



Eighth Six-Monthly Progress Report

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

8 May 2021 – 7 November 2021

Programme No. ACA/2016/389774

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



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ARISE PLUS FACT SHEET

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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 Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety
ARASFF	ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
ARISE	ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU
ASCC	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASEAN-CBTP	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 eight six monthly progress report covers the period 8th May to 7th November 2021. The activities carried out support the ASEAN economic integration effort and are guided by the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025. ARISE Plus supports 12 Elements and 14 Strategic Measures of the ASEAN Economic Blueprint (AECB). ARISE PLUS also supports 7 priority areas of the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action.

As part of the focused approach adopted for AWP4, **37 major activities** were implemented. As part of the knowledge transfer effort to strengthen sustainability mechanisms a total of **32 workshops and event** were implemented. These have enhanced the rich partnerships with the ASEAN Secretariat, relevant sectoral working groups, committees and the EUD Jakarta. The momentum of AEC integration efforts has continued with EU-ASEAN strategic cooperation efforts delivered by ASEAN and ARISE Plus.

Major results during the reporting period

The project has achieved several major results during the reporting period and are summarised below. For additional details please refer to Section 1 of the report under the respective activities.

Enhancing private sector engagement towards greater intra-ASEAN trade

During the reporting period, ARISE Plus made significant progress at deeper private sector engagement in ASEAN trade facilitation. This has focussed on operationalising and socialising the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR) and the ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST) platforms. ATR and ASSIST Outreach Workshops for businesses in Laos, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam were held to increase awareness on the availability, benefits and operation of the ASSIST and ATR. These workshops were characterised by a strong participatory approach involving the participation of representatives from large businesses, ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC), EuroCham's, SMEs, and involved female entrepreneurs including members of the national arms of the ASEAN Women's Entrepreneur Network (AWEN). During this semester, 13 new cases were filed under the system of *ASEAN Solutions for Investment, Services and Trade* (ASSIST), equivalent to a growth of over 100%.

H.E. Ina Marčiulionytė, Ambassador of the EU Delegation to Lao PDR, emphasised the importance of the ATR and ASSIST for Lao Businesses to take advantage of ASEAN trade opportunities and added that "The private sector is instrumental to have a stable and flourishing economy, and women business leaders make economy more vibrant".

ARISE Plus supplemented these outreach events, with dedicated train-the-trainer events for Laos, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. These two-day events focussed on building national capacity in the operation of ASSIST by identifying and training trainers from the private sector in each country. These provide mechanisms for replication and sustainability of ASSIST across each country. These EU-ASEAN efforts have made tangible contributions towards Key Message 3 from the AEC Blueprint 2025 Mid-Term Review (MTR), to embark on broader and more meaningful engagement with the private sector and women entrepreneurs.



Further information is available on:

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/assist-outreach-and-training/>

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/assist-outreach-indonesia/>

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/assist-phi/>

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/assist-outreach-vietnam/>

Improving ASEAN regulatory environment through finalisation of legal review of ATIGA

The legal review of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) was further **refined and finalised** during the reporting period. The final 432-page report covered a comparative benchmarking of the ATIGA in the light of relevant ASEAN developments, the applicable WTO commitments and obligations and the relevant Preferential Trade Agreements including ‘*new generation*’ FTAs. Specific chapters and commitments on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, in relation to Rules of Origin were also included.

The Final report was presented to the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC) in July 2021. A regional online workshop was held in September 2021 involving ASEC, members of the Consultative Committee on ATIGA (CCA) including representatives from the ASEAN member states. This created wide awareness on the findings and recommendations of the legal review and potential improvements to ATIGA during its forthcoming revision.

Strengthening transparency, quality, and safety in pharmaceuticals

Efforts to support ASEAN in **strengthening transparency, quality and safety in pharmaceuticals** have continued with the preparation of the third draft of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP) and revisions to the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRF). A number of workshops and events were co-organised by the project as part of the strong participatory approach. These included two briefing sessions on the APRP and APRF for AMS members of the ASEAN Health Cluster 3, a workshop to brainstorm the APRP and APRF and a second workshop to finalise the APRP and the TORs for the Task Force for the APRF. The advanced drafts of the APRP and APRF developed by the project are under review by the members of the ASEAN Health Cluster 3 and the Pharmaceuticals Product Working Group (PPWG). These efforts of ARISE Plus have led to the adoption of a roadmap, by the PPWG and Health Cluster 3, and deliberations for the development of the highly strategic ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement in 2022.

Further information is available on:

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/aprp-aprf-workshop/>

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/aprp-aprf-3/>

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/discussion-on-aprp/>

Strengthening the sustainability of ASEAN food safety systems

ARISE Plus is strengthening the sustainability of food safety systems in ASEAN through its efforts on establishing a harmonised regulatory regime, traceability systems and organic agriculture regulatory regime. The ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement (AFSRF Agreement) has been finalised and is awaiting formal agreement by the AMS. A discussion paper was presented at a workshop to identify and consider development of potential protocols under the AFSRF Agreement. Potential priority areas for protocols include food safety alerts, pesticides, food contaminants and food additives.

Substantial efforts have been dedicated to enhancing AMS capacity through the development of training courses and modules, and workshops on a range of food safety topics. The second training module on food safety for national food safety officials was developed and will be delivered online in late October 2021. This will enable member states to implement inspection and certification systems for food hygiene in-line with the ASEAN agreement. Food safety training courses are being developed for Sampling for Food Safety, Food Toxicology and Food Safety Risk Communications. These courses will be delivered in collaboration with identified AMS institutes. A number of other capacity building workshops were held including development of Risk Profiles for Leafy Vegetables in ASEAN and harmonisation of Nutrient Reference Values (NRV) in nutrition labelling.

Further information is available on:

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/food-hygiene/>
<https://ariseplus.asean.org/tf-afsr/>
<https://ariseplus.asean.org/4-mra-oa/>
<https://ariseplus.asean.org/nrv-workshop/>

Furthering seamless movement of goods in ASEAN

Following the official launch and two live runs during the last reporting period, the operationalisation of the ACTS has continued. The ACTS software has been updated to version 3.3 across all member states. This provides enhanced functionality, user-friendliness and efficiency of the ACTS. As a result of the long-term efforts and strong collaboration between the EU ARISE Plus project and ASEAN stakeholders the ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association have provided strong endorsement of the ACTS at an event hosted by DHL. The ACTS is seen as a high-quality solution to facilitate cross-border transport of goods in ASEAN and to address some of the challenges the region faces as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a reflection of the effectiveness and efficiency of the ACTS.

The project has also commenced analysis and drafted a strategy proposing how transit in general and the ACTS in particular can be enhanced to handle multimodal transport operations. A concept note has been developed on the possibilities of enhancing the ACTS to handle the regional transport of goods by rail between ASEAN Member States. Furthermore, the project has developed a preliminary strategy for enhancing the ACTS to handle dangerous goods in accordance with protocol 9 of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT).

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/acts-update/>

Creating awareness on AEC integration efforts

ARISE+ has been a trusted strategic partner of the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate (AIMD) in ensuing the ASEAN Economic Integration agenda. To uphold the commitment of EU as a strategic partner to ASEAN, ARISE Plus has continued providing support to ASEAN Economic Integration beyond the MTR launch by channelling efforts into creating awareness and outreach amongst stakeholders such as business and research organisations. ARISE Plus has provided substantial support in developing a video graphic for the MTR of the AEC Blueprint 2025, which has been disseminated through the ASEC Instagram channel, which has garnered over 1,000 views, and the ASEC YouTube channel with over 700 views as of October 2021.

Two posters were developed to create awareness among stakeholders and the ASEAN community. The first was on the highlights of AEC integration achievements between 2016 and 2020 and the second poster charts five years of the AEC journey. ARISE+ also translated the first poster into Bahasa



Indonesia, Thai, Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese to support wider dissemination. Five sets of social media posts were developed to extend the dissemination reach.

<https://youtu.be/4yH4HGKsmK0>

Statistical support to enhance trade and achievement of SDG agenda

The project conducted a three-day workshop to present the draft *ASEAN Trade in Services Compilation Guide (the Guide)* which will guide ASEAN in implementing international trade in services (ITS) statistical requirements according to international standards. The workshop involved over 50 participants from all AMS including officials from national statistics agencies and national central banks. Following the workshop, best practices are expected to be identified through case studies. ARISE Plus has continued to support the ASEAN Statistical Community in the monitoring of the progress towards SDGs. The project conducted a joint workshop with ASEANStats on SDG social indicators. The workshop involved key stakeholders from the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) and 41 participants from the AMS.

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/sits-workshop/>

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/joint-workshop/>

SECTION 1 PROGRESS ON PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES



Component 0: Management and Outreach

Sub Component 0.1 Programme Management and Coordination

A total of 37 major activities were implemented during the reporting period. To gain a visual picture, the key project management indicators are shown below.

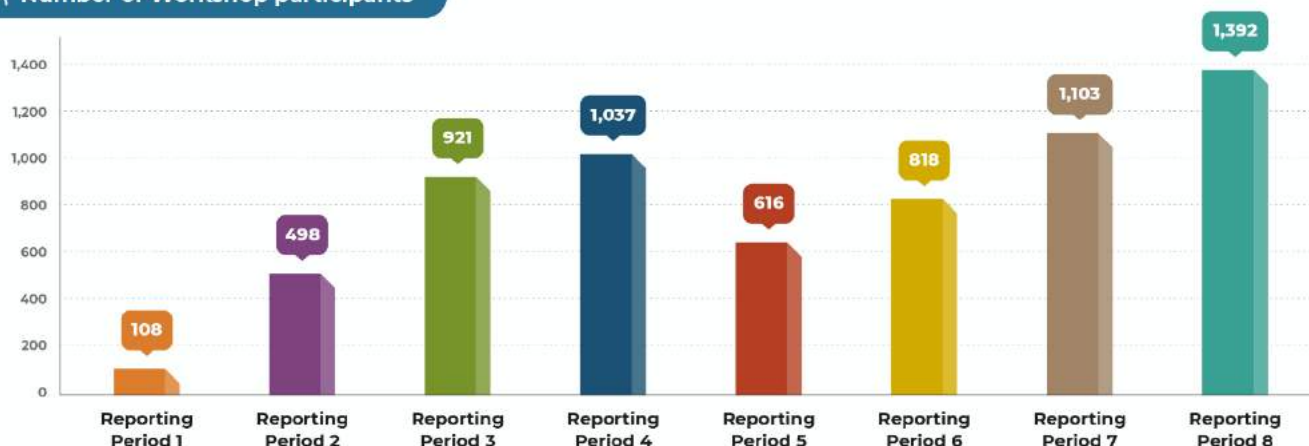
Substantial efforts were made on capacity building, transferring know-how and creating outreach as part of the sustainability strategy outlined in the AWP4. 32 workshops were conducted during the reporting period which compares favourably to all the previous reporting periods of the project.

Number of Workshops



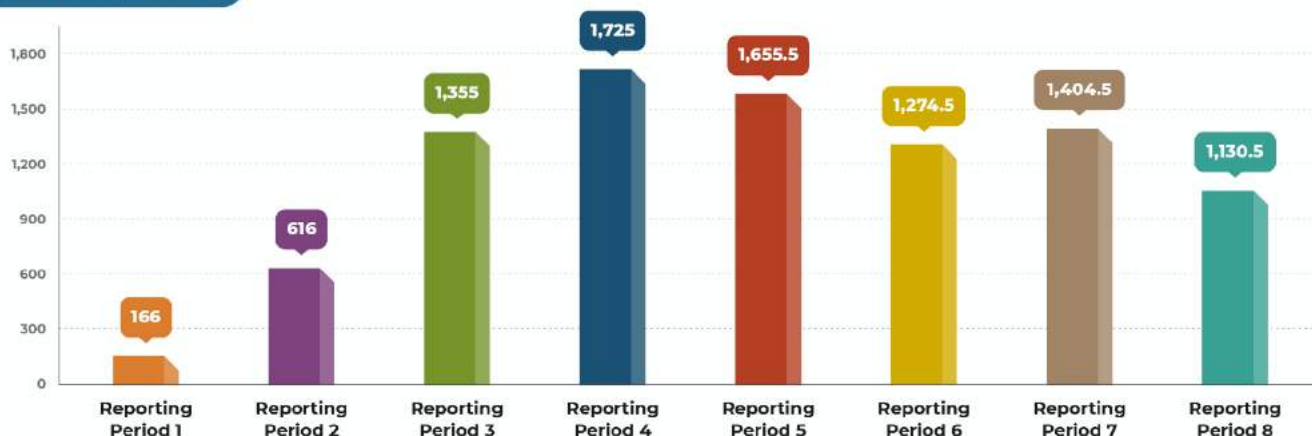
The workshops involved a total of 1,392 participants which was also a new high for the project.

Number of Workshop participants



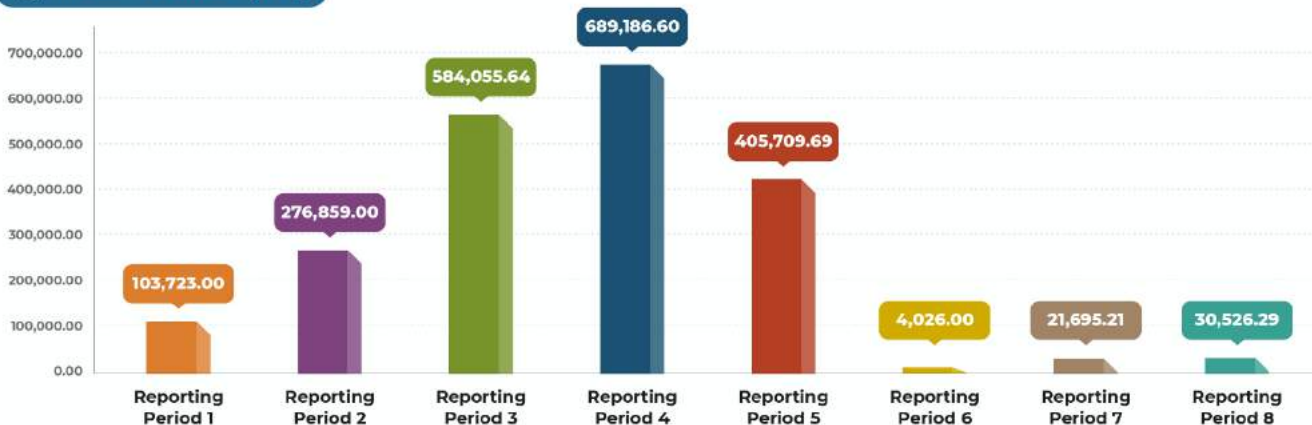
A total of 1,130 Senior Non-Key expert days were used during the reporting period.

📅 SNKE days used



30,526 Euro of incidentals were used during the reporting period. The use of online approaches for workshops and training continued the trend of low incidentals usage despite the delivery of a large number of workshops.

📅 Incidentals used (in €)





A key objective of this reporting period was the coordination between the ARISE+ regional and national projects. Project teams from 2 ARISE Plus regional projects and 8 ARISE Plus national projects (Cambodia, Indonesia Lao PDR, Malaysia Myanmar, Philippines Thailand and Vietnam) have coordinated/shared project objectives expected results and activities. In addition, regular meetings have been held with ITC who are running 5 out of the ARISE+ 8 projects. This leading to sharing of background information and collaboration in common areas of activity such as organic Agriculture with ARISE + Thailand, institutional capacity building with Cambodia and the Philippines for their National trade repositories to name but a few.

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 all 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 years.

Sub Component 0.2 Demand Driven Contingency

No substantial or new requests for support were put forward during the reporting period reflecting the tight focus, of AWP4

Sub Component 0.3 Visibility Communications and Outreach (VCO)

The Team Leader in conjunction with the Key Experts and the backstopping team maintained the visibility of project during this period. This was primarily done via the project website <http://ariseplus.asean.org>, EU-ASEAN newsletter, and articles in other portals. The ARISE Plus Team is continuing to work closely with the contractor, charged with providing the EU Delegation visibility, The following project updates have been published during the reporting period.

ARISE Plus Website:

1. Workshop on Nutrient Reference Values (NRV) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/workshop-nrv/>)
2. Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Statistics in ASEAN Member States (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/regional-fdis/>)



3. Workshop on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy and the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRP and APRF) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/workshop-aprp-aprf/>)
4. Workshop on Food Hygiene for ASEAN Member States (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/food-hygiene/>)
5. Lao Business Entrepreneurs Gear Up Towards Greater Intra-ASEAN Trade (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/assist-lao/>)
6. Regional Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/sits-workshop/>)
7. Training Workshop on Risk-Based Inspection (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/fcm/>)
8. ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event (Vietnam) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/atr-and-assist-outreach-event-vietnam/>)
9. ASSIST Train-the-Trainers Workshop (Vietnam) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/assist-training-vie/>)
10. The 6th Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/6th-imts/>)
11. Workshop on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy and the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRP and APRF) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/aprp-aprf-3/>)
12. Joint Regional Workshop on Strengthening the ASEAN Social Indicators Database (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/joint-workshop/>)
13. Workshop of the Task Force – ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF) Agreement (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/tf-afsrf/>)
14. ASSIST Train-the-Trainers Workshop (Philippines) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/assist-training-phi/>)
15. ASEAN Pharmaceutical Testing Laboratory Committee (APTLC) Workshop on Work Programme Development (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/workshop-aptlc/>)
16. Training for Experts (Module 3): Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) of Bioequivalence (BE) Study Reports of Generic Medicinal Products (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/mra-be/>)
17. ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event Indonesia (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/assist-outreach-ina/>)
18. Fourth Workshop on the Development of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Organic Agricultural (OA) Products (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/4-mra-oa/>)
19. ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop for the Private Sector – Indonesia (Batch 1 and Batch 2) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/assist-training-ina/>)
20. Discussion on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/discussion-on-aprp/>)

In addition, the team has circulated a series of flash reports to the EUD Jakarta and the ARISE Plus National projects.

ARISE Plus Flash Reports:

1. ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event (Philippines)
2. ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event (Vietnam)
3. Food Safety Training



4. ASSIST Train-the-Trainers Workshop (Vietnam)
5. The 6th Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)
6. ASSIST Train-the-Trainers Workshop (Philippines)
7. Workshop on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy and the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRP and APRF)
8. Workshop of the Task Force - ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF) Agreement
9. ASEAN Pharmaceutical Testing Laboratory Committee (APTLC) Workshop on Work Programme Development
10. ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event Indonesia
11. Strong Endorsement of ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) by Regional Freight Forwarders
12. Training for Experts (Module 3): Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) of Bioequivalence (BE) Study Reports of Generic Medicinal Products
13. Fourth Workshop on the Development of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Organic Agricultural (OA) Products
14. ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop for the Private Sector – Indonesia
15. Discussion on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP)



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, AWP2 and AWP3 (i.e., SEOM, ATF-JCC, CCA, CCS, CCI, the respective AMSs' ASEAN Chairs, 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.

Despite the impact of the *Covid-19* pandemic, all activities are largely on course vis-à-vis the Work-Plan objectives and/or the '*on-demand*' nature of the support to be provided. Particularly noteworthy is the further 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, despite several delays in many countries, which were severely affected by new waves of *Covid-19* infections and lockdowns (i.e., Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam), the number of validated non-tariff measures (NTMs) uploaded on the ATR has grown from 3,782 to 4,465, equivalent to an 18% increase. During this semester, 13 new cases were filed under the system of *ASEAN Solutions for Investment, Services and Trade* (ASSIST), equivalent to a growth of over 100%. All cases were lodged by business councils and one of the cases was the first ever in relation to trade in services. Last but not least, the legal assessment and comparative benchmarking for the *General Review of the ATIGA* has been finalized, after three iterations and considerable discussions with AMSs, and submitted to the *Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the ATIGA* (CCA), together with a number of dedicated comparisons between the ATIGA and the recently-concluded RCEP Agreement, notably in relation to Rules of Origin (RoOs).

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 or mid-2022, as per the AMSs' determinations within CCA and SEOM), continuing support of private sector engagement (outreach and awareness creation on the ATR and ASSIST, as well as the re-launch of an ambitious cycle of Roundtable Discussions on Trade Facilitation through dedicated webinars), and continuing high-level legal support to AMSs and the ASEAN Secretariat ('*on demand*') 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), strengthening the NTM notifications to comply with Article 11 of the ATIGA, and the appropriate tools to address outstanding NTMs cases under the Matrix of Actual Cases (MAC), as well as for purposes of streamlining NTMs in light of the post-*Covid19* Recovery Framework.

It does not appear that the *Covid-19* pandemic will significantly slow down or prevent the implementation of any activity under Component 1 and the expectation is that considerable progress can be achieved during the next six months, especially vis-à-vis the progressive operationalization of the ATR.



Expected outcome: Enhancing trade-related regulatory transparency in ASEAN

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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployed four SNKEs to engage with the AMSs' authorities in charge of the respective NTRs and of web-linkages to the ATR. The objective remained 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, '<i>package</i>' 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 (*Brunei Darussalam and Singapore are no longer recipients of technical assistance by ARISE Plus with respect to this area of intervention). Status: Ongoing Held a series of ATR Outreach Events (in combination with ASSIST Outreach Events and ASSIST Train-the-Trainers Workshops) to the benefit of the private sector in 4 AMSs, particularly catering to SMEs and to women entrepreneurs within the <i>ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network</i> (AWEN). These events were held in Lao PDR on 23 June 2021, in the Philippines on 28 June 2021, in Viet Nam on 27 July 2021, and in Indonesia on 6 September 2021. 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/non-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 - 7**.
- In order mitigate the impact of the *Covid-19* pandemic, the SNKEs continued to hold webinars with the relevant AMSs' ATR/NTR Focal Points and competent authorities in most countries. Despite several delays in many AMSs, which were severely affected by new waves of *Covid-19* infections and lockdowns (*i.e.*, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam), **the number of validated non-tariff measures (NTMs) uploaded on the ATR has grown from 3,782 to 4,465, equivalent to an 18% increase.**

Problems Encountered

- Improved ownership has been displayed by some AMSs during the semester (*i.e.*, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand), at different speeds and degrees of engagement, and to a lesser degree by other AMSs (*i.e.*, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Indonesia and Viet Nam), largely as a consequence of the new waves of *Covid-19* infections and lockdowns in the respective countries, but also for lack of '*political will*' and commitment. Overall, the ATR/NTR-related work keeps suffering from a general lack of inter-ministerial coordination and delays for the unavailability of line agencies to meet and timely advance the identification and classification work. Significant number of verified and properly-packaged await validation and could relatively quickly be uploaded onto the ATR, thereby moving closer to full operationalisation, if AMSs invested more resources in this ATIGA obligation. 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 are being considered and achieved, particularly for purposes of guaranteeing medium/long-term sustainability to the ATR and the respective NTRs.
- So far, the impact of the *Covid-19* pandemic has not resulted in any new implementation problem, with all SNKEs still engaging either directly or electronically with their counterparts in the respective AMSs' Governments and with *Zoom/Teams/Webex/BlueJeans* video calls and virtual coordination meetings being regularly organized.

Lessons Learned

- N.A

Overall Result to- date

- Consistent increase in the degree of ASEAN trade-related legislative and regulatory transparency, in line with Article 13 of the ATIGA. The process of identification, classification and '*packaging*' of the respective AMSs' SPS and TBT NTMs for upload on the ATR is:

Completed in Brunei (SPS), Cambodia (SPS and TBT), Indonesia (SPS and TBT, as well as non-SPS/non-TBT), Lao PDR (SPS and TBT), Malaysia (SPS), Myanmar (SPS and TBT), the Philippines (SPS), Singapore (SPS and TBT), Thailand (SPS), and Viet Nam (SPS and TBT); and

Ongoing (as assisted by ARISE Plus) in Cambodia (non-SPS/non-TBT NTM sub-categories), Indonesia (other non-NTMs sub-categories), Lao PDR (non-SPS/non-TBT NTM sub-categories), Malaysia (TBT), Myanmar (non-SPS/non-TBT NTM sub-categories); the Philippines (TBT and non-SPS/non-TBT NTM sub-categories); 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 (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 ' <i>Mapping Report</i> '	Validated and Uploaded on ATR (to date)	Collected and Verified, but not yet Validated by AMSs (to date)	Expected by 31 Dec 2021
BD	67	76	n.a.	> 200
KH	5	386	206	> 600
ID	0	614	0	> 800
LA	0	315	377	> 500
MY	1	320	35	> 400
MM	5	160	0	> 200
PH	176	539	148	> 700
SG	50	370	n.a.	> 500



	TH	31	949	427	> 1,300
	VN	1	736	412	> 1,000
	TOTAL	336	4,465	1,850	> 6,200

- 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.
- Greater awareness among ASEAN's private sector, especially SMEs and women entrepreneurs, of the trade facilitation potential of the ATR and of ASEAN's trade-related regulatory transparency.

Sub-Component 1.2 Trade Facilitation and Private Sector Engagement

Activity 1.2.1 Full Operationalisation, Socialization and Management of ASSIST for Trade in Goods and Trade Services

Activity 1.2.1	Full Operationalisation, Socialization and Management of ASSIST for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	SEOM, ATF-JCC, CCA, CCS, CCI, SID, AMSs' ASSIST Focal Points, ASEC's TFD and Private Sector
Tasks Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held 4 dedicated ASSIST Outreach Events to benefit of the private sector in 4 AMSs, particularly catering to SMEs and to women entrepreneurs within the <i>ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN)</i>. These events were held in Lao PDR on 23 June 2021, in the Philippines on 28 June 2021, in Viet Nam on 27 July 2021, and in Indonesia on 6 September 2021. Status: Ongoing Held 6 intensive Train-the-Trainers Workshops on ASSIST, back to back to the ATR/ASSIST Outreach Events (1 in Lao PDR, 2 in the Philippines, 1 in Viet Nam and 2 in Indonesia), with online interactive simulations in cooperation with the ASEC. Please note that, upon demand, a second series of workshops were held to the benefit of both the Philippines and Indonesia, given the great participation and enrolment in the two countries. This is testimony to the initial success of the awareness-creation campaign and aims at ensuring the medium/long-term sustainability of the ATR and ASSIST). Status: Ongoing Provided regular ('on demand') support to the ASEAN Secretariat (i.e., ASSIST's Central Administrator) to manage the ongoing ASSIST cases (13 new cases filed during the semester) and to address a multitude of technical



Activity 1.2.1	Full Operationalisation, Socialization and Management of ASSIST for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services
	<p>issues (<i>i.e.</i>, procedural matters, IT glitches, dashboard management, support to AMSS, etc.).</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs Delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from Senior Experts (ANNEX 8 – 9)
Problems Encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In light of the relatively scarce utilisation of ASSIST for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services since its roll-out in 2016, the focus of the technical assistance by ARISE Plus shall remain on building greater awareness on ASSIST among ASEAN's private sector, particularly now that hybrid events may increasingly be held in AMSS (<i>i.e.</i>, ARISE Plus trainers joining virtually from a distance with AMSS' ASSIST Focal Points and private stakeholders physically present in conference facilities) 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. The sharp increase in ASSIST filings after the Summer appears to indicate that the outreach drive is bearing fruits. • So far, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has not resulted in any implementation problem. 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/hybrid coordination meetings being organized.
Lessons Learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 continued to play a positive role in increasing the rate of ASSIST utilization and should continue to be further socialized among ASEAN's private sector, representative organizations and lawyer/law firms. ARISE Plus remains committed to support ASEAN vis-à-vis ASSIST, '<i>on demand</i>'.
Overall Result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 new cases were filed during the period and were timely and properly dealt with by the ASEC and the responding AMSS. This represents an increase of over 100% in filings from the previous total and all cases were filed (anonymously) by business councils on behalf of their members, including the first ever ASSIST case on Trade in Services.



Activity 1.2.3 Strengthening Public-Private Cooperation

Activity 1.2.3	Strengthening Public-Private Cooperation
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	ABAC, EUABC, ATF-JCC, ASEC
Tasks Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated with ASEAN's private sector, particularly within the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the EU-ASEAN Business Advisory Council (EUABC), and the ASEC's Trade Facilitation Division in order to advance the private sector engagement with ASEAN institutions, notably with respect to the implementation of the <i>NTMs Guidelines</i>, the use and management of <i>ASSIST</i> (including by means of IT support to address regular glitches), and the creation of greater awareness within the private sector on the <i>ATR</i> and <i>ASSIST</i> as the two primary ASEAN trade facilitation tools. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs Delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two presentations of ARISE Plus' progress report with respect to the support to and implementation of the key ASEAN trade facilitation instruments (i.e., ATR and ASSIST) were given before the ATF-JCC on 28 May 2021 and 28 July 2021, in order to support the ATF-JCC's feedback to ASEAN's private sector representatives on trade facilitation, regulatory transparency and dispute avoidance and resolution. Reports from Senior Experts (ANNEXES 10 – 14)
Problems Encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 other AMSs. As a consequence, fewer outreach events were held and ARISE Plus slowed down in its drive to create awareness on its flagship tools catering to the private sector. The initially-intended Roundtable Discussions on Trade Facilitation (on: 1) The Process of General Review of the ATIGA: Objectives and Approaches; 2) The ATR and ASEAN's Private Sector: Opportunities and Sustainability; 3) Streamlining NTMs through Increased Transparency and Greater Use of ASEAN's Trade Facilitation Solutions) were postponed and a more ambitious cycle of thematic Roundtable Discussions is being organized on several themes of relevance to intra-ASEAN trade in goods and to trade facilitation.
Lessons Learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.A.
Overall Result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASEAN's private sector has been systematically engaged for purposes of creating greater awareness on and utilization of the ATR and ASSIST.



Sub-Component 1.3 ‘On-Demand’ Activities

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, ASEC
Tasks Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched, analysed, drafted and submitted to the CCA and ASEC’s TFD on 18 June 2021 the advanced and <i>Restructured Final Report</i> 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, as well as the comments made by AMSs and ASEC in bilateral discussions and during previous CCA meetings, notably the instructions for structural revision, scope expansion of the legal analysis to cover specific aspects on ATIGA/RCEP Agreement comparison. The 426-page <i>Restructured Final Report</i>, was then presented to the CCA on 29 June 2021. The focus of the draft <i>Final Report</i> was placed, as requested by ASEAN, on the legal review and comparative benchmarking of the ATIGA in light of all relevant ASEAN developments, the applicable WTO/WCO obligations, the relevant Preferential Trade Agreements (particularly the ‘new generation’ FTAs), and a number of specific obligations/commitments under the recently-concluded RCEP Agreement. <u>The <i>Restructured Final Report</i> may not be circulated for reasons of confidentiality, as mandated by AMSs within the CCA.</u> <p>Status: Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further researched, analysed, drafted, finalized and submitted to the CCA and ASEC’s TFD on 21 July 2021 the <i>Final Report on the General Review of the ATIGA</i>, in line with the ToRs given by the AFTA Council, the CCA and the ASEC, as well as the comments made by AMSs and ASEC in bilateral discussions and during previous CCA meetings. The 432-page <i>Final Report</i>, plus several accompanying documents and summarized matrixes, were then presented to the ATF-JCC on 28 July 2021 as part of the overall reporting cycle of ARISE Plus. The focus of the <i>Final Report</i> was placed, as requested by ASEAN, on the legal review and comparative benchmarking of the ATIGA in light of all relevant ASEAN developments, the applicable WTO/WCO obligations, the relevant Preferential Trade Agreements (particularly the ‘new generation’ FTAs), and a number of specific chapters, obligations and commitments under the recently-concluded RCEP Agreement, particularly in relation to its Rules of Origin. <u>The <i>Final Report</i> may not be circulated for reasons of confidentiality, as mandated by AMSs within the CCA.</u>



Activity 1.3.1	General Review of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)
	<p>Status: Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared, ‘on demand’ by the CCA, a number of summarized and reader-friendly ‘<i>Matrixes</i>’ on the full report and on the ATIGA-RCEP Comparative Analysis, which were also submitted to CCA on 18 June and 21 July 2021. <u>The ‘Matrixes’ of the draft <i>Final Report on the General Review of the ATIGA</i> and on the ATIGA-RCEP Comparative Analysis may not be circulated for reasons of confidentiality, as mandated by AMSs within the CCA.</u> <p>Status: Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-organized with ASEC’s TFD, resourced and participated in a Regional Workshop to present the Report on the General Review of the ATIGA on 23 September 2021, with the participation of CCA and all AMSs’ representatives, in order to socialize and discuss the findings reached and the recommendations made in the <i>Final Report on the General Review of the ATIGA</i>. <u>The SNKE Reports on the webinar for the Regional Workshop on the General Review of the ATIGA, held with CCA, ASEC and AMSs, may not be circulated for reasons of confidentiality, as mandated by AMSs within the CCA.</u> <p>Status: Completed</p>
Outputs Delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 18 June 2021, the following outputs were finalized and submitted: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The MS Word and PDF versions of the document containing all the feedback received from AMSs and ASEC in relation to the draft Final Report. 2) The MS Word and PDF versions of the old version of the draft Final Report (i.e., before the restructuring conducted as per ASEC/CCA’s request), to recollect exactly where the ASEC/AMSs’ comments were addressed, where the initial comparative analysis of the RoOs under the RCEP and the ATIGA was inserted, and where a number of edits and improvements were made. 3) The MS Word and PDF versions (both in Clean and in Track Changes formats) of the Matrix of RCEP Comparison for the Final Report on the General Review of the ATIGA (which make integral part of the Final Report). These versions. 4) The MS Word and PDF versions (both in Clean and in Track Changes formats) of the Matrix for the Final Report on the General Review of the ATIGA (i.e., these Matrixes accompany the Restructured Final Report and make integral part of it). 5) The MS Word and PDF versions of the Restructured Final Report on



Activity 1.3.1	General Review of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)
	<p>the General Review of the ATIGA, restructured it in line with the ASEC/CCA's requests, including the Executive Summary with the overview of the general drivers of ATIGA review/revision and the prioritized specific recommendations for AMSs' consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 21 July 2021, the following outputs were finalized and submitted: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The MS Word and PDF versions of the Final Report on the General Review of the ATIGA by ARISE Plus; the MS Word and PDF versions of the Matrix of RCEP Comparison for the General Review of the ATIGA by ARISE Plus; and Annex C.1 to the General Review of the ATIGA - Comparative Assessment of PSRs in the ATIGA and RCEP (only the Excel spreadsheet with the line-by-line comparisons). All these sets of documents contain the legal assessments, conclusions and recommendations made on the basis of the comparative analysis conducted on the Rules of Origin of the ATIGA and the RCEP Agreement.
Problems Encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.A.
Lessons Learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.A.
Overall Result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive and detailed legal review of all relevant ASEAN developments and instruments, of the applicable WTO/WCO obligations, of the relevant Preferential Trade Agreements (particularly the 'new generation' FTAs) entered into by AMSs and third countries, and of a number of specific obligations and commitments under the recently-concluded RCEP Agreement, particularly with regard to RoOs, were provided to ASEAN, together with expert advice on the possible improvements or updates to be brought to the ATIGA during its revision.

Activity 1.3.2 Supporting ASEAN in Streamlining NTMs and Removing NTBs

Activity 1.3.2	Supporting ASEAN in Streamlining NTMs and Removing NTBs
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	SEOM, ATF-JCC, CCA, ACCSQ, AMSs, ASEC
Tasks Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.A.
Outputs Delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.A.
Problems Encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.A.



Activity 1.3.2	Supporting ASEAN in Streamlining NTMs and Removing NTBs
Lessons Learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N.A.
Overall Result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N.A.



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

Component 2 on Standards and Conformity Assessment deals with generic issues on standardisation with a focus on the agro-food and pharmaceutical sectors. The Sub-Components accordingly deal with conformity assessment, harmonisation of standards, food safety, organic agriculture and pharmaceuticals. Support is provided to the relevant ASEAN counterpart sectoral bodies. These include the ACCSQ oversees all of standards and conformity assessment, its working groups and product working groups; WG 1 on Standards, WG 2 on Conformity assessment and accreditation, Prepared Food Foodstuffs WG and the Pharmaceutical Product WG. Other counters include Health sector Bodies; Health Cluster 4 on food safety, and the & ASEAN Health Cluster 3 on the pharmaceutical sector. Experts Working Group on Organic Agriculture is the main counterpart in the development of the Organic Agriculture MRA. The support provided has been aligned with the respective work plans of the ASEAN bodies as reflected in the ARISE Plus AWP 3 & 4.

The travel restrictions from the *Covid-19* pandemic did not materially reduce the support and the progress with a few exceptions. The ASEAN secretariat and the Member States representatives have become accustomed to working on-line and this has resulted in implementation of a substantial number of workshops, consultations and training events, held virtually during the reporting period.

The significant developments on the various Sub-Components are:

Subcomponent 2.1: WG 2 accepted ARISE Plus proposal for the development of an ASEAN Guideline on the Implementation of Accreditation in Member States and work on this has started. This guideline is aimed at advancing the use of accreditation as a basis for mutual recognition across the sectors that ACCSQ covers.

Subcomponent 2.2: WG 1 is nearing the adoption of a revised process for the harmonisation of standards. This is the culmination of several rounds of discussions led by ARISE Plus and will lead to clarity and common understanding aimed at proving a means to ASEAN to strengthen and increase pace of harmonisation of standards.

Subcomponent 2.3: Progress under this component has been made on the implementation of the Food Hygiene mutual recognition arrangement, where ARISE Plus has completed training of experts who will conduct inspections and evaluate Member States' food safety systems under the provisions of the MRA. The support continued to be provided for the Mutual Recognition arrangement on Organic Agriculture. This MRA and the associated harmonised certification scheme is now in its final stages of acceptance by the Experts Group. Training has been provided to Member States Officials on conducting inspections on Food Hygiene, Food Borne Disease Outbreaks and on the conducting Risk Based Inspections. Other supporting work included support on the harmonisation of nutrition reference values and the development of harmonised requirements for ceramic food contact materials.

Subcomponent 2.4 The most significant development in the sector is the progress made in the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy. ARISE Plus supported a series of intensive discussions between Members of PPWG and AHC 3 and this has resulted in a final version that this near



acceptance by SOM HD and SEOM. The ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework document has been developed in parallel is currently under reviewed by Member States. These documents will provide a basis for drafting of a legally binding ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement. Support was additionally provided to the newly established ASEAN Pharmaceutical Laboratory Committee and in the development of the Committees 5-year work plan.

Expected outcome: Harmonisation of regulatory regimes in food safety and pharmaceuticals in ASEAN

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

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)	Develop proposals for ASEC on cooperation arrangements including meetings between ACCSQ representatives and CEN-CENELEC Management Centre officials and study visits. Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	N.A.
Problems encountered	The on-going travel restrictions due to COVID -19 has stalled the activity with CEN-CENELEC, potential for virtual participation in events and discussions between ACCSQ and CEN/CENELEC under consideration.
Lessons learnt	N.A.
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications between CEN-CENELEC Management Centre (CCMC) and ACCSQ facilitated by ARISE Plus are on-going.

Activity 2.1.3 Strengthening Conformity Assessment and Accreditation

Activity 2.1.3	Strengthening Conformity Assessment and Accreditation
Main Beneficiaries engaged	National Accreditation Bodies and National Accreditation Focal Points in Member States, Working Group 2.



Activity 2.1.3	Strengthening Conformity Assessment and Accreditation
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A proposal for developing “<i>Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN</i>” was proposed and discussed with WG 2 to support the implementation of the existing <i>ASEAN Guidelines on Accreditation and Conformity Assessment</i>. Status: Ongoing A request was received through WG 2 to provide support to Cambodia in the development of its national accreditation law. Work on development has commenced with a study of existing conditions, discussions with officials and development of a preliminary draft. This initiative is being supported by ARISE Plus and is outside the mandate of WG2 due to it being bilateral support from ARISE Plus Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept Note on the <i>Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN</i> accepted by WG 2 and finalised. (ANNEX 15) Preliminary draft of the Cambodian law on accreditation developed and submitted for review. Report from Senior Expert (ANNEX 16)
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG 2 had additional consultations for internal consultation on the proposal for “<i>Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN</i>”. Following a special meeting with WG 2, a confirmation to proceed with development of the implementation guidelines is now available.
Lessons learnt	N.A.

Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft law on accreditation for Cambodia has been developed for review by the Cambodian Authorities. A proposal for the “<i>Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN</i>” has been agreed to be developed by WG 2.
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Sub-Component 2.2 Supporting the Harmonisation of Standards and Compliance to International Standards

Activity 2.2.1 Supporting Harmonisation of Standards

Activity 2.2.1	Supporting Harmonisation of Standards
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ACCSQ Working Group 1 on Standards, Product working groups, National Standards Bodies in Member States, and regulatory agencies in Member States.



Activity 2.2.1 Supporting Harmonisation of Standards	
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consultations with Working Group 1 proposed revisions to update the ASEAN Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Standards was developed and circulated to ASEAN Secretariat and WG 1 Members. A workshop to discuss the revisions to the ASEAN Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Standards was held on November 1-2 2021. Participants for WG 1 and ACCSQ and other product working groups were invited to discuss and decide on the revised version. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A workshop on updating the ASEAN Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Standards scheduled has been conducted on November 1-2 2021. (ANNEX 17) Report from Senior Expert (ANNEX 18)
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of the changes to the harmonisation process have taken a considerable time as the process has involved several discussions with WG 1 to establish the approach and direction.
Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that ACCSQ and its product working groups have a keen interest in the work participated in the workshop. This open communication to other groups should be maintained to improve effectiveness of the initiatives on harmonisation due to its wide impact.
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The update to ASEAN Guidelines for the Harmonization of Standards has been developed and after the conclusion of the workshop on 1-2 November, is now pending finalisation by WG 1 and ACCSQ. The updated guidelines when adopted are expected to bring more clarity to the harmonisation process and enhance the rate of harmonisation of standards in ASEAN.

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

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, TF-AFSRF, Health Cluster 4, ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on crops, fisheries and livestock.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement (AFSRF Agreement) has been finalised and is awaiting formal agreement by all AMS for the signing of the AFSRF Agreement to proceed.



Activity 2.3.1	Developing and Implementing a Regulatory Framework for Food Safety
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A discussion paper was prepared and workshop was organised on 11th August 2021 at the request of the Task Force AFSRF to identify and consider development of potential protocols under the AFSRF Agreement. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	Workshop of the TF-AFSRF was held on 11 August 2021 to identify the initial set of protocols to be developed under the AFSRF Agreement. (ANNEX 19)
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	N.A.

Overall result to-date	<p>The final draft of the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement (AFSRF Agreement) is now awaiting national domestic clearance for the signing to take place.</p> <p>The following items have been identified for the development of protocols under the AFSRF Agreement in the initial phase:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food Safety Alerts, including the operations of ARASFF; 2. MRLs for Pesticides 3. MLs for Food Contaminants 4. 4 MLs for Food Additives
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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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work on training to prepare approved experts who will be assigned to conduct evaluations of ASEAN Member States' food safety systems under the MRA is on-going. Following the delivery of the first module for in the previous reporting period, work has been focussed on the development of the second and final module planned to be held on October 25 to 27 2021. <p>Status: Ongoing</p> <p>Gap Analysis for food safety systems conducted in requesting Member States (Philippines, Cambodia) is ongoing.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>



Activity 2.3.2	Implementing the MRA on Inspection and Certification Systems of Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuffs
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Training module for training for Safety Officials selected by the JSC MRA-PF from Member States conducted. Report from Senior Experts (ANNEX 20 – 21)
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	N.A.

Overall result to-date	With the completion of the second module, the prescribed training for Food Safety Officials selected by the JSC MRA-PF on inspection and certification systems of food hygiene for prepared food products will have been completed. This will enable The JSC MRA to commence processing applications from Member States to seek recognition of their food hygiene systems under the MRA and commence implementing the MRA.
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Activity 2.3.3 Supporting the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety

Activity 2.3.3	Supporting the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre (ARAC) for Food Safety
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ARAC, ASEAN Health Cluster 4 (Ensuring Food Safety), ASEAN Food Safety Regulators.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the programme for Capacity Building in the development of Risk Profiles of Leafy Vegetables in ASEAN commenced in this reporting period. Discussions have been held with counterparts to conduct investigations on developing a risk profile for leafy vegetables and a capacity building event with speakers from EFSA and ECHA was held on the 28th of September 2021 <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building Event for ASEAN Experts held on 28th September 2021. (ANNEX 22) Report from Senior Experts (ANNEX 23)
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	N.A.

Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to prepare the risk profile for leafy vegetables jointly with a team of ASEAN Member States' experts is underway.
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- A questionnaire has been developed to aid investigations and data collection.

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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for identified AMS (Myanmar) in developing a national RASFF has been implemented through remotely through online discussion, review of documents and development of recommendations. Plans to initiate or support to Vietnam. (ANNEX 24) • Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On hold
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	N.A.
Overall result to-date	N.A.

Activity 2.3.6 Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture

Activity 2.3.6	Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture
Main Beneficiaries engaged	The Experts Working Group on Organic Agriculture (EWG-OA), the ASEAN Sectoral Working Groups on Crops.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the MRA Organic Agricultural Products, the associated ASEAN Organic Agriculture Certification Scheme and ASEAN Organic Mark has progressed significantly. • Comments on 3rd draft of the MRA and the 4th draft of the ASEAN Organic Agricultural Scheme were reviewed and potential solutions presented at the 4th workshop on the development of the MRA -OA on September 8-9, 2021.



Activity 2.3.6	Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on reviewing the results of the 4th Workshop in September 2021 and resolve outstanding issues for the finalisation of the MRA is on-going. <p>Status Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A workshop organised for EWG-OA on September 8-9, 2021. Outstanding issues identified a consultation document circulated for Member States to confirm their preferences and to aid the development of a final version of the MRA and the associated scheme. Report from Senior Expert (ANNEX 25)
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There been a longer than expected interval between the January Workshop and the September 8-9 Workshop and a number concerns on the draft text raised by some Member States require further discussion for resolution.
Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns of Member States need to be investigated with individual Member States to find solutions and resolve differing positions.
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft versions of Organic Agriculture MRA, and the ASEAN Organic Agriculture Certification Scheme have a high level of agreement among EWG-OA Members. The outstanding issues have been identified and are expected to be resolved during the next discussion in early 2022.

Activity 2.3.7 Training in Food Safety

Activity 2.3.7	Training in Food Safety
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Health Cluster 4, Food Safety Regulatory Agencies in ASEAN Member States ASEAN Consumers.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications with ASEAN Secretariat & Health Cluster 4 resulted in identification of requests for training on Sampling for Food Safety, Food Toxicology and Food Safety Risk Communications. Training courses are being prepared for these 3 new areas and proposals. These will be scheduled for implementation in consultation with AHC 4 and ASEAN Secretariat. <p>Status: Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from Senior Experts (ANNEXES 26 – 30)



Activity 2.3.7	Training in Food Safety
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for new training courses on Sampling for Food Safety, Food Toxicology and Food Safety Risk Communications.
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	N.A.

Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training courses on Sampling for Food Safety, Food Toxicology and Food Safety Risk Communications under preparation.
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Activity 2.3.8 Harmonised Nutritional Labelling Requirements

Activity 2.3.8	Harmonised Nutritional Labelling Requirements
Main Beneficiaries engaged	Food Safety Regulatory Agencies in ASEAN Member States, Prepared Foodstuffs Working Group, ASEAN Committee on Harmonisation of Prepared Foodstuff Standards (ACHPFS).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2-day workshop was organised upon request for ACHPFS to deliberate on the harmonisation of Nutrient Reference Values (NRV) as part of the harmonisation of nutrition labelling. (May 31 to June 1, 2021) Status: Completed
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop was concluded with recommendations on the harmonisation of NRVs on the basis of Codex Recommendations. Report from Senior Expert (ANNEX 31)
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.A.
Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.A.

Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations have been presented to ACHPFS on the method of Harmonisation of <i>Nutrient levels for Nutrition Labelling Purposes</i>.
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Sub-Component 2.4 Support to the Pharmaceutical Sector

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 (AHC 3) under the ASEAN Health Ministers, Health Division and the Standards and Conformance Division of the ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP) and the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRF) continued. • Organised a briefing session followed by discussion on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy and Framework (APRP and APRF) for ASEAN Health Cluster 3 on 20 May 2021, to update Members on developments to date and invite views. • Conducted a workshop on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy and the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRP and APRF) on June 7 & 8, 2021. • Conducted a second workshop for 2021 with a focus on finalising the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy on August 04-05, 2021 and to develop the terms of reference of the Task Force for the APRF. • Organised a discussion session for PPWG and AHC 3 Members to review comments on the 3rd draft of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy on the 8th and 15th October 2021. • The draft of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP) and TOR of the Task Force for the development of APRF and its legal instrument is under consultation by Member States; a revised version of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRF) has been prepared and circulated to Member States representatives to the PPWG and AHC 3 for review. A workshop will be held from 7 to 8 December 2021 to discuss the APRF. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A briefing session followed by discussion on the ASEAN for ASEAN Health Cluster 3. • Two workshops organised for PPWG and AHC 3 Members on the proposed ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework and ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (July 7-8 and August 4-5). • Draft of the of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy under domestic consultation by Member States pending acceptance by PPWG and AHC 3.



Activity 2.4.1	Strengthening the Pharmaceuticals Regulatory Framework
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Terms of Reference of the <i>Task Force for the development of legal instrument for the implementation of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework</i>.Report from Senior Expert (ANNEX 32)
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was noted that discussions on the APRP could not be completed in one workshop and a second workshop and follow-up discussions were then conducted on 8 and 15 October 2021 to resolve outstanding issues.
Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The progress of the work in developing the APRP and APRF has been kept on track and schedule with additional workshop and discussions and workshop organised and held. The flexible allocation of resources has been essential.

Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The third draft of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy. (It is planned that this is adopted by Senior Officials in the Health and Economic Sectors before end of 2021 as per the roadmap adopted by PPWG and AHC 3).The Terms of Reference of the Task Force for the development of legal instrument for the implementation of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework has prepared to support the commencement of the development of the APRF Agreement in 2022.An advanced version (3rd draft) of the APRF has been developed and is under review by PPWG and AHC 3 Members.A roadmap that targets the start of the deliberations on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement in 2022 has been adopted by PPWG and AHC 3.
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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 Member States Drug Regulatory Agencies.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The third module of the training for identified ASEAN Officials to prepare the officials to conduct evaluations of Bioequivalence Centres who seek recognition under the MRA was conducted on September 1-3, 2021). Plans are in place for the second module of the training (postponed to



Activity 2.4.2	ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Bioequivalence (BE) Study Reports of Generic Medicinal Products
	<p>2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work in progress for training of the 2nd module which deals with practical evaluation of BE centres. Two experts appointed and Malaysian National Drug Regulatory Authority (NDRA) is overseeing the preparations. ○ ARISE Plus is assisting in arrangements for Module 2 which will involve practical and on-site activities at BE centres. <p>• Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN Officials have undergone the 1st and 3rd modules of the training to undertake evaluation of Bioequivalence Centres Workshop For Generic Medicinal Products.
Problems encountered	Due to ongoing travel restrictions, the second module which requires physical delivery of the course was not possible. This has been postponed to 2022 and the third module held before the second module.
Lessons learnt	N.A.

Overall result to-date	The first and second of the planned 3 modules of the programme of training of evaluators for the BE MRA with has been delivered to ASEAN Officials.
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Activity 2.4.3 ASEAN Pharmaceuticals Testing Laboratories Committee (APTLC)

Activity 2.4.3	ASEAN Pharmaceuticals Testing Laboratories Committee
Main Beneficiaries engaged	ASEAN Pharmaceuticals Testing Laboratories Committee (APTLC) Pharmaceutical Product Working Group (PPWG), ASEAN Member States Pharmaceutical Laboratories.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The support provided to the APTLC to develop its initial work plan has continued. A discussion was held lead Member States representatives on 24th June to review plans on the development of the workplan. • Following the meeting a proposal for a work plan was developed and deliberated at a workshop held on August 19-20, 2021. • Work is on-going to develop a proposed work plan based on the deliberations at the workshop. Initial outline of potential activities for a work plan for APTLC has been completed. ARISE Plus will assist in refining the workplan as required. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop held on August 19-20, 2021 to discuss work plan for the APTLC.



Activity 2.4.3	ASEAN Pharmaceuticals Testing Laboratories Committee
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposed 5-year Work Plan for the APTLC.Report from Senior Expert (ANNEX 33)
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	N.A.

Overall result to-date	A proposed 5-year work plan has been developed for the APTLC.
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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, ASEAN Health Cluster 3, ASEAN Drug Regulators.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ASEAN Health Cluster 3 has indicated interest and follow-up is planned in the 4th ARISE Plus Work Plan period. A concept note for the proposed workshop on the issue of Substandard and Falsified Medicines has been endorsed by AHC 3. ARISE Plus will develop a draft programme for the workshop and implementation plans for review and approval by AHC3.
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	N.A.

Overall result to-date	The proposed plan has been approved by Health Cluster 3 and plans to implement are under development.
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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).
Tasks status (ongoing,	This activity is on hold due to lack of beneficiary demand.



Activity 2.4.5	On Demand support for updating and existing harmonised technical requirements for pharmaceuticals
completed)	
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	N.A.
Overall result to-date	N.A.



Component 3.0: Customs, Transport and ACTS

ASEAN has continued to pursue its regional economic integration agenda with significant progress over the past years. The commitments made by the ASEAN leaders are expressed collectively in the AEC Blueprints 2015 and 2025, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA). Commitments related to Customs and Transport are set out in the ASEAN Agreement on Customs (2012), the ASEAN Customs Vision 2015, the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and the Protocol governing the implementation of the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature.

One of the key objectives of the AEC Blueprint 2025 is the progressive reduction or elimination of border and behind-the-border regulatory barriers that impede trade, to achieve the competitive, efficient, and seamless movement of goods within the region.

The planned interventions for Component 3 of the ARISE Plus Terms of reference (ToR) fall into three broad areas, Transport, Customs and ACTS and as such are reflected in the support activities carried out by ARISE Plus.

Under Transport, the activities have assisted the removal of barriers to the free flow of goods by supporting implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST). Support has also been provided in implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multi-Modal Transport (AFAMT).

Under Customs, support has been provided on demand to assist the development of an integrated Customs environment for the trading community. However, the advent of the virus pandemic has interrupted many of these activities, as face to face seminars are required in order to make genuine progress, and these are not possible when the virus is endemic in the region.

Under ACTS the focus of the activities has been to support the live operations of ACTS, which has been successfully installed along the north-south and east-west transit transport corridors of ASEAN, involving Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand (MST) and Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam (CLV) respectively. Resources have been committed for management and training required to ensure for the long-term sustainability of the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) in the region. Further AMS engagement is being pursued by a series of bi-weekly virtual ACTS conferences involving Customs and Transport Authorities, and the private sector operatives. Additional private sector outreach events are planned, in order to increase the number of movements carried out under ACTS.

Expected outcome: Enhanced harmonisation of the customs, transport and logistics systems in ASEAN.



Sub-component 3.1 Customs Measures

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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main focus of this activity is to support initiatives for the facilitation of Customs clearance of multi-modal transport consignments. There is a cross-cutting element between Customs, ACTS and Transport sectors, as set out in activities included below in this report.• ARISE Plus has previously developed a detailed feasibility study on the enhancement of Customs clearance of multi-modal transport consignments by using transit measures in general and ACTS in particular. The recommendations arising from this report were for two surveys to be carried out, of Customs Authorities and private sector operatives (Multi-modal Transport Operators (MTOs) and National Freight Forwarders (FFs) in AMS), designed to establish the current status of multimodal transport control procedures in ASEAN, and to assess the need for enhancement of these procedures to increase trade efficiency and facilitation.• This activity included the development and distribution of a survey for Customs Authorities to establish how multi-modal transport consignments are currently processed in ASEAN. ARISE Plus also produced a final report of the activity, which includes the results of the survey from the perspective of Customs Authorities. <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
Outputs delivered	The ARISE Plus report on the survey of Customs Authorities to establish the current status of Customs control measures of multi-modal transport, and to assess demand for enhancement using transit measures and ACTS is attached to this report at ANNEX 34 .
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 provided a detailed framework, based on international standards, of the basis for the most effective Customs clearance methodologies of multimodal transport consignments.

Activity 3.1.4 Supporting Customs Enforcement and Mutual Assistance Processes (SPCD 09)

Activity 3.1.4	Supporting Customs Enforcement and Mutual Assistance Processes (SPCD09) *On Demand Activity*
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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial analysis has been carried out of the relevant ASEAN Strategic Plan of Customs Development (SPCD 09) on Customs Enforcement and Mutual Assistance, with Brunei as country coordinator; Analysis has been carried out of the existing mutual assistance and information sharing systems in ASEAN, as developed by the World Customs Organisation (WCO). <p>Status: No demands have been received under this activity. Hence it is now stopped, and may be continued on a demand basis.</p>
Outputs delivered	N.A.
Problems encountered	Delays encountered, because of the advent of the COVID-19 virus, which has had serious effect in delaying ARISE Plus support for this activity. Further, in view of the sensitive nature of issues involved in enforcement and mutual assistance, it would not be advisable to hold virtual workshops to pursue this activity. As a result, ARISE Plus proposes to discontinue support for this activity in the current environment of the virus pandemic. Future support will be possible based on demand from AMS. once virus restrictions have been lifted and it is possible to hold in-person workshops.
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	Analysis of current mutual assistance and information sharing methods between ASEAN Customs Authorities.

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) *On Demand Activity*
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,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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



Activity 3.1.5	Assistance to Narrowing the Development Gap in Customs (SPCD 13) *On Demand Activity*
completed)	<p>provided under this SPCD for post-clearance audit functions (PCA), and integrity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A concept note on proposed ARISE Plus support for Customs integrity has been developed, and distributed for comments to AMS. These comments have been incorporated into the concept note, which is attached to the expert report at ANNEX 38 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. <p>Status: No demands have been received under this activity, hence it is now stopped, and may be continued on a demand basis.</p>
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 proposed workshop has been postponed due to the advent of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Further, in view of the sensitive nature of the issues involved in discussion of integrity issues, it would not be advisable to hold virtual workshops to pursue this activity. As a result, ARISE Plus proposes to discontinue support for this activity in the current environment of the virus pandemic. Future support will be possible based on demand from AMS, once virus restrictions have been lifted and it is possible to hold in-person workshops.
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

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 (TFWG) and ASEAN Secretariat; the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA), ASEAN Council of Bureau (COB).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main catalyst for operationalising the AFAFGIT is the implementation of the ACTS system in the region. The live-run phase C of the ACTS Pilot pilot has been successfully completed, and ACTS is now running on a live operational basis in five Participating Member States (PMS), namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, with upgrade support planned for Vietnam; • Successful ACTS movements have been carried out in February and September 2021; • ARISE Plus has developed draft versions of AFAFIST procedural manuals for the public and private sector. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARISE Plus has developed a concept note describing the differences between AFAFGIT and AFAFIST, for the consideration of members of the ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG); this is attached at ANNEX 35 to this report; • ARISE Plus has developed draft version of the AFAFIST Procedural manuals for public and private sector, attached at ANNEX 36 and ANNEX 37 to this report; • 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; • Analysis meetings of the TMS have been carried out with ASEAN Member States and transport experts from ASEC and TFWG. More detailed are presented under the ACTS system enhancement activity late in this report.



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)
Problems encountered	The ACTS implementation schedule has been delayed due to the restrictions to cross-border movement of goods caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Malaysia, 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	The ACTS has been successfully implemented and is operating live in the six Participating Member States (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), with an upgrade and at regional level in the ACTS Central Services based in ASEC in Jakarta, Indonesia.
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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 (TFWG) and ASEAN Secretariat; the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In support of the implementation of AFAMT, ARISE Plus is performing support activities for the execution of a pilot multimodal transaction for the implementation of AFAMT; • ARISE Plus has analysed the situation of the AFAMT pilot execution and has developed an interim report on the current status of the pilot based on the survey; • Previously ARISE Plus has produced a Feasibility Study (FS) of introducing transit and ACTS measures in the facilitation of multimodal transport operations in ASEAN, including a concept note on follow-on activities recommended in the FS; • As part of the immediate follow-on activities proposed by ARISE Plus in the FS, ARISE Plus has conducted a survey with Multimodal Transport Operators (MTOs) and national freight forwarders in AMS to gather relevant data and estimates on multimodal transport in ASEAN, for possibility to include multimodal transport on ACTS implementation;



Activity 3.2.2	Supporting implementation of the Action Plan for the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multi Modal Transport (AFAMT)
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARISE Plus has developed a concept note on the possibilities of enhancing ACTS to handle the regional transport of goods by rail between ASEAN Member States; • ARISE Plus has developed a report on the results of the surveys of MTOs. <p>Status: Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot execution of AFAMT between Thailand and Vietnam and lessons learned; the interim report on the current status of the pilot, annexed to this report at ANNEX 38; • A strategy proposing how transit in general and ACTS in particular can be enhanced to handle multimodal transport operations; • ARISE Plus has developed a concept note on the possibilities of enhancing ACTS to handle the regional transport of goods by rail between ASEAN Member States. This note is at ANNEX 39 to this report; • ARISE Plus has conducted survey on the expansion of ACTS to handle multimodal transport with MTOs; the report of ARISE Plus on the results of the MMT surveys of MTOs is at ANNEX 40 to this report. • Report from Senior Expert (ANNEX 41)
Problems encountered	Some difficulties have been encountered in obtaining the necessary background information.
Lessons learnt	Coordination between public and private sector groups, and between Customs Authorities and Government transport agencies 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 (TFWG) and ASEAN Secretariat; ASEAN Council of Bureau (COB).



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)
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previously ARISE Plus developed the following documents, and further progress on this activity is awaiting further responses from ASEAN Member States on the documents, as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Implementing Guidelines for the ASEAN-CBTP Action plan for the CBTP Pilot and Two CBTP procedural manuals, for the public and private sectors. <p>Status: Ongoing, with no progress achieved since the previous six-monthly report.</p>
Outputs delivered	The CBTP platform at https://cbtp.asean.org has been updated, and contains information for users in passenger transport.
Problems encountered	The operational implementation of ASEAN-CBTP is pending ratification by additional countries of the ASEAN CBTP Agreement. The agreement is currently ratified by Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand. Cross-border land transport among several ASEAN Member States have been severely disrupted due to the COVID-19's cross-border transport restriction during the 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 the development of a firm basis for the operationalisation of the passenger agreement ASEAN-CBTP.

Sub-component 3.3 ACTS Implementation

Activity 3.3.3 Rolling Out of ACTS

Activity 3.3.3	Rolling Out of 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 (TFWG) and ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTS has been successfully installed and is running on a live operational basis in five Participating Member States (PMS), Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. See activity 3.3.5 for more information on Vietnam; In cooperation with the ACTS Central Management Team, ARISE Plus has carried out a series of ACTS virtual conferences of public and private sector stakeholders, designed to enhance the take-up of ACTS; there have been 35 such session carried out so far;



Activity 3.3.3	Rolling Out of ACTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live ACTS operations are being supported by the ACTS Central Management Team (CMT) and ARISE Plus; • Additional bi-lateral conferences have been held with the banking community in Cambodia and Malaysia, to resolve queries relating to ACTS Customs guarantees; • 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; • ARISE Plus supported ACTS publicity campaign in the form of ACTS Live Launch Event and Press Conference in November 2020 and subsequent publicity campaign in the form of on demand interviews by national and regional media outlet. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARISE Plus has held a series of weekly virtual conferences with PMS in conjunction with the CMT in order to stimulate an increased volume of ACTS live operational transactions. These conferences are on-going; the summaries of discussions are held at ANNEX 42 to this report. • Preparatory arrangements, refresher training and documents to manage implementation of ACTS on a live operational basis. • ACTS live operational movements have started successfully. • Promotional ACTS publicity and visibility material has been produced and is available on the ACTS Information Portal at https://acts.asean.org. • Promotional and outreach efforts are continuing with logistics magazines and other regional publications. • Interim short-term technical reports are at ANNEX 45 – 50 to this report.
Problems encountered	<p>The advent of the COVID-19 virus delayed the start-up of the ACTS. The reintroduction of cross-border transport of goods has been slow and complex with additional sanitary procedures that have acted to cause difficulties with ACTS transport operations. 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.</p> <p>The implementation of ACTS pilot projects and full live operation in Myanmar have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Such activities will resume once on the ground conditions are conducive for the work to be carried out.</p>
Lessons learnt	<p>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.</p>



Overall result to-date	Although there have been delays, the ACTS system and related procedures have been effectively implemented in PMS, and the necessary training and training material have been provided. Live operational ACTS movements have been carried out by private sector. Private sector reported 20-40% reduction in costs when using the ACTS as compared to other modes of transit available in the region. Regular ACTS transit movements from the private sector are expected.
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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 (TFWG) and ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 bi-weekly 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, experience and skills to ASEAN counterpart staff in the ACTS CMT; Additional ACTS environments were setup and are operational in Central Services to further facilitate CMT's day to day operations. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The knowledge and skills of CMT members have been enhanced by technical support from ARISE Plus; The ACTS is now under the management of the CMT with as needed support from ARISE Plus; Setup of additional ACTS environments in Central Services is completed; Interim short-term technical reports are at ANNEX 45 – 50 to this report.
Problems encountered	Minor delays were encountered 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 the ACTS has been expanded to the extent that prospects are now good for the sustainable ACTS live operations from the perspective of central management.

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 (TFWG) and ASEAN Secretariat.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMS were assisted daily as needed with any technical ACTS issues in the ACTS ICT environments via email and/or conference calls by the ACTS IT Team. Malaysia was assisted on-site as required and possible due to COVID-19 restrictions by the Malaysia based ACTS IT Team members; • ARISE Plus has provided Vietnam with significant on-site support with their ACTS ICT environment and applications. However, further support is required to complete the upgrade to ACTS 3.3.0; • Helpdesk and corrective maintenance services were provided to participating AMS (PMS), to ensure business continuity of ACTS, and all bugs identified were fixed, tested by ARISE Plus and included in ACTS 3.3.0 software release; • 17 ACTS change requests previously agreed by SWG-ACTS and approved by ACTS Change Management Board (CMB) were also included in ACTS 3.3.0 software release, and have been tested by ARISE Plus; • ACTS version 3.3.0 has been successfully installed, tested by the PMS and deployed in live environments in PMS. Along with the software update, all relevant documentation updates, including system specifications, testing documentation, other technical documentation, user manuals and training material was updated and delivered to the PMS as well; • ARISE Plus has developed an initial strategy for the enhancement of ACTS to handle dangerous goods in accordance with protocol 9 of AFAFGIT; • 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. ARISE Plus has analysed the need to enhance ACTS to handle multi-modal transport, including rail transport; • ARISE Plus has proposed the adoption of two-country transit for ACTS, currently limited to a minimum of three countries in ASEAN.



Activity 3.3.5	Carrying Out a Functional Upgrade of the ACTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Two additional ACTS IT subsystems with initial description of scope were discussed in two 3-day ACTS analysis meetings with relevant stakeholders in the transport and Customs sectors, including representatives of SWG-ACTS and TFWG. Among other system changes, the analysis meetings included detailed study and deliberation of detailed specifications of these systems to be developed by ARISE Plus. The systems are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transport (freight/cargo, e.g. truck and passenger vehicles, e.g. bus and minibus) management and movement monitoring (Transport Monitoring System, TMS);Self-registration online of traders in ACTS (Online Trader Registration, OTR).Subsequently detailed System Requirements Specifications (SRS) and Business Process Specifications (BPS) were produced by ARISE Plus, reviewed by AMS and approved, based on which development of the two systems will commence. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ARISE Plus has managed the successful synchronised upgrade in all PMS of ACTS 3.3.0 version software release. This release included a number of change requests;All corrective issues relating to software bugs identified during the pilot, live operations and testing performed on the system were resolved and fixes included in ACTS 3.3.0 software release;Two additional ACTS IT subsystems have been agreed to by SWG-ACTS and were analysed in two detailed analysis meetings along with other system changes that needed deliberation. Subsequently, detailed specifications documents of the two systems were produced by ARISE Plus. The analysis of these sub-systems can be found at ANNEX 43 and 44 to this report;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 ANNEX 45 – 50 to this report;ARISE Plus has developed an initial strategy for the enhancement of ACTS to handle dangerous goods in accordance with protocol 9 of AFAFGIT. The report of this activity is at ANNEX 51 to this report;ARISE Plus has proposed a pilot for two-country transit, as at ANNEX 52 to this report;ARISE Plus has analysed the need to enhance ACTS to handle multi-modal transport (MMT), including rail transport. The report MMT these activities



Activity 3.3.5	Carrying Out a Functional Upgrade of the ACTS
	are at ANNEX 40 and the concept note on enhancing ACTS for rail transport is at ANNEX 39 to this report.
Problems encountered	Generally, very few problems were encountered in this activity, which progressed with good cooperation from ASEAN Member States and professional functional upgrade 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 as per scope of ACTS 3.3.0 software release, which has now been deployed in a coordinated manner in all participating AMS. With the additional changes agreed by AMS and included in ACTS 3.3.0, the functionality, user-friendliness and efficiency of ACTS has been enhanced.

Component 4.0: ASEAN Economic Integration Monitoring and Statistics

Expected outcome: Strengthened results-based management and evidence-based decision making in the ASEAN integration process.

Sub-component 4.1 ASEAN Economic Integration Monitoring

The EU has been one of the most significant dialogue partners of ASEAN to have supported ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) integration efforts through ARISE Plus. Since November 2017, ARISE Plus has supported AEC integration efforts across 12 AEC elements (or sectors of integration) and 14 strategic measures of the AEC Blueprint 2025.

This subcomponent focuses on monitoring the substantial support provided by the EU through ARISE Plus towards AEC integration efforts, supporting ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Sectoral bodies in strategic decision making through provision of high-quality analysis, monitoring and evaluation, strategic publications and increasing wider awareness of AEC integration efforts and EU support for this process.

Activity 4.1.1 has evolved from the monitoring of ARISE Plus and its bilateral and regional programmes to a more strategic activity focusing on results-oriented monitoring, publications, and dissemination. This reflects the progress made by ARISE Plus since November 2017 and the added-value of bringing together interrelated elements of analysis, monitoring, learning, reporting, communications and outreach to deliver strategic knowledge products that support decision making. During the reporting phase work has focused on analysis and content for the Annual Work Programme 4 (AWP4), the PSC presentation and the six-monthly progress reports. New feedback tools have been developed to capture learning outcomes and other results from ARISE Plus events. A toolkit has been developed to support communication and outreach for events. These tools will be rolled out across the ARISE Plus programme during the next reporting period as part of its results oriented and sustainability strategy reflected in the AWP4.

Activity 4.1.2 resulted in development of a high quality, evidence-based and publicly accessible AEC Blueprint 2025 MTR report which was endorsed by ASEC Sec Gen, High Level Task Force on Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) and AMS. The MTR report which was launched in late April 2021 has been acknowledged by ASEC and the HLTF-EI as the most significant document to drive strategic decision making for the next five years of the AEC Blueprint 2025. Several additional knowledge products were developed based on demand to disseminate and create awareness on the main results of the MTR amongst the joint business councils, private sector and academia. Following the completion of the AEC Council meeting on 18th October 2021, the next reporting period will focus on supporting ASEAN with operationalising key findings from the MTR including results-based management and planning amongst sectoral bodies. Activity 4.1.3 will build on previous work and the findings of the MTR. It will focus on additional strategic analysis, to support decision making and updating the AEC Monitoring website, and additional knowledge products to create wider outreach amongst. Activity 4.1.4 which is demand driven will focus on a piloting the operationalisation of the AEC monitoring databases with a few sectors.



Activity 4.1.1 Results oriented monitoring, publications and dissemination for ARISE Plus

Activity 4.1.1	Results oriented monitoring, publications and dissemination for ARISE Plus
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	ARISE Plus TAT of regional project, EU Mission To ASEAN, ASEAN Integration Monitoring Division (AIMD)
Tasks status	<p>ARISE Plus regional project internal monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertook monitoring analysis for 7th progress report, and developed monitoring reports to support management, decision making and planning. Status: Completed Updated ARISE Plus regional project logframe for extension period and included baseline and targets with Team Leader, EUD and EUD contractor. Status: Completed Developed monitoring analysis for PSC meeting; Status: Completed Drafted presentation on results-based management and other key findings of the AEC Blueprint 2025 MTR for ARISE Plus expert team for mainstreaming into technical activities. Awareness sessions to the carried out during next reporting period. Status: Ongoing Strengthened monitoring mechanisms to assess learning outcomes including revised workshop feedback forms (online) and pre-training and post-training assessment forms to monitoring learning outcomes using Survey Monkey. Status: Ongoing Developed Draft communication/visibility toolkit to support ARISE+ events Status: Ongoing Undertook Review and proposed redesign of ARISE+ website Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	<p>ARISE Plus regional project internal monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive summary and section on monitoring with monitoring analysis for 7th progress report Updated logframe (ANNEX 53) Presentation materials for PSC meeting (ANNEX 54) Presentation on results-based management and other key findings of the AEC Blueprint 2025 MTR Updated Workshop feedback tool, pre-training assessment tool and post-training follow-up tool Draft communication/visibility toolkit for ARISE+ events

Activity 4.1.1	Results oriented monitoring, publications and dissemination for ARISE Plus
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations for proposed redesign of ARISE+ website SNKE M&E Lead interim report (ANNEX 55) SNKE Results Based Management/AEC Integration Monitoring Interim report (ANNEX 56) SNKE Communications and Outreach (Visuals, Communication Products & Social Media) report (ANNEX 57) SNKE Communication and Outreach (Strategic Messaging for Communications and Outreach) report (ANNEX 58)
Problems encountered	Limited progress made on coordination for ARISE Plus regional and national projects due to competing priorities amongst all projects.
Lessons learnt	The robust internal monitoring, reporting and learning system has been updated with revised indicators from the logframe. Tools for monitoring of workshops and training activities have been developed to gather participant feedback and learning outcomes.

Overall result (major output) to-date	<p>Enhanced management, decision making and high-level outreach in the ARISE Plus regional project enabled through a robust internal monitoring, reporting and learning system.</p> <p>ARISE Plus programme coordination activities initiated and awareness on synergies and potential areas for collaboration amongst the national and regional projects.</p>
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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASEAN Integration Monitoring Division (AIMD) ASEC High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) ASEAN Economic Community Council
Tasks status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed 2-minute Videographics of the MTR of the AEC Blueprint 2025, which has been disseminated on ASEC Instagram channel with over 1,000 views and ASEC YouTube channel with over 700 views. Status: Completed Developed 2 Posters (on highlights of AEC integration achievements from 2016 to 2020 and Charting 5 years of the AEC). Status: Completed Developed Poster on highlights of AEC integration achievements from 2016 to 2020 translated to Bahasa Indonesia, Thai, Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese. Status: Completed



Activity 4.1.2	Supporting Implementation of AEC 2025 M&E Framework
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed five sets of social media posts were developed to further disseminate the findings of the AECB 2025 MTR. These covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro (5 images) for ASEC Instagram channel; 42 second video on key achievements of AEC integration from 2016 to 2020 for ASEC Instagram channel; 54 second video on key messages from AECB 2025 MTR for ASEC Instagram channel; 1 min video on key findings from business survey from AECB 2025 MTR for ASEC Instagram channel; Drafted storyboard for 3 short videos on Trade Facilitation (key AEC integration achievements from 2016 to 2020, additional tools to support business, key outcomes). <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-minute Videographics of the MTR of the AEC Blueprint 2025, disseminated on ASEC Instagram channel (over 1,000 views) and ASEC YouTube channel (over 700 views); 2 Posters on highlights of AEC integration achievements from 2016 to 2020 and Charting 5 years of the AEC; Poster on highlights of AEC integration achievements from 2016 to 2020 translated to Bahasa Indonesia, Thai, Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese; Poster on key outputs achieved by AEC integration efforts from 2016 to 2020; Five sets of social media posts were developed to further disseminate the findings of the AECB 2025 MTR. These covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro (5 images) for ASEC Instagram channel; 42 second video on key achievements of AEC integration from 2016 to 2020 for ASEC Instagram channel; 54 second video on key messages from AECB 2025 MTR for ASEC Instagram channel; 1 min video on key findings from business survey from AECB 2025 MTR for ASEC Instagram channel; Drafted storyboard for 3 short videos on Trade Facilitation (key AEC integration achievements from 2016 to 2020, additional tools to support business, key outcomes); SNKE Final Report (ANNEX 59 and ANNEX 60)
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	Good working relationships and trust developed with ASEC and stakeholders has enabled smooth collaboration and good quality outputs to be delivered despite very tight timelines at times.

Overall result (major output) to-date	Mid-term Review of the AEC Blueprint 2025 endorsed by HLTF-EI and launched publicly on 28 April 2021. ASEC supported to undertake decision making for the remaining period of the AEC Blueprint 2025 implementation (2021-2025) in the form of analysis and recommendations through high quality technical and analytical outputs as part of an evidence-based MTR of AEC Blueprint 2025.
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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASEAN Integration Monitoring Division (AIMD) ASEC
Tasks status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions were held with AIMD on next steps including revision of AEC Integration Monitoring website. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	N.A.
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	The strong working relationships, regular communication via online means since the onset of Covid-19 and high-quality TA outputs helped to build trust and credibility with AIMD. As a result, a demand driven request was made for an annotated outline for the Public MTR Report. The provision for demand driven support in this activity and the flexibility of the ARISE Plus experts to respond within a short period of time led to ARISE Plus making significant contributions for the drafting the Public MTR of the AEC Blueprint report under activity 4.1.2.

Overall result (major output) to-date	Increased availability of research evidence and knowledge products about the AEC contribution to economic development, sustainable and equitable growth, gender and the well-being of people in the region for the ASEAN policy-makers.
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Activity 4.1.4 Enhancing AEC Monitoring Databases (Demand driven)

Activity 4.1.4	Enhancing AEC Monitoring Databases (demand driven)
Main Beneficiaries Engaged	ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate (AIMD), Statistics Division (ASEANStats), ASEC desk officers, and indirectly AEC sectoral bodies

Activity 4.1.4	Enhancing AEC Monitoring Databases (demand driven)
Tasks status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions were held with AIMD on next steps including brainstorming on piloting the operationalisation with a few sectors first, prior to rolling out across other sectors. This would enable a clearer scope to be defined as well as identification of sustainability measures from the outset. Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	N.A.
Problems encountered	N.A.
Lessons learnt	N.A.
Overall result to-date	N.A.

Sub-Component 4.2 ASEAN Statistics Capacity Building

Sub-Component 4.2 deals with fostering harmonisation of key regional integration statistics such as international merchandise trade statistics, trade in services and foreign direct investment statistics, monitoring of the sustainable development goals indicators, as well as quality assurance, and enhancing statistical dissemination and communication and other cross-pillar support such as preparation of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Strategic plan, Annual Work Plans, and visibility events.

Following the successful support for the dissemination of SDG Baseline Report and the ACSS High-Level Forum in 2020, and the continued progress with the video-graphic presentation skills in most AMS, meaningful advancement with the implementation of the ARISE+ support, again, took place despite the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the end of October 2021, 12 activities have been implemented, with 11 of them will have been completed by the end of December 2021. Five of the nine newly defined activities will have commenced starting in late October/November 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also provided good lessons to learnt. Online workshop/training is now in general possible. Language barriers and technical barriers could well be addressed, in many cases, by having the materials prepared in more details, with step-by-step procedure sufficient examples, as necessary, and circulated in advance, and by setting in advance the pre-requisites regarding the qualification of the participants and the needed IT software pre-installed. The migration of merchandise trade data to the Eurotrace completed late October, serves as one of the examples. Progress in harmonisation of statistics is similarly encouraging. Methodological Handbook/Guide and issues-specific workplans, metadata templates, and quality measures for monitoring the implementation of ACSS Code of Practice have been available in all five domains supported by the ARISE+, helping ensure better statistical compliance and comparability. The immediate plan is focusing on enhancing the dissemination of SDG by issuing the SDG

Snapshot publication to depict the impact of the pandemic on a number of SDGI goals as evidence shows that the pandemic has disrupted economic activity, labour market, deepened the poverty, and has shifted the priorities of the health system, forced closure of schools and day-care centres and raised crimes and the adverse effect to the vulnerable. Future support will also further strengthen communication of statistics making better use of the availability of social media, and producing visibility statistics in line with the 55th ASEAN Anniversary celebrations. On the other aspects, with availability of the methodological documents and specific plants, focus will be on implementing them, while also exploring a new and innovative way of compiling statistics, such as in the field of digital trade and big data.

Activity 4.2.1 Supporting the ACSS in Improving Collection and Dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)

Activity 4.2.1	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)	<p>Activities Under WP3:</p> <p>(1) Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)-Phase 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • TA to selected AMSs to assess any coordination challenges and recommend measures for a more effective coordination mechanism in data collection. <p>Status: Ongoing. Tasks 1, 2 and 3 have been successfully completed; task 4 is delayed.</p> <p>(2) Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)-Phase 2 Follow-up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake TA to three newly selected AMSs to assess coordination challenges and recommend solutions; • Undertake improvement of the tools for quality assessment; • Provision of the estimate of missing values of selected SDGIs indicators; • Support the ASEANstats with the review and selection criteria and on the-job training to do data review and indicators selection; • Organise Technical workshop (on the job-training) on data aggregation and analysis; • Organise Regional workshop on SDGIs; • Undertake a Regional Training on Data estimation.

Activity 4.2.1	Supporting the ACSS in Improving Collection and Dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)
	Status: Ongoing, with possible delay.
Outputs delivered	<p>(1) Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)-Phase 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questionnaire for the basis of a synthesis of the assessment of coordination challenges, for selected AMS. <p>Interim Report: <u>Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)-Phase 2 (ANNEX 61)</u></p> <p>(2) Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)-Phase 2 Follow-up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional List of selected additional indicators and quality assessment measures; Outline on the Methodology for SDG Data aggregation; Scope of the training and preliminary draft of the first few chapters of the training materials. <p>Interim Report: <u>Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)-Phase 2 Follow-up (ANNEX 62)</u></p> <p>Interim Report: <u>Data Estimation and Imputation Training (ANNEX 63)</u></p> <p>Interim Report: <u>Coordination of Statistics Capacity Building Activities (ANNEX 64)</u></p>
Problems encountered	<p>(1) Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)-Phase 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For now, ASEANStats decided to focus on indicator review to define possible new indicators to be added to the list of ASEAN SDG Indicators. It will also provide more basis to assess the coordination challenges; <p>(2) Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)-Phase 2 Follow-up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The more complex concepts, measurements, and coordination challenges have been a big challenge to the progress in indicators review; The availability of data and supporting data limits the scope of the data estimation methodology which can be applied.
Lessons learnt	<p>(1) Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)-Phase 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of key stakeholders at working level helped eased the coordination challenges. <p>(2) Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)-Phase 2 Follow-up.</p>



Activity 4.2.1	Supporting the ACSS in Improving Collection and Dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of key stakeholders in addition to NSO is crucial for the regular and timely submission of SDGIs Indicators.
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better appreciation of how to improve indicator selection; Better understanding of areas worth further exploring for use in next year Snapshot publication.

Activity 4.2.2 Supporting Gaps Analysis and implementation of the Operational Guidelines for the ACSS Roadmap on SNA 2008.

Activity 4.2.2	Supporting Gaps 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)	<p><u>Activities Under WP3:</u></p> <p>(1) Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Status: Ongoing, with some delay; expected to be completed by December 2021.</p> <p>(2) Development of Standard Statistical Metadata Template for the System of National Accounts and Social Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake TA to ASEANstats and five selected AMSs to review current state of the Metadata of the System of National Accounts as well as Metadata of the social indicators; Undertake Desk review of the latest international standards/handbooks; desk review of the SDMX and existing Metadata practices in a couple of developed countries;

Activity 4.2.2	Supporting Gaps Analysis and implementation of the Operational Guidelines for the ACSS Roadmap on SNA 2008.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake the development of the standard Metadata template for social indicators; • Undertake the Development of the standard Metadata template for System of National Accounts; • Organise and support a one day-workshop on Metadata for System of National Accounts. <p>Status: All tasks completed by late September 2021.</p>
Outputs delivered	<p>(1) Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template and method in place for bringing together all available information for least statistically developed AMS; and filled out for four AMS; • Draft Gap Analysis and recommendation on issues-specific plan for immediate implementation available. <p>Interim Report: <u>Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1 (ANNEX 65)</u></p> <p>(2) Development of Standard Statistical Metadata Template for the System of National Accounts and Social Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of the existing Metadata and their practices in ASEAN Member States taken into account experience of AMS in providing metadata to the IMF (as e-GDDS participants/SDDS subscribers); • Final Proposed ACSS Metadata Templates for the SNA and for Social Indicators available for discussion during the ACSSC11 in October 2021. <p>Final Report: <u>Development of Standard Statistical Metadata Template for the System of National Accounts and Social Indicators (ANNEX 66)</u></p>
Problems encountered	<p>(1) Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel restrictions and the challenges of adapting to remote working, including communication barriers and the limited access of long-distance discussion in some AMS, have slowed down the progress of implementation of the activities, although momentum has been maintained by combining information obtained online

Activity 4.2.2	Supporting Gaps Analysis and implementation of the Operational Guidelines for the ACSS Roadmap on SNA 2008.
Lessons learnt	<p>(using existing reports and analysis), through limited video discussions, and participation in workshops.</p> <p>(2) Development of Standard Statistical Metadata Template for the System of National Accounts and Social Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation from the AMS to facilitate decision-making continues to be limited although all AMS joined and actively participated during the online workshops. • The websites of some AMS have limited content as far as metadata development is concerned.
	<p>(1) Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision to have the questionnaire partially pre-filled by the AMS, then complementing this with all available information from any source, then focusing on the issues of high priority has led to important progress towards the conduct of gap analysis and identification of specific plan for the respective countries. <p>(2) Development of Standard Statistical Metadata Template for the System of National Accounts and Social Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The active engagement/involvement of ASEANstats facilitated the achievement of the project deliverables by the NKE, although ASEANstats needs to be more proactive in ensuring the full commitment of the AMS on ACSS matters/ concerns.
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better awareness of common gaps and weaknesses for basic data for least statistically developed AMS; • Experience and momentum in using summary information in defining specific priority actions and in developing an approach to addressing them; • Greater appreciation, understanding, and momentum towards recognizing the importance of more effective dissemination of SNA and Social Indicators data along with their metadata in accordance with international standards and practices.

Activity 4.2.3 Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS

Activity 4.2.3	Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS
Main Beneficiaries	ASEAN Member States (AMSs), Statistics Division (ASEANstats), ACSS

Activity 4.2.3	Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS
engaged	Committee, Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC), Working Group on Statistics on International Trade in Services (WGSITS) and Working Group on International Investment Statistics (WGIIS).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<p><u>Activities Under WP3:</u></p> <p>(1) Towards Meeting the ACSS 2022 SITS Targets – Phase 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a Methodological Review and Guide; ○ Undertake a TA in one selected country to adapt the suitable best practices; ○ Implement the TA to 2-3 AMS, to assist the countries with the review and analysis of survey results. • Organise and support Regional Workshop on SITS; • Organise and support Sub-Regional Workshop on SITS. <p>Status: Ongoing. Task 1 is partially completed, Tasks 2 completed. The assignment is expected to be completed by November 2021.</p> <p>Methodological Review and Guide is being reviewed and further elaborated with more case studies from AMS best practices.</p> <p>(2) Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Inward Stocks, Outward Flows and Partner Country Data - Phase 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Undertake Technical Assistance to ASEANstats and the member states; ○ Undertake a training to CLMV; • Organise and support Regional Workshop/Training on FDIS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Undertake Regional Workshop on FDIS; ○ Undertake Sub-Regional Workshop/Training on FDIS. <p>Status: Completed in July 2021.</p> <p><u>Activities Under WP4:</u></p> <p>(1) Strengthening Methodology and Compilation of Priority Categories of Balance of Payments Statistics in Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)-Phase 2.</p>

Activity 4.2.3	Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake assessment and review of methodology and practices in line with the Methodological Review Guide; • Undertake case study on methodology and best practices in measuring digital services and develop an implementation strategy; • Organise and support Regional Workshop on SITS; • Organise and support Sub-regional Workshop/Training on SITS concepts and country-specific issues. <p>Status: Activity is scheduled to commence in late October 2021.</p> <p>(2) Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Inward Stocks, Outward Flows and Partner Country Data - Phase 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a Technical Assistance to implement the Issues-Centring Work Plan; • Conduct a methodological study on FDI by ultimate investing country; • Undertake the development of training module for use in a training of trainers on basic concepts and measurements, for junior staff; • Organise and support a Regional Workshop on FDI Statistics; • Organise and support a two-day Sub-Regional Workshop/Training on FDI Statistics concepts and measurements and selected issues, specific for junior staff. <p>Status: Activity is scheduled to commence in late October 2021.</p>
Outputs delivered	<p><u>Activities Under WP3:</u></p> <p>(1) Statistics in International Trade in Services (SITS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States' documentation on SITS and international best practice reviewed; • Draft Methodological Review and Guide document available, including a number of AMS case studies; • Regional virtual Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services, completed; • Mirror analysis between DOSM Malaysia and other countries for selected components (i.e. Transports, OBS). <p>Interim Report: <u>Towards Meeting the ACSS 2022 SITS Targets– Phase 1 (ANNEX 67)</u></p> <p>(2) Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues and needs prioritisation defined;

Activity 4.2.3	Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Plans specifically focusing on addressing issues related to the compilation of FDI Inward Stocks, Outward FDI, and Partner Country available. <p>Final Report: <u>Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Inward Stocks, Outward FDI and Partner Country Data - Phase 1 (ANNEX 68)</u></p> <p>Activities Under WP4:</p> <p>(1) On Statistics in International Trade in Services (SITS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable; the activity only started in late October. <p>(2) On Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable as the activity only started in late October. <p>On SITS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA to 2-3 AMS (task 3) is to assist the countries with the review and analysis of survey results. However, only one country is so far confirmed. • The Regional Workshops also requested for an extension of the subjects to be included in the Guide and country coverage of pilot test, for better relevance and comprehensiveness of the TA; • This has necessitated the additional key priorities to be covered, hence the project could only be concluded in November 2021. <p>On FDIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different data gaps, challenges, legal framework, and confidentiality policy among the AMS complicate the process towards harmonisation of FDIS. These have been approached by developing country specific, issues-centring work plans;
Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of the right staff/institution, who consistently builds their capacity, has proved to have eased the task to build the momentum and address issues and challenges, in SITS; • Provision of basic training for junior staff is much appreciated and seen as a way of sustaining capacity, as evidence from the participation of many AMS during the CLMV training in FDIS; • Country's contributed paper on their best practices and proactive participation as championed by DOSM during the RWS on FDIS helped ensured ownership and should be further encouraged; • The approach to developing Methodological Review and Guide, in the case of SITS, and issues-centring work plans, in the case of FDIS, is deemed useful and important to sustain the capacity;

Activity 4.2.3	Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The approach to developing Methodological Review and Guide, in the case of SITS, and issues-centring work plans, in the case of FDIS, is deemed useful and important to sustain the capacity.
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater ownership of the SITS Methodological Review and Guide, as evidenced from the active engagement of AMS in the development of the Guide, by preparing a number of case studies for inclusion; High momentum among AMS in both SITS and FDIS fields in addressing priority indicators, as the methodological review and issues-centring work plans were made available.

Activity 4.2.4 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 4.2.4	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)	<p>Activities Under WP3:</p> <p>(1) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; Undertake TA mission to selected AMS and ASEANStats. <p>Status: Ongoing, with some delay. The training has been completed; task 2 is partially completed, and the assignment will be completed by the end of October 2021.</p> <p>(2) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct the development of a model and procedure (step-by-step guidelines) for quality assessment; Conduct the development of a Methodological Handbook; Conduct the assessment of the availability of the Customs Procedure Codes at the member states;

Activity 4.2.4

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

- **Support** the definition of the requirements for and a feasibility study on sustainable compilation of trade quantity and mode of transport data;
- **Conduct** a Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics.

Status: Completed in August 2021.

Activities Under WP4:

(1) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard–Phase-3

- Undertake Technical Assistance/distance support help selected countries with their migration of the data processing system from Microsoft Access-based to SQL-based Eurotrace;
- Undertake Technical Assistance/distance support for ASEANStats to develop an online dissemination of IMTS data by mode of transport;
- Undertake Technical Assistance/distance support for ASEANStats for improved quality monitoring;
- Undertake Training for ASEANStats concerned staff on the conversion methodology AHTN 2022;
- Organise and support a two-day Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics;
- Organise and support a two-day Sub-Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics.

Status: The Terms of Reference were approved in October 2021 and activity is scheduled to commence in late October 2021.

Outputs delivered

Activities Under WP3:

(1) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1

- SQL-based Eurotrace installed in ASEANStats and Lao PDR;
- Provisional draft Step-by-step operational guide available;
- Provisional methodology for credibility checks established;
- IMTS data for 2018/2019 of Lao PDR cleaned and processed;
- Latest 2020 available IMTS data of Lao PDR cleaned and processed;
- A set of thematic indicators/dissemination table is being drafted in Lao PDR;
- Successful migration of IMTS data to the SQL-based Eurotrace in ASEANStats;
- First part of the on-the-job training for IMTS data migration in Lao PDR implemented.

Interim Report of SNKE on IMTS: Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International

Activity 4.2.4	<p>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</p> <p><u>Standard– Phase 1 (ANNEX 69),</u></p> <p><u>Interim Report of the SNKE on Eurotrace: Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1 (ANNEX 70)</u></p> <p>(2) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Methodological Handbook (changed the title to “IMTS Compilers Handbook”) developed and delivered to ASEANstats based on each AMS IMTS Methodological Handbook and National Compilation and Dissemination Practices (NCDP) Survey 2016 by UNSD; • Draft IMTS quality report developed and delivered to ASEANStats based on IMTS quality questionnaire; • Concept Note on approach to securing information from the Customs Procedure Codes (CPC) based on questionnaire developed by IMTS expert; • Feasibility Study on mode of transport and quantity. <p><u>Final Report on: Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 2 (ANNEX 71)</u></p> <p><u>Activities Under WP4:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable; the activity only started in late October.
Problems encountered	<p>(1) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional requirement for conducting a feasibility study in order to justify the effectiveness of online training amid the travel restrictions and the technicality of the subject; • Communication challenges and the technology content of the subject have necessitated the development of a lot more materials, instructions, step-by-step procedure, and examples in more details. This was resolved by having a ToR extension, approved in early September 2021; • The lockdown status in Lao PDR has delayed the on-the-job training and migration of IMTS data to the SQL-based Eurotrace; However, all tasks will be completed by the end of October. <p>(2) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 2</p>

Activity 4.2.4	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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few member states have very detailed procedures for allowing the identification of all trade flows and meeting the Balance of Payments statistics and System of National Accounts requirements properly; • The varying practices and data availability across the AMS complicate the harmonization on quantity information.
Lessons learnt	<p>(1) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on the need for the beneficiaries to meet the IT requirements, the right staff qualifications, and the provision of detailed support documentations and training materials by the experts have led to positive progress; • Availability of the latest needed data should be considered in planning the implementation schedule, to avoid any delay. <p>(2) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close cooperation between two major institutions (National Statistical Office and Customs) is key to ensuring good quality of IMTS amid the need for more detailed and regular raw/basic data inflows to NSO/IMTS compiling agency; • ASEAN Trade Facilitation Division plays a crucial role on harmonization of quantity unit and quantity information.
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation and momentum towards proper utilization of Eurotrace for quality processing; involving an ASEAN-help-ASEAN approach; • Appreciation and high momentum for producing more IMTS indicators amid the availability of the Methodological documentations and best practices.

Activity 4.2.5 Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility

Activity 4.2.5	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,	<u>Activities Under WP3:</u>



Activity 4.2.5	Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility
completed)	<p>(1) Development of Video-graphics and Strengthening Video-graphics Skills for Enhanced ASEAN Data Visibility-Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake Regional Training Workshop on Video/Motion Graphics, and post training support. <p>Status: delay due to covid-19 pandemic, to be completed in November 2021.</p> <p>Activities Under WP4:</p> <p>(1) Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a TA to revisit and further develop the quality measures for use by the Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis, Dissemination, and Communication in Statistics (WGDSA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review current state of the implementation of the ACSS Code of Practice (CoP) Sections B & C; ○ Review of the latest international CoP and application to Dissemination and communication area and development of the preliminary draft proposal on the enhanced CoP Sections B & C quality measures; ○ Further development and revision of the Quality measures currently used by the WGDSA; ○ Finalisation of the draft proposal on the enhanced CoP Sections B & C and proposed assessment criteria for the WDGSA self-assessment. <p>Status: Ongoing, to be completed in November 2021.</p> <p>(2) Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on Social Media Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a TA to ASEANstats and some Member States to develop a model of social media for improved users' engagement and communication in statistics; • Undertake a TA to develop a module for training on social media; • Deliver the regional Training Workshop on Social Media to strengthen the use of social media for improved user engagement and promote statistics. <p>Status: The Terms of Reference were approved in October 2021 and activity is scheduled to commence in late October 2021.</p>
Outputs delivered	<p>Activities Under WP3:</p> <p>(1) Development of Video-graphics and Strengthening Video-graphics Skills for Enhanced ASEAN Data Visibility-Phase 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Training materials on Video/Motion Graphics; • Hold Video/Motion Graphics training.

Activity 4.2.5	Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Report: <u>Development of Video-graphics and Strengthening Video-graphics Skills for Enhanced ASEAN Data Visibility-Phase 2 (ANNEX 72)</u> <p>Activities Under WP4:</p> <p>(1) Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring - on WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of Web-meetings with selected members of the WGDSA and ASEANStats to gather opinions on the improvement of the quality measures; Provisional report on Quality Measures for the self-assessment of the implementation of the CoP Sections B & C under the dissemination and communication of statistics; Proposed mechanism for the conduct of the self-assessment. <p>Final Report: <u>Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement (ANNEX 73)</u></p> <p>Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring - on Social Media Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable; the activity only started in late October.
Problems encountered	<p>Activities Under WP3:</p> <p>(1) Development of Video-graphics and Strengthening Video-graphics Skills for Enhanced ASEAN Data Visibility-Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doing technical training online is very challenging. Participants must frequently switch screens between the application and instructions from the instructor. <p>Activities Under WP4:</p> <p>(1) Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring - on WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite facilitation by ASEANStats during the consultations with the AMSs, in some cases, delays occurred in the feed-back given by the AMS on the proposals made by the expert. <p>(2) Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring - on Social Media Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable; the activity only started in late October.
Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of ASEANStats in facilitating consultations with AMS is key to the successful inputs gathering.



Overall result to-date

- Improved confidence among the Member States and ASEANStats in raising the visibility of Statistics, using social media.
- Better momentum for monitoring the implementation of the CoP Sections B & C under WGDSA established with the availability of the quality measures which can suit the latest development in the dissemination and communication area.

SECTION 2 INTERNAL MONITORING ASSESSMENT

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 from its inception on 8th November 2017 until 31 October 2021. 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.

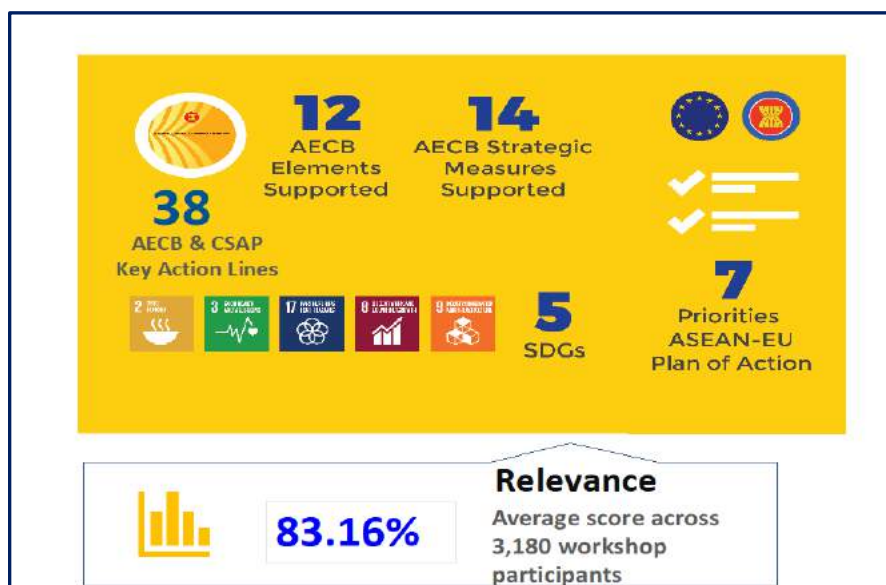


Figure 1: relevance of ARISE PLUS

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 2020¹ involving 3,180 workshop participants.

Partnerships

¹ Data on relevance from the onset of the COVID19 outbreak in March 2020 till October 2021 is not available, as events and workshops have been conducted virtually. As many of the events were coordinated by ASEAN there has been opportunities for gathering feedback data from workshop participants as. From November 2021 onwards a number event feedback tools which have been developed will be implemented across workshops to gather feedback from workshop participants and monitoring learning outcomes for training activities.

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.



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.

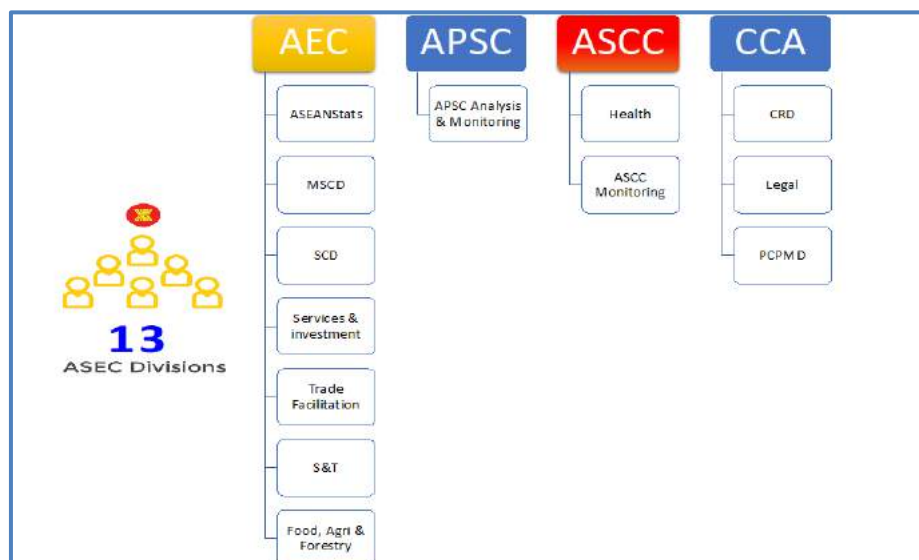


Figure 3: ASEC Divisions engaged²

² 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
ARISE Plus is implemented by AETS, ARTEMIS, DT Global and FratiniVergano

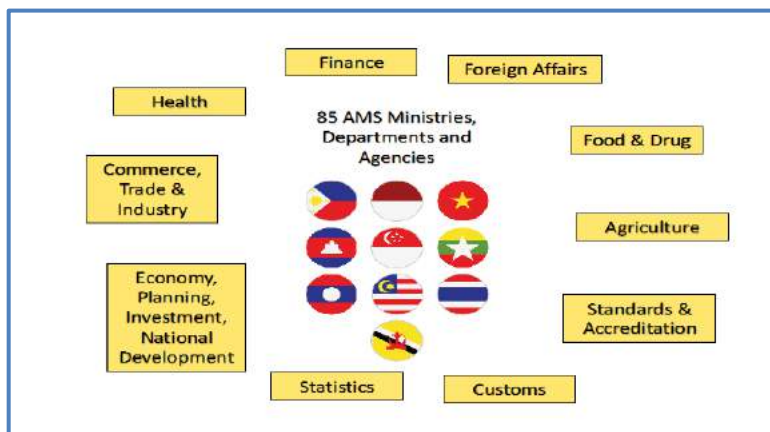


Figure 4: overview of types of AMS Ministries and agencies engaged

Efficiency

Availability and utilisation of resources

A total of 3,225³ key expert (KE) days, 9,327 senior non-key expert (SNKE) days and 204 junior non-key expert (JNKE) days have been used since programme commencement until end of September 2021. Over 181 non-key expert (NKE) assignments have been contracted and 2,115,781 Euros of incidentals utilised. The utilisation of resources can be visualised from figures 5 and 6 by reporting period.

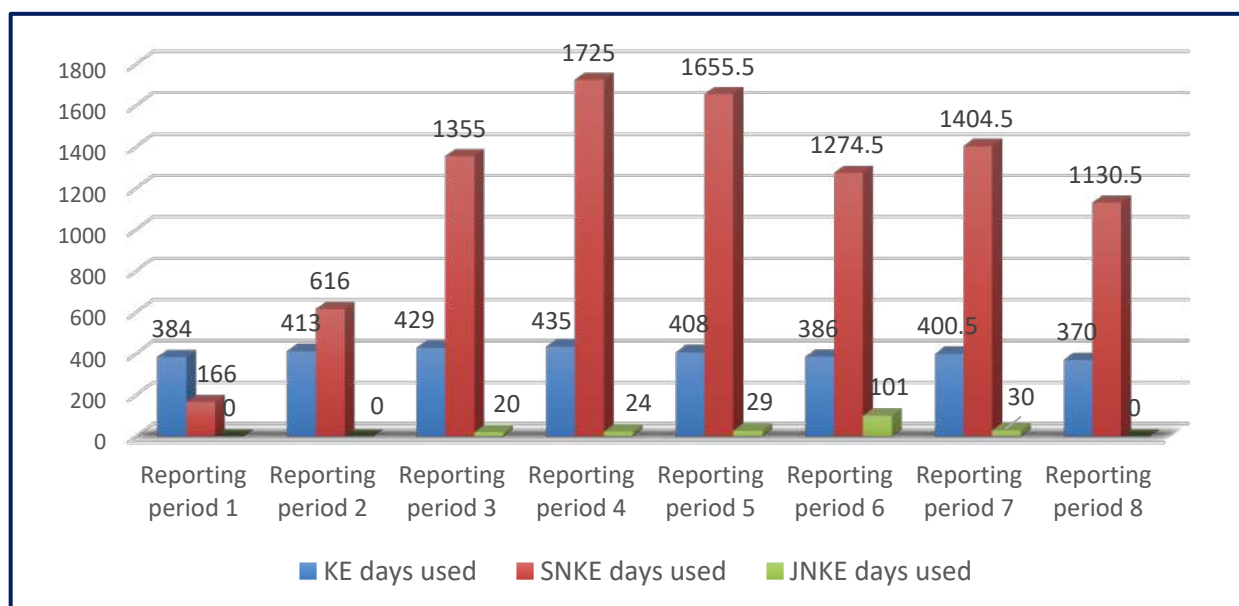


Figure 5: expert days used (by reporting period)

³ According to figures as of October 2021 – these might be subject to change based on the approval process of the EUD

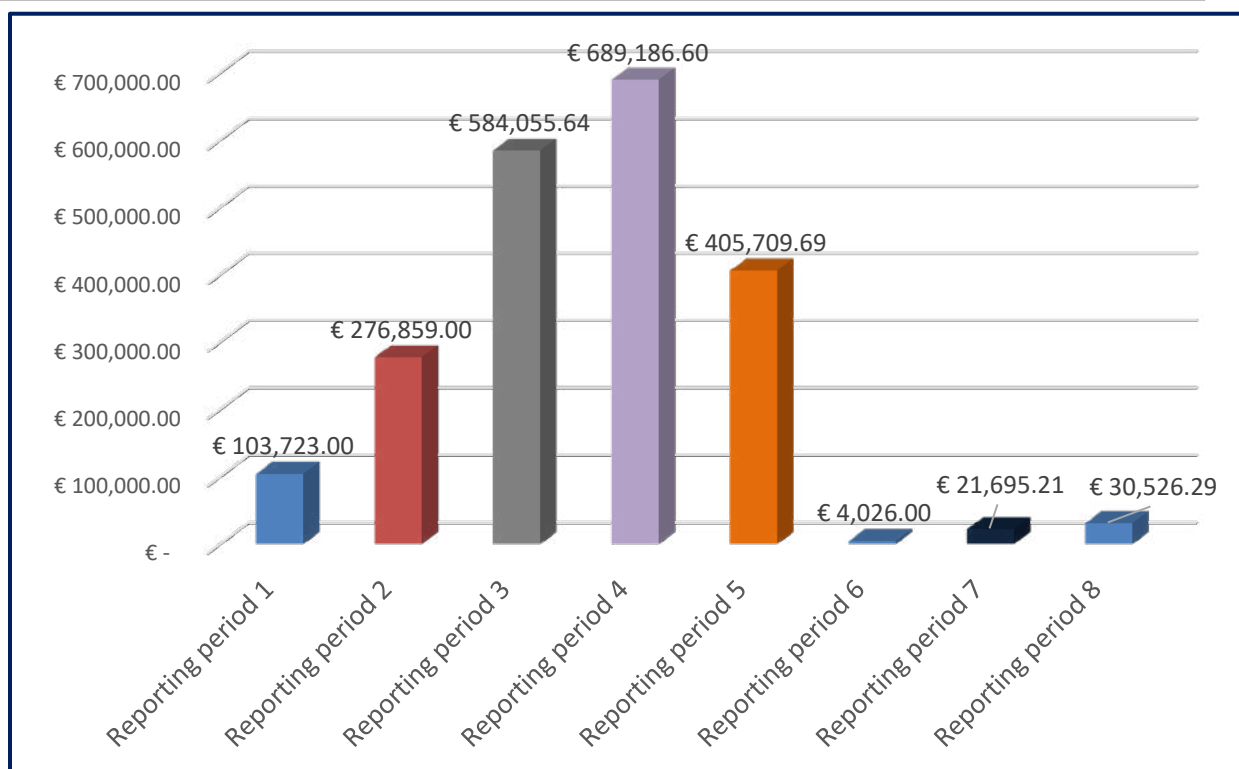


Figure 6: incidentals used (by reporting period)

During the current reporting period, the usage of incidentals was largely due to translation of materials and use of platforms for ASEAN events and workshops which were held online.

Activities Implemented

Resources used have resulted in the implementation of a total of 37 major activities during the reporting period with a focus on less activities as part of the strategy of AWP4. The number of activities implemented during each successive reporting period can be visualised from figure 7.

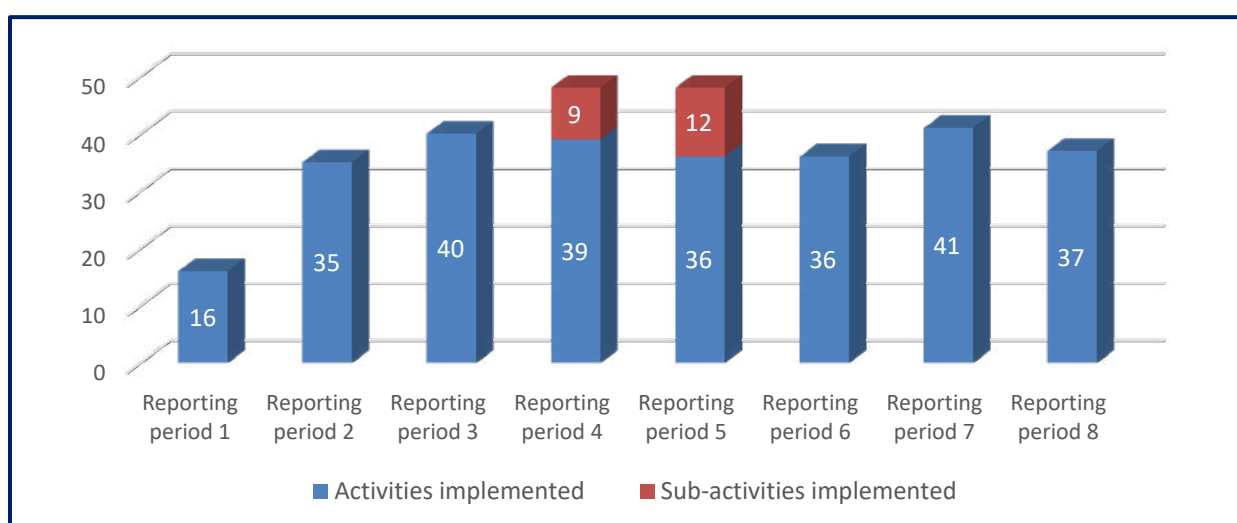


Figure 7: activities implemented by reporting period

A total of 147 workshops have been implemented since commencement of ARISE Plus with 34 workshops implemented during the reporting period. These figures together with a breakdown of both national and regional workshops are provided in figure 8.

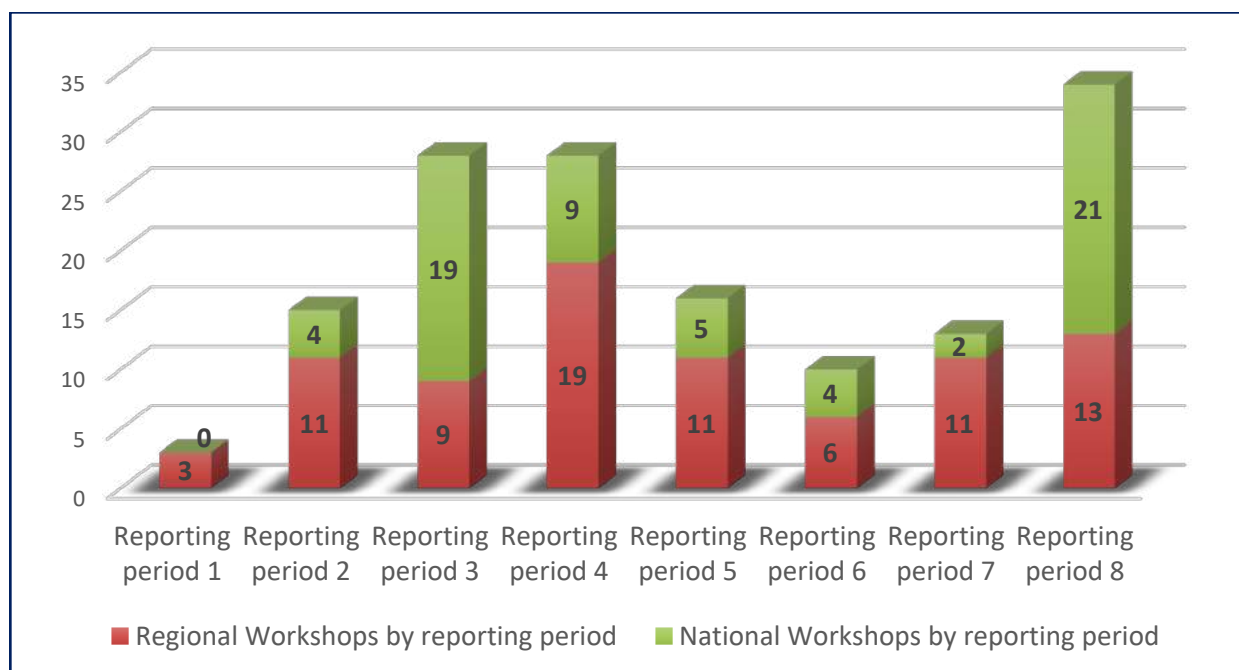


Figure 8: number of regional and national workshops by reporting period

A total of 6,985 participants have attended workshops since commencement of ARISE Plus including 1,577 workshop participants during reporting period 8, a new record for the project as visualised in figure 9.

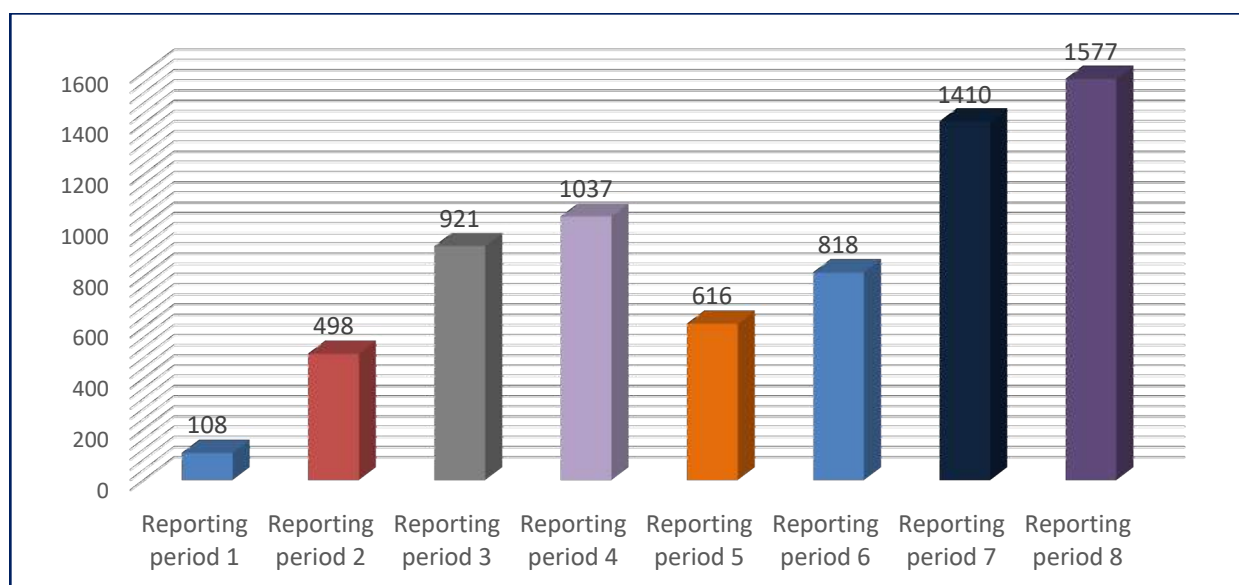


Figure 9: workshop participants by reporting period

Effectiveness

Effectiveness of workshops

As illustrated in figure 10, ARISE PLUS workshops were hosted by all AMS demonstrating the strong ownership of the programme amongst AMS.

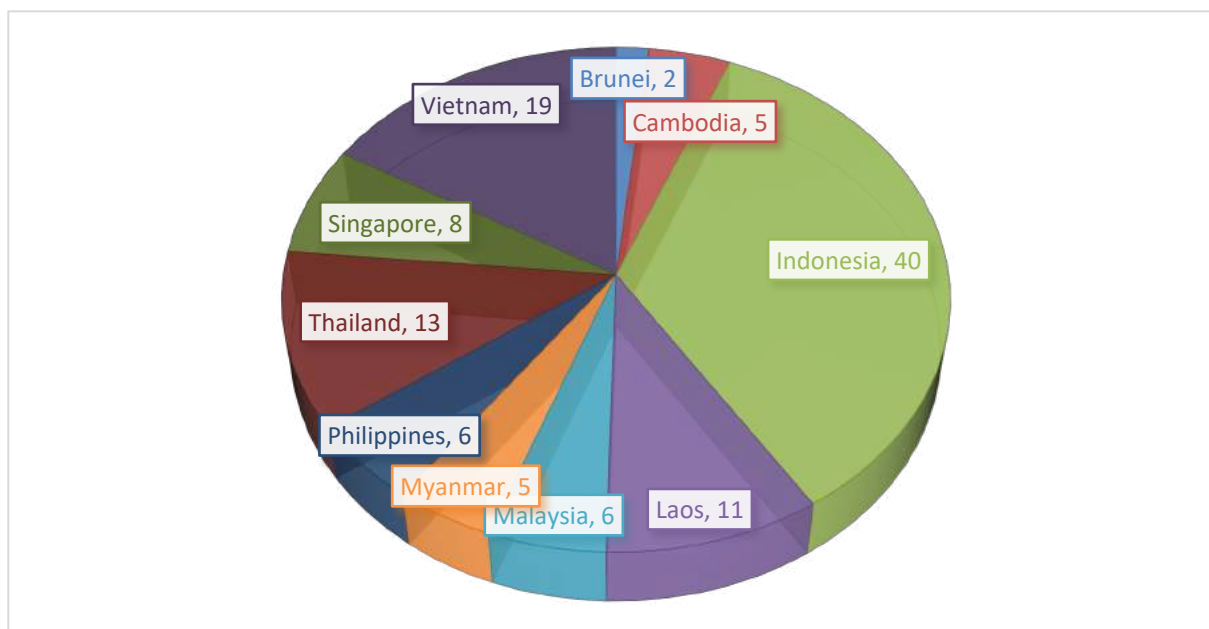


Figure 10: number of ARISE PLUS workshops hosted by AMS (from inception)

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 2,145 participants from the CLMV countries have attended the workshops. See figure 11 below for a breakdown of workshop participants by nationality.

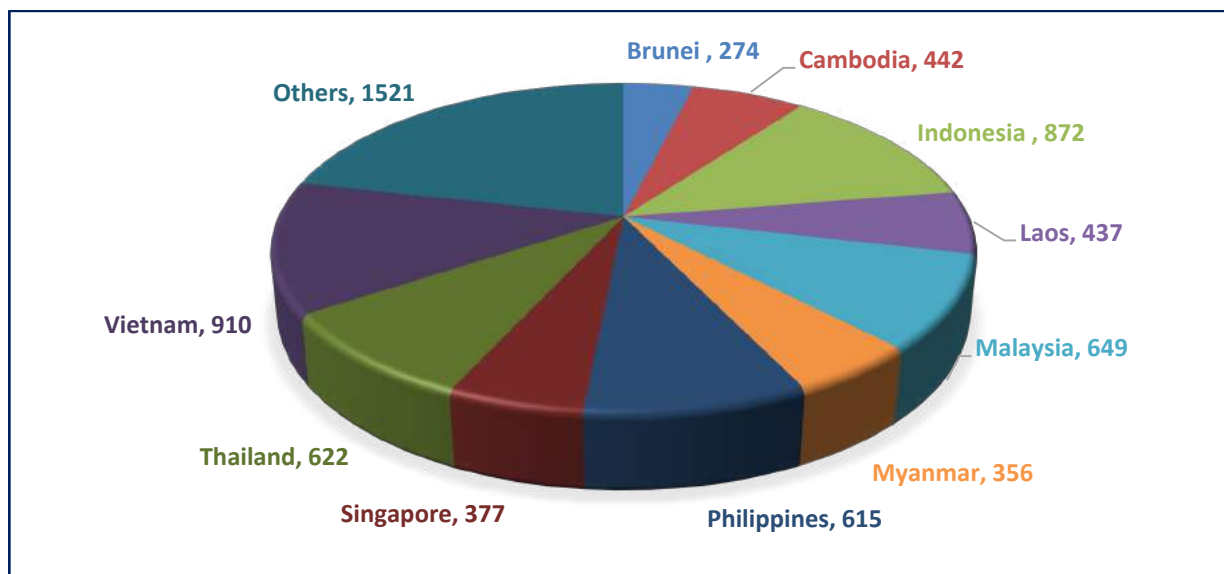


Figure 11: breakdown of workshop participants by nationality

In terms of gender, ARISE PLUS workshops have had a strong gender mainstreaming in terms of participants during each of the reporting periods as visualised from figure 12. A total of 3,830 female participants and 3,245 male participants have attended ARISE PLUS workshops since commencement. There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of female participants during the current reporting period due to concerted efforts by ARISE Plus to engage stakeholders and women's business networks which focus on women.

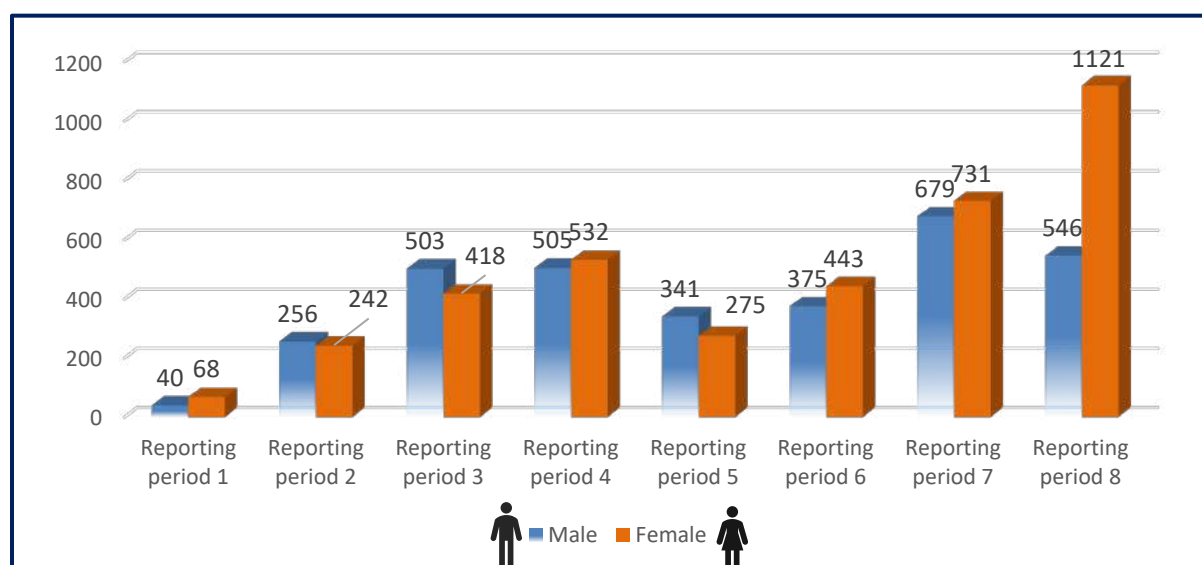


Figure 12: breakdown of workshop participants by gender



SECTION 3 OVERVIEW OF USE OF RESOURCES

Cumulative Resources							
Reporting Period	KE1	KE2	KE3	KE4	Senior Non-Key	Junior Non-Key	Incidentals
1 st 6 Monthly Report covering Inception period and 1 st Month of AWP1 (8 th November 2017 - 7 th May 2018)	107	71.5	99.5	93.5	133	0	€ 101,811.15
2 nd Six Monthly Report (8 th May 2018 – 7 th November 2018)	97.5	97	103	113.5	556.5	5	€ 276,075.56
3 rd Six Monthly Report (8 th November 2018 – 7 th May 2019)	109	106	100	114	1,320.5	14.5	€ 584,055.64
4 th Six Monthly Report (8 th May 2019 – 7 th November 2019)	118	92.5	106	117	1,733.5	24	€ 704,574.91
5 th Six Monthly Report (8 th November 2019 – 7 th May 2020)	107.5	90.5	96	114	1,669	29	€ 406,930.01
6 th Six Monthly Report (8 th May 2020 – 7 th November 2020)	108.5	78	95	105	1,287.5	101	€ 9,928.69
7 th Six Monthly Report (8 th November 2020 – 7 th May 2021)	94.5	86	113	107	1404.5	30	€ 21,695.21
8 th Six Monthly Report (8 th May 2021 – 7 th November 2021)	106.5	113	121	111	1417	0	€ 36,689.92
Actual to Date	848.5	734.5	733.5	875	9521.5	203.5	€ 2,141,761.09
Programme Budget	1,090	880	1,017	1,070	11,888	400	€ 3,645,000.00
Balance Remaining	241.5	145.5	283.5	195	2,366.5	196.5	€ 1,503,238.91



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	106.5						9,332.72
COMPONENT 1.0	Trade Facilitation and Transparency		113			316		4,518.40
COMPONENT 2.0	Standards and Conformity Assessment in Particular Healthcare and Agro-based products			121		142		0
COMPONENT 3.0	Customs, Transport and ACTS				111	618.5		21,962.37
COMPONENT 4.0	ASEAN Economic Integration Monitoring and Statistics					340.5		400.80
Bank Charges								475.63
TOTAL		106.5	113	121	111	1417	0	36,689.92



SECTION 4 LIST OF OFFICIAL MEETINGS PARTICIPATED IN BY ARISE PLUS

No.	Dates	Place	Meetings/Workshops/Study tours/Trainings
1.	20-21 May 2021	Virtual	27th Sub-Working Group of ASEAN Customs Transit System (SWG-ACTS) Meeting
2.	21 May 2021	Virtual	5th Expert Working Group on Organic Agriculture Meeting
3.	24 May 2021	Virtual	45th ACCSQ Working Group 1 on Standards (WG 1) Meeting
4.	28 May 2021	Virtual	20th ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC)
5.	3-4 June 2021	Virtual	39th ACCSQ Working Group on Conformity Assessment (WG 2) Meeting
6.	7-11 June 2021	Virtual	31st Pharmaceutical Product Working Group (PPWG) Meeting
7.	29 June 2021	Virtual	36th Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of the ATIGA (CCA)
8.	28 July 2021	Virtual	21st ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC)
9.	11-12 August 2021	Virtual	ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF) Task Force Meeting
10.	18-19 August 2021	Virtual	22nd Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC 22)
11.	11 October 2021	Virtual	33rd Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group (PFPWG)
12.	11-13 October 2021	Virtual	41st ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG) and 13th ASEAN Transport Transit Coordinating Board (TTCB) Meetings
13.	12-14 October 2021	Virtual	11th Session of ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS11)
14.	20 October 2021	Virtual	4th ACTS Change Management Board Meeting



SECTION 5 EVENTS ORGANISED BY ARISE PLUS

No.	Dates	Place	Regional/ National	Beneficiary	Meetings/Workshops/Study tours/Trainings
1	4-6 May 2021	Hanoi	National	Vietnam	Training ICT Staff of Vietnam Customs
2	15-17 June 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Statistics in ASEAN Member
3	28-30 June 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Regional Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)
4	6-8 July 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Sub-Regional Training on Basic Concepts and Definitions of Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS)
5	31 May - 1 June 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on Nutrient Reference Values (NRV)
6	7 - 8 June 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy and the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRP and APRF)
7	21, 23, 25, 28, 30 June 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Training Workshop on Food Hygiene for ASEAN Member States
8	23 June 2021	Virtual + Vientiane	National	Lao PDR	ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event (Lao PDR)
9	24 June 2021	Virtual + Vientiane	National	Lao PDR	ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop (Lao PDR)
10	6-7 July 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Training Workshop on Risk Based Inspection
11	8-9 July 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on Food Contact Materials (FCM)



12	15 July 2021	Virtual	National	Philippines	ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event (Philippines)
13	21-22 July 2021	Virtual	National	Philippines	ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop (Philippines)
14	22 July 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Regional Workshop on Strengthening the ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators Database
15	27 July 2021	Virtual	National	Vietnam	ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event (Vietnam)
16	30 July 2021	Virtual	National	Vietnam	ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop (Vietnam)
17	2-4 August 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	The 6th Regional Workshop on ASEAN International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)
18	4-5 August 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy and the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRP and APRF)
19	5 August 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Joint Regional Workshop on Strengthening the ASEAN Social Indicators Database
20	11 August 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on the AFSRF Agreement
21	12-13 August 2021	Virtual	National	Philippines	ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop (Philippines) - Batch 2
22	19-20 August 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on Work Programme for APTLC
23	25 August 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Discussion on Concept Note: Development of Policy Guidelines for Implementation of Accreditation in ASEAN
24	1-3 September 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	ASEAN Workshop on Bioequivalence Inspections
25	6 September 2021	Virtual	National	Indonesia	ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event (Indonesia)



26	7-8 September 2021	Virtual	National	Indonesia	ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop (Indonesia) - Batch 1
27	8-9 September 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	4th Workshop on the Development of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Organic Agricultural Products
28	9 September 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Regional Workshop on Strengthening the ASEAN System National Accounts Indicators Database (SNA)
29	15-16 September 2021	Virtual	National	Indonesia	ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop (Indonesia) - Batch 2
30	23 September 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	The Regional Workshop on the General Review of the ATIGA
31	28 September 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Capacity Building for Risk Profile of Pesticides used in Leafy Vegetables among AMS
32	8 & 15 October 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Discussion on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP)
33	25-27 October 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Training for Experts (Module 2): MRA on PF
34	1 – 2 November 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on Updating ASEAN Guidelines for Harmonisation of Standards



SECTION 6 ANNEXES

Annex	Activity	Experts outputs
Annex 1	1.1.1	ATIGA Implementation with Focus on Non-Tariff Measures in Indonesia
Annex 2	1.1.1	Mapping of Non-Tariff Measures in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam 1
Annex 3	1.1.1	Mapping of Non-Tariff Measures in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam 2
Annex 4	1.1.1	Supporting the Effective Implementation of the ATIGA (ATR and NTRs), including Identifying, Classifying and Notifying NTMs in Thailand 1
Annex 5	1.1.1	Supporting the Effective Implementation of the ATIGA (ATR and NTRs), including Identifying, Classifying and Notifying NTMs in Thailand 2
Annex 6	1.1.1	Supporting the Effective Implementation of the ATIGA (ATR and NTRs), including Identifying, Classifying and Notifying NTMs in Malaysia and the Philippines
Annex 7	1.1.1	General Review of the ATIGA and Rules of Origin under the RCEP
Annex 8	1.2.1	Full and Sustainable Operationalisation of ASSIST and ATF-JCC Support
Annex 9	1.2.1	Update and Management of ASSIST, ATR and e-Platform Websites
Annex 10	1.2.3	Preparation of a Thematic Paper on "New generation PTAs and ATIGA's structural reform"
Annex 11	1.2.3	Preparation of Thematic Papers on "Agricultural trade and SPS facilitation" and "Non-agricultural trade and TBT harmonization"
Annex 12	1.2.3	Preparation of Thematic Papers "Digitalisation and e-Commerce Facilitation" and "Trade and Sustainable Development"
Annex 13	1.2.3	Preparation of a Thematic Paper on "Rules of origin and ASEAN centrality"
Annex 14	1.2.3	Preparation of a Thematic Paper on "ASEAN trade-related regulatory transparency"
Annex 15	2.1.3	Concept Note on the <i>Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN</i>
Annex 16	2.1.3	Development of ASEAN Sectoral MRA on Organic Agricultural Products, the ASEAN Certification Scheme on Organic Agriculture and related supporting documents
Annex 17	2.2.1	ASEAN Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Standards



Annex 18	2.2.1	Review of the processes for harmonisation of standards in ASEAN and Implementation of initiatives to identify priority areas for harmonization
Annex 19	2.3.1	Potential List of Protocols to be Developed under AFSRF
Annex 20	2.3.2	Gap Assessment of MRA on food hygiene in Cambodia
Annex 21	2.3.2	Training on MRA on Prepared Foodstuff
Annex 22	2.3.3	Draft Summary Report: Capacity Building & Development of a Risk Profile for Leafy Vegetables
Annex 23	2.3.3	Supporting ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre-Training and Development of Risk Profile for Leafy Vegetables
Annex 24	2.3.5	Supporting the development national Rapid Alert Systems for Food and Feed (RASFF) and the integration into ARASFF and the development of Common Traceability Standards
Annex 25	2.3.6	Preparatory work for the development of an ASEAN MRA on Organic Agricultural Products
Annex 26	2.3.7	Food Safety Trainings 1
Annex 27	2.3.7	Food Safety Trainings 2
Annex 28	2.3.7	Food Safety Training: Food Hygiene
Annex 29	2.3.7	Food Safety Training: Risk Based Inspection
Annex 30	2.3.7	Food Safety Training: Foodborne Diseases
Annex 31	2.3.8	Support to Nutritional Labelling in ASEAN
Annex 32	2.4.1	Support to ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulation
Annex 33	2.4.3	Strengthening ASEAN Pharmaceutical Laboratory Network
Annex 34	3.1.1	Carrying out a survey with ASEAN Customs Authorities on Customs procedures for clearance of all modes of transport (including multimodal transport) and ACTS
Annex 35	3.2.1	Concept Note: Comparison between ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST) and ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT)
Annex 36	3.2.1	Draft AFAFIST: Procedures Manual for ASEAN Private Sector Transporters
Annex 37	3.2.1	Draft AFAFIST: Procedures Manual for ASEAN Government Transport Officials
Annex 38	3.2.2	ARISE Plus Support for ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (AFAMT) Pilot Implementation
Annex 39	3.2.2	Concept Note: Proposed Enhancement of the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) to Cater for Rail Transport
Annex 40	3.2.2	Survey with Multimodal Transport Operators and National Freight Forwarders in AMS on Multimodal Transport and ACTS
Annex 41	3.2.2	Carrying out a survey with Multimodal Transport Operators and national freight forwarders in AMS on multimodal transport and ACTS



Annex 42	3.3.3	Summary Discussion: ACTS Live Operations
Annex 43	3.3.5	ACTS Online Trader Registration System Requirements Specifications 1
Annex 44	3.3.5	ACTS Online Trader Registration System Requirements Specifications 2
Annex 45	3.3.5	Planning, Coordination and Implementation of ACTS IT System and ACTS Live Operations
Annex 46	3.3.5	Support of Implementation of ACTS IT System and ACTS Live Operations
Annex 47	3.3.5	ACTS Software Testing, Documentation Updates and Support for Installation and Testing Activities
Annex 48	3.3.5	Development of ACTS Software Enhancements
Annex 49	3.3.5	Analysis of ACTS Software Enhancements and Software Development and Deployment
Annex 50	3.3.5	Functional Upgrade of the ACTS
Annex 51	3.3.5	Support for the implementation under ACTS of Protocol 9 of AFAFGIT on dangerous goods
Annex 52	3.3.5	Concept Note: Proposal for a Two-Country Pilot under the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS)
Annex 53	4.1.1	ARISE Plus Revised Logframe
Annex 54	4.1.1	Overview of ARISE Plus Progress to Date and Annual Workplan 4
Annex 55	4.1.1	AEC Integration monitoring
Annex 56	4.1.1	AEC Results Based Management and Monitoring
Annex 57	4.1.1	Visuals for Communications and Outreach
Annex 58	4.1.1	Strategic messaging for communications and outreach
Annex 59	4.1.2	Dissemination of AEC Blueprint MTR Report
Annex 60	4.1.2	Dissemination of AEC Blueprint MTR Report – visuals
Annex 61	4.2.1	Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)-Phase 2
Annex 62	4.2.1	Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Indicators (SDGIs) – Phase 2-Follow-up
Annex 63	4.2.1	Data Estimation and Imputation: Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)-Phase 2 Follow-up
Annex 64	4.2.1	Coordination of Statistics Capacity Building Activities
Annex 65	4.2.2	Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1
Annex 66	4.2.2	Development of Standard Statistical Metadata Template for the System of National Accounts and Social Indicators
Annex 67	4.2.3	Towards Meeting the ACSS 2022 SITS Targets– Phase 1
Annex 68	4.2.3	Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Inward Stocks, Outward Flows and Partner Country Data - Phase 1



Annex 69	4.2.4	Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1
Annex 70	4.2.4	Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1
Annex 71	4.2.4	Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 2
Annex 72	4.2.5	Development of Video-graphics and Strengthening Video-graphics Skills for Enhanced ASEAN Data Visibility-Phase 2
Annex 73	4.2.5	Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement



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)



- Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM AMAF)
- Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB)
- Sub-committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin (SCA-ROO)
- ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee
- Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC)
- Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis, Dissemination and Communication (WGDSA)
- Working Group on SNA