

Guidance Note for the Research Phase

7Up4 project

This note was thought necessary for providing the necessary guidance to the Project Partners of the CUTS 7Up4 project, in order for all of them to have a common strategy and work-plan for undertaking the detailed research activities envisaged under the 7Up4 project. This note should be read along with the 'Research Methodology Note' that circulated earlier among the project partners.

Sl. No.	Components of Research	Main Objectives/Anticipated Outcomes from Research	Research Tools and the Scope of their application	Q'aire (Y/N)	Moths						Other Remarks
					Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1	Characteristics of the macro-economy	Sets the background for the research - by looking at some of those aspects of the macro-economy that impact domestic competition	Literature Survey (and analysis of certain macro-economic indicators vis-à-vis competition)	N	✓	✓					None
2	Government Policy that impinge on competition	A thorough assessment of the (national) social and economic policies of the government, that affect competition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Policy • Agriculture Development Strategy • Industrial Policy • Trade Policy • Privatisation and Regulatory Reforms • Investment Policy • Government Procurement Policy • Labour Policy • Consumer Protection Policy 	Literature Survey (and analysis of relevant documents) Opinion Seeking might be necessary in some cases in order to validate some of the information received and analysed (literature surevey)	N	✓	✓					None
3	Progress made by project countries in operationalising competition regimes	Assessment of the progress made by project countries in developing their domestic competition regimes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political will on competition reforms • What factors/reasons led to the adoption of the competition law • Which year was the process started, and the nature of progress • Major amendments (sections), 	Opinion Seeking (personal interviews with people who have been involved in the process in the Ministry and other government departments, non-state actors who are aware of such historical facts, etc., to capture responses to the mentioned specific issues)	N		✓	✓				SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE PROVIDED TO PARTNERS

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		years and reasons behind those?									
4	Political Economy constraints in implementing competition regimes	Decision-making is a complex political process, and often stakeholders are guided by a variety of motives – self-interest, ideological aversion, lack of understanding, etc. It is necessary to identify such factors to sharpen the policy-advocacy activities, etc.	Literature Review (proper analysis of the available literature) Opinion Seeking (personal interviews with key stakeholders representing the government, business community and civil society)	N	✓	✓					SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE PROVIDED TO PARTNERS
5	Interface between Sectoral Regulation and Competition in select sectors	Evolve an understanding of the best way for the competition and sector-specific regulatory institutions to cooperate	Literature Review (analysis of the relevant literature, and drawing reference from ‘good practices’ in other countries) Opinion Seeking (personal interviews with key stakeholders representing the government, regulators, business community, scholars and civil society)	N	✓	✓					SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE PROVIDED TO PARTNERS
6	Investigation of existing competition abuses and distortions at all levels	Obtain evidence of anti-competitive practices prevailing in each country	Newspaper Scanning and other sources (may be revealed during the personal interviews and/or literature review, as well)	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TO BE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT PERIOD
7	Cross-sectional perception on competition issues	To assess the awareness and understanding of the stakeholders (government, business and civil society) on competition issues	Questionnaire Survey (of 150-200 respondents, representing the three stakeholder groups)	Y			✓	✓			TO BE PREPARED BY CUTS AND FINALISED IN CONSULTATION WITH

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											PARTNERS
8	Assessment of the implication of natural monopolies on competition	Assessment of competition concerns, issues for further improvement and advocacy needs	<p>Literature Review (analysis of the relevant literature and evidence)</p> <p>Opinion Seeking (personal interviews with key stakeholders representing the government, regulators, business associations and scholars, etc.)</p>		✓	✓					SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE PROVIDED TO PARTNERS
9	Assessment of Competition issues in the Agriculture sector	A detailed assessment of how the lack of competition affects livelihoods and frustrates poverty reduction strategies of the government	<p>Literature Review (analysis of the relevant literature and evidence)</p> <p>Questionnaire Survey (of specific respondents)</p>		✓	✓					TO BE PROVIDED BY CUTS
10	Drafting the Country Research Report (Draft)									✓	REDAYING FOR THE INTERIM REVIEW MEETING in JULY, 09