NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

3\textsuperscript{rd} Workshop within the IIASA project

“Challenges and Opportunities of Economic Integration
within a Wider European and Eurasian Space”

WORKSHOP CONCEPT

20-21 November 2014

The potential of European-Eurasian continental economic integration is still under-researched. Even the discussion of its basic concepts and modalities often faces difficulties owing to the lack of a neutral rational approach. Evidently, there is a need to conceptualize and understand European-Eurasian continental economic integration beyond the conventional frames of traditional ideologies, geopolitical and cultural interpretations in a truly constructive and comprehensive manner.

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria has launched in 2013 a project on Challenges and Opportunities of Economic Integration within a Wider European and Eurasian Space. The goal of this international and interdisciplinary research project is to discuss and analyse the issues of economic integration in the Eurasian continent. European-Eurasian cooperation extends to the key Asian players, such as China, Korea and Japan, as well as, in the context of newly emerging Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the USA.

The envisaged multidisciplinary approach of the project includes economic and political, technological, institutional, sectoral – energy, infrastructure, finance and investment, etc. – and demographic aspects of Pan-European/Eurasian development. The project has been discussed and initially supported by the European Commission, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and some other European and Eurasian institutions.

The two-year research project consists of a series of workshops at which specific aspects of integration are discussed by scientists and stakeholders representing all interested regions. The follow-up discussion summaries, notes, opinion papers and other outputs from the project outline the state-of-the-art in this field and reflect on alternative approaches. On March 6-7, 2014 and on July 8-9, 2014 the first two workshops dealing with Methodology for Assessing Effects of Regional Economic Integration\textsuperscript{1} and Trade Policy Regimes\textsuperscript{2} took place at IIASA.

\textsuperscript{1}http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/research/researchPrograms/AdvancedSystemsAnalysis/Eurasian_workshop.html
\textsuperscript{2}http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/research/researchPrograms/AdvancedSystemsAnalysis/eurasian_ws_2nd.html
Both workshops gathered a representative cohort of scientists, experts, stakeholders and policy-makers from the Eurasian Development Bank, the European Commission, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Russian Academy of Sciences, The World Bank, academic institutions and think tanks, corporations and banks across the region.

The forthcoming third IIASA workshop on 20-21 November 2014 will focus on major aspects related to non-tariff barriers in trade and technical regulations, namely, it will:

(i) review existing non-tariff barriers in trade between the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and European Union (EU) and other CIS countries; define the criteria of limiting trade with third countries in order to protect the domestic market; investigate the effects of non-tariff barriers on cross-border trade in goods, services and mutual investments between the EU, the EEU and separate countries;

(ii) discuss the economic impacts of the currently on-going sanction war between the EU, the USA and Russia, the corresponding threats for international trade, long-term cooperation between the EU and the EEU and its impact on economies of other CIS countries, not directly involved in it;

(iii) discuss the challenges and possible solutions related to general non-tariff barriers between the EU, the EEU and the CIS countries in the context of recent developments; analyze the conditions of reduction or modification in non-tariff regulation; evaluate the effect of increasing the non-tariff barriers to trade in the EU/EEU on the comprehensive development of the Arctic zone;

(iv) discuss the potential effects of the implementation of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA) between the EU and Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine;

(v) study the relationship between norms and principles of international trade law in the frame of WTO and the legal framework of economic integration in the various regions of the world; explore the possibilities of eliminating unnecessary obstacles to trade and mutual recognition of conformity assessment results within the framework of the WTO;

(vi) discuss the harmonization of legislation in the field of technical regulation, sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary regulation between the EEU and other regions, primarily the EU; issues of convergence of methods of conformity assessment, testing, accreditation, the harmonization of terminology and labeling, consistency in the results, trade facilitation, harmonization of national and regional standards with international standards; product safety, training in the field of standardization and conformity assessment, issues relating to the "package" of the principle of application of technical regulations;

(vii) elaborate perspectives of possible reduction of non-tariff barriers and convergence of technical regulation to the mutual benefit of all parties involved, discuss the opportunities and risks of economic modernization of the East-European partnership countries, through adaptation to European technical regulations and sanitary requirements; possibility of providing a unified policy, remove bottlenecks and differences in the sphere of technical regulation of the EEU countries and new members in the future; examine the impact of the introduction of uniform technical regulations to ensure competitive advantage producers of goods and services in different regions.