressed. Further discussions with clients needed to finalise the drafts. In a number of cases there were repeated to and fro between the AIMD and the JNKE graphic designer in terms of ensuring outputs that meet the AIMD expectation.
Lessons learnt	The close working relationship and working dynamics between ARISE plus and AIMD enabled ARISE Plus to rapidly react to additional demand driven needs of AIMD, such as enhanced designs for subsequent editions of the ASEAN Policy Brief, which were released by AIMD in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall result to-date	AIMD capacity and mechanisms to create awareness and outreach strengthened through enhanced publications, communication and outreach.

Sub-Component 4.2 ASEAN Statistics Capacity Building

Outcome

> *Strengthened coordinating role of the ACSS as the apex statistical entity, with Improved statistical production capacities to cater for relevant new data requests from ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in all AMS (and particularly but not limited to CLMV countries).*

This section focuses on the activities implemented under the Work Plan 3 (WP 3) for the period of 1 May 2020 – 31 October 2020 under the component 4.2 – ASEAN Statistics Capacity Building. **ANNEX 75** shows the report of the S-NKE on Coordination of Statistics Capacity Building Activities. The travel restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has limited the number of activities.

Activity 4.2.1 Enhancing AEC Monitoring Databases

Activity 4.2.1	Enhancing AEC Monitoring Databases
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate (AIMD), Statistics Division (ASEANStats), ASEC desk officers, and indirectly AEC sectoral bodies
Tasks status	**Demand driven activity** There was no demand from the beneficiaries during the reporting period. Activities have been designed for second half AWP3, focussing on increasing capacity and utilisation of the databases amongst ASEC staff.

Activity 4.2.2 Supporting the ACSS in Improving Collection and Dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)

Activity 4.2.2	Supporting the ACSS in Improving Collection and Dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)
Main Beneficiaries engaged	National Statistical Office of AMSs, ASEANstats, ACSS Committee, Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC), Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (WGSDGIs)
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• **Organise** regional workshop and **undertake** TA on Assessment and indicator selection, • **Support** Finalisation of the SDGIs Selected Indicators, and preparation of the draft ASEAN SDGIs 2020 publication, • **Undertake** TA on Preparation for the ASEAN SDG 2020 draft publication. **Status**: Ongoing, to be completed in Q2 2021
Outputs delivered	• Assessment notes on the quality and comparability of the SDGIs

Activity 4.2.2	Supporting the ACSS in Improving Collection and Dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)
	• Recommendations for Selected SDGIs Indicators and methodology for aggregation. • Baseline Report of ASEAN SDGIs 2020, which was released on 23 Oct 2020. • Questionnaire and draft Workshop/TA materials. **Interim Report:** Technical Assistance Activity: Senior Non-Key Expert_on: Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)-Phase 2 **(ANNEX 76)**
Problems encountered	More preparations are needed to ensure effective online workshop/meeting.
Lessons learnt	• Online workshops, meetings, and consultations could serve as important modalities in the implementation of ACSS work plans. • Excellent preparation from the expert's side, close consultation with Beneficiaries, and proactive support from, in particular, the WGSDGI and ASEANStats, have help ensured quality of the results and communication, and hence transfer of knowledge.

Overall result to-date	• Strengthened ASEANStats capacity in the compilation and reporting /dissemination of SDGIs.

Activity 4.2.3 Supporting Gap Analysis and implementation of the Operational Guidelines for the ACSS Roadmap on SNA 2008

Activity 4.2.3	Supporting Gap Analysis and implementation of the Operational Guidelines for the ACSS Roadmap on SNA 2008
Main Beneficiaries engaged	National Statistical Office of AMSs, ASEANstats, ACSS Committee, Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC), Working Group on System of National Accounts (WGSNA).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• **Undertake** TA on Gap Analysis in close collaboration with BPS Statistics Indonesia, • **Support** the finalisation of gap analysis through completion of the quality requirement template and setting up the plan for the immediate implementation. • **Undertake** TA mission to selected ASEAN Member States to implement the agreed actions, • **Organise and support** Regional Workshop/Training on SNA to discuss the result of Gap Analysis. **Status**: Delayed implementation, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Activity 4.2.3	Supporting Gap Analysis and implementation of the Operational Guidelines for the ACSS Roadmap on SNA 2008
Outputs delivered	Interim Report for Technical Assistance Activity Senior Non-Key Expert on: Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1 **(ANNEX 77)**

Activity 4.2.4 Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP) related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS

Activity 4.2.4	Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP) related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Member States (AMSs), Statistics Division (ASEANstats), ACSS Committee, Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC), Working Group on Statistics on International Trade in Services (WGSITS).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• **Organise and support** Regional and Sub-Regional Workshop on SITS, • **Undertake** TA mission to some selected ASEAN member States to assist with the improvement to compilation of EBOPS Key Services categories, and/or SITS data by partner countries, • **Organise and support** Regional Workshop/Training on FDIS, • **Undertake** TA missions to selected ASEAN member States to assist with the improvement to AMS data submission of FDIS outward flow and FDIS inward stock. **Status**: ToR development is pending the removal of the travel restrictions/ and or flexibility in the 80/20 rule implementation.

Activity 4.2.5 Support for strengthened IMTS data processing and quality, in particular in CLM, and for compliance to IMTS standard including conceptual compliance and implementation of seasonal adjustment

Activity 4.2.5	Support for strengthened IMTS data processing and quality, in particular in CLM, and for compliance to IMTS standard including conceptual compliance and implementation of seasonal adjustment
Main Beneficiaries engaged	National Statistical Office of AMSs, ASEANstats, ACSS Committee, Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC), Working Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (WGIMTS).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• **Organise and support** Regional Training on IMTS data processing using SQL-based Eurotrace, migration to SQL-based Eurotrace, and strengthening the IMTS staff team capability in handling the data processing and credibility check properly. • **Undertake** TA mission to Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar and ASEANStats,

Activity 4.2.5	**Support for strengthened IMTS data processing and quality, in particular in CLM, and for compliance to IMTS standard including conceptual compliance and implementation of seasonal adjustment**
	• **Organise and support** Regional Training on Seasonal Adjustment of IMTS data, for all ASEAN Member States (ToR approved under the WP2). **Status:** Delayed implementation, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Outputs delivered	Interim Report for Technical Assistance Activity Senior Non-Key Expert on: Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standards – Phase 1 **(ANNEX 78 & 79)**

Activity 4.2.6 Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility

Activity 4.2.6	**Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility**
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Member States (AMSs), Statistics Division (ASEANstats), ACSS Committee, Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC), Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis, Dissemination and Communication (WGDSA).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	• **Support** the finalisation of the Concept Note and Detailed Plan for ACSS Communication and Visibility 2020-2025 and the detailed plan for High-Level Advocacy Forum in Hanoi (covering a few sub-tasks related to ACSS Communication in Statistics), • **Undertake** the High-Level Advocacy Forum in Ha Noi, • **Undertake** Regional Training Workshop on Video/Motion Graphics, and post training support. **Status:** Ongoing, to be completed in Q1 2021.
Outputs delivered	• Concept Note for ACSS Ten Year Celebration, • First Draft Work Plan for the WG on Data Sharing, Analysis, Dissemination and Communication in Statistics (WGDSA) 2020-2025, • Detailed plan for the High-Level Advocacy Forum, • Draft ASEAN-help-ASEAN Framework, • Video/Motion Graphics product (Video-graphics 1) for display at the ACSS 10 celebration • Draft Training materials on Video/Motion Graphics **Interim Report** for Technical Assistance Activity Senior Non-Key Expert on: ACSS Statistics Communication Plan-Phase 2 and High Level Advocacy Forum **(ANNEX 80)** and **Interim Report** for Technical Assistance Activity Senior Non-Key Expert on: Development of Video-graphics and Strengthening Video-graphics Skills for Enhanced ASEAN Data Visibility-Phase 2 **(ANNEX 81)**

Activity 4.2.6	Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility
Problems encountered	• None needing any particular attention.
Lessons learnt	• Online workshops, meetings, and consultations could serve as important modalities in the implementation of ACSS work plans. • Excellent preparation from the expert's side, close consultation and good support from the host country (Viet Nam) and ASEANstats have helped met the immediate objectives in a timely manner.

| Overall result to-date | • Satisfactory preparation for implementation of the User-Producer engagement in Viet Nam,
• Clear concept and overall guidance for effective implementation of communication and visibility events,
• Sufficient preparation for relevant documents under purview, for timely ACSS endorsement in December 2020,
• Satisfactory preparation for the main video/motion graphics display at the ACSS10 celebration. |

SECTION 2 INTERNAL MONITORING ASESSMENT

This section provides an internal monitoring assessment of the ARISE Plus programme since the commencement of the programme. The internal assessment focusses on core assessment criteria of relevance, partnerships, efficiency and effectiveness in line with the Monitoring Strategy of the programme. The analysis covers the programme for a period of 3 years, from its inception on 8th November 2017 until 30 October 2020. The monitoring analysis provides aggregate data and in selected areas it provides a breakdown by reporting period.

Relevance

ARISE PLUS has had a strong level of relevance to the needs and priorities of its stakeholders, namely the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the European Union (EU).   The relevance of ARISE Plus has manifested itself through the strategic support it provides to 12 Elements and 14 Strategic Measures of the ASEAN Economic Blueprint (AECB) and 38 Key Action Lines of the ASEAN Consolidated Strategic Action Plan (CSAP). ARISE PLUS also supports 7 priority areas of the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action and 5 Sustainable Development Goals. These can be visualised from figure 1.
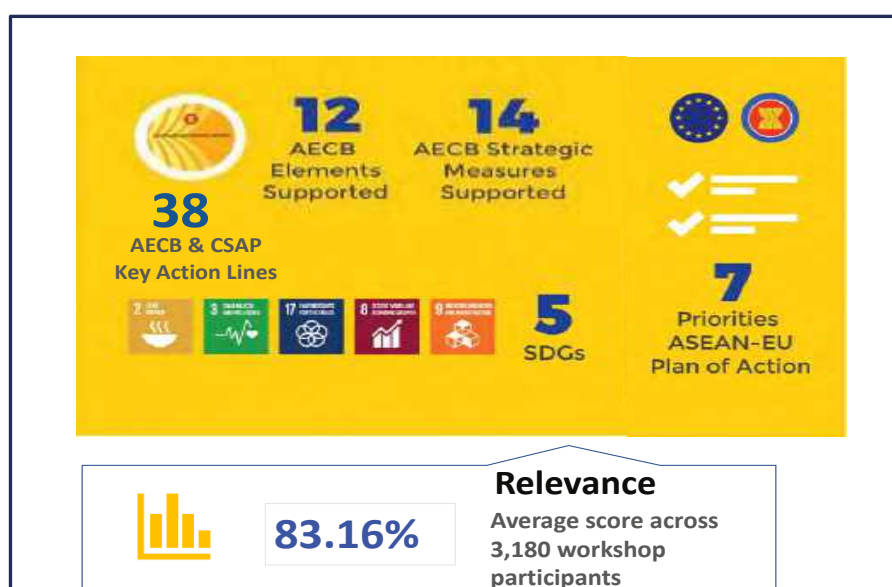

Figure 1: relevance of ARISE PLUS

ARISE Plus workshops were also highly rated in terms of relevance with an average score of 83.16% across 3 questions covering relevance in the feedback questionnaires across 90 workshops implemented from commencement until March 2020[2] involving 3,180 workshop participants.

Partnerships

The ARISE PLUS programme has engaged with 13 ASEC Divisions, 38 ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, working groups and ASEAN entities and 85 AMS entities as illustrated in figure 2.

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[2] Data on relevance from the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020 to-date is not available, as all events and workshops have been conducted virtually. This provides very limited scope and practical avenues for gathering feedback data from workshop participants. During the next reporting period, the gathering of feedback data will be attempted for workshops involving training.

Figure 2: overview of ARISE PLUS partnerships

The partnerships within each of the major categories can be visualised in further detail through figures 3 and 4.

Figure 3: ASEC Divisions engaged[3]

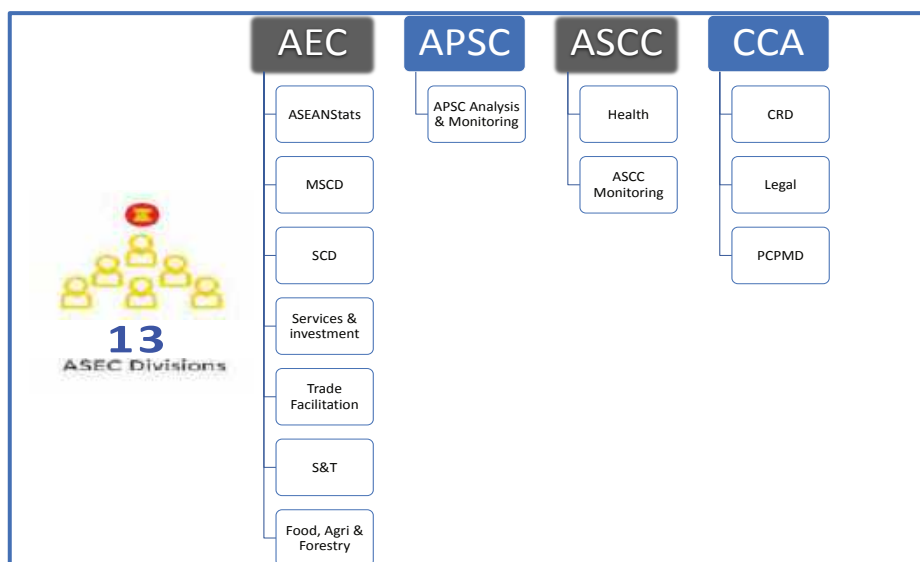[3] AEC=ASEAN Economic Community, MSCD = Monitoring Surveillance and Coordination Division, SCD = Standards and Conformance Division, S&T= Science & Technology Division, APSC = ASEAN Political Security Community, ASCC = ASEAN Socio Cultural Community, CCA = Community and Corporate Affairs, CRD = Community Relations Division, PCPMD = Programme Cooperation and Project Management Division
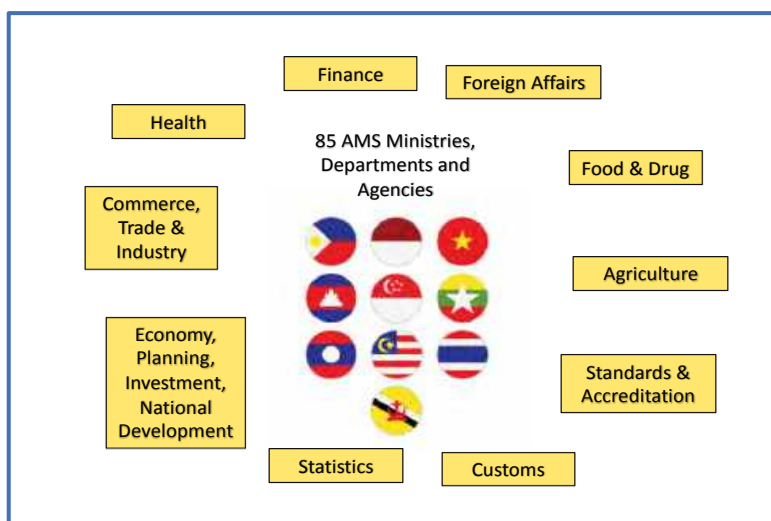
Efficiency

Availability and utilisation of resources

A total of 2,455[4] key expert (KE) days, 6,792 senior non-key expert (SNKE) days and 174 junior non-key expert (JNKE) days have been used since programme commencement until end of October 2020. Over 114 non-key expert (NKE) assignments have been contracted and 2,063,559 Euros of incidentals utilised. The utilisation of resources can be visualised from figures 5 and 6.
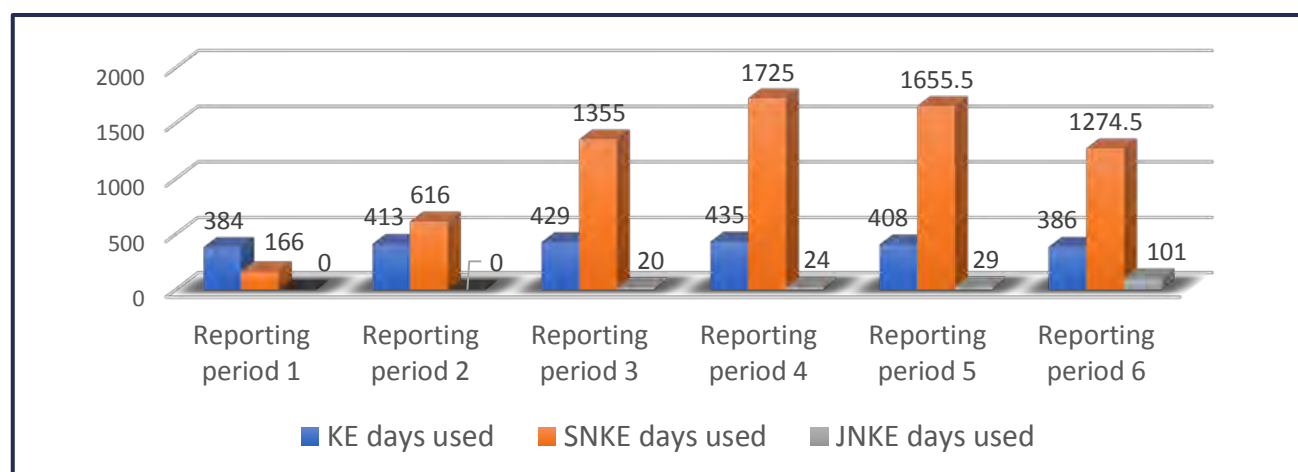
Figure 5: expert days used (by reporting period)

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[4] According to figures as of October 2020 – these might be subject to change based on the approval process of the EUD
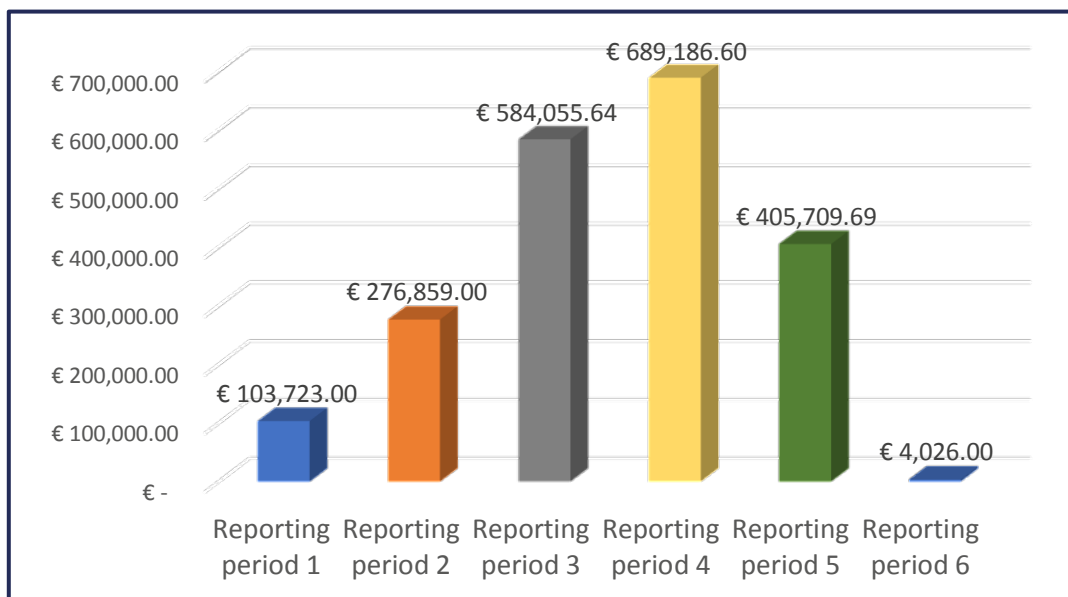
Figure 6: incidentals used (by reporting period)

During the current reporting period, the usage of incidentals was minimal as all events and workshops held were conducted virtually and travel between AMS was not possible due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions.

Activities Implemented

Resources used have resulted in the implementation of a total of 36 major activities during the reporting period. The number of activities implemented during each successive reporting period can be visualised in figure 7.
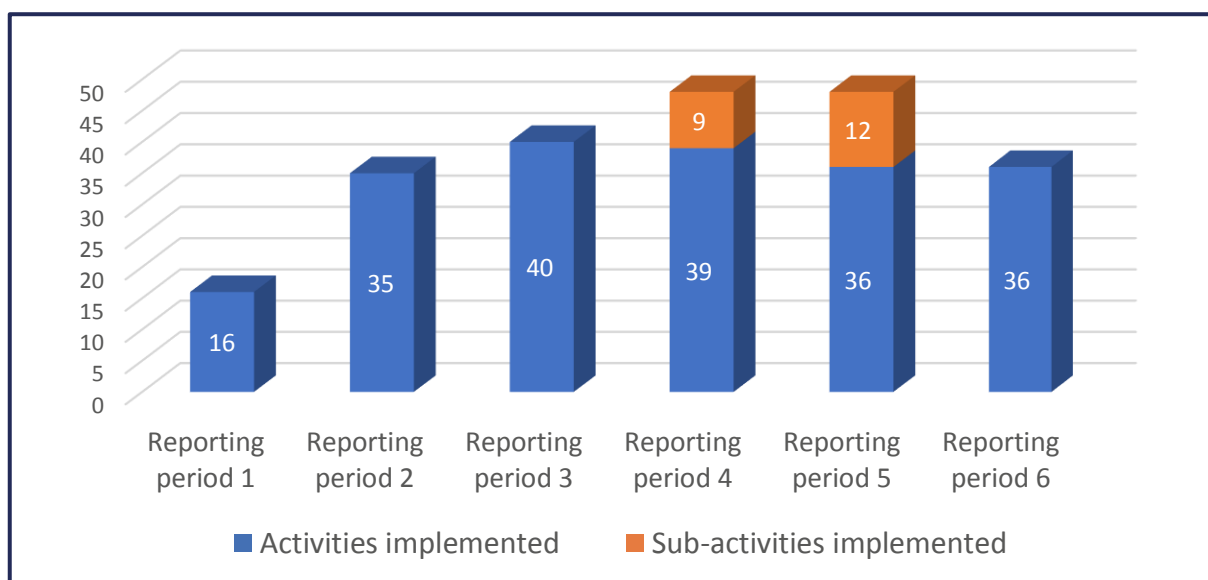
Figure 7: activities implemented by reporting period

3 workshops were implemented during reporting period 1, 15 during reporting period 2, 28 each during reporting periods 3 and 4. 16 workshops were implemented during reporting period 5, and 10 workshops during reporting period 6. Although a number of workshops were cancelled during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, several core workshops were implemented via remote means. A total of 100 workshops have been implemented since commencement of the programme. These figures together with a breakdown of both national and regional workshops are provided in figure 8.

Figure 8: number of regional and national workshops by reporting period
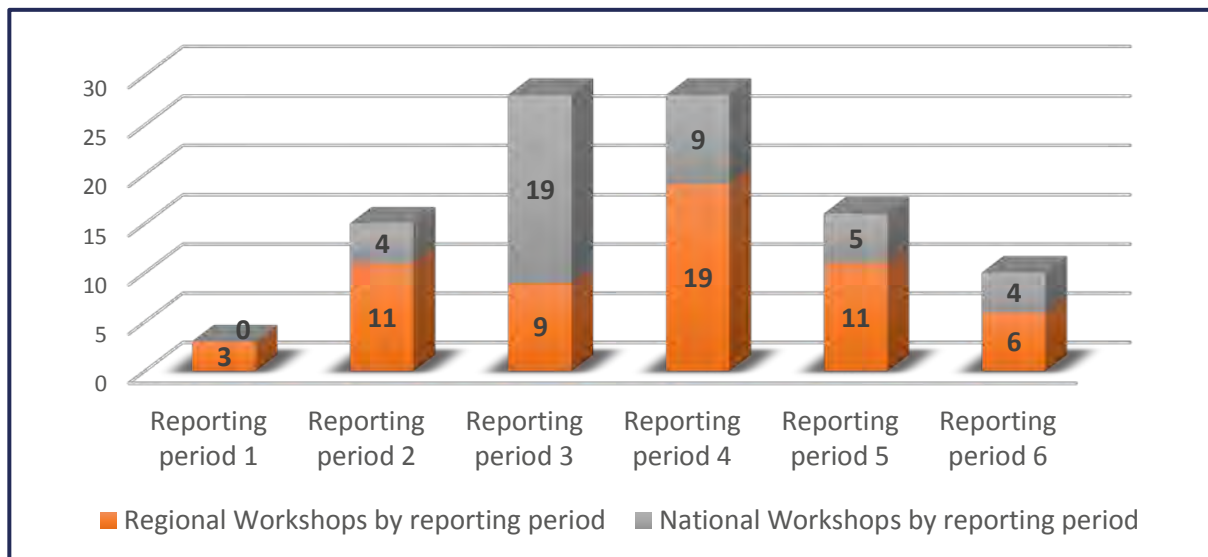
total of 108 participants attended workshops during reporting period 1, 516 during reporting period 2, 921 during reporting period 3, 1037 participants during reporting period 4, 616 participants during reporting period 5 and 818 workshop participants during reporting period 6 as visualised in figure 9.
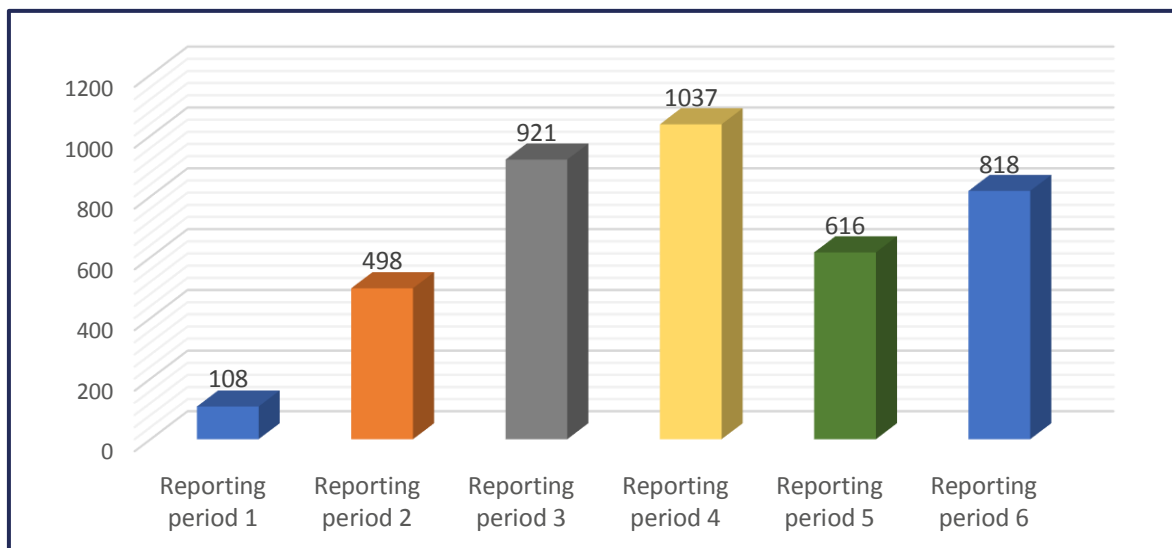
Figure 9: workshop participants by reporting period

Effectiveness

Outputs

Figure 10 provides an overview of major outputs generated by reporting period.
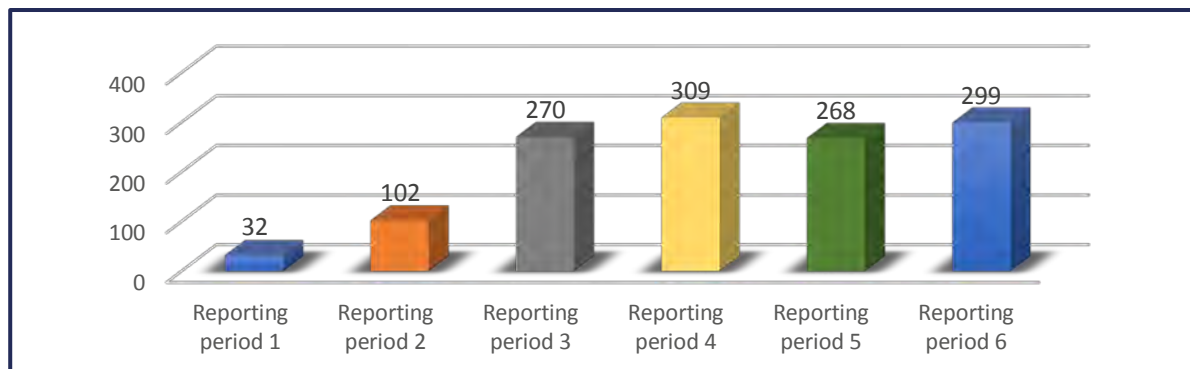
Figure 10: major outputs by reporting period

ARISE+ has overcome significant challenges to generate 299 outputs during the current reporting period and a total of 1,280 major outputs since programme commencement. Figure 11 provides a breakdown of these major outputs which include 356 internal ASEAN documents, 180 ASEAN ICT systems and upgrades, 110 workshop reports and 78 training materials, according to the output classification system of the programme.
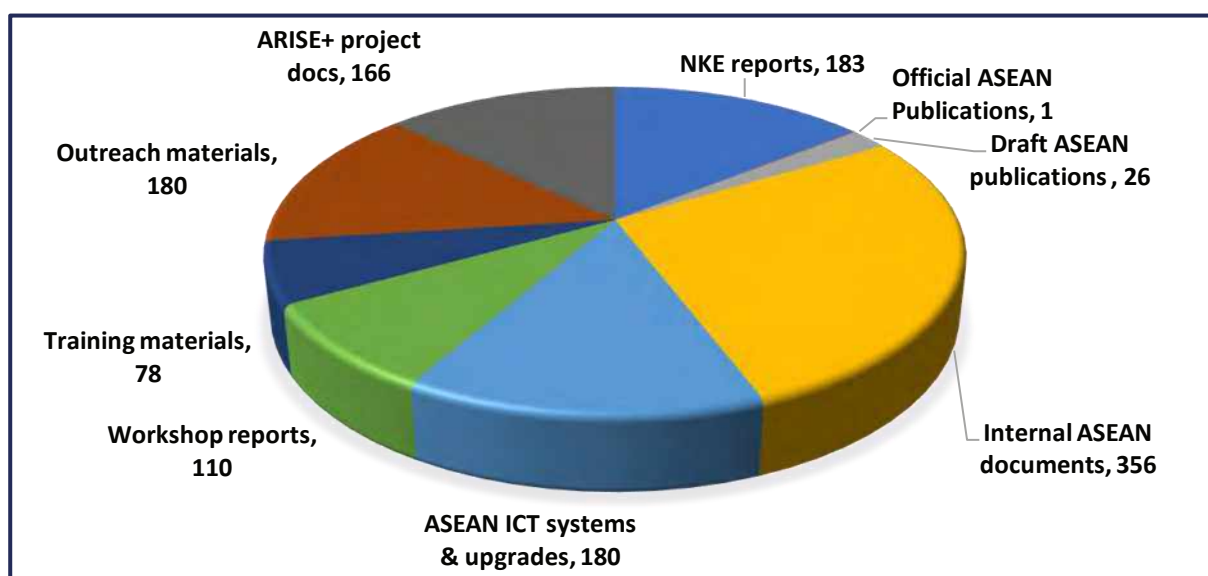
Figure 11: breakdown of major outputs by type [5]

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[5] The breakdown outputs by type for the current reporting period are estimates and are subject to change upon verification

Effectiveness of workshops

As illustrated in figure 12, ARISE PLUS workshops were hosted by all AMS demonstrating the strong ownership of the programme amongst AMS.
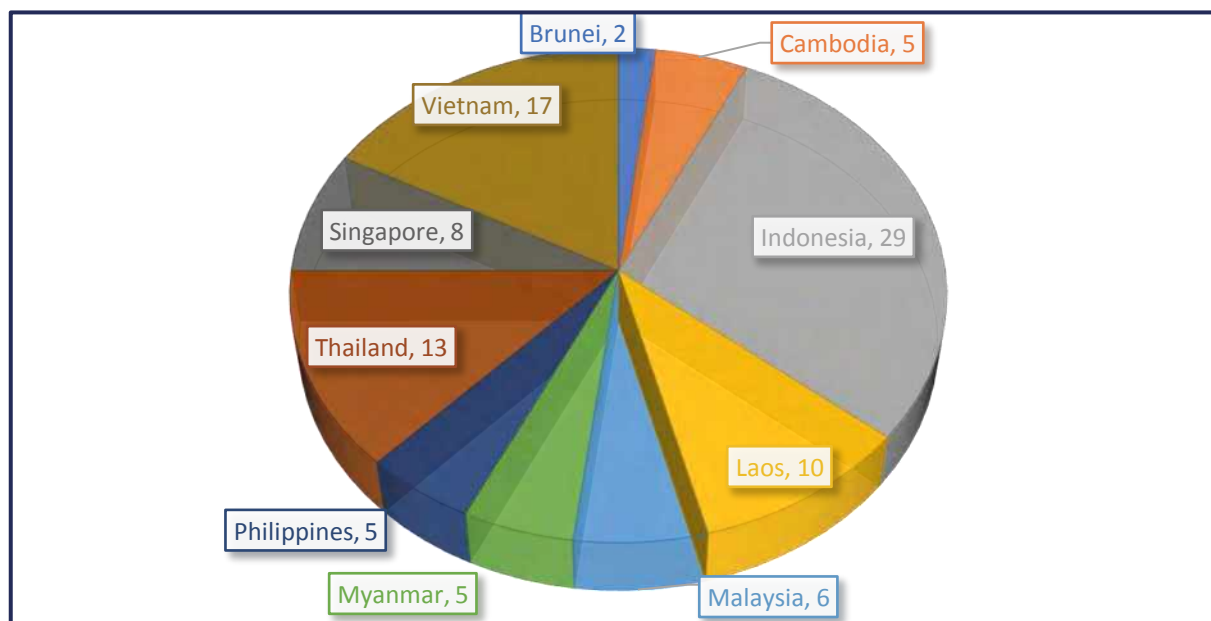
Figure 12: number of ARISE PLUS workshops hosted by AMS (from inception)

ARISE Plus workshops were highly rated in terms of effectiveness, with an average score of 81.66% since programme inception until March 2020[6] across 3,180 workshop participants.
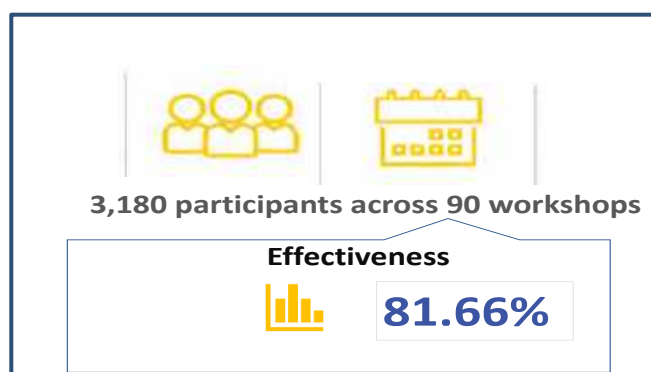
Figure 13: average effectiveness of workshops rated by participants, cumulative

ARISE PLUS workshops have been characterised by an effective inclusive approach. All 10 ASEAN Member states are well represented across the participants. A total of 1,435 participants from the CLMV countries have attended the workshops. See figure 14 below for a breakdown of workshop participants by nationality.

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[6] Data on effectiveness from the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020 to-date is not available, as all events and workshops have been conducted virtually. This provides very limited scope and practical avenues for gathering feedback data from workshop participants. During the next reporting period, the gathering of feedback data will be attempted for workshops involving training.
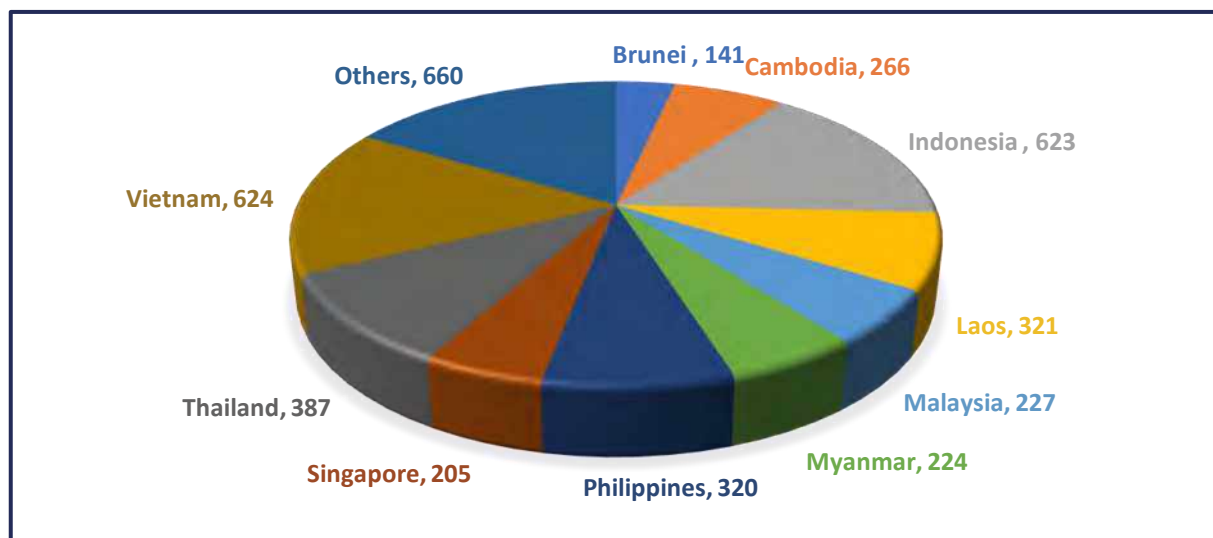
Figure 14: breakdown of workshop participants by nationality

In terms of gender, ARISE PLUS workshops have had a strong gender balance during each of the reporting periods as visualised from figure 15. A total of 2020 male participants and 1978 female participants have attended ARISE PLUS workshops since commencement.
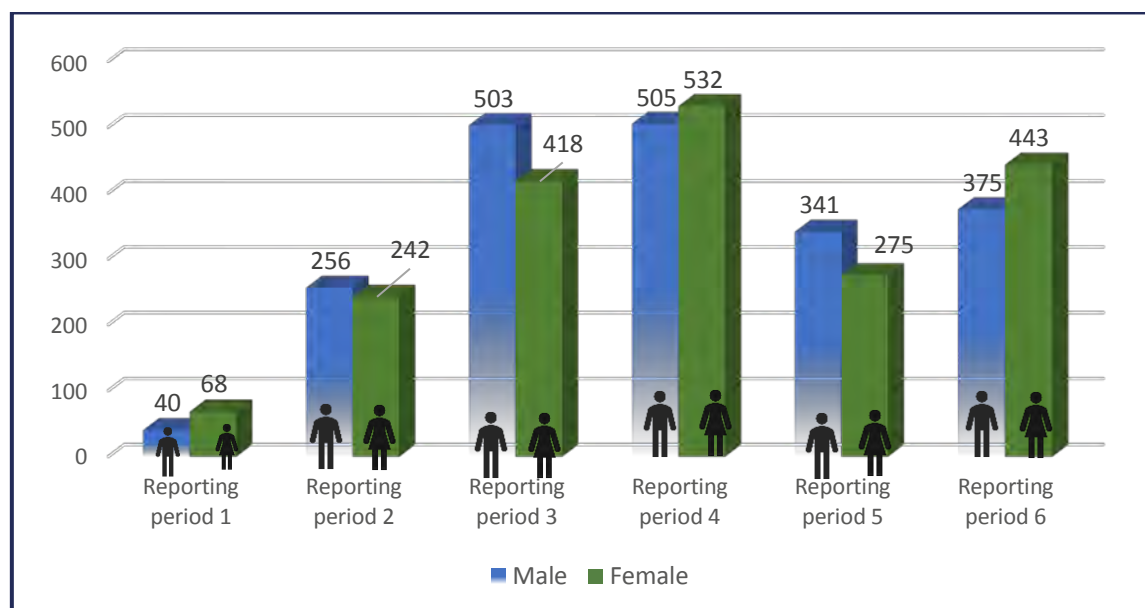
Figure 15: breakdown of workshop participants by gender

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[7] Others include staff from ASEC, ARISE Plus experts, private sector participants, staff from EU member state embassies and EUD staff

Results chain

Figure 16 provides a snapshot of the programme after 3 years of implementation in the form of a results chain using aggregate data.

Figure 16: cumulative results chain for the programme

61 results

3	4	12	11	3	13	1	1	4	2	4	3
ASEAN legal framework supported	ASEAN instruments operational	ASEAN instruments endorsed	Upgraded ASEAN systems operational	Topics ASEC & sectoral bodies capacitated	Topics AMS capacitated	Cooperation facilitated amongst ASEAN WGs	ASEC, sectoral body and AMS staff trained **(total 999)**	Platforms for private sector engagement in AEC	Outreach mechanisms	Enhanced ARISE+ systems operational	ARISE+ M&E systems operationalised

1280 major outputs

356	26	1	180	78	110	180	183	166
Internal ASEAN docs	Draft ASEAN publications	ASEAN publication	ASEAN ICT systems & upgrades	Training materials	Workshop reports	Outreach materials	NKE reports	Programme docs

Activities

59
Major Activities Implemented

100
Workshops Held

3,998
Participants at Workshops

10
AMS hosting workshops

Inputs

2455
KE days

6792
SNKE days

101
JNKE days

€ 2,063,559
Incidentals

4
Key experts (KE)

114
Senior non-key experts (SNKE)

7
Junior non-key experts (JNKE)

12
Backstopping staff

SECTION 3 OVERVIEW OF USE OF RESOURCES

Cumulative Resources							
Reporting Period	**KE1**	**KE2**	**KE3**	**KE4**	**Senior Non-Key**	**Junior Non-Key**	**Incidentals**
1st 6 Monthly Report covering Inception period and 1stMonth of AWP1 (8th November 2017 - 7thMay 2018)	113	74	101	96	166	0	€ 103,723.63
2nd Six Monthly Report (8th May 2018 – 7th November 2018)	98	97	103	115	616	5	€ 276,859.19
3rd Six Monthly Report (8th November 2018 – 7th May 2019)	109	106	100	114	1,355	15	€ 584,055.64
4th Six Monthly Report (8th May 2019 – 7th November 2019)	118	94	106	117	1,725	24	€ 689,186.60
5th Six Monthly Report (8th November 2019 – 7th May 2020)	107.5	91	96	114	1,694	29	€ 406,930.01
6th Six Monthly Report (8th May 2020 – 7th November 2020)	**108.5**	**78**	**95**	**105**	**1,258.5**	**101**	**€ 9,928.69**
Actual to Date	**654**	**540**	**601**	**661**	**6,814.5**	**174**	**€ 2,070,683.76**
Programme Budget	**1,090**	**880**	**1,017**	**1,070**	**11,888**	**400**	**€ 3,645,000.00**
Balance Remaining	**436**	**340**	**416**	**409**	**5,073.5**	**226**	**€ 1,574,316.24**

Resources Used at the Component Level for the Reporting Period								
Sub Component	Title	KE 1	KE 2	KE 3	KE 4	Senior NKE	Junior NKE	Incidentals €
COMPONENT 0.0	Management and Outreach	108.5						1,102.96
COMPONENT 1.0	Trade Facilitation and Transparency		78			298		6,595.56
COMPONENT 2.0	Standards and Conformity Assessment in Particular Healthcare and Agro-based products			95		66.5		368.67
COMPONENT 3.0	Customs, Transport and ACTS				105	601		
COMPONENT 4.0	ASEAN Economic Integration Monitoring and Statistics					293	101	1,702.31
Bank Charges								159.19
TOTAL		108.5	78	95	105	1,258.5	101	9,928.69

ARISE Plus is implemented by AETS, ARTEMIS, DT Global and FratiniVergano

SECTION 4 LIST OF OFFICIAL MEETINGS PARTICIPATED IN BY ARISE PLUS

No.	Dates	Place	Meetings/Workshops/Study tours/Trainings
1.	25 June 2020	Virtual	30th PFPWG Meeting
2.	25 June 2020	Virtual	33rd CCA Meeting
3.	15 – 26 June 2020	Virtual	4th Meeting of the EWG-ASEAN OA
4.	29 July 2020	Virtual	38th WG 2 Meeting
5.	13-14 August 2020	Virtual	24th SWG-ACTS Meeting Conference Call
6.	26 August 2020	Virtual	44th WG1 Meeting
7.	23 September 2020	Virtual	ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Meeting (Video -conference).
8.	22 October 2020	Virtual	1st APLN Meeting
9.	29-20 October 2020	Virtual	Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG) Meeting

SECTION 5 EVENTS ORGANISED BY ARISE PLUS

No.	Dates	Place	Regional/ National	Beneficiary	Meetings/Workshops/Study tours/Trainings
1	30 July 2020	Virtual	National	Indonesia	Webinar "ASSIST for Trade in Services Outreach Event: ASEAN Solution for Your Business in Indonesia"
2	18-19 August 2020	Virtual	Regional	ACCSQ'sWorking Group 1	Virtual Workshop on Increasing Effectiveness on Harmonization Standards
3	21 August 2020	Virtual	Regional	AIMD Plus private sector	JBC Workshop on Foreign Business Sentiments Survey (FBSS) for the Mid-term Review of the AECB MTR
4	26 August 2020	Virtual	National	Lao PDR	Virtual Outreach Event on ASSIST for Trade in Services in Lao PDR
5	2 September 2020	Virtual	Regional	Pharmaceutical Product Working Group (PPWG)	Virtual Workshop to review the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework
6	8 September 2020	Virtual	Regional	Expert Working Group on Organic Agriculture (EWG-OA)	Organic Agriculture on the MRA (Video Conference Discussion)
7	28-29 September 2020	Virtual	National	ACTS	Training webinar with Singapore Customs and Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA)
8	30 September 2020	Virtual	National	ACTS	Training webinar with DHL Singapore for preparations for the live operations
9	16 October 2020	Virtual	Regional	ASEAN Health Cluster 4 (AHC4)	Capacity Building programme for Traceability - training session (Video Conference)
10	23 October 2020	Virtual	Regional	AMS	The ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGI) Launch

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SECTION 6 ANNEXES

Annex	Activity	Experts outputs
Annex 1	1.1.1	Supporting the Effective Implementation of the ATIGA (ATR and NTR)' in Malaysia and the Philippines (1) & (2)
Annex 2	1.1.1	ATIGA Implementation with Focus on Non-Tariff Measures in Indonesia and Myanmar (1)
Annex 3	1.1.1	ATIGA Implementation with Focus on Non-Tariff Measures in Indonesia and Myanmar (2)
Annex 4	1.1.1	Supporting the Effective Implementation of the ATIGA (ATR and NTRs) in Thailand
Annex 5	1.1.1	Mapping of TBT Non-Tariff Measures in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam
Annex 6	1.2.1	Translations of ASSIST Toolkits
Annex 7	1.2.1	Full Operationalisation and Management of ASSIST, Including in the Services and Investment Sectors
Annex 8	1.2.1	IT Update and Management of ASSIST, ATR and e-Platform Websites
Annex 9	2.1.4	Myanmar Electrical and Electronic Equipment Safety Regulations
Annex 10	2.2.1	Review of the processes for harmonisation of standards in ASEAN and Implementation of initiatives to identify priority areas for harmonisation
Annex 11	2.3.2	Prepare for GAP Analysis on Implementing MRA on Inspection and Certification Systems for Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuffs
Annex 12	2.3.2	Support the development of Operating Procedures for the implementation of MRAs on Prepared Foodstuff
Annex 13	2.3.2	Supporting the training on MRA on Inspection and Certification Systems of Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuffs
Annex 14	2.3.5	Assisting the Establishment of Rapid Alert Systems for Food and Feed (RASFF) and integrating them in ARASFF
Annex 15	2.3.6	Preparatory work for the development of an ASEAN MRA on Organic Agriculture
Annex 16	2.3.6	Development of ASEAN Sectoral MRA on Organic Agricultural Products, the ASEAN Certification Scheme on Organic Agriculture and related supporting documents
Annex 17	2.3.7	Coordination of Food Safety Training
Annex 18	2.3.7	Preparation of training materials for Foodborne Diseases Training
Annex 19	2.3.7	Preparation of training materials for Food Hygiene Training
Annex 20	2.3.8	Preparation of an ASEAN Guide for the Establishment and Implementation of Nutrition Labelling Regulation
Annex 21	2.4.1	Strengthening the Pharmaceuticals Regulatory Framework (1)

Annex 22	2.4.1	Strengthening the Pharmaceuticals Regulatory Framework (2)
Annex 23	2.4.3	Terms of Reference for the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Laboratory Network (APLN)
Annex 24	3.1.1	Concept Note on suggested activities for adopting Customs transit and ACTS measures to process multi-modal transport operations within ASEAN
Annex 25	3.1.2	Supporting implementation of effective Customs partnership with businesses and the trading community
Annex 26	3.1.5	Support for Activities in Narrowing the Development Gap in Customs
Annex 27	3.2.2	Facilitation of the Implementation of the Asean Framework Agreement 2005 (AFAMT 2005) in ASEAN Member States
Annex 28	3.2.2	Review of multi-modal transport law and regulations in Brunei and propose revised law and regulations
Annex 29	3.2.2	Review of multi-modal transport law and regulations in Lao PDR and propose revised law and regulations
Annex 30	3.2.2	Analysis of Multimodal Transport Laws in ASEAN
Annex 31	3.2.2	Pilot Implementation Strategy of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Multimodal Transport (AFAMT)
Annex 32	3.2.2	Online Platform Developer for AFAMT
Annex 33	3.2.2	Feasibility Study into the implications of adopting Customs transit and ACTS measures to process multi-modal transport operations within ASEAN
Annex 34	3.2.2	Supporting the preparatory activities for the ACTS Pilot in CLV Countries
Annex 35	3.3.3	Online Platform Developer for CBTP
Annex 36	3.2.3	Summaries of discussions ACTS conferences with PMS, to start up ACTS transactions
Annex 37	3.3.3	ACTS Trader Registration and Other Immediate Actions
Annex 38	3.3.3	Matrix of Immediate Actions for ACTS Pilot Execution
Annex 39	3.3.3	ACTS Draft Scenarios for Pilot
Annex 40	3.3.3	Draft Concept Note: Launch and Publicity Plans for ACTS
Annex 41	3.3.5	ACTS Change Requests (CR) Developed and Included in ACTS 3.2.0 Software Release, Deployed in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Thailand.
Annex 42	3.3.5	Nine (9) Change Requests Approved by CMB to be Implemented in Version 3.3.0 of ACTS Software Release
Annex 43	3.3.5	Planning, Coordination and Implementation of ACTS IT System
Annex 44	3.3.5	Planning, Coordination and Implementation of ACTS IT System and ACTS Live Operations

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Annex 45	3.3.5	Support to Implementation of ACTS IT System and ACTS Live Operations
Annex 46	3.3.5	Functional Upgrade of the ACTS
Annex 47	3.3.5	ACTS Software Development and Ad Hoc Support to the ACTS Technical Team
Annex 48	3.3.5	Software Testing, Test Documentation Update and Support for Testing Activities
Annex 49	3.3.5	Software Analysis, User Documentation Update and Support for Testing Activities
Annex 50	3.3.5	Development of Software Enhancements and Database Clean-up Tools
Annex 51	4.1.1	Meeting Minutes – Informal ARISE Plus Regional Coordination
Annex 52	4.1.1	Presentation – ARISE Plus Programme Coordination Meeting
Annex 53	4.1.1	Concept Note – ARISE Plus Regional Coordination Committee
Annex 54	4.1.1	Contact List of ARISE Plus Project
Annex 55	4.1.1	Coordination of M&E Activities (1) Channa
Annex 56	4.1.1	Coordination of M&E activities (2) Channa
Annex 57	4.1.2	Tools and data extraction to support compliance monitoring assessment of the AECB 2025 Mid-term Review
Annex 58	4.1.2	Database comprising of 239 policy briefs, journal articles, and academic studies on AEC Blueprint 2025 elements produced in the last five years by external organisations
Annex 59	4.1.2	Database comprising 134 policy and academic studies assessing the impact of COVID-19 on global value chains (GVCs), economic integration and development in ASEAN
Annex 60	4.1.2	Meeting minutes with Joint Business Councils (JBCs)
Annex 61	4.1.2	Foreign Business Sentiments Survey (FBSS) 2020, Mid-Term Review Of The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025
Annex 62	4.1.2	Online Version of FBSS and 14 Links for Each of the JBCs on Survey Monkey Platform
Annex 63	4.1.2	Supporting the Development of the Preliminary Report on the Mid-Term Review of the AEC Blueprint 2025 (1st Phase)
Annex 64	4.1.2	Supporting the Development of the Preliminary Report on the Mid-Term Review of the AEC Blueprint 2025 (2nd Phase)
Annex 65	4.1.2	AIMD Publications 2 and demand driven capacity building
Annex 66	4.1.2	Compliance Monitoring Analysis to support AEC Blueprint 2025 Mid-Term Review

Annex 67	4.1.2	AEC Blueprint MTR: External Studies Review
Annex 68	4.1.3	Draft AEC eNewsletter Prototype and Suggested Templates
Annex 69	4.1.3	Draft Articles Based on Key Sections and Findings of the Flagship ASEAN Integration Report (AIR) 2019, covering 7 Major AEC Sectors
Annex 70	4.1.3	Inputs to Enhanced Concept and Template for ASEAN Economic Integration Brief (AEIB)
Annex 71	4.1.3	Best Practice Guidelines: Inputs to Designs for ASEAN Policy Brief Edition 2 and ASEAN Policy Brief Edition 3
Annex 72	4.1.3	Foreign Business Sentiments Survey and FGDs 1 to support AECB 2025 MTR
Annex 73	4.1.3	AIMD design 2
Annex 74	4.1.3	Concept design of the AEC Monitoring Website
Annex 75	4.2.2	Coordination of statistics capacity building activities
Annex 76	4.2.2	Technical Assistance to ASEANStats and Regional Workshop on SDGIs, Jakarta, May 2020
Annex 77	4.2.3	Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1
Annex 78	4.2.5	On Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standards – Phase 1 (1)
Annex 79	4.2.5	Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standards – Phase 1 (2)
Annex 80	4.2.6	ACSS Statistics Communication Plan-Phase 2 and High Level Advocacy Forum
Annex 81	4.2.6	Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility

SECTION 7 LIST OF ASEAN SECTORAL BODIES, WORKING GROUPS AND ENTITIES WITH WHICH ARISE PLUS WORKS

- ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC)
- ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Connectivity
- ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP)
- ASEAN Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (AC-SPS)
- ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ)
- ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI)
- ASEAN Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of ATIGA (CCA)
- ASEAN Customs Coordinating Committee (CCC)
- ASEAN Customs Directors-General
- ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety
- ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA)
- ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (ARASFF) Steering Committee
- ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC)
- ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN)
- ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops
- ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries
- ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock
- ASEAN Senior Transport Officials (STOM)
- ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee (ASW-SC)
- ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATFJCC)
- ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group
- ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group (TWFG)
- Customs Capacity Building Working Group
- Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group
- EU-ASEAN Business Council (EUABC)
- Experts Working Group on Organic Agriculture
- Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM)

- o Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM AMAF)

- o Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB)

- o Sub-committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin (SCA-ROO)

- o ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

- o Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC)

- o Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis, Dissemination and Communication (WGDSA)

- o Working Group on SNA