

Zimbabwe EPA Support Project (ZEPA)

Currently, the main EU instrument to support trade and private sector development in Zimbabwe is the **Zimbabwe EPA Support Project (ZEPA)** with a budget of **Euro10 million**. The project is funded from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for support to the Eastern and Southern Africa- Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) region. This envelope, amounting to €40 million in total is earmarked to support ESA countries that have signed the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement. Implementation of the project started in October 2018. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development represented by the National Authorising Office (NAO) of the EDF is the Contracting Authority. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is the lead implementing ministry.

The **Zimbabwe EPA Support Programme** is supporting improvement in the policy, legislative and regulatory framework as well as developing the capacity of trade institutions to manage trade policy and implement trade agreements. The project also seeks to support improved trade facilitation by reducing cost and time of trading across borders.

The **overall objective** of the Zimbabwe EPA Support Project is to, *"Enhance Zimbabwe's integration into the regional and international trading system"*.

The specific objectives

- Reform and streamline policy, regulatory and institutional
- Reduced trading costs and expedited movement, release and clearance of goods
- Improved competitiveness and export capacity of small and medium sized enterprises in selected value chains

The **specific objectives** and **results** to realise the overall objective are:

SO1: *Reform and streamline policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks to incentivise production and trade in selected value chains*

Result 1.1: Policy and regulatory barriers are reduced to increase and diversify exports

Result 1.2: Strengthened institutional capacity to implement and monitor trade and trade related agreements,

SO2: *Reduced trading costs and expedited movement, release and clearance of goods*

Result 2.1: Improved customs operations,

Result 2.2: Improved border management

SO3: *Improved competitiveness and export capacity of small and medium sized enterprises in selected value chains*

Result 3.1: Improved and expanded service delivery of Business Support Organisations

Result 3.2: Improved production value chain and cluster development