

# Support to the East African Community Integration Process

... improved mobility of goods, services and labour

## The challenge

East African Community (EAC) Partner States Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania have shown an economic growth of 6% over the last five years and continue to perform well above global and African average.

Customs union, a common market, and Monetary union are the ambitious goals of the EAC to improve the business environment and employment opportunities in the region.

Nevertheless, a multitude of non-tariff barriers continue to hamper the free movement of goods, services, people and labour. This prevents businesses from enjoying the full benefits and economies of scale of a common market.

## Our approach

The programme works with the relevant departments at the EAC Secretariat and regional committees in charge. Priorities and measures for the abolishment of non-tariff barriers, the promotion of the Common Market and the preparation of the Monetary Union are developed and implemented together. The programme pays particular attention to the needs and interests of the private sector to ensure that the benefits from regional integration can be used. The programme focuses on:



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Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	East Africa
Lead executing agency	Secretariat of the East African Community
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Financial volume	EUR 15,5 million

- Liberalisation of trade in services;
- Agreements on the Mutual Recognition of Standards and Qualifications (MRAs);
- National Implementation of EAC tax policies;
- Trade facilitation measures;
- Improved market access for regional pharmaceutical companies;
- Support to the portability of health care benefits across borders;
- Exchange with experts of the European Union in preparation of the EAC monetary union;
- Improving the management of the EAC integration process by the EAC Secretariat

## EAC Vision 2050

Become a globally competitive upper-middle income region with a high quality of life for its population based on the principles of inclusiveness

## Protocols signed:



Customs Union  
2005



Common Market  
2010



Monetary Union  
2013



Political Federation



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Photo right: The Tour d'EAC 2016  
on the road in Tanzania

Photo left: Mama Sarah making  
jewelry in Namanga

## Results in figures ...

Tailor-made training courses and technical support to trade in services have enabled the EAC Partner States to resume stalled negotiations on trade in services. Interviews with almost 100 experts from the Partner States showed that 98% of them found the training courses to be effective and efficient. In the negotiations, the Partner States committed to opening at least 78 of the 156 internationally recognised service sectors for intra-East African trade. This means that more than 50% of all service sectors provide new opportunities for the business sector.

Four Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for registered professions have been signed (accountants, architects, veterinarians and engineers), two more are almost concluded (land surveyors and lawyers) and another is under negotiation (pharmacists). According to figures provided by the regulatory authorities, there were 68,238 new registrations in the professions with signed MRAs in the last five years. This shows the great potential for the use of MRAs in the future.

The *Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA)* supports hands-on cross-border projects. 16 projects from civil society and the private sector were supported in the first year of its launch. 50% of these deal with cross-border trade, 40% with culture, arts and sport, and 10% with innovations in information technologies. More than 2,000 people took part in regional events organized by IIDEA, and more than 10,000 were reached through digital media (websites, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Youtube).

## ... and in stories

John, an East African with a passion for outdoor learning is the director of IIDEA partner *Campfire Logs Guild*. This youth organisation started organising the Tour d'EAC, a bicycle tour across all EAC Partner States, in 2016. 14 cyclists participated in the 2016 Tour d'EAC, and in June 2017, a total of 35 participants had already registered for this year's event.

The cyclists covered more than 4,500 km across the EAC countries, all the way bringing the benefits of regional integration closer to the population. The Tour d'EAC also proposes "One Destiny East Africa" as an integrated tourist destination. It is open to international participation, a fact that will certainly increase its reputation in the future. IIDEA support contributes a lot to its visibility.

Mama Sarah is a single mother of five children who lives in Namanga on the border between Kenya and Tanzania. For many years, she has been making Maasai jewellery to sell to travelers at the border. Prices were low and her profits meagre. A project, started in 2016 by the local non-government organisation *Pastoral Women's Council (PWC)* and supported by IIDEA, brought changes to the lives of women traders at the border. Together with other Maasai women, Mama Sarah was trained by PWC in product- and business development. Today, she sells her jewellery not only at the border, but in several East African cities. Her increased income enables her to pay school fees for her children and cater for their basic needs. Larger markets and simplified procedures in cross-border trade provide better sources of income for many citizens.

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