Project Summary

Project Background
Sierra Leone benefits from the EU Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative. However, due to supply capacity constraints, Sierra Leone fails to take advantage of these preferences. Furthermore, Sierra Leone is engaged with the ECOWAS regional negotiation phase of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The European Commission is committed to assist the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) with the EPA negotiations and related other trade policy issues, including the Doha Development Round agenda.

Project Objectives
- To facilitate and assist the GoSL with their EPA negotiations within the ECOWAS regional negotiation phase.
- To conduct an assessment of trade related needs for external assistance, and to draft the proposal as well prepare the necessary documentation for the tendering process.

Project Activities
- Assist the GoSL in identifying the key areas of involvement in the ongoing EPA negotiations and to enhance their participation in the ongoing EPA regional negotiations: selection of crucial thematic issues, training and coaching of newly established thematic working groups.
- Assist the GoSL team with the conduct of the negotiations, through training trade negotiators and other relevant staff, formulation and presentation of position papers etc.
- Elaboration of a comprehensive training handbook on “Training in EPA negotiations”.
- Review of needs and gaps in relation to existing or pipeline assistance.
- Draft the Financing Proposal for the TA for the EPA Negotiation and Implementation as well as the Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) Support Programmes for SL including elaboration of ToR.
- Support to the Delegation with launching the TRTA program through elaboration of tender documents and templates needed for the tender dossier.
- Assist in application from other funding sources: “Establishment of the Cocoa/Produce Marketing Board” under the BizClim facility and “Institutional Capacity Building of SL Chamber of Commerce and Industry” under the TradeCom facility.

Implementation Features
The assignment cumulated in the National Stakeholder Meeting “Positioning SL for the EPA negotiations” in preparation of the ECOWAS summit Dec 08 of the Heads of State and Governments. There a common West African position was adopted regarding a comprehensive EPA for the expected resumed EPA negotiations.

Services Provided
- Policy advice to Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Identification of key areas of the EPA negotiations
- Training trade negotiators and other relevant staff
- Preparation of the Draft Financing Proposal for the EC support programme as well as
- Elaboration of tender documents and templates for the tender dossier
- Elaboration of the applications for BizClim and TradeCom facilities