

WCO CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

In the most general terms, capacity consists of a party's ability to solve its problems and achieve its objectives. Following a Decision of the WCO Council in June 2009, the Capacity Building Committee first met in September 2010. Since then, the WCO Capacity Building Directorate has supported the development of Customs administrations and personnel's all over the world.

The Capacity Building Committee is the global forum for exchanging on Customs reform and modernization. Constant changes in the world's economic perspective, together with new technologies and other emerging trends have created new needs and new priorities, which has been identified to improve Customs administrations performance.

The WCO is a part of a broad network of international agencies working to support reform and modernization along with global, continental, regional and national trade facilitation initiatives worldwide. The following multi-year WCO Capacity Building Programmes and Projects have provided the framework for the WCO to finance many support activities and engagements.

1. The Anti-Corruption and Integrity Promotion (A-CIP) Programme. The Programme aims at improving the business and law enforcement environment for cross-border trade in selected WCO member countries by making changes to the operational and administrative context that restricts corrupt behavior and promotes good governance in Customs services.

2. The WCO-EU Programme to support Africa on the Harmonized System. Customs administrations have to develop, implement and apply the national tariffs in line with the HS Convention and RECs' common external tariffs. The programme remains open to Customs administrations and RECs in Africa wishing to efficiently implement the HS, set up advance rulings systems and enhance their classification work model.

3. HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD Programme. The Programme is designed to leverage the unique competencies and capacities of the WCO, the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC). The Programme allows for new engagements in the African, Central American and Caribbean region, while providing a framework for continuation of other programmes. Particular efforts have been made

to secure alternative sources of funding for those countries where Programme activities have phased out due to the geographical shift, including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Palestine, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

4. SECO-WCO Global Trade Facilitation Programme (GTFP). The implementation of sustainable and transparent improvements within the Customs Administrations will count on the participation of relevant stakeholders and take into account the specific needs of each country, following the WCO Capacity Building model: Diagnostic, Strategic Planning and Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation.

The outcomes of the Program will be: organizational development (strengthening capacity through leadership and management development), trade facilitation (improving of compliance capacity for Customs and relevant stakeholders, as well as implementing international standards and best practices) and performance measurement (supporting the development of a comprehensive performance measurement tool for Customs performance).

5. The Trade Facilitation Programme in Middle Income Countries (TFP-MICs). This new partnership (it is started in October 2019) is designed to provide technical assistance and capacity building in five middle income countries (Brazil, India, Nigeria, Philippines and South Africa).

6. The WCO and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The Programme commence implementation from January 2021. It is aimed at sustainable development in Sub-Sahara Africa. Over a four-year programme period, the programme will contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction efforts by strengthening the strategic and operational capacity of the Customs administrations to improve the business environment for cross-border trade.

7. The WCO-GIZ Programme for the Gambia. The project supports the Gambia Revenue Authority in the implementation of priority trade facilitation measures by creating the conditions for better cooperation between border-control bodies. The specific objective are to enable the Gambian authorities to periodically measure clearance and release times by utilizing the WCO instruments.

Today, we can say, that much has been achieved. The Customs Capacity Building community is now reflecting on the past and embracing the future. In an ever-changing world, it is necessary to constantly review and change strategies to focus efforts on supporting members to tackle the challenges of the 21st century and to meet the expectations of their governments.

1. WCO Capacity Building Programmes & Projects [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <http://www.wcoomd.org> - Access date: 26.12.2021.

MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN CUSTOMS

In order to increase efficiency in physical examinations, Customs administrations should use modern technology to inspect high-risk shipments. Technology in a Customs context can be in broad terms divided into two parts. The first is Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and the second Inspection Enabling Technologies. These two sets of technologies should be seen as complementary tools that enable Customs administrations to manage their tasks more efficiently. Customs Services in different countries today use varying degrees of automation to support core Customs functions such as goods declaration processing, revenue assessment, revenue collection, risk management, and management reporting.

As part of the Beyond the Border Action Plan commitments, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Transport Canada (TC) and the United States (U.S.) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) jointly developed the Integrated Cargo Security Strategy (ICSS) to facilitate the movement of secure cargo under the principle of “cleared once, accepted twice”. Results from the pilots’ assessment indicate that the CBSA and the CBP have been able to successfully share information and jointly mitigate national security risks at the perimeter.

The NEXUS program allows pre-screened travelers expedited processing when entering the United States and Canada. At select airports, iris-scan identification systems enable participants of the NEXUS pre-approved traveler program to quickly verify their identity. Program members use dedicated processing lanes at designated northern border ports of entry, NEXUS kiosks when entering Canada by air and Global Entry kiosks when entering the United States via Canadian Preclearance airports. NEXUS members also receive expedited processing at marine reporting locations.