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**Explanatory note regarding Work
performed and Outputs produced
In Component 2 of the CDFB project
April 2015**

**Prepared on CDFB TL-s request by A. Pinihin,
JNKE of the CDFB project**



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During the whole period of implementation the CDFB project made a lot of efforts in development of proposals aimed at supporting ITA mechanism reforming.

In accordance with the terms of reference the JNKE carried out the following activities described below.

Activities were performed in three stages:

- 1) collection and analysis of the existing problems,
- 2) identifying general solutions for the raised problems,
- 3) providing the Government with specific legal documents as a tool for solution of the identified problems.

For the purpose of implementation of the 1st stage of work a wide range of meetings was conducted with the representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ministries and agencies involved in the implementation of projects, EUD, CO UNDP, the representatives of NGOs; several events were organized with participation of described parties to discuss the elaborated proposals.

The following problematic issues were determined during this stage of work:

i. Improving the coordination mechanism for ITA to Belarus in accordance with the Global Partnership provisions.

- Predictability of the ITA;
- Integration of the ITA in the state planning system;
- Establishment of the "entry point" for the donors communities in Belarus;
- Improving of information flows and reporting procedures in ITA sphere.

ii. Optimization of registration procedures for the ITA programs and projects to improve the efficiency of their implementation.

Subsequent work on the formulation of suggestions and proposals for solving the existing problems was based on the approach to propose realistic solutions for the raised issues to the decision makers.

Particularly for the JNKE the following products were produced and discussed with a wide range of the stakeholders:

1. Review of current (legal) coordination mechanism

- 1.1. The Summary of review was presented during the inception workshop July 23, 2014 by JNKE
- 1.2. Interim report «Analysis of current aid coordination system» was provided to the CDFB staff
2. Draft suggestion to the GoB in legal establishing of the corresponding long-term aid coordination solutions
 - 2.1. Summarizing suggestions for a new (long-term and/or short-term) Aid Coordination Concept presented and discussed during 2 WG meetings (Conference and RT carried out on October 14, 2014 and the WG meeting organized on 31 October 2014) and during WG study tour to Lithuania)
 - 2.2. The recommendations of the representatives of Governmental bodies and NGOs for a new (long-term and/or short-term) Aid Coordination Concept were summarized into the Recommendations of the Conference and RT (14 October 2014)
 - 2.3. Problematic issues in the field of ODA coordination and projects implementation were collected and analyzed through the questionnaire (was sent to 100 legal entities, including Governmental bodies, NGOs, regional authorities, education entities and other EU projects implementing entities) and during WG meeting (14 October 2014)
 - 2.4. The answers to the problematic legal issues in the field of ITA coordination and project implementation provided by the MoE, NCU and CDFB staff were collected, added, edited and summarized for the publication “Questions and answers in the field of ITA in Belarus” (FAQ)
3. Comprehensive report containing analysis of the current international technical assistance coordination mechanism as well as policy recommendations and a formulated concept of a new coordination mechanism. Summary of documents, decisions, recommendation and etc. under activity 2.1&2.2. The draft comprehensive report was based on the GAP-analysis approach and the policy recommendations for implementing a new coordination concept were discussed with representatives of MoE and CDFB staff. The period of finalizing the report coincided fortunately with long-awaited regulatory measure: the Belarusian authorities had decided to modify and improve ITA coordination mechanism. Upon the direct order of the Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus the Minister of Economy was instructed and empowered to analyze regulatory norms of ITA, recently applied within the authority of the Council of Ministers. On the basis of this analysis the MoE had to prepare proposals for maximal de-bureaucratization of the related legal and regulatory background by the beginning of April 2015.

The key to solution of problematic issues is the change of the national legislation in the ITA sphere. For this purpose joint work was organized with the Ministry of Economy (as the main ITA regulation actor) in close collaboration with decision makers in ITA regulation area; the implementing agencies and organizations identified the legal solutions acceptable to the Government. Main specific outputs of this stage of works:

Draft of new Governmental regulations in the ITA sphere produced by the JNKE was discussed with a wide range of stakeholders. Following the request of the MoE the CDFB project organized and convened a round table discussion. This event was clearly considered as discussion panel and 'brain storm' with the idea to look for real, progressive and still acceptable solutions. On the other hand the CDFB project used, a propos, this event opportunity as visibility platform to present and discuss project deliverables in the sphere of ITA coordination mechanism.

After the Round table new Governmental regulations in the ITA were edited jointly by the MoE representatives and JNKE in accordance with the received comments and recommendations from them and submitted to the inter-ministerial approval by the Ministry of Economy. Final new Governmental regulations in the ITA sphere should be submitted to the Government at the beginning of April 2015. Produced drafts introduce the following main innovations:

- Establishment of the Coordination Council consisting of representatives of Governmental bodies, donors and NGOs under the Commission of ITA issues and managed directly by the 1st Vice-Prime Minister;
- Empowerment of the Head of Commission of ITA issues (1st Vice-Prime Minister), particularly as the National coordinator of ITA in Belarus;
- Establishment of the procedure for annual updating of the National ITA program based on the country donors program documents (strategies, ODA programs ect);
- One window for approval and registration of all projects;
- Simplified procedures (5 days registration) for the ITA projects under registered programs;
- Simplified state reporting procedures.

The next steps of the work for improvement of legislation in this area (in the case the Council of Ministries adoption proposals) are development of lower-level legislation (decisions of the ministries). In this regard possible contribution from the CDFB Project (if the MoE requests support from CDFB) to this effort will be work in accordance with activity B.5 of the ToR. „Contribution to the optimization of registration procedures for international technical assistance programs and projects for increasing efficiency of their realization“.

Secondly, after the decision-making it is required to draft the handbook under activity A.5 of the ToR „Drafting of EU assistance management and assessment guidelines (generic document handbook covering all aspects of the EU assistance relevant to Belarus)“. The respective work is ongoing.