



Brussels, 10.4.2024
C(2024) 2226 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

**amending Implementing Decision C(2023) 725 as regards the work programme for 2023,
2024, and 2025 for the Customs Programme**

ANNEX

The Annex is amended as follows:

- (1) point 2.5 ‘Expert team for Import Control System 2 (ICS2) Safety and Security Analytics (ICS2 SSA II)’ is deleted;
- (2) the following point 2.7 is added:

2.7 Grant for expert team on Customs Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border Expert Team (CELBET III)

2.7.1. Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with Article 195, first paragraph, point (f), of the Financial Regulation, the grants shall be awarded without a call for proposals where the eligible entities are customs authorities of the Member States and of the third countries participating in the programme as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/444, provided that the conditions set out in that Article are met, as provided by Article 9(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/444.

2.7.2. Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.

The European Union has the exclusive competence in the areas of customs union and common commercial policy. While the Union has the exclusive right to propose legislation in those areas, Member States and their national customs administrations are engaged in the day-to-day implementation and the running of customs including the management of the external border of the Union.

Goods which are brought into the Union across the Eastern and South-Eastern borders move freely within the Union. Effective and efficient customs controls at the external border are consequently very important for the whole Union with a view to the protection of security, health and safety of its citizens and also of the financial interest of the Union and its Member States. The Union’s land border, in particular its Eastern and South Eastern part, needs to be protected sufficiently and evenly along all its strips, in order to also create a level playing field for legitimate trade. Effective border control will decrease fraud, in particular smuggling and will at the same time facilitate legitimate trade.

2.7.2.1. Description of the activities

This grant will fund collaborative activities, such as exchanging on practices and experience, training sessions, demonstration of methodologies, and preparation of knowledge content, guidance, and similar activities regarding primarily the following subjects:

- Risk management (risk-based selection for controls/facilitation);
- Operational customs control and physical check;
- Selection and use of customs control equipment;
- Training and human competency building aspects;
- Evaluation / performance measurement;
- Cooperation with third parties involved in customs control processes.

With a comprehensive and consistent approach, the expert team will aim at the harmonisation

of customs control activities and working methods, detection technology and training. The expert team will provide expertise and make suggestions based on practical experience, operational co-operation and results achieved for further improvement of the operational management of the Union's Eastern and South-Eastern land border.

2.7.2.2. *Expected results*

The creation of an expert team will enable the customs administrations of participating Member States, to a much greater extent than a project group, to deal more intensively with the Union's Eastern and South-Eastern land border management issues and further to perform operational tasks in the interest of the other Member States and of the Union.

2.7.3. Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG TAXUD

Indicative implementation start date: Q2 2024

Indicative duration of the grant: 12 months

2.7.4 Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming contribution - description of how this action contributes to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in qualitative and quantitative ways.

The grant for CELBET III does not contribute specifically to climate/biodiversity mainstreaming and does not include any specific target in relation to climate / biodiversity).

According to Point 6.2 of Annex 2 ('2. EU budget programmes detailed overview') of Commission Staff Working Document (SWD(2022) 225 final) on Climate mainstreaming architecture in the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, compliance with the 'do no (significant) harm' principle is not relevant for the Customs Programme.