



Ninth Six-Monthly Progress Report

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

8 November 2021 – 7 May 2022

Programme No. ACA/2016/389774

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



Table of Contents

ARISE PLUS FACT SHEET	4
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
SECTION 1 PROGRESS ON PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES	12
COMPONENT 0: MANAGEMENT AND OUTREACH	12
<i>Sub Component 0.1 Programme Management and Coordination</i>	12
<i>Sub Component 0.2 Demand Driven Contingency</i>	14
<i>Sub Component 0.3 Visibility Communications and Outreach (VCO)</i>	14
COMPONENT 1.0: TRADE FACILITATION AND TRANSPARENCY	17
<i>Sub-Component 1.1 ATIGA Implementation with Focus on Transparency and NTMs</i>	18
Activity 1.1.1 Supporting the Effective Implementation of the ATIGA (ATR and NTRs), including Identifying, Classifying and Notifying NTMs	18
<i>Sub-Component 1.2 Trade Facilitation and Private Sector Engagement</i>	21
Activity 1.2.1 Full Operationalisation, Socialization and Management of ASSIST for Trade in Goods and Trade Services	21
Activity 1.2.3 Strengthening Public-Private Cooperation	22
<i>Sub-Component 1.3 'On-demand' Activities</i>	24
COMPONENT 2.0: STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT IN PARTICULAR HEALTHCARE AND AGRO-BASED PRODUCT	25
<i>Sub-Component 2.1 Supporting the Development of Quality Infrastructure and Related Policies in ASEAN</i>	26
Activity 2.1.1 Supporting ACCSQ to Implement the ACCSQ Strategic Plan for Standards and Conformance	26
Activity 2.1.3 Strengthening Conformity Assessment and Accreditation	27
<i>Sub-Component 2.2 Supporting the Harmonisation of Standards and Compliance to International Standards</i>	28
Activity 2.2.1 Supporting Harmonisation of Standards	28
<i>Sub-Component 2.3 Supporting the Market Integration and Enhancing Food Safety in Agro-based Sector</i>	29
Activity 2.3.1 Developing and Implementing a Regulatory Framework for Food Safety	29
Activity 2.3.2 Implementing the MRA on Inspection and Certification Systems of Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuffs	29
Activity 2.3.3 Supporting the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety	30
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)	31
Activity 2.3.6 Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture	32
Activity 2.3.7 Training in Food Safety	33
Activity 2.3.8 Harmonised Nutritional Labelling Requirements	33
Activity 2.3.9 Development of Harmonised Specific Measures for Food Contact Materials (FCMs)	34
<i>Sub-Component 2.4 Support to the Pharmaceutical Sector</i>	34
Activity 2.4.1 Strengthening the Pharmaceuticals Regulatory Framework	34
Activity 2.4.2 ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Bioequivalence (BE) Study Reports of Generic Medicinal Products	36
Activity 2.4.3 ASEAN Pharmaceuticals Testing Laboratories Committee (APTLC)	36
Activity 2.4.4 Combatting Falsified Medicines in ASEAN	37
Activity 2.4.5 On Demand support for updating and existing harmonised technical requirements for pharmaceuticals	37
COMPONENT 3.0: CUSTOMS, TRANSPORT AND ACTS	38
<i>Sub-component 3.1 Customs Measures</i>	39
Activity 3.1.1 Supporting Enhancement of Customs Clearance Procedures (SPCD 04)	39
Activity 3.1.4 Supporting Customs Enforcement and Mutual Assistance Processes (SPCD09)	40
Activity 3.1.5 Assistance to Narrowing the Development Gap in Customs (SPCD 13)	40
<i>Sub-component 3.2 Transport Measures</i>	40
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)	40



Activity 3.2.2 Supporting implementation of the Action Plan for the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multi Modal Transport (AFAMT)	42
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)	43
<i>Sub-component 3.3 ACTS Implementation</i>	43
Activity 3.3.3 Rolling Out of ACTS	43
Activity 3.3.4 Developing the Capacity of the ACTS Central Management Team (CMT)	46
Activity 3.3.5 Carrying Out a Functional Upgrade of the ACTS	47
COMPONENT 4.0: ASEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION MONITORING AND STATISTICS	50
<i>Sub-component 4.1 ASEAN Economic Integration Monitoring</i>	50
Activity 4.1.1 Results oriented monitoring, publications and disseminations for ARISE Plus	51
Activity 4.1.2 Supporting Implementation of AEC 2025 M&E Framework	52
Activity 4.1.3 Demand-driven Support for Research, Capacity Building and Outreach Activities to Assist the Implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025	53
Activity 4.1.4 Enhancing AEC Monitoring Databases (Demand Driven)	54
<i>Sub-Component 4.2 ASEAN Statistics Capacity Building</i>	54
Activity 4.2.1 Supporting the ACSS in Improving Collection and Dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)	56
Activity 4.2.2 Supporting Gap Analysis and implementation of the Operational Guidelines for the ACSS Roadmap on SNA 2008	58
Activity 4.2.3 Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP) related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS	59
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	62
Activity 4.2.5 Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility	65
SECTION 2 INTERNAL MONITORING ASSESSMENT	68
SECTION 3 OVERVIEW OF USE OF RESOURCES	75
ANNEX 1 LIST OF OFFICIAL MEETINGS PARTICIPATED IN BY ARISE PLUS	77
ANNEX 2 EVENTS ORGANISED BY ARISE PLUS	78
ANNEX 3 LIST OF ASEAN SECTORAL BODIES, WORKING GROUPS AND ENTITIES	81



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 ninth six monthly progress report covers the period 8th November 2021 to 7th May 2022. 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, and in preparation for AWP 5, 27 major activities were implemented during the reporting period. Substantial effort focused on capacity building and knowledge transfer to strengthen sustainability mechanisms and a total of 34 workshops and events were implemented. These have continued the strong collaboration between 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 delivered by ASEAN and ARISE Plus.

Major results during the reporting period

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

Enhancing private sector engagement and awareness towards greater intra-ASEAN trade

ARISE Plus is dedicated to ensure the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR) and the ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST) platforms are able to meet their true potential in ASEAN. Through close cooperation with ASEAN Member States 5054 NTMs have been validated and uploaded on the ATR platform to date, which will continue to benefit the private sector in terms of regulatory transparency.

Private sector engagement and socialisation is a key strategy adopted by ARISE Plus to ensure businesses are aware and convinced to take full advantage of the platforms that have been developed. Outreach workshops were held for businesses in Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia to increase awareness on the availability, benefits and operation of ASSIST and ATR which included engagement with SMEs and women entrepreneurs.

These outreach events are being complemented with dedicated train-the-trainer (ToT) sessions. The ToT sessions focused on building national capacity in the operation of ASSIST by identifying and training trainers from the private sector in each country. This approach allows for further transfer of knowledge within the country and ensures sustainability of the efforts.

The outreach events organised by ARISE Plus and the anonymity mechanism introduced has resulted in higher usage of the ASSIST platform. Such continuous efforts are in line with *Key Message 3 of the AEC Blueprint 2025 Mid-Term Review (MTR): to embark on broader and more meaningful engagement with the private sector and women entrepreneurs*. These demonstrate the strong and strategic nature of EU-ASEAN collaboration.



Further information is available on:

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

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/atr-assist-bru/>

Strengthening coordination and coherence across EU ARISE Plus national and regional projects

ARISE Plus (TA Regional) and the EU Delegation to ASEAN have continued to play an important role in facilitating coordination and coherence across the EU ARISE Plus portfolio of nine national projects (covering Cambodia, 2 for Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam) and two regional projects (ARISE Plus TA Regional and ARISE Plus IPR). The project has continued to disseminate flash reports on events. During the reporting period, 17 flash reports were shared amongst the ARISE Plus portfolio of projects and whilst the EU Delegation to ASEAN shared these amongst the EU Delegations across the ASEAN Member States.

A successful Regional Coordination meeting was organised by the ARISE Plus TA Regional and the EUD to ASEAN, on 05 April 2022. The meeting brought together over 30 participants from EU Delegations across the region, the nine national projects and the two regional projects. Projects shared their success stories and this was followed by a synthesis of the technical areas covered by the various projects. The ARISE Plus family of projects is relevant to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 across five characteristics (or aspirations) and 22 out of 29 Elements (or sectors of cooperation), making the EU one of the most active dialogue partners of ASEAN.

Further information is available on:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RH-opd4gYfCad7hMhA3JYTzUNafDm_DI?usp=sharing

Strengthening the sustainability of ASEAN food safety systems through a harmonised regulatory regime and enhanced capacities

ARISE Plus is strengthening the sustainability of food safety systems in ASEAN through its efforts in establishing a harmonised regulatory regime, traceability systems and a comprehensive capacity building programme.

Substantial efforts have been placed on developing AMS capacity through the development of training modules, training courses and training workshops for AMS officials to conduct inspections and evaluate food safety systems. These are in accordance with the provision of the MRA **for Inspection and Certification Systems on Food Hygiene for Prepared Food Stuff** and cover capacity building a range of food safety topics. These topics include how to conduct inspections on food hygiene including prepared foodstuff; food borne disease outbreaks, conducting risk-based inspections, such as profiles of pesticides used on leafy vegetables and food safety sampling; and food safety risk communication. The ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement (AFSRF Agreement) has been finalised and is awaiting formal agreement by the AMS. ARISE Plus has also supported efforts to harmonise the regulatory regime in organic agriculture through an MRA and the associated harmonised certification scheme which are now in their final stages of acceptance by the Experts Group. Other work includes support for the harmonisation of nutrition reference values and the development of specific measures for ceramic food contact materials.

Further information is available on:

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/food-safety-risk-communication/>



Enhancing safety and reliability of pharmaceuticals through a harmonised regulatory regime

ARISE Plus has continued to support the enhancement of safety and reliability of pharmaceuticals through the establishment of a harmonised regulatory regime. The efforts of ARISE Plus over several years, have come to fruition with a final version of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP) which has been endorsed by the Senior Economic and Health officials (SEOM) and SOMHD. The APRP is awaiting adoption by the ASEAN Economic and Health Ministers. The ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework has also progressed substantially and is nearing finalisation with a review being carried out by ASEAN Member States. These regulatory instruments will provide the basis for the legally binding ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement (APRFA).

ARISE Plus also supported the newly established ASEAN Pharmaceutical Testing Laboratory Committee (APTLC) including the development of their Five-year work plan. The ARISE Plus work in the pharmaceuticals area is characterised by the cross-pillar coordination between the health and economic sectors, which is in line with the recommendation from the AEC Blueprint 2025 MTR for deeper and more meaningful cross-sectoral collaboration.

Partnership building with the private sector for seamless movement of goods in ASEAN through the ASEAN Customs Transit system (ACTS)

In addition to technical training, troubleshooting activities and functional updates, ARISE Plus is committed towards enhancing the uptake of ACTS among private sector stakeholders and to overcome the restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with this ambition three private sector partnership building events have been organised. These included a joint event for private sector in Malaysia and Singapore, and events for the private sector in Thailand and Vietnam respectively. The events involved over 300 participants from the private sector. Presentations during the events include a testimony from the General Manager of City Zone Express Sdn Bhd who has used and benefited from ACTS and presentations on the end user technical and practical aspects of ACTS that include information such as processes at departure, border and destination, bank guarantee, registration process and challenges faced during the pandemic. Every event included a Q&A session which has always been very interactive and active demonstrating interest among the private sector.

ARISE Plus also organised several on demand follow up workshops to offer further support on ACTS usage, and to address issues and concerns for the country context. Outreach events for Cambodia and Lao PDR are being planned for June and July 2022. Close cooperation between ARISE Plus, the ACTS Central Management Team (CMT) at ASEC and the private sector will ensure the success and sustainability of ACTS.

The private sector partnership building activities for the ACTS are complemented through bi-weekly discussions involving government officials from the six partner ASEAN Member States operating the ACTS, CMT, ASEC Transport and Customs divisions and ARISE Plus in order to resolve issues regarding live ACTS operations. ACTS version 3.3.0, which includes a number of important upgrades, has been successfully installed, tested and deployed in live operating environments across the six ASEAN Member States.

Further information is available on:

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



Mainstreaming recommendations from the AEC Blueprint 2025 MTR across ARISE Plus

ARISE Plus, is one of the first ASEAN dialogue partner projects to have successfully mainstreamed a number of recommendations from the AEC Blueprint 2025 Mid-term Review (MTR) across its project components. These include recommendations “R1: strengthen coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms” and “R2: develop consolidated implementation frameworks for cross cutting issues”.

ARISE Plus has adopted a strategy of results-oriented monitoring, reporting, publications, and dissemination to mainstream recommendations R1 and R2. This brings 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 continued on analysis and content for the six-monthly progress report, and other EUD requirements such as EU Bluebook. Results oriented monitoring and measuring of learning outcomes for technical ARISE Plus events has been undertaken through the deployment of 54 online workshop monitoring tools covering pre-training and end of event assessment to support decision making by the project team. A total of 23 event monitoring reports with analysis of participant feedback data have been developed and shared with the project team. To enhance communication and outreach for technical ASEAN events, over 20 communication products and tools have been developed including eFlyers, microsites, slide shows for waiting rooms and exit rooms, and animated presentations. These have been underpinned by key messages and user oriented content to facilitate take-up and buy-in by event participants.

Further information is available on:

<https://ariseplus.asean.org/acts2/>

Monitoring ASEAN digitalisation progress through statistical support

ARISE Plus has continued to support the ASEAN Statistical Community in the monitoring of the digitalisation progress. ARISE Plus has developed various guidance materials, provided cross pillar support, enhanced quality assurance and strengthened skills through trainings to facilitate regional integration of statistical data. Among others one main activity during this reporting period was the follow up phase of training on data collection, monitoring, reporting and dissemination related to the SDG Indicators (SDGIs). This activity will enable ASEAN to monitor its progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Other statistical support provided in the different technical areas will collectively improve the skills and capacity of ASEAN stakeholders especially for CLMV countries in data collection, management and use towards achieving regional digitalisation aims to support further economic development.

SECTION 1 PROGRESS ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES



Component 0: Management and Outreach

Sub Component 0.1 Programme Management and Coordination

A total of 27 major activities were implemented during the reporting period. To gain a visual picture, the key project management indicators are summarised below.

Substantial efforts were made on capacity building, transferring know-how and creating outreach as part of the sustainability strategy outlined in the AWP4. 34 workshops were conducted during the reporting period which compares favourably to all the previous reporting periods of the project as visualised from the figure 1 below.

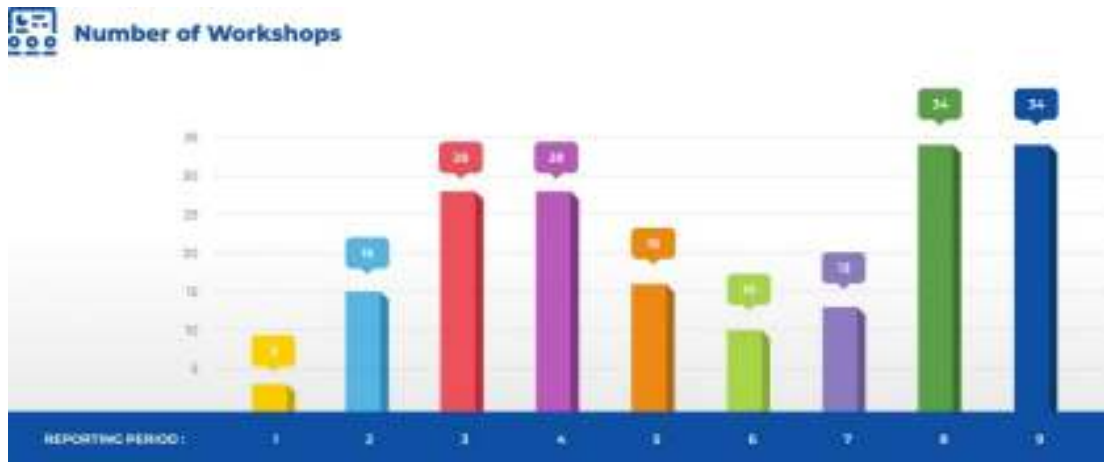


Figure 1: Number of workshops

The workshops involved a total of 1,677 participants during the reporting period which was a new high for the project.



Figure 2: Number of workshop participants

A total of 1,311.5 Senior Non-Key expert days were used during the reporting period.



Figure 3: SNKE days used

13,933.92 Euro of incidentals were used during the reporting period focusing on platforms for online events and the use of translators. 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.



Figure 4: Incidentals used

Strengthening coordination and coherence across EU ARISE Plus national and regional projects

ARISE Plus (TA Regional) and the EU Delegation to ASEAN have continued to play an important role in facilitating coordination and coherence across the EU ARISE Plus portfolio of nine national projects (covering Cambodia, 2 for Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam) and two regional projects (ARISE Plus TA Regional and ARISE Plus IPR). The project has continued to disseminate flash reports on events. During the reporting period, 17 flash reports were shared amongst the ARISE Plus portfolio of projects and whilst the EU Delegation to ASEAN shared these amongst the EU Delegations across the ASEAN Member States.

A successful Regional Coordination meeting was organised by the ARISE Plus TA Regional and the EUD



to ASEAN, on 05 April 2022. The meeting brought together over 30 participants from EU Delegations across the region, the nine national projects and the two regional projects. Projects shared their success stories and this was followed by a synthesis of the technical areas covered by the various projects. The ARISE Plus family of projects is relevant to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 across five characteristics (or aspirations) and 22 out of 29 Elements (or sectors of cooperation), making the EU one of the most active dialogue partners of ASEAN

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

The Standards and Conformance division of the ASEAN Secretariat, on behalf of the ASEAN Cosmetics Committee (ACC), requested support from ARISE Plus to provide an update and explain some significant changes that have been made to the Cosmetics regulation in the EU in the last 3 years. Under previous projects namely APRIS 2 and ARISE, support had been provided to the ACC in developing drafting and implementing the ACD which as such is closely aligned to the EU Regulations on Cosmetics. After exchanges with ASEC, ToR were agreed, and a suitable expert identified and contracted to deliver the updates.

Sub Component 0.3 Communications and Outreach

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. Listed below are news articles posted on the website.

ARISE Plus Website:

1. Workshop on Updating the ASEAN Guidelines on Harmonisation of Standards (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/asean-guidelines/>)
2. Regional Training Data Estimation and Imputation (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/regional-training-data-estimation-and-imputation/>)
3. ACTS Live Movement – January 2022 (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/acts-movement-jan22/>)
4. Workshop on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/aprf-dec/>)



5. ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building: Outreach Event to Malaysia and Singapore (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/acts-my-sg/>)
6. ASEAN-ESCAP-ARISE Plus Joint Webinar on Streamlining Customs Formalities for International Railway Transport among ASEAN Member States (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/joint-workshop-2/>)
7. Training Session to Transport Officials in Lao People’s Democratic Republic on Multi Modal Transport (AFAMT) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/training-lao/>)
8. Training on Food Safety Sampling (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/training-food-sampling/>)
9. ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework – Principles and Outline (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/aprf-march/>)
10. Workshop on Development of “Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN” (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/ws-wg2/>)
11. ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event – Brunei Darussalam (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/atr-assist-bru/>)
12. First Workshop – ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement (APRF) (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/1st-ws-aprf/>)
13. Workshop of the Task Force – ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF) Agreement (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/tf-afsrf/>)
14. ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building: Outreach Event to Thailand (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/acts-th/>)
15. The 3rd Online Capacity Building & Discussion session on Risk Profiles of Pesticides used on Leafy Vegetables in ASEAN Member States (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/3rd-capacity-building/>)
16. Training Workshop on Food Borne Disease (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/training-fbd-2/>)
17. ASSIST Train-the-Trainers Cambodia (<https://ariseplus.asean.org/event/assist-cam/>)

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. Workshop on Updating the ASEAN Guidelines on Harmonisation of Standards;
2. Workshop on the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework;
3. Regional Training Data Estimation and Imputation;
4. Private Sector Embarks on Regular ACTS Movement;
5. ACTS Live Movement – January 2022;
6. ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building: Outreach Event to Malaysia and Singapore;
7. ASEAN-ESCAP-ARISE Plus Joint Webinar on Streamlining Customs Formalities for International Railway Transport among ASEAN Member States;
8. Training Session to Transport Officials in Lao People’s Democratic Republic for AFAMT implementation;
9. Training on Food Safety Sampling;
10. ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework – Principles and Outline;
11. Workshop on Development of “Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN”;



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12. ATR and ASSIST Private Sector Outreach Event – Brunei Darussalam;
 13. First Workshop – ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement (APRF),
 14. ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building: Outreach Event to Thailand,
 15. The 3rd Online Capacity Building & Discussion session on Risk Profiles of Pesticides used on Leafy Vegetables in ASEAN Member States;
 16. Training Workshop on Food Borne Disease; and
 17. Training event on Food Safety Risk Communication



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 being provided. Once again, 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, where the *Omicron* outbreaks greatly slowed down the domestic processes of Government validation of the NTMs), the number of validated non-tariff measures (NTMs) uploaded on the ATR has grown from 4,465 to 5,054, equivalent to a 13% increase. During this semester, 2 new cases were filed under the system of *ASEAN Solutions for Investment, Services and Trade* (ASSIST), making it a total of 14 in the last 12 months period (i.e., 50% of the 28 cases filed in total since August 2016) and a sign that the increased outreach and awareness creation efforts are showing positive outcomes.

Going forward, Component 1 shall continue to follow the planned support and focus will be placed on the progressive implementation of the ATR (i.e., the completion of all the first four Categories of the ATR's trade-related regulatory transparency is foreseen for the end of 2022, as per the AMSS' determinations within the ATF-JCC and SEOM), on continuing to support private sector engagement (i.e., outreach and awareness creation on the ATR and ASSIST, as well as the full implementation of the Roundtable Discussions on Trade Facilitation through dedicated webinars on issues of relevance to the updating of the ATIGA), and on continuing the high-level legal support to AMSS and the ASEAN Secretariat ('on demand') vis-à-vis the crucial process of General Review of the ATIGA and emerging topics for negotiation by ASEAN in its FTAs with trading partners. 'On demand' activities shall also remain available to ASEAN with respect to ASSIST (primarily outreach activities and IT and operational support of the ASEAN Secretariat), strengthening 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.

In light of the progressive lifting of restrictions within the ASEAN region, 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 and ahead of Project completion, especially vis-à-vis the progressive operationalization of the



ATR and the focus on its sustainability in the medium/long-term.

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 measures, as well as 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, 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 2 AMSs, particularly catering to SMEs and to women entrepreneurs within the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN). These events were held in Brunei Darussalam on 15 March 2022 and in Cambodia on 4 April 2022. Status: Ongoing



Outputs Delivered

- *Interim* Reports and/or Final Reports (depending on the individual SNKE's ToRs), containing the detailed account of all work conducted during the semester 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.
- 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, with a number of in-person meetings already implemented, where allowed by the prevailing local regulations. 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, where the Omicron outbreaks severely impacted the ability of Government authorities to gather and to engage in the processes of validation of the packaged NTMs), the number of validated non-tariff measures (NTMs) uploaded on the ATR has still grown from 4,465 to 5,054, equivalent to a 13% increase. Most importantly, the ATR category of SPS measures is now fully completed for all AMSs, while the category of TBT measures is largely completed (only a handful of NTMs remain to be validated and uploaded on the ATR by the Philippines, while Brunei Darussalam has completed the internal processes but not yet uploaded the measures on the ATR). Importantly, Indonesia and Singapore have already completed their work vis-à-vis all the first 4 categories of ATR transparency.

Problems Encountered

- Besides the continuing complexity of the task at hand, the biggest hurdle during the last semester has been the ability to systematically engage with the relevant governmental stakeholders for purposes of validating the '*packaged*' NTMs, largely as a consequence of the new waves of *Covid-19* infections and lockdowns in the respective countries during the *Omicron* outbreaks, but also for lack of ownership. 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. A significant number of verified and properly-packaged measures (*i.e.*, 1,775 NTMs) await validation and could be uploaded relatively quickly 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 discussed, particularly for purposes of guaranteeing the medium/long-term sustainability to the ATR and the respective NTRs.



Lessons Learned	N/A
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Overall Result to- date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 ‘<i>packaging</i>’ of the respective AMSs’ NTMs for upload on the ATR is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Categories 1, 2 and 3: Completed in Indonesia and Singapore; Sub-Category 4 - SPS: Completed in all AMSs; Sub-Category 4 - TBT: Completed in all AMSs, with the exception of Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines, where they are very advanced and being finalised; and Sub-Category 4 - Non-SPS/Non-TBT: Completed in Indonesia, Singapore and Viet Nam; Advanced in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Myanmar; and Delayed in Brunei Darussalam, Philippines and Thailand. With particular regard to the ATR Category 4 on NTMs, to date the following quantitative results have been achieved (vis-à-vis the baselines provided in the May 2018 ‘<i>Mapping Reports</i>’. It should also be recalled that all NTMs on the ATR in 2018 were also not in line with the ATR methodology and the vast majority of the information was inaccurate, incorrect or outdated). Please note that the numbers in green are final (<i>i.e.</i>, validated and uploaded on the ATR): 																																																																		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #D9E1F2;">AMS</th> <th style="background-color: #D9E1F2;">NTMs in 2018 ‘<i>Mapping Report</i>’</th> <th style="background-color: #F2D9D9;">Validated and Uploaded on ATR (to date)</th> <th style="background-color: #D9E1F2;">Collected and Verified, but not yet Validated by AMSs (to date)</th> <th style="background-color: #F2D9D9;">Expected by November 2022</th> <th style="background-color: #F2D9D9;">Expected at completion of ATR (first 4 categories)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BD</td> <td style="text-align: center;">67</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">76</td> <td style="text-align: center;">159</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 200</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KH</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">400</td> <td style="text-align: center;">192</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 500</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 550</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ID</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">633</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 650</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LA</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">293</td> <td style="text-align: center;">330</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 400</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 450</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MY</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">294</td> <td style="text-align: center;">228</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 400</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MM</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">160</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 180</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PH</td> <td style="text-align: center;">176</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">419</td> <td style="text-align: center;">555</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 600</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SG</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">532</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 500</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TH</td> <td style="text-align: center;">31</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">1,270</td> <td style="text-align: center;">311</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 1,300</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 1,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VN</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: green;">977</td> <td style="text-align: center;">412</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 1,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 1,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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 November 2022	Expected at completion of ATR (first 4 categories)	BD	67	76	159	> 200	> 300	KH	5	400	192	> 500	> 550	ID	0	633	0	> 650	> 700	LA	0	293	330	> 400	> 450	MY	1	294	228	> 400	> 500	MM	5	160	0	> 180	> 200	PH	176	419	555	> 600	> 700	SG	50	532	0	> 500	> 500	TH	31	1,270	311	> 1,300	> 1,600	VN	1	977	412	> 1,000	> 1,000
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	TOTAL	336	5,054	1,775	> 5,730	> 6,500
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2 dedicated ASSIST Outreach Events (in combination with the ATR Outreach Events) to benefit of the private sector in 2 AMSs, particularly catering to SMEs and to women entrepreneurs within the <i>ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN)</i>. These events were held in Brunei Darussalam on 15 March 2022 and in Cambodia on 4 April 2022. Status: Ongoing Held 2 intensive Train-the-Trainers Workshops on ASSIST, back-to-back to the ATR/ASSIST Outreach Events, with online interactive simulations in cooperation with the ASEC. These events were held in Brunei Darussalam on 16-17 March 2022 and in Cambodia on 5-6 April 2022. Status: Ongoing Provided regular ('on demand') support to the ASEAN Secretariat (<i>i.e.</i>, ASSIST's Central Administrator) to manage the ongoing ASSIST cases (2 new cases filed during the semester) and to address a multitude of technical issues (<i>i.e.</i>, procedural matters, IT glitches, dashboard management, support to AMSs, etc.). Status: Ongoing
Outputs Delivered	N/A
Problems Encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In light of the limited utilisation of ASSIST for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services since its roll-out in 2016, the focus of the technical assistance



Activity 1.2.1	Full Operationalisation, Socialization and Management of ASSIST for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services
	<p>by ARISE Plus shall remain on building greater awareness on ASSIST among ASEAN’s private sector, particularly now that hybrid and even fully physical events may increasingly be held in AMSs, 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 in the last year (<i>i.e.</i>, 50% of the 28 ASSIST cases filed in total since its launch in August 2016 have been filed since July 2021) appears to indicate that the outreach drive is bearing fruits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far, the impact of the <i>Covid-19</i> pandemic has not resulted in any implementation problem. Support to the ASEC is still regularly being provided electronically via e-mails, <i>WhatsApp</i> and with a number of <i>Teams/Zoom</i> 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 feature has continued to play a positive role in increasing the rate of ASSIST utilization and should continue to be further socialised among ASEAN’s private sector, representative organizations and lawyer/law firms. Discussions are being held with a number of ARISE Plus national programmes (<i>i.e.</i>, in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines) to assess the possibility that ASSIST Help-Desks be established in selected AMSs to support the local private sector in lodging ASSIST cases, when warranted.
Overall Result to-date	<p>Another 2 new cases were filed during the period. This represents further proof that the outreach and awareness creation efforts are bearing fruits, especially since all these cases were filed (anonymously) by business councils on behalf of their members.</p>

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 (EABC), the <i>ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN)</i>, and the ASEC’s Trade Facilitation Division in order to advance private sector



Activity 1.2.3	Strengthening Public-Private Cooperation
	<p>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 and ASSIST</i> as the two primary ASEAN trade facilitation tools.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenced the process of researching, analysing, drafting and compiling into a single publication 10 Policy Briefs on issues of relevance to ASEAN (<i>i.e.</i>, New generation PTAs and ATIGA’s structural reform; 2) Regulatory transparency; 3) NTMs streamlining and NTBs removal; 4) Dispute avoidance and dispute settlement; 5) Agricultural trade and SPS facilitation; 6) Non-agricultural trade and TBT harmonization; 7) Rules of origin and ASEAN centrality; 8) Supply chain connectivity; 9) Digitalization and e-commerce facilitation; and 10) Trade and sustainable development). with respect to trade facilitation, intra-ASEAN trade in goods, and the review and renegotiation of selected aspects of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), so as to gather and channel the views, needs and positions of ASEAN’s private sector to the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and AMSs. These Policy Briefs shall be discussed with ASEAN’s private sector in dedicated Roundtable Discussions on Trade Facilitation to be held during Q3 of 2022. • Status: Ongoing
Outputs Delivered	<p>One presentation of ARISE Plus’ progress report with respect to the support to and implementation of the key ASEAN trade facilitation instruments (<i>i.e.</i>, ATR and ASSIST) was given before the ATF-JCC on 16 February 2022, 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.</p>
Problems Encountered	<p>The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has reduced the opportunities for ARISE Plus to access high-level events organized by ABAC (<i>i.e.</i>, 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.</p>
Lessons Learnt	N/A



Overall Result to-date

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

During the reporting period there were no requests for intervention under this Sub Component.



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 but did slow 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 *Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN* 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 preparation for implementation of the

Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Inspection and Certification Systems on Food Hygiene for Prepared Food Stuff (MRA on PF) Under the purview of ACCSQ PFPWG, 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 under the purview of SOMAMAF Experts Working Group for 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 under the purview of SOMHD ASEAN Health Cluster 4 food safety.



Other supporting work included support on the harmonisation of nutrition reference values and the development of specific measures for ceramic food contact materials under the purview of ACCSQ PFPWG.

Subcomponent 2.4 The most significant development in the sector is the progress made in the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP). ARISE Plus supported a series of intensive discussions between Members of PPWG and AHC 3 and this has resulted in a final version that had been endorsed by SEOM and SOMHD, while awaiting adoption by AEM and AHMM. The ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework document has been developed in parallel is currently near finalisation and being reviewed by Member States. These documents will provide a basis for drafting of a legally binding ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement (APRFA). Support was additionally provided to the newly established ASEAN Pharmaceutical Testing Laboratory Committee (APTLC) 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)	Review of ACCSQ Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and preparation for post 2025 planning. Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	A concept for preliminary discussions post 2025 plans for ACCSQ was prepared for discussion on the side line of ACCSQ Meeting in June 2022.
Problems encountered	The proposals for conducting discussions were amended and rescheduled to the June meeting of ACCSQ as per decision of ACCSQ.
Lessons learnt	N/A

Overall result to-date	Concept Note: <i>Review of ACCSQ Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and preparation for post 2025 planning</i> developed and presented at the November 2021
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ACCSQ Meeting and initial preparations for a short discussion to review the revised Concept Note in June 2022 with ACCSQ made.

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.
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the development of the “<i>Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN</i>” is being provided to WG 2. These guidelines are to be published as a new document to support the implementation of the existing <i>ASEAN Guidelines on Accreditation and Conformity Assessment</i>. Status: Ongoing ARISE Plus experts are providing support to Cambodia in the development of its national accreditation law. The work undertaken includes a study of existing laws, discussions with officials and development of a draft. Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress has been made in the development of the draft guideline with the following stages completed: i) Development and circulation of an outline that identified the content and main features, ii) Development of first draft, iii) a workshop conducted for WG 2 on March 14-15, 2022 to discuss the first draft, iv) The development and circulation of a second draft for review by WG 2 Members. A series of discussions have been held between ARISE Plus experts and Cambodian Officials. An advanced draft for the proposed law has been developed and discussions are on-going to ensure that it meets Cambodia’s requirements and is compatible with global standards and practices on accreditation.
Problems encountered	Questions on the proposal for developing the guidelines were raised at the ACCSQ meeting and the commencement of development deferred until the concerns were clarified and resolved.
Lessons learnt	Clear communications on the intent and rationale of proposals for development of policy and guidance documents is essential to enable smooth implementation of the intervention.

Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A second draft of the <i>Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN</i> has been developed and circulated for review and comment. A draft of the proposed Cambodian Accreditation Law, ensuring incorporation of specific features required by the Cambodian legal
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system and requirements of the Department of Accreditation of Cambodia.

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.
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. • Following the workshop to discuss the revisions to the ASEAN Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Standards held on November 1-2 2021, a series of exchanges coordinated ASEC officials were conducted to clear a number of issues raised by WG 1 Members and further amend the guidelines. This included interventions at WG 1 Meetings in November 2021 and March 2022. • A final revised version of the Revised Guidelines was developed on 22 March, 2022, subject to ACCSQ's final review and endorsement by the 56th ACCSQ Meeting. <p>Status: Completed at WG 1 level.</p>
Outputs delivered	Final revised version of the ASEAN Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Standards.
Problems encountered	The consensus building process in WG 1 has taken a considerably longer time than planned. It was necessary to accommodate differing views of WG 1 Members.
Lessons learnt	Differences in national positions on the harmonisation of standards appear to have arisen due to different policies and practices in Member States. The unique nature of the approach to harmonisation of standards adopted by ASEAN needs to be taken into account in the implementation of the harmonisation guidelines.
Overall result to-date	The revised version of the ASEAN Guidelines for Harmonisation of Standards has been developed for WG 1. This version provides improves the processes and provides substantially more details. It provides a clear reporting process



and defines the role of national standards bodies and other WGs and PWGs in ACCSQ.

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 (awaiting 1 pending AMS to submit Instrument of Full Power for signing) for the signing of the AFSRF Agreement to proceed. There has been no change since the previous reporting period <p>Status: Ongoing</p>

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 _PF and Members State’s food safety regulators.
Tasks status (Ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training to prepare approved experts who will be assigned to conduct evaluations of ASEAN Member States’ food safety systems under the MRA was completed in the previous reporting period. A set of recommendations on the further training and implementation of the MRA were developed and presented to the JSC MRA and discussed at the JSC MRA-PF Meeting on February 24, 2022. A request was put up by JSC MRA PF to make slight amendment to the previously approved SOPs based on recommendations given by ARISE Plus experts <p>Status: Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap Analysis for food safety systems conducted in requesting Member States (Philippines, Cambodia) is ongoing. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>



Activity 2.3.2 Implementing the MRA on Inspection and Certification Systems of Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuffs	
Outputs delivered	Recommendations on the further training and implementation of the MRA have been developed and presented to the JSC MRA.
Problems encountered	N/A
Lessons learnt	N/A

Overall result to-date	Recommendations on the further training and implementation of the MRA have been developed and presented to the JSC MRA at its February 24 2022 Meeting. A request was put up by JSC MRA PF to make slight amendment to the previously approved SOPs based on recommendations given by ARISE Plus experts.
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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 continued in the reporting period. • A series of meetings/discussions have been held with counterparts to conduct investigations on developing a risk profile for leafy vegetables. • Three capacity building events with speakers from EU Commission and EU member States was held on the 28th September 2021, 1st December 2021, and 4th March, 2022. <p>Status: Completed</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Paper: Initial Reflections on Pesticide Residue Monitoring of Fresh Vegetables in ASEAN Countries. • Three Capacity Building Programmes that included presentations by 6 experts from EU on the development, management and implementation of pesticide risk assessment and management in the EU and selected Member States. • Questionnaire survey conducted for AMS on pesticides in leafy vegetables, results reviewed, compiled and presented. • Results of Questionnaire survey for AMS on pesticides in leafy vegetables providing a baseline data for developing an ongoing process for risk assessment and management. • Outline of key elements and processes of an ASEAN guideline on national and



Activity 2.3.3 Supporting the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre (ARAC) for Food Safety	
	<p>ASEAN pesticide residue monitoring programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations detailing the conduct of further and on-going risk assessments pesticide use in leafy vegetables, for ARAC, other ASEAN bodies, and Member States to consider as further work.
Problems encountered	The initial proposal for the development of the risk profile was found to be rather wide. The experts reviewed the proposal and agreed with ASEC counterparts to focus on a selected range of issues to ensure the subject is dealt with in sufficient depth and focus.
Lessons learnt	It would be advisable to more clearly define scope of risk assessments with a focus when there are many processes involved.

Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of the issues to be considered in developing a risk profile for leafy vegetables in ASEAN (Discussion Paper refers). • Results of Questionnaire survey for AMS on pesticides in leafy vegetables providing a baseline data for developing an ongoing process for risk assessment and management. • Three Capacity Building Programmes that included presentations by 6 experts from EU on the development, management and implementation of pesticide risk assessment and management in the EU and selected Member States. • Outline of key elements and processes of an ASEAN guideline on national and ASEAN pesticide residue monitoring programmes. • Recommendations detailing the conduct of further and on-going risk assessments on pesticide use in leafy vegetables, for ARAC a, other ASEAN bodies, and Member States to consider as further work.
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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"> • Plans to initiate or support to Vietnam. However, no further details on this have been received to commence this work.



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)
	Status: Suspended

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 is progressing. • Work on reviewing the results of the 4th Workshop in September 2021 and efforts to resolve outstanding issues for the finalisation of the MRA is ongoing. Plans are underway for a workshop to be held in May 2022 to finalise the MRA and the Certification Scheme. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<p>The ARISE Plus prepared the revised documents as below for consideration by Member States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4th draft of the ASEAN MRA-OA. • Response to AMS comments on outstanding issues - MRA OA_12 Dec 2021. • The 5th draft of the ASEAN Certification Scheme for OA and responses to AMS on outstanding issues.
Problems encountered	The progress has been at a slower pace than anticipated.
Lessons learnt	N/A
Overall result to-date	Advanced drafts of the MRA on Organic Agriculture and the ASEAN Organic Agriculture Certification Scheme.



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"> New training courses are being prepared for Food Toxicology and Risk Based Inspections. These will be scheduled for implementation in consultation with AHC 4 and ASEAN Secretariat in the next reporting period. A repeat of the <u>Food Borne Disease Outbreaks</u> training was undertaken at the request of ASEAN Counterparts. <p>Status: Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from Senior Experts.
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Workshop on <u>Food Safety Sampling</u> Dates: 21, 23, 24, 25 February 2022. Training Workshop on <u>Food Borne Disease Outbreaks (second session)</u> Dates: April 04, 06,07,08,11 2022. Training Workshop on <u>Food Safety Risk Communication</u> Dates: 25 to 28 April 2022.
Problems encountered	N/A
Lessons learnt	N/A

Overall result to-date	<p>Three (3) Training Workshops delivered to ASEAN Member States Officials on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Safety Sampling. Food Borne Disease Outbreaks (second session). Food Safety Risk Communication.
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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,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A <p>Status: Completed</p>



Activity 2.3.8	Harmonised Nutritional Labelling Requirements
completed)	

Activity 2.3.9 Development of Harmonised Specific Measures for Food Contact Materials (FCMs)

Activity 2.3.9	Harmonised Specific Measures for Food Contact Materials (FCMs)
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 preliminary draft of the <i>ASEAN Guidelines on Specific Measures for ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs</i> was prepared and has been deliberated in July 2021. These draft guidelines (third revision) incorporate inputs from ACHPFS Members. • A workshop was held on April 7-8 2022 to deliberate on the 3rd draft of the guidelines. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	Draft version of the ASEAN Guidelines on Specific Measures for ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs established representing substantial consensus of the Members of ACHPFS.
Problems encountered	The development has taken a longer than expected duration due to the schedules set by the ACHPFS.
Lessons learnt	N/A

Overall result to-date	Advanced draft of the <i>ASEAN Guidelines on Specific Measures for ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs</i> developed and awaiting final adoption by the ACHPFS.
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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.



Activity 2.4.1 Strengthening the Pharmaceuticals Regulatory Framework	
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP) has been completed and is now awaiting final adoption by ASEAN Health and Economic Ministers. Status: Completed Support provided to PPWG and ACH 3 in the development of ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRF) Support was provided for developing drafts and conducting two (2) workshops - on 7th December 2021 and on 7th March 2022 to deliberate on the draft APRF. Consensus in principle on the content of the of the APRF was established at the 7th March Workshop and this is awaiting final review by the PPWG and ACH 3. Status: Ongoing Support was initiated to assist the newly established ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy and Framework Task Force (APRF TF) to develop APRF Agreement. The support provided included the development of a preliminary draft of the agreement and the organisation of a workshop to deliberate on the draft on March 21-22, 2022. Organised a discussion session for PPWG and AHC 3 Members to review comments on the 3rd draft of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework. Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final version of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Preliminary draft of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement.
Problems encountered	N/A
Lessons learnt	N/A

Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final version of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRF) has been developed and nearly completed. this supplements the APRP that was developed in the previous reporting period. Deliberations for the development of the APRF Agreement have commenced with the development of a preliminary draft and its review by the APRF Task Force.
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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"> Work in progress for preparing training of the Module 2 which deals with practical evaluation of BE centres. Two experts appointed and Malaysian National Drug Regulatory Authority (NDRA) are overseeing the preparations. The training is planned for July 2022. (Module 2 was delayed due to the requirement for on-site visits, and Module 3 has been completed). ARISE Plus is assisting in the arrangements for Module 2 which will now be arranged and held virtually. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	Preliminary Training Plans have been developed.
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 2 was postponed due to the travel restrictions and Module 3 conducted in its place. The training should ideally include on-site training. And contingency plans are being developed to conduct the training without site visits.
Lessons learnt	N/A

Overall result to-date	Preliminary Training Plans have been developed.
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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)	<p>No further assistance has been sought for supporting the APTLC.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>



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">No further activities are planned.

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, completed)	This activity is on hold due to lack of beneficiary demand.



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: Completed.</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.
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)	Status: No demands have been received under this activity. Hence it is now stopped.

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, completed)	<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 provided under this SPCD for post-clearance audit functions (PCA), and integrity. Status: No demands have been received under this activity. Hence, it is now stopped.

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. ACTS is now running on a live operational basis in the six Participating Member States (PMS),



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)
	<p>namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful ACTS movements have been carried out since November 2020, however regular weekly movements from Malaysia to Cambodia and Vietnam are in place since early January 2022. • A successful Partnership Building programme for the Private Sector for Malaysia and Singapore was successfully launched on 15 February 2022 and for Thailand on 29 March 2022, while for Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR this programme will be conducted between June and July 2022 under the next workplan. • ARISE Plus has developed draft versions of AFAFIST procedural manuals for the government transport officials and private sector. • The development of the Transport Monitoring System (TMS) is now in the progress and will be deployed together with other ACTS functional upgrades under Activity 3.3.5. TMS will support management of issued ASEAN Goods Vehicle Cross Border Permits (AGVCBP) and monitoring of cross border movements of vehicles with AGVCBP. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft version of the AFAFIST Procedural manuals for government transport officials and private sector. • Complete specifications of the Transport Monitoring System (TMS) have been finalized as presented under Activity 3.3.5.
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AFAFGIT implementation has been delayed due to the restrictions to cross-border movement of trucks and drivers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain PMS have encountered last-minute difficulties in implementing the necessary supporting Customs and transport legislation at national level to support implementation of AFAFGIT. • The delay in ratification of AFAFIST by certain ASEAN Member States has also contributed to the delay in the implementation of inter-state customs and transport measures related to the AFAFGIT.
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), and a new upgraded version 3.4.0 has been installed in all PMS, as well as 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)	<p>In support of the implementation of AFAMT, ARISE Plus has carried out activities for the execution of a pilot multimodal transaction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARISE Plus has analysed the situation of the AFAMT pilot execution and has developed an interim report on the current status of the pilot. • ARISE Plus has developed a paper on the interpretation of AFAMT Article 32 (4b), to support the implementation of AFAMT. • The second AFAMT Pilot transaction was successfully carried out between Thailand and Vietnam. • A joint webinar ASEAN-ESACP-ARISE Plus on streamlining customs formalities for international railway was carried out on 17-18 February 2022, with the long-term objective of enhancing ACTS to handle regional transport of goods by rail between ASEAN Member States. • In support to Lao PDR to address certain institutional gaps in the implementation of AFAMT, 2 tailored workshops were organized for transport officials on 18 Feb and 11 March 2022. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interim pilot execution of AFAMT between Thailand and Vietnam on the current status of the pilot. • A discussion paper was developed from the Joint ASEAN-ESCAP-ARISE Plus webinar on the possibilities of enhancing ACTS to handle the regional transport of goods by rail between ASEAN Member States. • Report from Senior Expert, providing the support to Lao PDR transport officials in addressing the institutional gaps in the implementation of AFAMT.
Problems encountered	Some difficulties have been encountered in obtaining the necessary background information and also the delays in ratification of AFAMT and in developing legal framework to operationalise multimodal transport by certain ASEAN Member States.
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 with the completion of the Pilot between Thailand and Vietnam and to enhance the capacity of relevant authorities in Lao PDR.
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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).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	Status: Ongoing, with no progress achieved since the previous six-monthly report.
Outputs delivered	N/A
Problems encountered	Cross-border land transport among several ASEAN Member States have been suspended due to the COVID-19's border crossing restrictions 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.
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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 six Participating Member States (PMS), Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.



Activity 3.3.3	Rolling Out of ACTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTS refresher trainings were held for Vietnam Customs and Transport authorities, Banks and Private Sector. • 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 46 bi-weekly such sessions carried out so far and both Customs and Transport Divisions of ASEAN Secretariat participate in these conferences. • Live ACTS operations are being supported by the ACTS Central Management Team (CMT) and ARISE Plus, currently with regular weekly ACTS live movements. • CMT with support from ARISE Plus and approval of PMS, is conducting a two-country ACTS transit pilot with Cambodia and Vietnam, it is currently being planned with the two countries and their private sector. • ARISE Plus planned, organised and is conducting intensive ACTS Private Sector Outreach Programme that consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building Events in each of the PMS with the objective to increase ACTS awareness of relevant private sector associations and individual private sector entities in ASEAN and attract them to join ACTS and use it for their transportation of goods within the region. ○ Online ACTS Private Sector Personalised Engagement Workshops individually for each of the private sector entities who expresses interest in joining ACTS. The objective of these workshops is to provide all relevant information and training about, and assist interested entities with, the registration in the ACTS, obtaining bank guarantee and ASEAN Goods Vehicle Cross Border permits and starting movements under ACTS regime. • ARISE Plus have conducted three (3) ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building Events in Malaysia and Singapore together, Thailand and Vietnam. Events in Cambodia and Lao PDR are planned in the near future. • ARISE Plus have conducted four (4) ACTS Private Sector Personalised Engagement Workshops for interested Malaysian and Singaporean entities. Another three (3) events are planned for interested entities in Thailand. Events for interested entities in Cambodia and Lao PDR and Vietnam will also be planned and conducted. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
<p>Outputs delivered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARISE Plus held a total of 46 bi-weekly virtual conferences with PMS in conjunction with the CMT in order to solve any issues with ACTS live operations and stimulate an increase in volume of ACTS live movements. Both Customs and Transport Divisions of ASEAN



Activity 3.3.3	Rolling Out of ACTS
	<p>Secretariat participated in these conferences. These conferences are on-going;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory plans, refresher trainings and documents to manage implementation of ACTS on a live operational basis. • Plans for two-country ACTS transit with Cambodia and Vietnam. • Three (3) ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building Events in Malaysia and Singapore together, Thailand and Vietnam. • Four (4) ACTS Private Sector Personalised Engagement Workshops for interested Malaysian and Singaporean entities. • Regular weekly ACTS live operational movements are being conducted starting from January 2022 after completion of the first ACTS Private Sector Personalised Engagement Workshop. • Promotional ACTS publicity and visibility material has been produced and is available on the ACTS Information Portal at https://acts.asean.org
Problems encountered	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic delayed ACTS Implementation and uptake by private sector. Cross-border transport of goods has suffered from additional sanitary procedures and ban of border crossing of trucks and drivers and that caused difficulties with ACTS transport operations. These restrictions are expected to be lifted in the near future as pandemic recedes. Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam imposed last-minute obstacles to ACTS, which has further delayed the project. In addition, there was relatively low demand from Principal Traders and Transport Operators in Cambodia and Lao PDR. Since that time, Thailand and Vietnam have addressed their legal issues and Malaysia is expected to address theirs in the next six-monthly period. Changes in personnel in National ACTS Project Teams in some PMS have led to a reduction in national ACTS expertise, which was addressed with more online refresher training to PMS by the project.</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 domain expertise attainable through repeated training is essential for sustainability and cascade training in ACTS at national level. Private Sector Outreach programme and imminent lifting of the cross-border restrictions are essential for expected increase in ACTS usage by private sector.</p>
Overall result to-date	<p>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 and are now conducted on a regular weekly basis. Private sector reported 30-40% reduction in costs when using ACTS as compared to other modes of transit available in the region. Private sector also reported consistent journey time for goods moving on the same route. 4 – 4,5 days door to door for goods moving from Malaysia to Cambodia</p>



via Thailand. 5 – 5,5 days door to door for goods moving from Malaysia to Vietnam through Thailand and Lao PDR.

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 supporting ACTS live operations, with day-to-day support from ARISE Plus; this has included organising and hosting bi-weekly video conferences with PMS, the development of procedural supporting documentation and operational ACTS guides. ARISE Plus has provided capacity building to enhance the technical expertise of the CMT. The ACTS applications are now under the management of the CMT with technical and managerial support if required 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. Planning for extensive additional hand-over training programme for CMT and other relevant ASEC staff is being prepared by ARISE Plus and will be conducted in the next six-monthly period to ensure that CMT can function independently after ARISE Plus programme is completed. <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 on demand support from ARISE Plus.
Problems encountered	No problems were encountered.
Lessons learnt	CMT functioning independently to support ACTS operations after ARISE Plus programme is completed is vital if ACTS implementation is to be successfully sustained.
Overall result to-date	The expertise of the CMT on ACTS has been expanded to the extent that prospects are now good for the sustainable ACTS live operations from the perspective of central management and ACTS Central Services.



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 supported on technical ACTS issues in the ICT environments via email and/or conference calls by the project’s ACTS IT Team. Malaysia benefited from on-site support by the Malaysia-based ACTS IT Team member however this was limited by COVID-19 restrictions. • ACTS version 3.3.0 has been successfully installed, tested by the PMS and deployed in live environments in PMS. It is successfully being used by the private sector in conducting regular ACTS live movements. • ARISE Plus has provided Vietnam with significant on-site support with their ACTS ICT environment and applications, including completed upgrade to ACTS 3.3.0. • Helpdesk and corrective maintenance services were provided to PMS to ensure business continuity of ACTS, all bugs identified were fixed, tested by ARISE Plus and will be included in next major ACTS 3.4.0 software release. • 13 ACTS change requests agreed by SWG-ACTS and approved by ACTS Change Management Board (CMB) are now being included in ACTS 3.4.0 software release, which is planned for July 2022 delivery. • Additional 4 change requests were agreed by SWG-ACTS and approved by ACTS Change Management Board (CMB) and will be included in the software release ACTS 3.5.0. • The Scope of two additional ACTS IT subsystems and other big functionality additions were finalized in three 3-day ACTS analysis meetings with relevant stakeholders in the transport and Customs sectors, including representatives of SWG-ACTS and TFWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport Monitoring System (TMS) for management of ASEAN Goods Vehicle Cross-Border Permits (AGVCBPs) and monitoring of the movements of trucks used in ACTS in ASEAN region. ○ Online Trader Registration (OTR) system allowing traders to apply for registration in ACTS, ATT status, and simplifications available for ATTs, online. ○ Dashboard for ACTS National Transit Application (NTA) that will simplify day to day work for Customs officers involved in processing of ACTS movements.



Activity 3.3.5 Carrying Out a Functional Upgrade of the ACTS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Automated collection of additional statistics on ACTS movements. ● Detailed System Requirements Specifications (SRS), Business Process Specifications (BPS) and Software Architecture Documents (SAD) were produced by ARISE Plus, reviewed and approved by AMS. Based on these documents, the new systems (TMS and OTR) are currently in development and targeted to be delivered in July 2022 as part of the ACTS 3.4.0 software release. <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACTS 3.3.0 software release was deployed and now in live operations in Vietnam along with the other 5 PMS. ● All corrective issues relating to software bugs identified during live operations and testing performed on the system were resolved and fixes are being prepared to be included in ACTS 3.4.0 software release. ● 13 ACTS change requests are being implemented in ACTS 3.4.0 software release, which is planned for July 2022 delivery. ● 4 additional ACTS change requests were agreed by SWG-ACTS and approved by ACTS Change Management Board (CMB). ● Scope of two additional ACTS IT subsystems and other big functionality additions were finalized in three 3-day ACTS analysis meetings. Detailed specifications of the two additional ACTS IT subsystems, TMS and OTR, were finalized in January 2022 and the systems are now being developed by ARISE Plus.
Problems encountered	<p>Generally, very few problems other than delays caused by COVID-19 pandemic were encountered in this activity. Despite the delays, the activity progressed well with good cooperation from ASEAN Member States and professional functional upgrade development by the ACTS IT Team.</p> <p>ACTS software enhancements delivery schedule and scope has been adjusted to allow for the delays in the finalization of the specifications documentation of the Transport Management System (TMS) and Online Trader Registration System (OTR). Final version of specifications documentation of the two new ACTS sub-systems were approved on 14 January 2022.</p> <p>In summary, the delays and necessary rescheduling of the deliveries are due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delays in conducting the ACTS Analysis Meetings due to national Covid-19 restrictions in PMS.



Activity 3.3.5	Carrying Out a Functional Upgrade of the ACTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased scope of the Transport Management System (TMS) and Online Trader Registration (OTR) system as a result of deliberations in the three ACTS Analysis Meetings.• Increased scope of the Dashboard functionality and introduction of additional statistics into the list of automatically collected statistics of ACTS.• Increased number of CRs (17) approved by SWG-ACTS and ACTS-CMB.• Significant delays and the resulting increased effort required to deploy and roll out ACTS 3.3.0 version remotely in 5 PMS and onsite in Vietnam due to unprecedented arrangements that needed to be made by PMS and ARISE Plus.• Anticipation of the effort and time required for user acceptance testing, deployments and roll outs of new ACTS versions 3.4.0 and 3.5.0 in ACTS ICT environments in 5 PMS remotely and Vietnam onsite.
Lessons learnt	Having suitable ICT experts in the ACTS IT Team from the region at national and regional levels 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 and is in live operations in all PMS used by the ACTS Principal Traders in their regular weekly live ACTS movements. With the additional changes agreed by AMS that will be included in ACTS 3.4.0 and ACTS 3.5.0 software releases, the functionality, user-friendliness and efficiency of ACTS will be further 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 continued its evolution to a more strategic activity focusing on results-oriented monitoring, reporting, 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 continued on analysis and content for the six-monthly progress report, for EUD requirements such as, EU Bluebook. Results oriented monitoring and measuring of learning outcomes for technical ARISE Plus events has been undertaken through the deployment of interactive tools across all project components. This has supported decision making by the team both during events and post-event. To enhance communication and outreach for technical ASEAN events, several communication products and tools have been developed including eFlyers, microsites, slide shows for waiting rooms and exit rooms, and animated presentations. These have been underpinned by key messages and user oriented content to facilitate take-up and buy-in by event participants. This is part of the ARISE Plus results oriented and sustainability strategy reflected in the AWP4 and incorporates findings from the AEC Blueprint 2025 Mid-term Review (MTR) across all project components including project management.

Activity 4.1.2 builds on the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the report of the AEC Blueprint 2025, which was conducted during AWP3. Work during the reporting period focussed on identifying priority areas to operationalise key findings from the MTR including results-based management and planning amongst ASEC desk officers and sectoral bodies. During AWP5, activity 4.1.3 will be subsumed under 4.1.2.



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 the 9th progress report, and developed monitoring reports to support management, decision making and planning. Status: Completed • Updated ARISE Plus regional project logframe for extension period including consolidation of indicators and revision of targets with Team Leader, and EUD Status: Completed • Developed monitoring analysis for Extension working paper Status: Completed • Developed monitoring analysis for EU Bluebook Status: Completed • Strengthened monitoring mechanisms to assess events and learning outcomes including revised workshop monitoring tools (online) covering pre-training (where relevant) and post-event assessment Status: Ongoing • Undertook analysis of participant feedback to events and provide orientation to ARISE Plus expert team on successes and learning as part of a results-based management approach Status: Ongoing • Developed communication and outreach products to support ARISE Plus technical events Status: Ongoing <p>ARISE Plus regional and national projects monitoring and coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed presentations for ARISE Plus regional programme (national and regional projects) meeting held on 05 April 2022 including consolidation of data from wider ARISE Plus Programme cooperation efforts.
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring sections, inputs to Executive Summary and write-ups on programmes for Subcomponent 4.1 for 8th and 9th progress reports • Updated ARISE Plus regional project logframe for extension period • Monitoring analysis for Extension working paper



Activity 4.1.1	Results oriented monitoring, publications and dissemination for ARISE Plus
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring analysis for EUD External Annual Management Report and EU Bluebook • 54 workshop monitoring tools (online) for pre-training (where relevant) and post-event assessment • 23 event monitoring reports with analysis of participant feedback to events • 22 communication and outreach products to support ARISE Plus technical events (4 eFlyers, 4 microsites, 3 slide show waiting rooms, 3 slide show exit rooms, 1 edited video for ACTS, 5 designed agendas, 2 designed animated presentations) including strategic key messages for ACTS Private Sector Engagement activities. • Presentation materials for ARISE Plus regional meeting held on 05 April 2022.
Problems encountered	Pandemic related restrictions resulting from the Omicron wave were mitigated through strong working relationships and coordination with the ARISE Plus team and stakeholders.
Lessons learnt	Tools for monitoring of workshops and training activities have been effective to gather participant feedback and identify learning outcomes. The key messages developed for communication and outreach products for the ACTS area have contributed to the strong interest of the private sector to participate and gain more information from ARISE Plus events.

Overall result (major output) to-date	Enhanced management, decision making and outreach in the ARISE Plus regional project enabled through a robust internal monitoring, reporting, learning and strategic messaging. ARISE Plus programme coordination activities continued and awareness on synergies and potential areas for collaboration amongst the national and regional projects.
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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	ASEAN Integration Monitoring Division (AIMD) ASEC
Tasks status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with AIMD on priority areas for ARISE Plus support to operationalise the recommendations of the MTR of the AEC Blueprint. The areas identified focussed on the Annual Reporting process by desk officers and synthesis by AIMD. Priority areas of support including the development of guidelines and materials were identified for AWP5. Status: Ongoing
Outputs delivered	N/A



Activity 4.1.2	Supporting Implementation of AEC 2025 M&E Framework
Problems encountered	N/A
Lessons learnt	N/A

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	ASEAN Integration Monitoring Division (AIMD) ASEC
Tasks status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions were held with AIMD on next steps including an update/revision of AEC Integration Monitoring website. This activity will be subsumed under activity 4.1.2 during AWP5. Status: Ongoing Disseminate findings from the MTR of the AEC Blueprint 2025 via social media Status: Completed Printing of the MTR Report and Posters on key findings from the MTR Status: Completed
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 posts series disseminating key findings from the MTR via ASEAN’s social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) 200 printed reports of the MTR 200 printed posters of the MTR
Problems encountered	N/A
Lessons learnt	The strong collaboration between ASEC and ARISE Plus has enabled dissemination of key findings from the MTR of the AEC Blueprint 2025 including achievements from AEC integration.



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.
Tasks status	The enhancing of the AEC monitoring databases was deemed too complex to be implemented within the available resources of ARISE Plus. This intervention has been dropped

Sub-Component 4.2 ASEAN Statistics Capacity Building

Outcome

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

Support for Sub-Component 4.2 aims to strengthen coordinating role of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) for improved statistical quality as well as production capacities to be able cater for relevant new data requests from ASEAN Sectoral Bodies. Sub-Component 4.2 deals with fostering harmonisation of key regional integration statistics such as international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS), system of national accounts (SNA), and Balance of Payments Statistics - covering statistics on international trade in services (SITS) and foreign direct investment statistics (FDIS). Of equally important are the support for monitoring of the sustainable development goals indicators (SDGI), monitoring the implementation of the ACSS Code of Practices (CoP), enhancing statistical dissemination and communication and cross-pillar activities. Emphasis was on activities which lead to sustainability, notable impact and visibility.

While some delays were experienced during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, more activities and achievements were realized in 2021/2022, as the ability to adapt to the barriers of online support improved. Below are the significant developments under sub-component 4.2.

Strengthened Supporting Mechanism and instruments for harmonisation of statistics

- The followings have been developed to guide AMS in pursuing its development in the respective domains of statistics in a more concerted and sustainable way:
 - SITS Methodological Review and Guide, MRG (or Compilation Guide) for use in benchmarking the existing SITS methodologies in each AMS.



- FDIS Issues-Centring Work Plan (country-wise work plan for addressing specific issues/priority topics).
- SNA Operational Guides,
- IMTS Compiler Handbook.
- ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN2022) conversion table, established in 2021, will enable the construction of a series of comparable IMTS data from 2022 and backward and support other cross-sectoral analysis.
- The cross-pillars support, to help ensure sustainability and harmonisation of statistics includes, amongst others:
 - Metadata (currently for social indicators and SNA indicators) established in 2021 for helping ensure harmonisation of statistics.
 - CoP quality measures/indicators which are now available for all ACSS working groups and ASEANStats, for use in monitoring the implementation of the CoP.
 - Support for the implementation of an ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Framework (AHAF) and support for Lead-Country practice.
 - Support for strengthening ASEANStats and ACSS Strategic Plan, to help foster AHAF support and strengthen the ACSS coordination.
 - Successful implementation of 13 AHAF activities implemented in 2021 from all working groups with practically no direct support from ARISE Plus and another 9 activities planned for 2022 were reported by ASEANStats to the SCPC23.

Enhanced quality assurance and production of harmonised statistics

- Baseline quality reports are now available under some ACSS working groups, prepared based on the country's assessment of the implementation of CoP.
- The successful migration of the data processing tools to Eurotrace in Lao PDR, Cambodia, and ASEANStats has led to improved IMTS data credibility and consistency and more timely submission of IMTS data to ASEANStats.
- More breakdowns of SITS as well as FDIS data are now available.
- IMTS data by mode of transport are now available for immediate dissemination.
- ASEAN SDGI data series 2016-2020 are now under review, for dissemination by August 2022, following the successful online dissemination of the SDGI Baseline Report 2020.

Strengthened skills in analysis, dissemination and communication, and enhanced visibility

- ARISE Plus provided moderate support for the initiation of the ACSS open data assessment back in 2019. The ACSS Open Data is now regularly assessed, providing positive impacts on statistical dissemination and communication.
- Through two training on video-graphics, the AMS and ASEANStats are now capable of producing video-graphics presentations.
- The statistical analysis skills were strengthened following the training on data estimation and missing data imputations.
- ASEAN SDGI Snapshot publication is in progress, following the successful online dissemination of the SDGI Baseline Report 2020.
- The social media training held recently, is expected to enhanced visibility of statistics and the institution as well as user engagement.



- Support for ACSS-level coordination and visibility, such as the ACSS High-level Forum conducted back-to-back with the ACSS10.

Activities Undertaken by the ARISE Plus Statistics Coordinator

During the reporting period, the Statistics Coordinator focused on planning, coordination, facilitation, and monitoring of the implementation of AWP3 and AWP4 activities, as well as identification of list of possible activities for AWP5.

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><i>(1) Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)-Phase 2 Follow-up.</i></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 and Imputation. <p><i>Status:</i> Completed, except Task 1.</p> <p><i>(2) Strengthening SDGI Quality Monitoring, Compilation and Reporting – Preparation of SDGI Snapshot Publication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake data availability and quality review. • Undertake two Regional Workshops on SDGI Data Review. • Undertake data aggregation, preparation of the ASEAN SDGI dataset, and ASEAN SDGI Snapshot 2022 publication. • Undertake two Regional Workshops on the draft ASEAN SDGI Snapshot 2022 publication. <p><i>Status:</i> Ongoing, commenced in late February 2022. The first RWS on data review was conducted on 21 April.</p>



Activity 4.2.1	Supporting the ACSS in Improving Collection and Dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)
Outputs delivered	<p>(1) <i>Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)-Phase 2 Follow-up.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on Data Estimation and Imputation (DEI) completed. • Imputed missing values of selected ASEAN SDG indicators. • Training materials, including the R-scripts for use in missing data imputation. <p>Final Report: Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)-Phase 2 Follow-up-Data Estimation and Imputation.</p> <p>(2) <i>Strengthening SDGI Quality Monitoring, Compilation and Reporting – Preparation of SDGI Snapshot Publication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data review of the first few indicators initiated. • The first RWS conducted. <p>Interim Report: Strengthening SDGI Quality Monitoring, Compilation and Reporting – Preparation of SDGI Snapshot Publication.</p>
Problems encountered	<p>(1) <i>Strengthening Collection and Dissemination of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGIs)-Phase 2 Follow-up.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of participants have no R-programming background, necessitating somewhat slower and more elaborated explanation of procedures with high technicality in the methods as well as in the R-programming. • Lack of availability of suitable individual country support data so that exercises were conducted using ASEAN-level rather than individual country-level data. <p>(2) <i>Strengthening SDGI Quality Monitoring, Compilation and Reporting – Preparation of SDGI Snapshot Publication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None, as the work has just begun in late February.
Lessons learnt	<p>Detailed preparation of the training materials including video presentations of relevant procedures and examples using actual data proved helpful in meeting the intended effectiveness of the DEI training delivery.</p>
Overall result to-date	<p>Strengthened capacity to prepare and apply standard techniques of missing data imputation in AMS and ASEANStats.</p>



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>(1) <i>Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake TA on Gap Analysis for selected AMS; • 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. <p>Status: Completed (April 2022).</p>
Outputs delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gap analysis completed and SNA Operational Guidelines refined. • Plan for immediate implementations for selected countries. • Proper methodology for compiling priority indicator established in the TA participating country, through the AHAF mechanism, with moderate quality assurance support from ARISE Plus expert. <p>Final Report: Enhancement of the ACSS SNA Operational Guidelines and Strengthening Capacity of ASEAN Member States-Phase 1</p>
Problems encountered	Technicalities of the subject along with language and time zones barriers associated with online TA/assessments have averted the expert from optimising the limited availability of and the consultation with some of the beneficiaries.
Lessons learnt	Changes taken in the approach to gathering information for use in gap analysis at the later part of work proved to have improved the effectiveness of the process.
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understanding of the current state of development of the SNA and of priority actions for immediate implementation owing to the availability of the gap analysis report. • Momentum for increased implementation of the Operational Guidelines, for improved methodology and international compliance.



- Momentum for increased AHAF practices, involving statistically more advanced countries as the TA providers.

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 engaged	ASEAN Member States (AMSs), Statistics Division (ASEANstats), ACSS Committee, Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC), Working Group on Statistics on International Trade in Services (WGSITS) and Working Group on International Investment Statistics (WGIIS).
Tasks status (ongoing, completed)	<p><i>(1) Towards Meeting the ACSS 2022 SITS Targets – Phase 1</i></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. ○ TA in one selected country to adapt the suitable best practices. ○ Implement the benchmarking exercise 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: Completed in January 2022, with two AMS involved in the benchmarking exercise.</p> <p><i>(2) Strengthening Methodology and Compilation of Priority Categories of Balance of Payments Statistics in Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)-Phase 2.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake assessment and review of methodology and practices in line with the Methodological Review Guide (Benchmarking). • 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: Benchmarking assessment implemented in some countries; to be expanded to cover all AMSs. Since an initial review of potential case studies revealed very little suitable international experience that could be used, it was decided to discontinue this objective, and instead undertake to complete all remaining 8 AMS benchmarking assessments in this Phase 2. A RWS was organised as a Joint SITS-IMTS workshop on digital trade (4 April) and other aspects of digital services (5 April). A sub-regional SITS-training course has been prepared and scheduled for 20-23 June. The assignment is to be completed by mid of September 2022.</p>



Activity 4.2.3	Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS
	<p><i>(3) Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Inward Stocks, Outward Flows and Partner Country Data - Phase 2.</i></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: Task 3 is completed, others are ongoing, scheduled to be completed by June 2022.</p>
Outputs delivered	<p><i>(1) Towards Meeting the ACSS 2022 SITS Targets – Phase 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Compilation Guide and benchmarking process (formerly called the Methodological Review and Guide) is now established and been tested with 2 AMSs. • The current data sources and methods were reviewed, potential improvements identified, and recommendations related to the AMS priority areas made as necessary. <p>Final Report: Towards Meeting the ACSS 2022 SITS Targets – Phase 1.</p> <p><i>(2) Strengthening Methodology and Compilation of Priority Categories of Balance of Payments Statistics in Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)-Phase 2.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodological benchmarking against the Compilation Guide and MSITS methodological requirements is being implemented for all remaining AMS. • Case study on digital trade in services researched. • Regional Workshop on digital services back-to-back with Regional Workshop on digital trade (joint SITS-IMTS workshop) implemented. <p>Interim Report: Strengthening Methodology and Compilation of Priority Categories of Balance of Payments Statistics in Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)-Phase 2.</p> <p><i>(3) Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Inward Stocks, Outward Flows and Partner Country Data - Phase 2.</i></p>



<p>Activity 4.2.3</p>	<p>Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete actions/steps to implement the Issues-Centring Work Plan in 3 AMS. • Methodological study on FDI by ultimate investing country initiated, the draft report prepared and submitted to the ASEANStats and discussed at the Regional Workshop in mid of April 2022. • Training module for junior staff completed. <p>Interim Report: Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Inward Stocks, Outward Flows and Partner Country Data -Phase 2.</p>
<p>Problems encountered</p>	<p><i>(1) Towards Meeting the ACSS 2022 SITS Targets – Phase 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing notable. However, AMS suggested to cover more countries to be covered in the benchmarking assessment. <p><i>(2) Strengthening Methodology and Compilation of Priority Categories of Balance of Payments Statistics in Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)-Phase 2.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding suitable timing for the benchmarking TA and for securing country participation took longer time than expected in some countries. • Insufficient materials on digital services in AMS and limited information about country best practices and international standard which is currently under development at the global level. <p><i>(3) Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Inward Stocks, Outward Flows and Partner Country Data - Phase 2.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the suitable timing for the TA and for securing country participation took longer time than expected in some countries. • Insufficient materials on FDI by UIC in AMS and limited information about country best practices international standards at the global level have averted the AMSs to participate in joint work with the expert.
<p>Lessons learnt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices in terms of the methodology and proper procedures for dealing with limited data can be sourced from the more statistically developed AMS with moderate quality assurance support from the respective experts; both in SITS and FDIS. • The digital trade case study needs to be put into the context of the update to the international standards currently in progress. As such, it may be more appropriate to clarify the new requirements emerging from the updates to Balance of Payments Manual (BPM) and SNA (in the case of SITS) and from the updates to Benchmark



Activity 4.2.3	Supporting the Implementation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), related statistics, particularly SITS and FDIS
	Definition of Foreign Direct Investment (BMD4) and other relevant international standards and best practices (in the case of FDIS).

Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Momentum is gradually established in terms of reviewing/assessing and improving individual country’s methodology against best practices (benchmarking); in the case of SITS. • Increasing practices of ASEAN-help-ASEAN and best practices sharing, in particular, for CLMV countries’ SITS compilation. • Momentum is gradually established in terms of implementing the identified top priority defined in the issues-cetring work plan in all countries; in the case of FDIS. • Increasing practices of ASEAN-help-ASEAN and best practices sharing, in particular, for CLMV countries; and greater awareness and practices for strengthening junior staff skills; in the case of FDIS.
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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><i>(1) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1</i></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 post-training session to Lao PDR. <p>Status: Completed by March 2022.</p> <p><i>(2) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard–Phase-3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake Technical Assistance/distance support to 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.



<p>Activity 4.2.4</p>	<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>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Status: Tasks 1,2,3,5 and 6 completed, others are ongoing. Scheduled to be completed by June 2022.</p>
<p>Outputs delivered</p>	<p><i>(1) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SQL-based Eurotrace installed, in preparation of the migration of data processing to the Eurotrace in CLM and ASEANStats. • Migration of data processing to Eurotrace (modification of the Domain according to new methodology defined) in Lao PDR completed and preparation of a detailed User Guide. • IMTS latest years of available data of Lao PDR cleaned and processed using Eurotrace, and submitted to ASEANstats. • Migration of data processing to Eurotrace in ASEANStats completed. <p>Final Report: SNKE1-Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard - Phase 1.</p> <p>Final Report: SNKE2-Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard - Phase 1.</p> <p><i>(2) Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard–Phase-3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration of data processing to Eurotrace (modification of the Domain according to new methodology defined) in Cambodia completed and preparation of a detailed User Guide, the latest years of available data cleaned and processed using Eurotrace. • CoP Quality measures and Quality Report on IMTS adopted. • Methodology for AHTN2022 conversion established at ASEANStats. • Tabulation plan, dataset, and draft publication of IMTS by mode of transport completed. • Methodological notes for addressing issues emerging from the migration, including technical advice in line with strengthening ASEANStats capacity to lead the AHA support for CLM initiated.



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"> Regional Workshop on IMTS and IMTS Handbook implementation issues, back-to-back with Regional Workshop on digital trade (joint SITS-IMTS workshop) implemented. Sub-Regional Workshop (for CLM) on IMTS implemented. <p>Final Report: SNKE1-Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard - Phase 3.</p> <p>Final Report: SNKE2-Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard - Phase 3.</p>
Problems encountered	<p>(1) <i>Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard– Phase 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unanticipated complexities and varying units and classifications in Lao PDR’s IMTS data plus the usual ICT technical barriers and language barriers have hindered the transfer of knowledge, methodology and programming used for ensuring credibility checks and migration to the Eurotrace. <p>(2) <i>Strengthening IMTS Data Processing and Cooperation for Enhanced Availability, and Compliance with International Standard–Phase-3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complexity of the Member States’ own IMTS Harmonised System (HS) classifications. Varying units and classifications in the beneficiary countries has necessitated a more complex methodology and programming for credibility checks. The usual ICT technical barriers related to the migration of Eurotrace in Cambodia and to the post-training support for Lao PDR and Cambodia.
Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive measures initiated by the experts, including the provision of detailed materials and procedures, the provision of TA in stages (with flexible timing) and support from ASEANStats have helped completed the tasks on migration to Eurotrace as expected. Experiences in the beneficiary countries and ASEANStats in dealing with AHTN and HS classifications and IMTS mode of transport have expedited the completion of the respective tasks.
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Momentum for increased submission of IMTS data by mode of transport. Strengthened Lao PDR and Cambodia capacity in handling data processing using Eurotrace.



- Strengthened ASEANStats capacity in handling data processing using Eurotrace and in leading the AHAF support for CLM, in particular in data processing using Eurotrace.
- Momentum for ensuring IMTS inter-AHTN comparability ensured.

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, completed)	<p>(1) <i>Development of Video-graphics and Strengthening Video-graphics Skills for Enhanced Data Visibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake production of Video-graphics presentation 1, in time for display at the ACSS 10 in late October 2020. • Undertake the Second Regional Training Workshop on Video/Motion Graphics (Training 2), under the Framework of ASEAN-Help-ASEAN/Training of Trainers (ToT). <p>Status: Completed 17 November 2021</p> <p>(2) <i>Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement</i></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: Completed.</p> <p>(3) <i>Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement -Extension</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake further development of the tools for use in pilot implementation of the newly developed Quality Measures; Analysis of the pilot results and establishment of the Baseline Quality Report of



Activity 4.2.5	Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility
	<p>the Data Dissemination and Communication; and Refinement of the Quality Measures and reporting.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p> <p><i>(4) Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on Social Media Training</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a TA to ASEANstats 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: Completed.</p>
Outputs delivered	<p><i>(1) Development of Video-graphics and Strengthening Video-graphics Skills for Enhanced Data Visibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video/Motion Graphics products (Video-graphics 1 and Video-graphics 2) for display at the ACSS 10th anniversary celebration. • The second Regional Training on Video/Motion Graphics (Training 2) completed and training materials refined. <p>Final Report: Development of Video-graphics and Strengthening Video-graphics Skills for Enhanced Data Visibility.</p> <p><i>(2) Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Quality Measures (along with the indicators) for measuring the implementation of CoP Sections B & C in the dissemination and communication area, adopted by the WGDSA. • Proper mechanism for the conduct of self-assessment established. • Pilot implementation of the proposed assessment framework by AMS and ASEANStats and review of the submissions by expert. <p>Final Report: Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement.</p> <p><i>(3) Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement -Extension</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refined Quality Measures for the implementation of the Code of Practices under the WGDSA. • Quality Report of the Dissemination and Communication statistics established. • Mission report.



Activity 4.2.5	Supporting ACSS in Strengthening ACSS' Statistical Communication and Visibility
	<p>Final Report: Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on WGDSA Quality Measures Improvement – Extension.</p> <p><i>(4) Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on Social Media Training</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A model of social media for ASEANStats developed. • A module for training on social media developed. • Training on social media completed. <p>Final Report: Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and their Monitoring – on Social Media Training.</p>
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training on video-graphics 2 (Task 2) experienced some delays following the completion of task1 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The activity resumed in the 3rd quarter 2021 and was completed in late November 2021. • Some delays in country response, from some AMS, to the proposed CoP quality measures and indicators. • The CoP quality measures also faced with lack of familiarity among some AMSs regarding quality dimensions associated with new development in dissemination and communication. <p>In the case of social media, it experienced the usual moderate ICT technical barrier (internet connection) associated with online training.</p>
Lessons learnt	<p>A more proactive approach taken by the expert and support from ASEANStats helped minimise the technical barriers; in the case of video-graphics training, CoP quality measures and social media training.</p>
Overall result to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened skills among AMS and ASEANStats in developing a video-graphics presentation. • Greater momentum for practicing and reporting the implementation of the CoP for statistical dissemination and communication amongst the AMS and ASEANStats. • Strengthened skills and greater momentum for increased and proper utilization of social media in ASEANStats and the AMSs.

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 7th May 2022. 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

Partnerships

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



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.

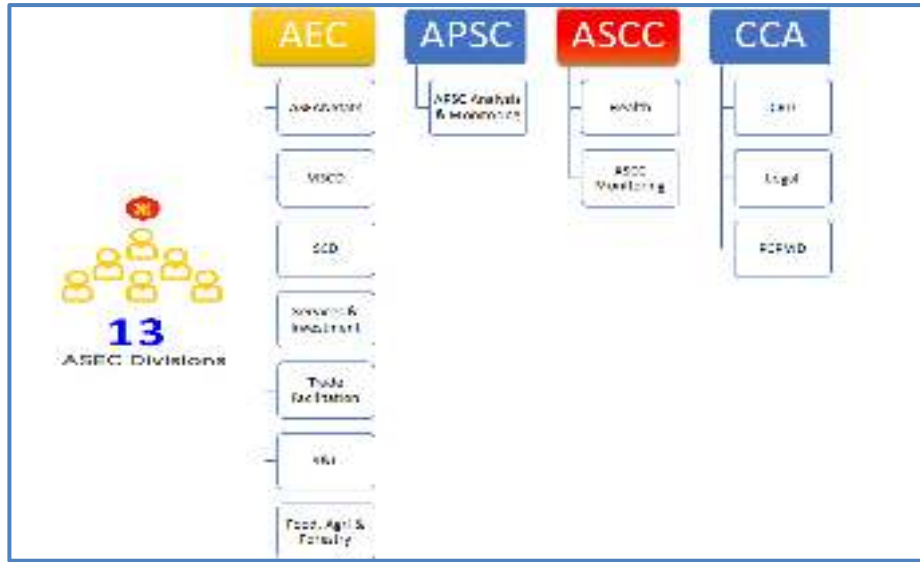


Figure 3: ASEC Divisions engaged¹

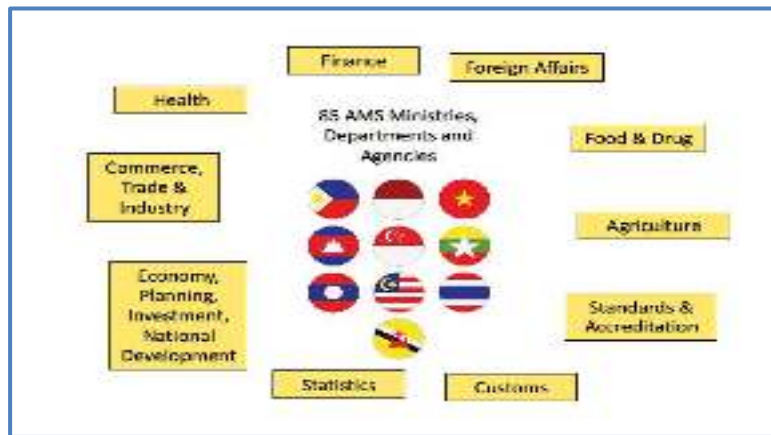


Figure 4: overview of types of AMS Ministries and agencies engaged

Efficiency

Availability and utilisation of resources

A total of 3,674² key expert (KE) days, 10,638 senior non-key expert (SNKE) days and 204 junior non-key expert (JNKE) days have been used since programme commencement until end of April 2022. Over 229 non-key expert (NKE) assignments have been contracted and 2,129,715 Euros of incidentals utilised. The utilisation of resources can be visualised from figures 5 and 6 by reporting period.

¹ 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

² According to figures as of April 2022 – these might be subject to change based on the approval process of the EUD

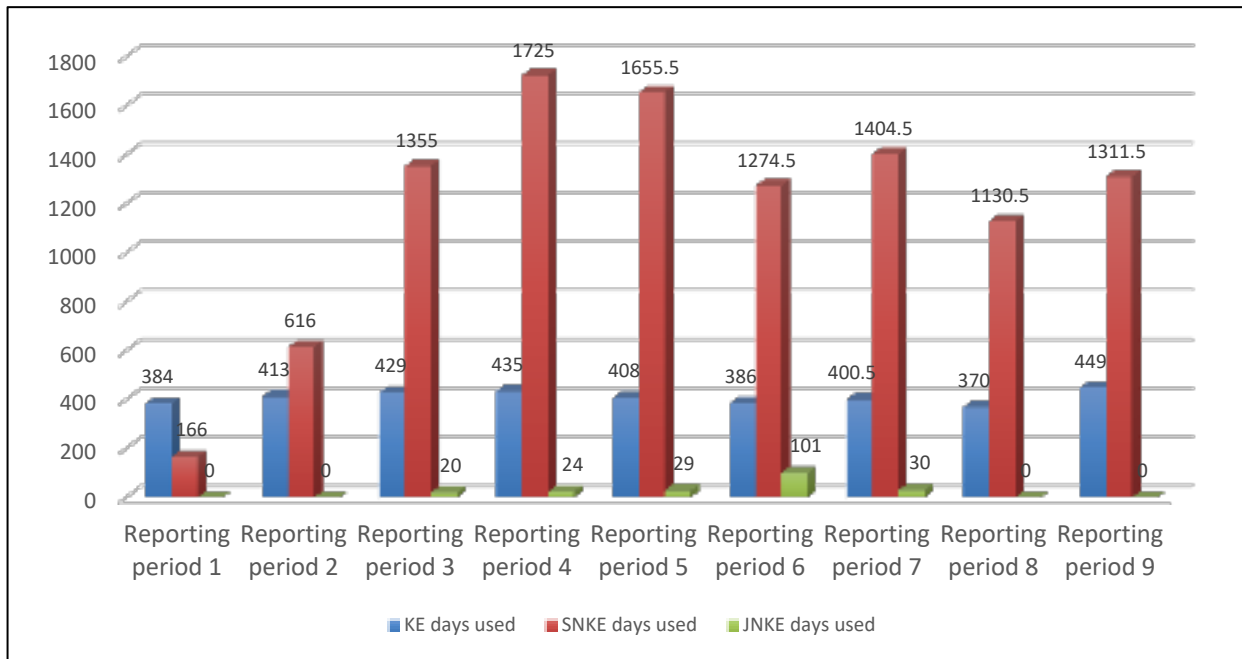


Figure 5: expert days used (by reporting period)

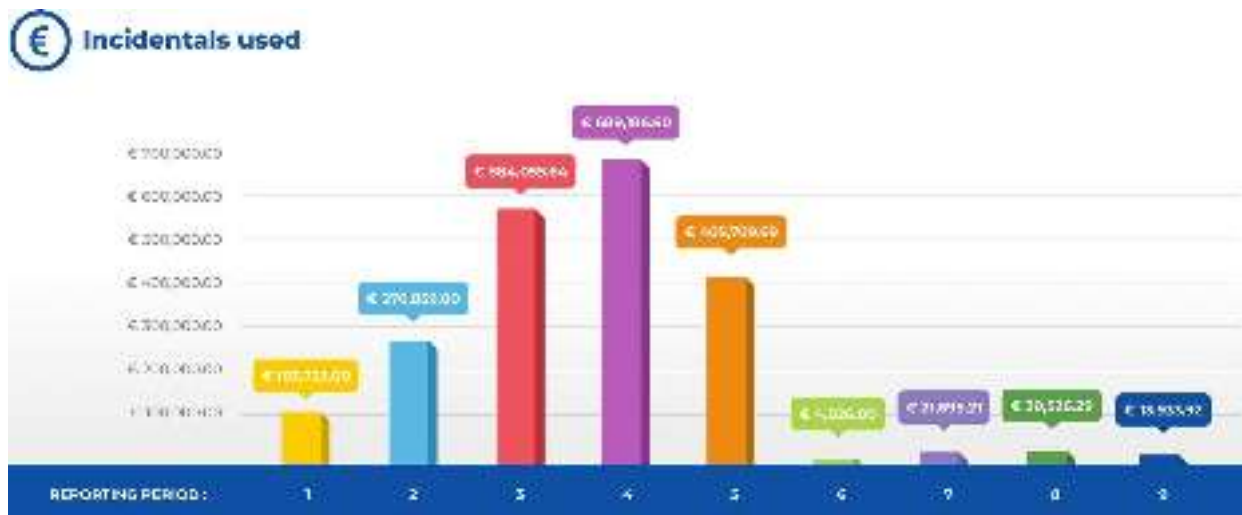


Figure 6: incidentals used (by reporting period)

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 27 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.

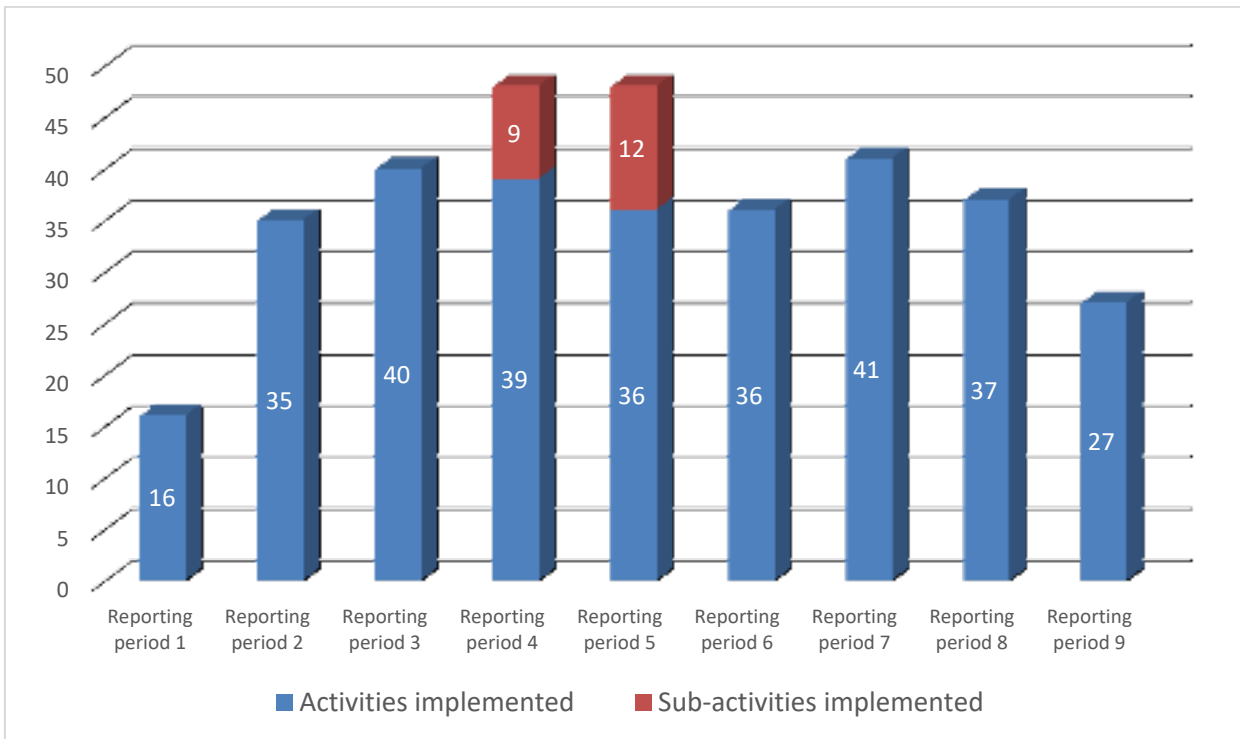


Figure 7: activities implemented by reporting period

A total of 181 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.

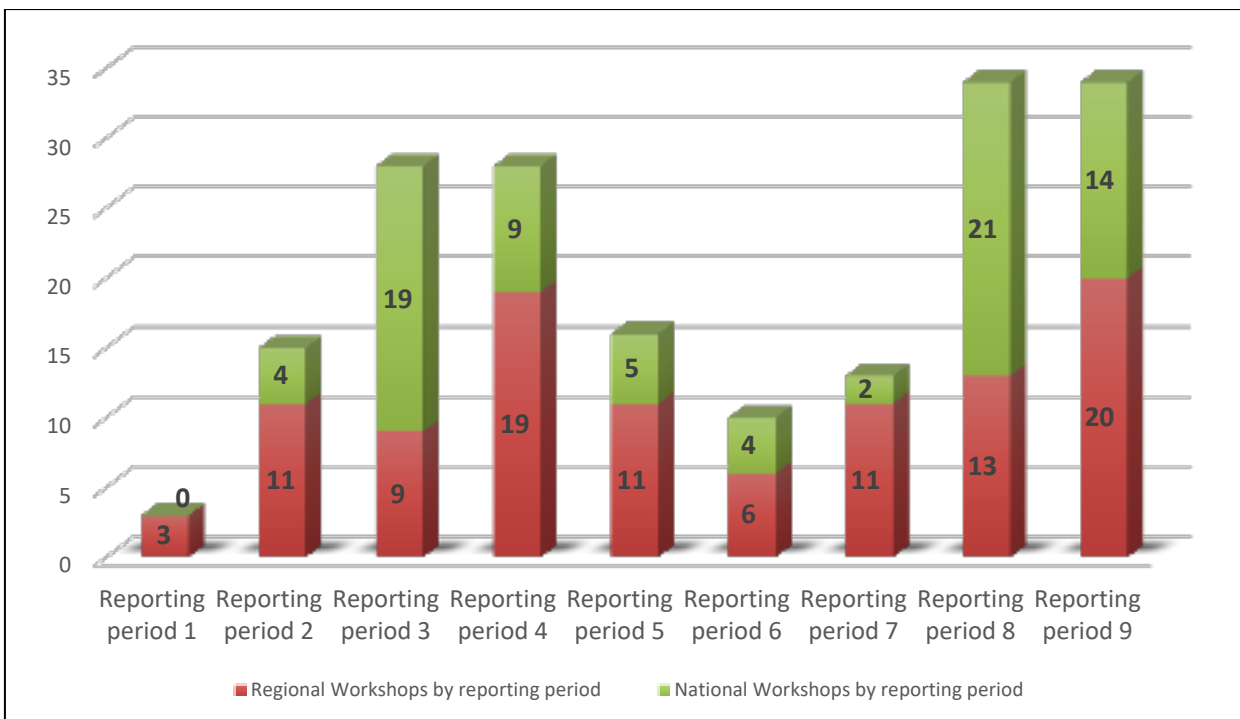


Figure 8: number of regional and national workshops by reporting period

A total of 8,741 participants have attended workshops since commencement of ARISE Plus including 1,677 workshop participants during reporting period 9, 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. ARISE Plus has facilitated all 181 workshops whilst directing hosting 65 workshops through virtual means.



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 2,634 participants from the CLMV countries have attended the workshops. See figure 11 below for a breakdown of workshop participants by nationality.



³Others

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 4,741 female participants and 4,000 male participants have attended ARISE PLUS workshops since commencement. There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of female participants during the past two reporting periods due to concerted efforts by ARISE Plus to engage stakeholders and women’s business networks, such as AWEN and women’s groups in the AMS.

³ **Others:** include staff from ASEC, ARISE Plus experts and supporting staff, EU private sector representatives such as EuroChams, staff from EU member state embassies and EUD and European Commission staff

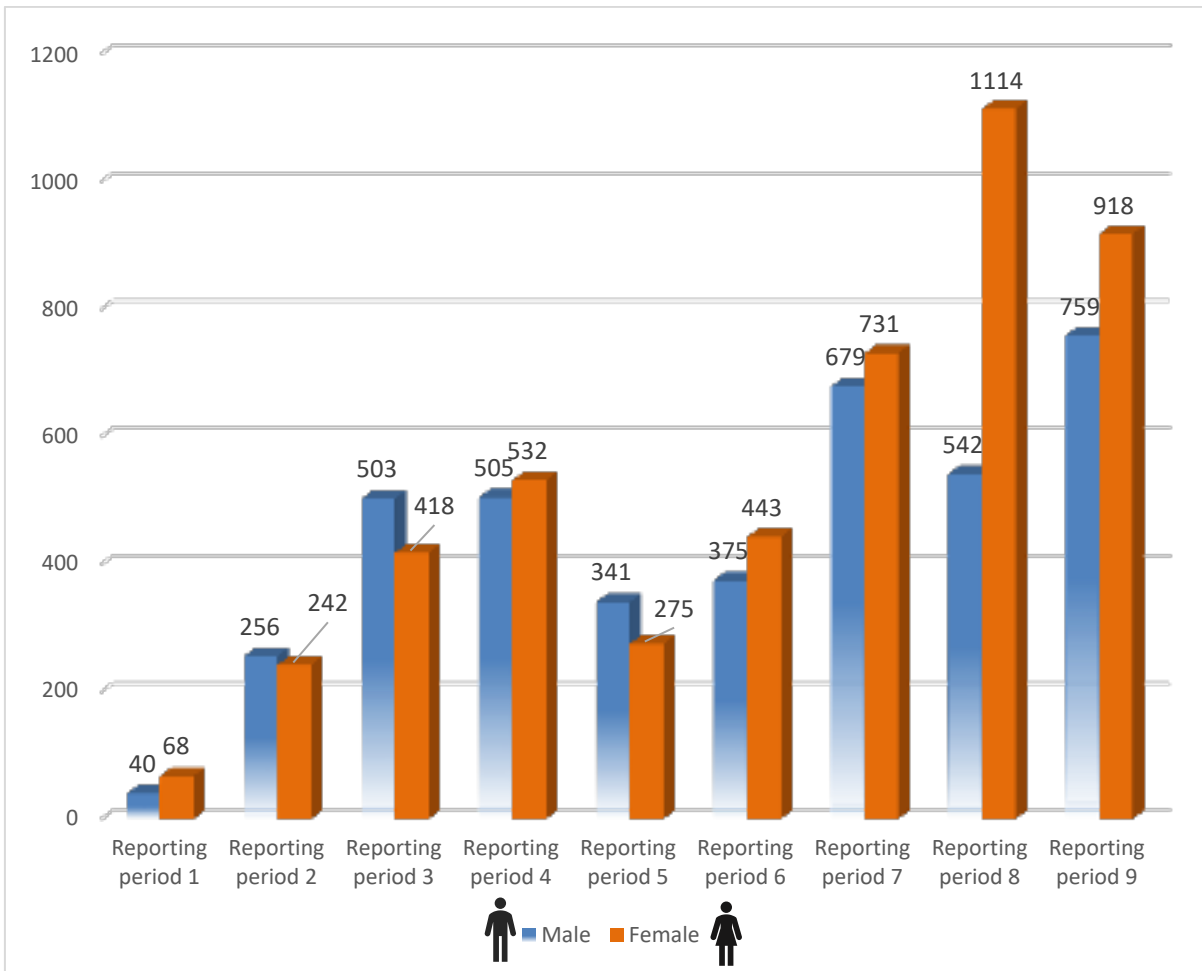
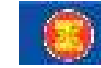


Figure 12: breakdown of workshop participants by gender

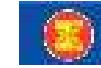


SECTION 3 OVERVIEW OF USE OF RESOURCES

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
9 th Six Monthly Report (8 th November 2021 – 7 th May 2022)	120	100	108	121	1,311.5	0	€ 13,933.92
Actual to Date	968.5	834.5	941.5	996	10,833	203.5	€ 2,155,695.01
Programme Budget	1,090	880	1,017	1,070	11,888	400	€ 3,645,000.00
Balance Remaining	121.5	45.5	75.5	74	1,055	196.5	€ 1,489,304.99



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	120						0
COMPONENT 1.0	Trade Facilitation and Transparency		100			200		2,297.01
COMPONENT 2.0	Standards and Conformity Assessment in Particular Healthcare and Agro-based products			108		152.5		123.69
COMPONENT 3.0	Customs, Transport and ACTS				121	464.5		11,239.93
COMPONENT 4.0	ASEAN Economic Integration Monitoring and Statistics					494.5		0
Bank Charges								273.29
TOTAL		120	100	108	121	1311.5	0	13,933.92



ANNEX 1 - LIST OF OFFICIAL MEETINGS PARTICIPATED IN BY ARISE PLUS

No.	Dates	Place	Meetings/Workshops/Study tours/Trainings
1	8-9 November 2021	Virtual	28th Meeting of the Sub Working Group on ASEAN Customs Transit System (SWG-ACTS)
2	9 November 2021	Virtual	46th Working Group 1 on Standards (WG 1) Meeting
3	11 November 2021	Virtual	32nd Pharmaceutical Product Working Group (PPWG) and its related Meetings
4	25 November 2021	Virtual	56th ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ)
5	17 January 2022	Virtual	Planning Meeting for the Work Programme of ASEAN Health Cluster 4 on Ensuring Food Safety for 2022-2025
6	8-10 February 2022	Virtual	29th Meeting of the Sub-Working Group on ASEAN Customs Transit System
7	16 February 2022	Virtual	22nd ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC)
8	24 February 2022	Virtual	7th Joint Sectoral Committee on MRA on Prepared Foodstuff (JSC MRA on PF)
9	8 March 2022	Virtual	34th Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group (PFPWG)
10	10 March 2022	Virtual	32nd Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group (PFPWG) Meeting
11	16 March 2022	Virtual	47th ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) Working Group 1 on Standards (WG 1) Meeting
12	21-23 March 2022	Virtual	42nd ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG)
13	24 March 2022	Virtual	23rd Meeting of ASEAN Community Statistical System Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (ACSS-SCPC23)
14	4 April 2022	Virtual	9th ASEAN Rapid Alert Systems for Food and Feed (ARASFF) Meeting



ANNEX 2 - EVENTS ORGANISED BY ARISE PLUS

No.	Dates	Place	Regional/ National	Beneficiary	Meetings/Workshops/Study tours/Trainings
1	15-17 November 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	The 2nd Regional Training on Motion Graphics for Statistical Dissemination
2	1 December 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	2nd Online Capacity Building Session on Risk Profile of Pesticides Use in Leafy Vegetable in ASEAN Member States
3	6-9 December 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Regional Training on Data Estimation and Imputation
4	7 - 8 December 2021	Virtual	Regional	AMS	ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework
5	14 - 15 December 2021	Virtual	National	Philippines	Workshop on the Identification, Classification and Packaging of Philippine Regulations as NTMs
6	19-24 January 2022	Virtual	National	Vietnam	ACTS Training to Vietnam Customs, Transport Authority, Private Sector and Banks
7	27 - 28 January 2022	Virtual	National	Malaysia	Technical Workshop on the Identification, Classification, and 'Packaging' of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) for the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR)
8	15 February 2022	Virtual	National	Malaysia/ Singapore	ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building: Outreach to Malaysia and Singapore
9	17-18 February 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	ASEAN-ESCAP-ARISE Plus Joint Webinar on Streamlining Customs Formalities for International Railway Transport among ASEAN Member States
10	18 February 2022	Virtual	National	Lao PDR	Training Session to Transport Officials in Lao People's Democratic Republic



11	21, 23, 24, 25 February 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Training on Food Safety Sampling
12	4 March 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	ASEAN Health Cluster 4 (AHC 4) Capacity Building Session 3: Risk Profile of Pesticides use in leafy Vegetable in ASEAN Member States
13	7 March 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework
14	11 March 2022	Virtual	National	Lao PDR	Training Session to Transport Officials in Lao People's Democratic Republic - Session 2
15	14 - 15 March 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on: Development of "Guidelines for Implementation of Harmonised Accreditation in ASEAN"
16	15 March 2022	Virtual	National	Brunei	ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event (Brunei Darussalam)
17	15-17 March 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Regional Training Strengthening Communication in Statistics, User Engagement, and Monitoring on Social Media
18	16 - 17 March 2022	Virtual	National	Brunei	ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop (Brunei Darussalam)
19	21 - 22 March 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement
20	29 March 2022	Virtual	National	Thailand	ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building: Outreach to Thailand
21	4, 6, 7, 8, 11 April 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Training Workshop on Food Borne Disease Outbreaks
22	4 April 2022	Virtual	National	Cambodia	ATR and ASSIST Outreach Event (Cambodia)
23	4-5 April 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Regional IMTS and SITS Workshop on Digital Trade
24	5-6 April 2022	Virtual	National	Malaysia	ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) Private Sector Engagement Workshop - Group 2



25	5 - 6 April 2022	Virtual	National	Cambodia	ASSIST Train the Trainers Workshop (Cambodia)
26	7 - 8 April 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on Food Contact Materials (FCM)
27	7 - 8 April 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	The 7th Regional Workshop on ASEAN International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)
28	12-13 April 2022	Virtual	National	Malaysia	ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) Private Sector Engagement Workshop - Group 3
29	18-20 April 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Methodology and Practice for Enhanced Compilation and Dissemination of FDI Statistics in ASEAN Member States
30	21 April 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Regional Workshop on the Assessment of ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators Data Submission for ASEAN SDG Indicators Snapshot
31	21-22 April 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	The 7th Sub-Regional Workshop on ASEAN International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)
32	25 - 28 April 2022	Virtual	Regional	AMS	Workshop on Food Safety Risk Communication
33	26 April 2022	Virtual	National	Malaysia	ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) Private Sector Engagement Workshop - Group 3
34	28 April 2022	Virtual	National	Vietnam	ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building: Outreach to Vietnam



ANNEX 3 - 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