UNECE

External evaluation of the UNDA project **"Strengthening the Capacities of Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition to Facilitate Legitimate Border Crossing, Regional Cooperation and Integration"** (September 2016)

Final Progress Report as at 30 June 2019

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Date of implementation/comments
1	**The project team should consider developing a strategic/sustainability business plan that will focus on turning the pilot C2C data exchange platform into a full-scale functioning system.**	UNECE agrees with the recommendation while taking due account of budget limitations and the willingness of countries to implement financing scheme for the maintenance of the platform. A strategic business plan, including the financing of the hosting and maintenance of a largescale and resilient version of the exchange platform developed and deployed in the course of this project, will be considered as the starting point of any follow up global project but will also be presented to the international bodies dealing with the TIR Convention for their consideration.	TIR Secretariat	**The recommendation is closed and implemented** The platform is functioning in production mode and is used by the governments of Georgia and Turkey. It is maintained by the TIR secretariat. No further requests for it use have been received as of June 2019. Consequently, there has been no need to scale it up.
2	**Conduct a risk assessment and propose risk mitigation measures at the early stage (design) of the project.**	Project managers, at the project inception, will be recommended to include in the project document a detailed risk assessment matrix, a description of monitoring methods and tools as well as lists of risk mitigation measures.	Programme Management Unit	**The recommendation is closed and implemented** A Risks and mitigation actions section was added in the following documents in December 2017: - Project concept note template - Project Document for XB projects
3	**Strengthen the gender sensitive aspects of the project through developing relevant indicators at the early stage of the project design.**	UNECE is now implementing the UNOG Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women which came into force on 1 September 2016. This policy will improve the inclusion of gender aspects in future projects.	Programme Management Unit	The policy was **implemented as of 1 September 2016**

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4	**Utilize a coherent and cost saving approach through strengthened collaboration with the specialized agencies.**	UNECE agrees with the recommendation. UNECE is already collaborating with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) on similar projects (see ongoing UNECE-IRU MoU of 24 March 2015.) UNECE is already in discussion with IRU to continue such collaborations in the future and, possible leverage synergies between similar projects. Furthermore, a donor mapping exercise could also be included in the strategic business plan (see follow up action of Rec.1).	TIR Secretariat	**The recommendation was closed and implemented in October 2017** UNECE signed a five-years Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Contribution Agreement (CA) with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) on 6 October 2017. The purpose for the MoU and CA is to further strengthen the cooperation between UNECE and IRU towards the full computerization of the TIR procedure. The use of the platform as a possible tool to further facilitate the exchange of TIR data among TIR Contracting parties has been integrated in the workplans agreed by both parties, in line with the provisions of the CA.
5	**Continue engagement with national stakeholders and potential users of the platform to identify their needs and provide technical support (legal, advisory, etc.) to streamline processes and precondition required to access the platform.**	UNECE agrees with the recommendation, while taking due account of the budget limitations. The exchange platform, by design, allow the secure exchange of a wide range of information. Through easy configuration, new agents and new messages can be added. The information relative to the functioning of the platform has been published on the project website. All Regional Commission have agreed that they will continue promoting the use of the platform at any available opportunity. However, major changes to the platform, if necessary, will require identifying additional funding sources (see follow up action of Rec. 1and Rec. 4).	TIR Secretariat	**The recommendation was closed and implemented in December 2018** ECE ensured that the platform has been integrated in the development relative to eTIR (see Rec. 4). Other RC did not receive requests regarding the use of the platform.