

## Newsletter of the IPA Project AL 13 IPA FI 02 16 – IPA 2013 – Preparation of the Albanian Customs Administration for the EU Integrated Tariff Management System

2017/2

Tirana, May 10, 2017

### *Launching event of the EU ITMS twinning project which provides 1.8 million Euro support for the Albanian customs administration*

On May 4, 2017 the launching event of the EU ITMS twinning project AL 13 IPA FI 02 16 – IPA 2013, aimed at preparing the Albanian customs administration (ACA) for the EU Integrated Tariff Management System was held at the EU Info Centre in Tirana.

The Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency, which is leading the twinning in partnership with Studiare Sviluppo srl, acting as mandated body, was represented by Mr Paolo Lo Surdo, Director of the Central Directorate for Planning, Administration and Safety at Work. Mr Lo Surdo stressed the importance of the project in the framework of the long and fruitful tradition of cooperation between the Albanian and the Italian administrations, as a good opportunity for exchange of experiences and expertise to support Albania in the current phase of EU accession negotiations. The EU ITMS twinning will help to further strengthen the bilateral efforts of the Italian and Albanian customs, as well as multilateral cooperation in the Balkan area, thanks also to the joint participation in the EU TACTA and SEED projects. Such intense activity was formalized through several operational Memorandums of Understanding, signed by the two partners since 1998, aimed at implementing mutual administrative assistance for the purposes of prevention, investigation and suppression of customs violations.

Mr Giovanni Piccirillo, Project Leader from the Italian side, added that the twinning will implement the customs tariff provisions of the Union Customs Code (UCC), whose ultimate goal is to shape the so-called 'Customs 4.0' and to set up the IT procedures for the legitimate and simplified trade. In the new legislative and operational framework the ITMS, as an important tool for simplification, will allow operators to lodge customs declarations via an App in smartphones and calculate in advance the customs duties to pay.

RTA Mr Andrea Lombardi made a technical speech on the twinning project goal, methodology and activities. The goal is to align the Albanian customs legislation and procedures with the EU standards on customs tariff and to benefit from the IT interconnectivity possibilities offered by the EU-ITMS. The methodology is translated, first, in a strategic approach which combines joint planning of activities and flexibility to address Albanian needs, second, in working methods like frontal lessons, e-learning, training, study visits, and internships. The activities are structured in three components: analysis of the Albanian customs legislation with regard to the EU customs ITMS related issues (Comp 1); adjustment of ACA information system to allow full interoperability with the EU information systems (Comp 2); improvement of ACA administrative capacity: organization, training and communication (Comp 3).

The Albanian deputy minister of finance, Mr Ervin Mete, and the representatives of the Albanian customs administration, Director General Ms Belinda Ikonomi and Deputy Director General Ms Mirela Meko, and of the EU and the EU members states delegations in Albania, as well as the chambers of commerce and private stakeholders took part at the event that paved the way for the fruitful implementation of the project, in line with the objective indicators of success set up by the EU customs blueprints. Their speeches are summarized in the below press review which portrays the Albanian media coverage of the event.



*Customs, Italy offers assistance on the integrated tariff. (Top Channel)*

Italian customs authorities will be assisting Albania on development of national systems for exchanging information with the EU ones. EU is already funding a project amounting to 1.8 million Euros for the twinning in between two customs. More specifically it aims at the preparation of Albanian customs administration on the ITMS which is being currently used by the European Union, as Albania will be adopting the same system once it joins the EU. The deputy minister of finance indicated in his speech that all this efforts have two common goals, the facilitation of the commercial exchanges and enabling Albania being an active partner within the regional economic zones as well as in the EU. He emphasized the fact that this undertaking would also help to be as predictable as possible in terms of applying the legislation and tariffs. The training will eventually carry out the harmonization of legislation and tariff procedures in order to align those to the EU system of processing the electronic data.

<http://top-channel.tv/lajme/artikull.php?id=354351>

## *European Common Tariff-EU funds 1.8 million Euro for Albanian customs. (SCAN TV)*

The information system of Albanian customs will be soon part of European customs network. European Union aims to prepare the Albanian Customs on the ITMS through a twinning project amounting to 1.8 million euro. The deputy minister of finance, Mr Ervin Mete, in his speech during the event official launch, reiterated that the modernization of the system will facilitate the business procedures, which would lead to an increase of commercial exchanges with the European Union countries. Whereas the chief of operations of the EU delegation in Albania, Mr Stephen Stork, emphasized the broadening role of customs administrations beyond collecting revenues. The Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency will assist our country in developing its own national system which will be linked with the EU IT systems in order to exchange information. TARIC is a multi-lingual database, which contains all measures related to the customs tariff as well the commercial and agricultural legislation of EU. Economic operators will eventually benefit from this, as the transparency will prevail in all cases of goods imports/exports.

<http://www.scan-tv.com/tarifa-e-perbashket-europiane-be-financon-18-milion-euro-per-doganat-shqiptare/>

## *Albania will align the customs tariff on import/export with EU. (ABN Outlet)*

At the ceremony of project launch, the deputy minister of finance and the general director of customs underlined the importance of the project with regards to furthering the harmonization process of Albanian customs legislation with the EU one, prior to Albania joining the European Union. The deputy minister reiterated the fact that this project would focus on the European common tariff, which would aim the alignment of trade legislation, systems and practices with the ones in use within the great European family. Mrs. Ikonomi, the head of Albanian customs claimed that Albanian customs administration will aim through this project to finally be able to be interconnected and interact with the UE IT systems. She reiterated the importance of this project, which would eventually transform the Albanian customs tariff into fully compatible with the EU TARIC system. This product will be utilized prior to Albania joining EU. The project launch was also greeted by ambassador Alberto Cutillo, given that Italia will be assisting Albania in this project. In his speech he urged the Albanian authorities to address the factors that impede commercial exchanges trade relationships with partner countries. He reiterated the fact that the implementation of European common tariff will bring a positive effect in the commercial sector in Albania. The twinning project, funded by EU at the amount of 1.8 million Euro, will increase the capacities of Albanian customs administration through the next two years.

<http://www.abn.al/shqiperia-te-njehsoje-tarifat-doganore-te-import-eksportit-ato-te/>

## *European Common Tariff – EU funds 1.8 Million for the Albanian Customs. (RTK-Live)*

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amounting to 1.8 million euro. The deputy minister of finance, Ervin Mete, in his speech during the event official launch, reiterated that the modernization of the system will facilitate the business procedures, which would lead to an increase of commercial exchanges with the European Union countries. Whereas the chief of operations of EU Delegation in Albania emphasised the broadening role of customs administrations beyond collecting revenues. The Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency will assist our country in developing its own national system which will be linked with the EU IT systems in order to exchange information. TARIC is a multi-lingual database, which contains all measures related to the customs tariff as well the commercial and agricultural legislation of the EU. Economic operators will eventually benefit from this, as the system will enforce transparency on all cases of goods imports/exports.

<https://www.rtklive.com/sq/news-single.php?ID=161071>

### *UE finances 1.8 million euro on the system of Integrated Tariff Management of Customs. (ATA)*

Customs administration is getting prepared to become part of ITMS of European Union. General directorate of customs and EU delegation in Albania held on Thursday the ceremony which marked the initiation of twinning project which will be implemented by Albania and Italy.

The Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency is designated to assist Albania in developing its own national system, in order to connect with the EU IT system which assures the information exchange, known as TARIC. TARIC is a multi-lingual database, which contains all measures related to the customs tariff as well the commercial and agricultural legislation of the EU.

The project is structured in three main components, analysis of Albanian customs legislation related to EU ITMS, adaptation of Albanian Customs IT system in order to fully comply and interact with the EU systems, as well as improvement of organization, training and communication to the Albanian authorities on the subject matters related to this field.

The chief of operations of the EU delegation in Albania emphasized that customs need to expand their scope of activities beyond what is currently functioning as a structure designated only for the collection of taxes. The deputy minister emphasized the importance of this project as a step forward in preparing Albania to join the EU. He reiterated the fact such a project is a clear message to the EU partnership, that Albania is willing to get ready to confront an increase of commercial exchange, once Albania is part of the EU.

<https://www.ata.gov.al/be-financon-1-8-milione-euro-per-sistemin-e-menaxhimit-te-tarifese-integruar-ne-dogana/>

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