



OECD Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade

Session III

Getting the right feedback:

Evaluating aid for trade programmes

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EC Evaluation documents 2004-2008

2 Thematic/sectoral evaluations:

- Trade related assistance by the European Commission in third countries
- Joint evaluation under the 3Cs initiative: coordination of Trade capacity building in partner countries

6 Regional evaluations:

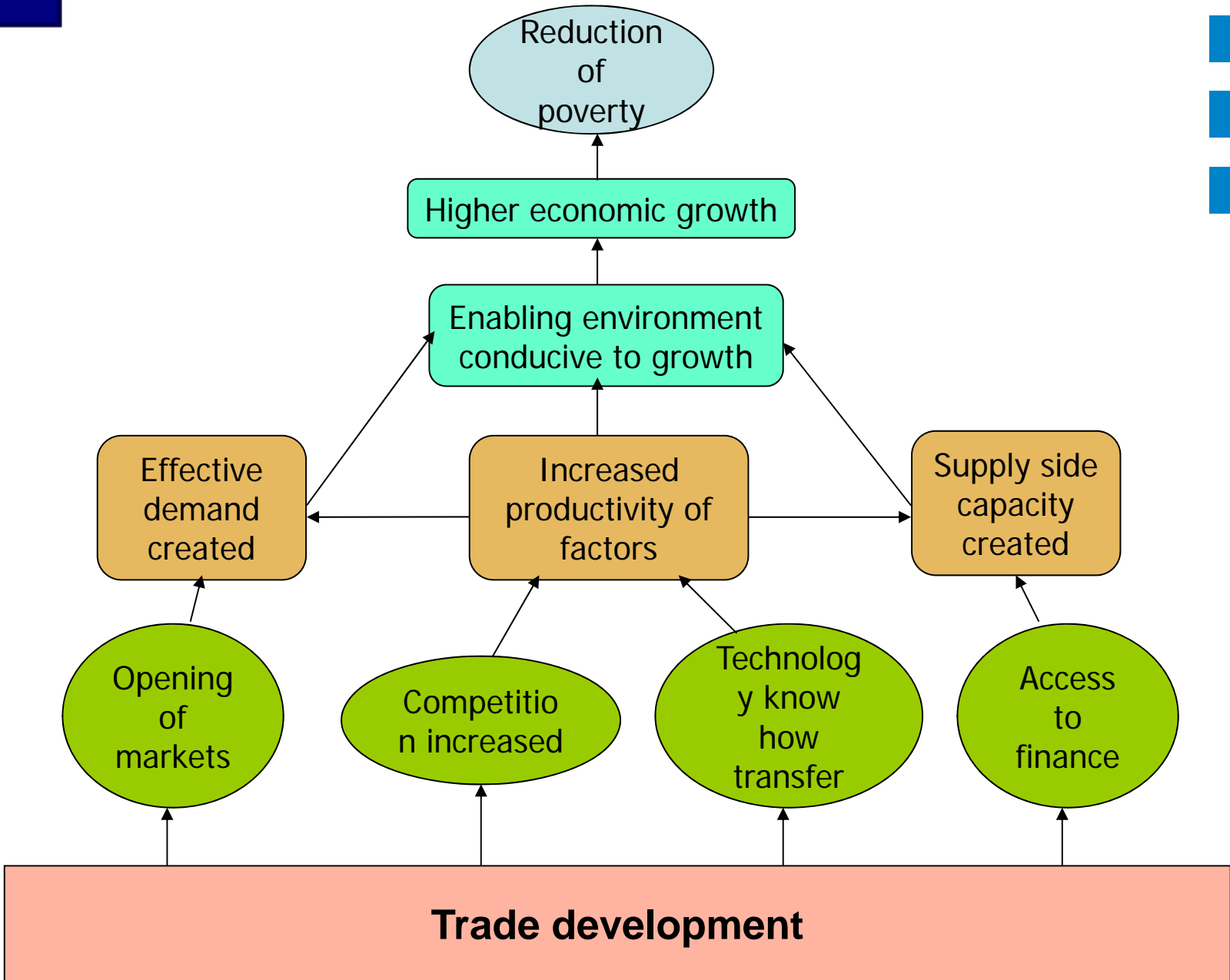
- TACIS
- Mercosur
- Eastern Africa
- Western Africa
- Central Africa
- Southern Africa

8 Country level evaluations:

Bangladesh, Benin, Comoros, India, Jordan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ukraine

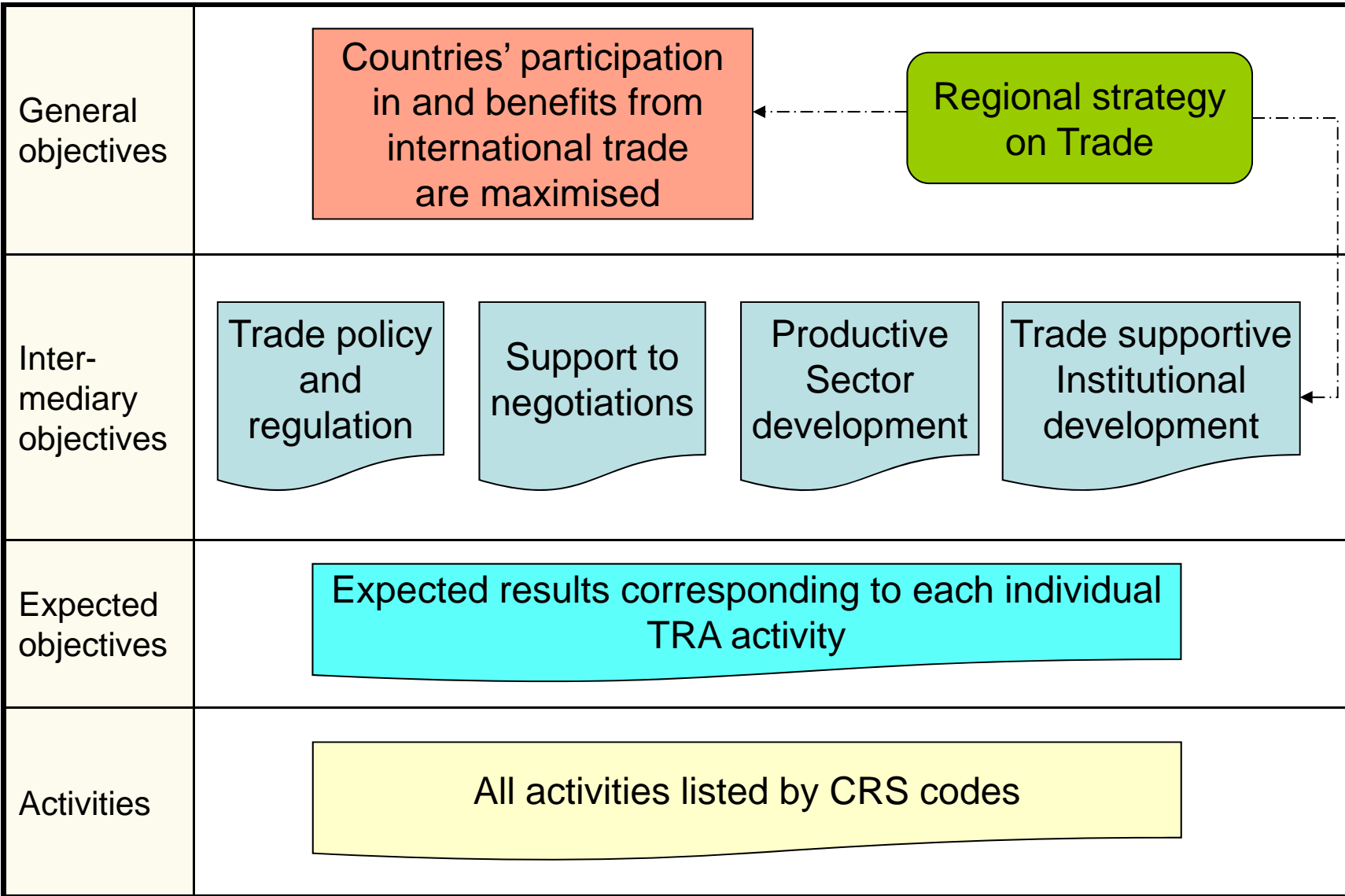


Diagram of effects for Trade related assistance





Logical framework for the trade development process





Main weaknesses in Trade related assistance

RELEVANCE and STRATEGY (I)

- No demonstration of relevance and rationale for TRA:
 - Existing business environment not taken into account
 - No correct initial analysis of the trade in the partner countries (e.g. causes for limited exports to the EU market)
 - Links between TRA and plan matrices prepared for the integrated framework (IF) are not done
- Weak or no explicit linkage hypothesis of activities towards growth and poverty reduction when TRA is set up.
E.g. 1: Hypothesis that openness of markets will facilitate integration of private sector in the international market and thus boost its productivity has not yet been validated by facts (Rwanda for eg); indeed, this hypothesis relies on a long chain of causes and effects with inputs of numerous factors (e.g. vocational training, availability of credit, quality norms, entrepreneurial spirit, etc.) the order of which is important to understand.



Main weaknesses in Trade related assistance

RELEVANCE and STRATEGY (II)

E.g. 2: It was implicitly assumed that the opening of the EU market combined with a support to export oriented SMEs would entail a breakthrough in Jordanian exports to EU. Exports to EU market are still very limited. The causes (e.g. lack of networking, low competitiveness, etc) have to be explored.

- Strategy and support to trade as a sector for our partners is either not existing or not adapted.
 - Possible adverse effects of trade liberalisation have not been properly analysed or addressed.
 - Limited or fragmented trade related assistance (with lack of synergies between TRA tools and with other development activities: education, roads, private sector, etc, e.g. in Bangladesh, Tanzania)



Main weaknesses in Trade related assistance

ADVERSE CONDITIONS:

- Increase of non tariff barriers (trade)
- Increase of short term compensation (e.g. money versus fish catching)
- Lack of coherence with other commodities sectors or policies sectors: agriculture, fisheries, raw materials, finance, arms, etc...
- No study on influence of international agreements: climate change, energy, natural resources and environment, terrorism, etc.



Main weaknesses in Trade related assistance

INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

- Insufficient donor coordination and complementarity both at headquarters and in the field which does not allow synergies between programmes and activities (see annex 2)
- Gap between guidelines drafted at headquarters level and their understanding and implementation at field level (see Tanzania, Ukraine)
- Lack of consultation of the field by headquarters during planning and design and miss the opportunity to take specific contextual realities (or constraints) into account.
- Lack of flexibility in programming and implementation for adapting to fast changing situation (multiple examples in TACIS, Ukraine and India evaluations)





Main challenges for Evaluation activities

1. Projects evaluation or evaluation of tools are relatively easy for each donor. Can a synthesis be done ?
2. Synergy between projects and between tools for each donor and for several donors (joint evaluation) has not yet been done.
3. Sectoral / thematic evaluations on trade (not only trade related aid) are complex. How to deal with them ? (EC has developed a practical approach).
4. Develop joint evaluation on the trade sector.
5. How to deal with relation between trade sector and other sectors (agriculture, fisheries, migration, etc....). Should it be done jointly ?
6. As seen in previous part, evaluators should dare to question hypotheses and rationales more or less explicit for developing trade in partner countries. New challenge for evaluators !
7. How to involve partner countries ? In these 6 previous points.



Some proposals

- Develop a framework for evaluating trade-related assistance which could be used by all donors on an homogenous methodology.
- Develop specific tools for evaluating synergies between various activities in the sector of Trade-related assistance.
- Compare evaluations done by development agencies on trade with the ones done by trade ministries within each bilateral Member of the DAC.
- Ask for research on links between trade policy and other policies which have impacts on trade (agriculture, fisheries, environment, etc.) in OECD Members, in order to propose actual and possible actions to solve problems of incoherence between these policies are seen from our partner countries.
- Evaluation study to look if hypotheses and rationales for developing trade in our partner countries have been validated by facts and looking for conditions for validation.



Thank you

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/evaluation/index_en.htm

