

Customs 2020

Short general description:

EU Customs makes a substantial contribution in helping to raise revenue for the EU and Member States' budgets every year and delivers considerable benefits to EU citizens and business, whether it is through blocking unsafe or illegal imports or facilitating trade. The programme supports the functioning and modernisation of the Customs Union in order to strengthen the internal market by means of cooperation between participating countries, their customs authorities and their officials.

Objectives:

The programme supports customs authorities to protect the financial and economic interests of the European Union and the Member States, including the fight against fraud and the protection of intellectual property rights. It aims at increasing safety and security, protecting citizens and the environment. It also aims to improve administrative capacity and to strengthen the competitiveness of European businesses.

Supported activities:

Customs 2020 will support cooperation between customs authorities in the EU to help maximise their efficiency and avoid mismatches in their work, which could hinder the functioning of the Customs Union. It will facilitate networking, joint actions and training amongst customs personnel, while also funding IT systems that ensure modern and harmonised approaches to customs procedures and controls, and enhancing the functioning of the customs authorities.

Eligibility (in the context of the ENP):

The programme is open to partner countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy provided that those countries have reached a sufficient level of approximation of the relevant legislation and administrative methods to those of the Union.

Modalities of participation:

The partner countries can participate in the Programme if a framework agreement is established for their participation in Union programmes. The Countries have also to express the wish to participate and to negotiate with the Commission an agreement on the specific conditions, including the financial contribution, for its participation in the programme (unless the nature or content of the activity prevents their participation).

Alternatively, Ad-hoc participation to programmes activities is possible, upon invitation to selected activities. The participating country must contribute actively to the realisation of the action's objectives. Some participants' costs may be reimbursed (travel, daily allowance, accommodation).

Contact point: DG TAXUD, Central programme management unit, taxud-customs2013@ec.europa.eu

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/cooperation_programmes/fiscus/index_en.htm

Examples of activities where ENP countries can be involved:

Participation to workshops and seminars on EU Customs issues.