

Regional Integration Cluster

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The process

- The technical content of the cluster is developed by the REC TCC partners:
 - * RECs
 - * Corridors
 - * Regional organizations
 - * Development partners
- Takes into account other regional programs:
 - To build on SSATP specific strengths and value added
 - To explicit linkages and synergies with partner programs
- * Further defining the cluster requires the input of the policy level

March 2012 in Mombasa

• REC TCC identified main topics to include

October 2012 in Cotonou

• REC TCC reviews and expands the draft

December 2012

• AGM (policy level countries and RECs) provides further input on priorities

During 2013

• Further consultations to finalize the cluster organization



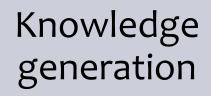
Definition of the cluster passed through stages

- Identification of the focus areas initially recognized two groups:
 - Interventions relevant at continental level (such as corridor performance metrics framework, cooperation and coordination)
 - Interventions relevant at corridor level, focusing on the efficiency of the corridor components (gateway and nodes, transport modes, Customs and integration agenda)
- The focus was on the 'soft' issues, not infrastructure

- During a second phase, the interventions were reviewed through the filter of the SSATP cycle:
 - Knowledge creation
 - * Knowledge sharing
 - * Knowledge application
- * The cluster adopted a wider definition of access to markets:
 - * International markets along corridors
 - Intra-regional markets (small scale trade across borders and agricultural products from rural areas)



Thematic areas and the three steps cycle



Corridor Performance metrics

Think tank

Knowledge sharing

Coordination Corridors, RECs, developments partners

Cooperation

Knowledge application

Corridor logistics (Trade agenda, Nodes, Modes)

Intra-regional logistics (Rural logistics, Small scale cross border trade)



Knowledge generation

- * Corridor performance metrics:
 - This builds on the legacy of SSATP for transport observatories and diagnosis tools
 - Consolidation of metrics across corridors to monitor the progress of the trade growth agenda of the African Union
 - * Three priority areas with linkages across pillars, towards implementation:
 - Continued expansion and refinement of the transport observatory toolbox
 - * Continued technical support to existing and planned transport observatories
- * Think tank:
 - Analytical work on emerging trends and issues in the trade facilitation arena



Knowledge sharing

* Cooperation

- Focus on exchange of experience, valuing African expertise taking advantage of the more advanced level of some regions compared to others
- * Two target groups:
 - * Technical level: provision of short term expertise from another partner (REC / Corridor / Country / Regional organization / Operator)
 - * Policy level: organizing sensitization / study tours (proof is in seeing)
- Coordination
 - Support the emergence of a coherent program across development partners, RECs, countries and corridor authorities
 - The REC TCC proved to be catalytic in promoting a vibrant dialogue within the regional integration community



Knowledge application

- The rationale for application is that advocacy may not be sufficient: demonstration programs and pilots are important to establish proof of concept
- * For Regional Integration, two focus domains for application:
 - Corridor logistics (trunk network / high volumes)
 - * Trade agenda (Customs and trade integration)
 - * Transport modes (efficiency of operators, multimodal)
 - * Nodes (gateways, platforms and dry ports)
 - Intra-regional logistics (rural and feeder network / small scale trade)
 - * Logistics services for small loads, capacity building for economic operators, dedicated regimes



New stage: the policy angle

- * Shift from an activity centric vision to a strategic orientation vision entailing series of activities
- * The 'soft' agenda covers three main policy areas:
 - * Instruments for Regional integration
 - Regulatory framework for efficient logistics services provision
 - Framework for regional integration policy setting institutions



Instruments for Regional integration

- * Instruments for Regional integration
- Ensure consistent and coherent transcription at national level of regional integration instruments
- * Knowledge creation
 - * Gap analysis in country and regional integration instruments
- Knowledge sharing
 - * Dialogue between regional and national stakeholders
- * Knowledge application
 - Support to policy development and transcription



Regulatory framework for efficient logistics services provision

- Develop a regulatory framework conducive to efficient service provision by (private) logistics operators
- * Content, scope, and difficulty varies according to category of operator
 - * Road transport, railways, terminal operators, clearing & forwarding agents, etc.
- * At knowledge creation level, implies understanding the activity from the operator perspective
- * At knowledge sharing level, implies consultations with all stakeholders to reach a consensus on the content of the regulatory framework and on the conditions of its implementation
- At knowledge application level, implies defining the policies regulating access to profession (professional and technical capability), access to market (market regulation), capacity building for operators and regulatory agencies



Framework for regional integration policy setting institutions

- Develop institutional mechanisms and tools that build capacity within institutions in order to enable definition and implementation of evidence based policies through inclusive policy dialogue
 - * Options for institutional framework (corridor management authorities)
 - Monitoring and diagnosis tools (transport observatories)
- Knowledge creation
 - Transport Observatories
 - Institutional framework
- Knowledge sharing
 - Inclusive policy dialogue among all types of stakeholders
- Knowledge application
 - Institution building for effective policies



What to do this session?

- We are here to listen to answers, not to respond to questions
- * Is there something that does not belong in this cluster?
- * Is there something critical missing?
 - * Should it be in the specific needs cluster instead?
- * Which partners are relevant for this cluster?
- * How far should we go along the priorities?
- * How should we continue the consultation process?

