



July 2, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to confirm that ACT LLC (ACT) is providing research and analysis in support of the USAID regional project, “Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth” (EDGE), which I oversee within the Agency in my role as Economic Growth Officer and Contracting Officer’s Representative.

EDGE is a 3- to 5-year, up to \$21 million, regional activity in Europe and Eurasia (E&E) that aims to create inclusive, sustainable economic growth and to support intra-regional and Euro-Atlantic integration. EDGE is managed by the USAID E&E Bureau in Washington and works closely with USAID Missions, projects, governments, and other stakeholders in the region.

EDGE is tasked with, among other things, helping small and medium enterprises (SMEs) improve their competitiveness and business sophistication. In the last several months, SMEs have faced significant economic disruptions resulting from COVID-19. In that connection, EDGE has contracted ACT to conduct a qualitative regional study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SMEs in targeted value chains, namely fruits and vegetables, light manufacturing, tourism, and ICT. The study will entail an online survey and targeted in-depth interviews. The study seeks to identify the core challenges facing SMEs resulting from the global COVID-19 pandemic and draw conclusions on how USAID, as well as other donors, could assist SMEs to recover and improve their future prospects. The findings from the study will be shared in the hopes of informing further assistance efforts to support SMEs to successfully recover and strengthen their competitiveness in this very challenging setting.

Online survey and in-depth interviews with SME representatives and experts will constitute a crucial part of the study. USAID kindly requests and will greatly appreciate your cooperation in support of the regional study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SMEs being conducted by ACT.

Sincerely,

Stephen F. Little

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Economic Growth Officer
Bureau for Europe and Eurasia