



Project Partners

Ministry of Finance

Customs Administration

National Board of
Finnish Customs

Facts and Figures

- Total budget: € 1 million
- EU contribution: € 1 million
- Duration: August 2009 - February 2011
- 23 experts working on the project

Reform of public administration

Customs Legislation Closer to EU Standards

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

"The proposed amendments to the Customs Law by the EU project experts offer benefits for the economic operators especially in the part of bank guarantees and customs debt."

Mr. Vančo Kargov, Director General of the Customs Administration



Context

Customs legislation in the former Republic of Macedonia is well aligned with the body of EU law. But further measures are necessary. That is why, with the help of EU experts, the Macedonian customs legislation and procedures were assessed, and evaluated against the requirements of EU law. The project proposed legislative changes that were incorporated as amendments to the Customs Code. The main areas of alignment were transit procedure, electronic custom declarations, custom debts and guarantees. A training programme was also developed. Part of the project involved study visits of 12 customs officers to the Finnish Board of Customs and to the Customs Office of the Czech Republic in order to learn best practices.

Objectives

- Support the reform process in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by further aligning the Customs Code with the body of EU law.
- Boost the capacity of the Customs Administration.
- Assist the Ministry of Finance and the Customs Administration in preparing the draft customs legislation necessary to be in line with EU law.

Impact

- A gap analysis showed in detail the current status relative to the requirements of EU law. Based on the findings, legislative amendments and guidelines were drafted and an action plan for implementation of the necessary provisions was put in place.
- The draft legislation was harmonised with EU legislation.
- Draft provisions were prepared on electronic customs declarations.