



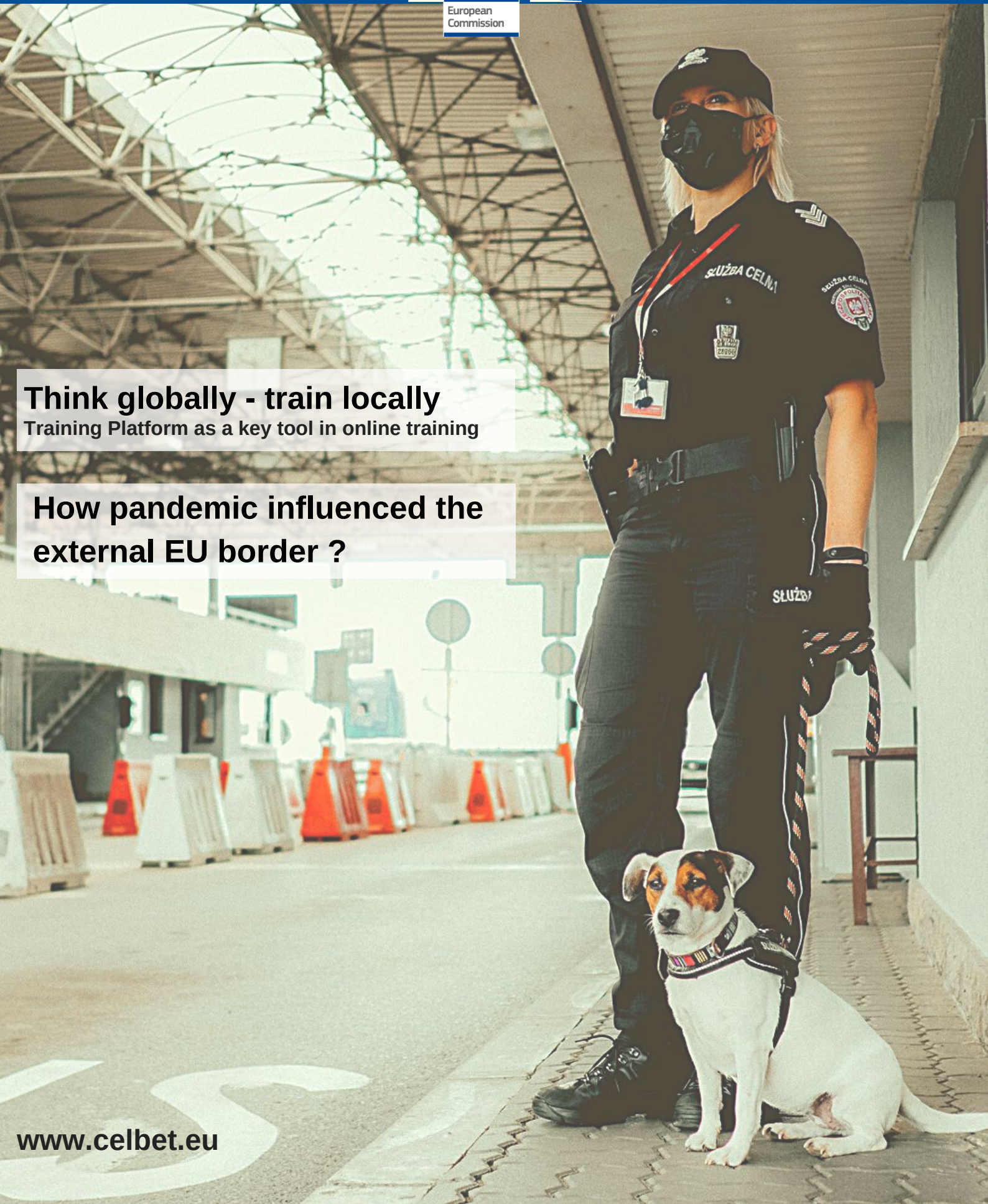
CELBET

CUSTOMS EXPERT TEAM

MAGAZINE

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Think globally - train locally

Training Platform as a key tool in online training

How pandemic influenced the external EU border ?



Jyrki Linna
Head of CELBET

This is the first CELBET magazine of its kind. We have published six newsletters so far, and now we are refreshing the contents a bit, adding themes, like COVID in this issue. We wish to keep the attention of the readers and respond to the need of visibility also outside CELBET. From now on, our publication can be shared freely to all audiences. Even if CELBET is affected by COVID, it has not stopped our work. We do desk research, meet virtually in CELBET training platform and proceed with the activities, which do not require travelling in the first place.

Virtual networking has become more frequent and more efficient, while we are getting to know the new tools, and our computers are enabled to build connections. Having said that, I look forward to the time when CELBET can move to more operational phase and proceed with full power along the whole frontline.

CELBET is not keeping its work and outcomes hidden from EU countries. In spring, we shared our deliverables to all member states. We work for sustainable, practical outcomes that are relevant for CELBET members, and which are more and more adaptable and/or beneficial at EU level.

In this magazine You find information on how several activities implemented within CELBET are in line with expected objectives of the Commission Communication for “Taking the Customs Union to the Next Level: a Plan for Action”. This is natural and essential development when we plan future of CELBET.

COVID 19 – new reality, new challenges for customs at the external border.

In March, at the time of outbreak of the pandemic in Europe, the European Commission presented guidelines to Member States on health-related border management measures in the context of the COVID-19 emergency. The guidelines set out basis to an effective border management to protect health so that services remain available.

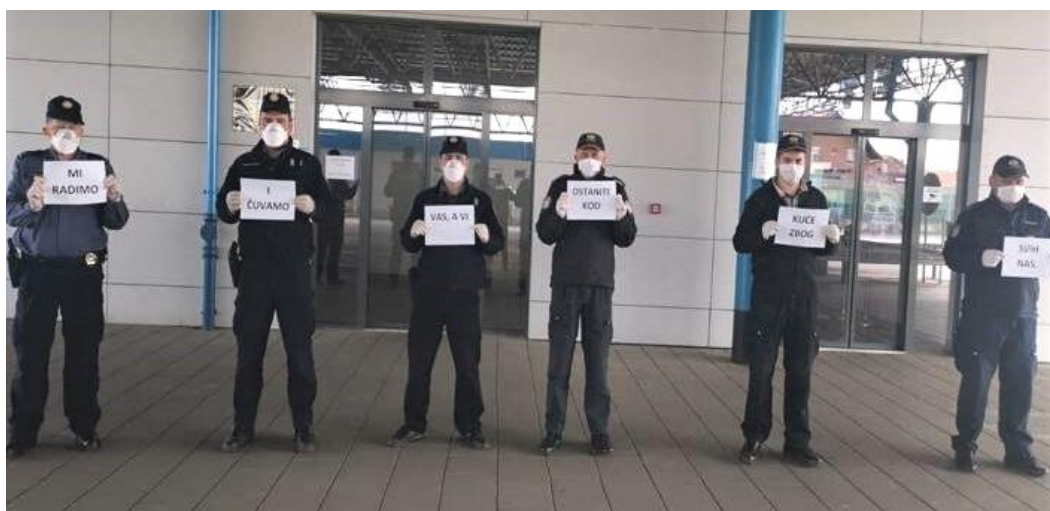
At the time of social and economic difficulties, the coordination at EU level is the key. That's why CELBET, from the beginning of this challenging time, pays attention on gaining and exchange information from border points. It helps to have a broader picture of EU Eastern and South- Eastern land border during pandemic and to exchange the good practical solutions.

Apart from monitoring the situation, realized for instance through Short Joint Action, organized by CELBET Customs Controls team or BCP Network meetings and sharing information, it is very meaningful that CELBET is able to fulfill these needs which are crucial nowadays: training needs.

According to the information, straight from the border points, officers from passengers lanes are relocated to other duties: truck traffic control or office work. The intention of many customs administrations now is to train the relocated officers. CELBET Training Platform delivers different kind of trainings even under so many restrictions and limitations.

At the end of March, on CELBET website, a special COVID subpage was created:
<https://www.celbet.eu/activity/stay-home-we-work-and-care-for-you/>

“Stay home – we work and care for You” which was a translation from Croatian customs officers message: OŠTANITE DOMA- MI RADIMO i ČUVAMO VAS, became the main title of the subpage of CELBET.





In order to provide an overview at the current situation on border crossing points, all CELBET MS customs administrations or border guards/police official webpages have been linked. Coronavirus response webpage of European Commission was also published as a main link.

A special brochure of an idea of joint management procedure during emergencies and peak times at the border crossing points created by CELBET Cooperation Team was published with a download option.

A short video published on CELBET Twitter “How to take medical gloves off safely?” has got over 25 000 views and thankful comments. The video shows how to take gloves off without touching the infected side of the gloves. It was recorded by PR expert in Regional Revenue Office in Olsztyn, Poland.



CELBET management meetings, teams' and BCP Network meetings are organized only online via CELBET Training Platform. Some of the activities of CELBET teams had to be postponed, some can be performed online, like trainings. Thanks to Training Platform meetings can be organized without any limits and in a safe IT environment. The Platform was created and is hosted by Slovakian Tax and Customs Administration.








What is the current situation on the border in CELBET Member States?




Here is a table of the main border issues that have been influenced by the COVID -19.

The data is from October 2020.

| | Passanger traffic decrease | Truck traffic change | Officers from passengers traffic lanes | Safety procedures on the border | Seizures on the border | Cooperation with the BG |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Bulgaria  | Number of passengers has decreased as a result of the closing of the borders for tourist travellings in different periods of the year | On Kapitan Andreevo BCP the decrease was appr. 30% in respect to the usual load. Now the traffic of trucks is with its usual intensity | Available officers were re-directed for work on the lanes for cargo traffic, with periodically increased load, because of the escorting of trucks through the EU territory | Protective equipment is secured, and guidelines are given to the officers how to perform their duties at minimal risk | Fake goods, narcotic substances and excisable goods. also masks, protective suits and disinfectants | Joint inspections, exchange information, an operational coordination in respect to the throughput capability of BCPs – opening of additional lanes, if necessary and possible |
| Croatia  | First 6 months of 2020: decrease: 45 %. April-May: over 85 %. During the summer months this number was increased due to the tourist season so no changes in the work of the customs service at the border. | Around 10%. April-May decrease of around 40%, | The organisation of work and reassignment of workload and officials is being made, depending on the intensity of traffic on the border crossing points. | Obligatory wear of protective masks, use of disinfection liquids etc., There are measures for passengers which enters the Croatian territory, which are updated to the actualy state of epidemic situation | Significant number of seizures of cigarettes and tobacco, and tobacco processed products. Mainly in the trucks | On very high level, as it has already been previously |
| Estonia  | From 18 March, the Russian border has been closed to citizens | Without changes. In June 2019 2314 trucks entered through Narva borderpoint and in June 2020 – 2393 trucks | The control of trucks and trains is intensified. During this time employees are trained | Disinfectants for all service points, ETCB vehicles and public places at the office. Personal protective equipment for employees in direct contact with customers | There ae some seizures but number of violatsions has gone down for more than 65% | The cooperations is very effective. Safety surveillance measures to reduce contact with peaple who cross the border ere developed |



What is the current situation on the border in CELBET Member States?

| | Passanger traffic decrease | Truck traffic change | Officers from passengers traffic lanes | Safety procedures on the border | Seizures on the border | Cooperation with the BG |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Finland  | 68% less than during the same period in year 2019 | Nuijamaa is the only BCP, where exiting truck traffic has been decreasing since April. The decrease is 64% | Customs officers from Passenger Traffic Centre are working now in Goods Traffic Centre. They are controlling trucks and goods physically. Some trainings for customs officers were organized | Protective masks, goggles, cloves, disposable overalls, disinfectant towels and hand sanitizers. At customer service desks, all the openings between customer and customs officer are closed to minimize the airflow | Cigarettes | Cooperation is on the same level as before Covid19 |
| Greece  | Significant reduction in passengers traffic | No substantial decrease | Customs officers continue to perform their duties as they did before the Covid crisis, they have constant control tasks and are work in their offices | Social distancing, masks and gloves on the control lanes and in the office, disinfections. Public is not allowed to enter inside the building (only by appointments and in urgent cases) | Money hidden on the soles of shoes, confiscation of gold jewelry, pharmaceutical supplements in sealed packages of frozen vegetables, pesticides hidden inside fire extinguisher, cigarettes hidden in the cabin and in truck | Is excellent and often BG participate in mutual operations |
| Hungary  | Approx. 40-50% | No decrease, traffic is similar, than in the 2019 | Officers control transit passengers (approx. 300-350 cars/24h) | Face mask and gloves for customs officers are available everywhere,; disinfectant gels | More seizures of the cigarettes in the cabins of the trucks and forbidden goods in personal belongings of passengers | Cooperation is good, at the UA-HU borders one step control technics are used: customs and police officer control at same time in the passenger traffic |



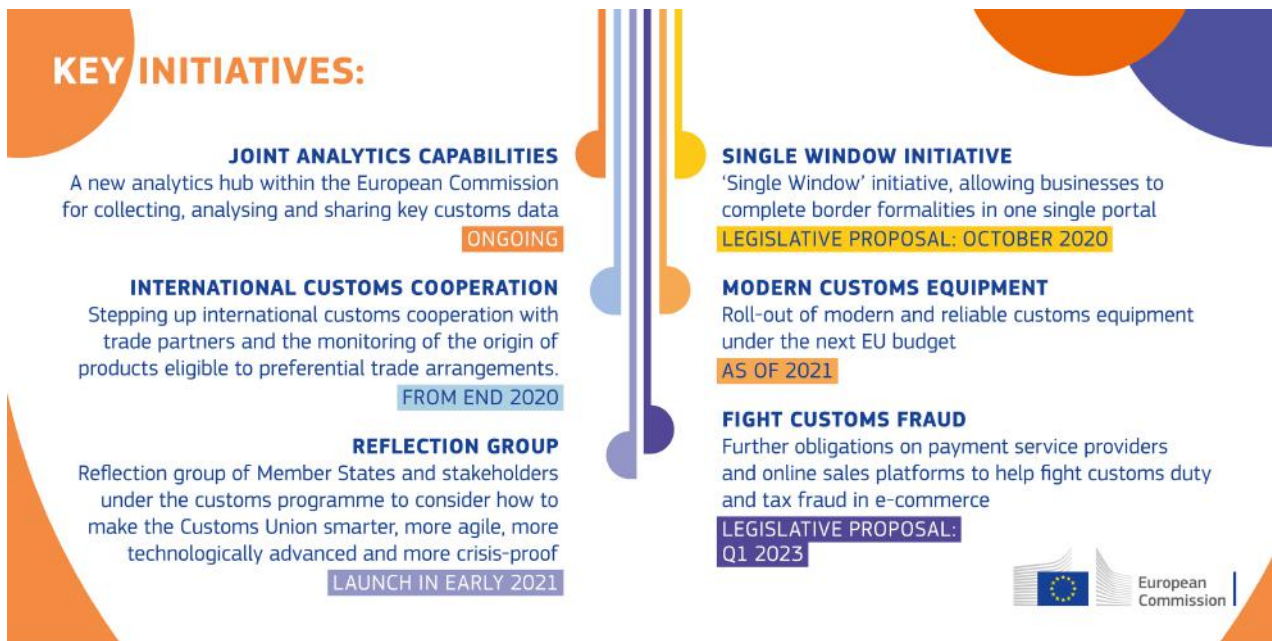
What is the current situation on the border in CEL BET Member States?

| | Passanger traffic decrease | Truck traffic change | Officers from passengers traffic lanes | Safety procedures on the border | Seizures on the border | Cooperation with the BG |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Latvia  | About 95-98% | Not more than 10% | Diverted to truck control, being trained | Gloves, masks, shields. Meetings and trainings are online. Limited contact during shift change. Remote work | The same as before pandemic | Cooperation is at the same level. Cooperation increased in area of information relating COVID cases |
| Lithuania  | 98% | No changes | Officers perform trucks detailed control | Masks, gloves, distancing, hand washing, etc Customs officers working at the BCP perform their duties in one location: no rotation in the BCP during one shift | Amount of seized cigarettes doubled. Comparing the same time in 2019. From I-IX officers found 13.1 million packs of cigarettes (in 2019: 6.8 million packs) | Good, like it was before pandemic |
| Poland  | Approx. 82% | About 7% | Officers control cargo traffic, take days off or being trained. | Protective masks, goggles, gloves, disinfection of the surfaces in the office, drivers give documents via safety dedicated holes in the protection separator | Cigarettes (one of the biggest seizure in Koroszczyn BCP: over 194 880 packages) | Cooperation is still on high level, |
| Romania  | Decreased by 65-66% | Little increase | Officers take days off or control goods | Social distancing, masks and gloves, disinfections. A team of employees of the Public Health Directorate work in the BCP. They monitor the temperature and possible sickness symptoms of the BCP officers and travelers | Cigarettes, pesticides, undeclared amounts of money, weapons (compressed air guns) | Good, like it was before pandemic |
| Slovakia  | Decreased by 75% compared to 2019 | Without changes | Free personnel capacities were transferred from individual road control to truck transport workplaces | Protective veils or other protective equipment, frequent hand washing, frequent room ventilation, disinfection of common passenger compartments on borders, social distance, clients are not allowed to enter, clients can only be at the client zone | Protective masks and respirators, tobacco products, wooden pallets or chemical materials | Heads of both offices meet daily, inform about the current state of HP. In the current situation, however telephone, electronic or written communication is used for cooperation during the common control |

Taking the Customs Union to the next level

CELBET activities support actions and key initiatives of the Action Plan of the Customs Union

On 28 of September the European Commission issued a Communication for Taking the Customs Union to the Next Level: a Plan for Action. The 17 actions in the Customs Action Plan are grouped under four headings: risk management, managing e-commerce, promotion of compliance and customs authorities acting as one. Key initiatives within these headings are:



KEY INITIATIVES:

- JOINT ANALYTICS CAPABILITIES**
 A new analytics hub within the European Commission for collecting, analysing and sharing key customs data
ONGOING
- INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS COOPERATION**
 Stepping up international customs cooperation with trade partners and the monitoring of the origin of products eligible to preferential trade arrangements.
FROM END 2020
- REFLECTION GROUP**
 Reflection group of Member States and stakeholders under the customs programme to consider how to make the Customs Union smarter, more agile, more technologically advanced and more crisis-proof
LAUNCH IN EARLY 2021
- SINGLE WINDOW INITIATIVE**
 'Single Window' initiative, allowing businesses to complete border formalities in one single portal
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: OCTOBER 2020
- MODERN CUSTOMS EQUIPMENT**
 Roll-out of modern and reliable customs equipment under the next EU budget
AS OF 2021
- FIGHT CUSTOMS FRAUD**
 Further obligations on payment service providers and online sales platforms to help fight customs duty and tax fraud in e-commerce
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Q1 2023

European Commission

Risk Management

Action: Joint Analytics capabilities

The aim of Joint Analytics capabilities is to ensure greater availability and use of data and data analysis for customs purposes. The activities of CELBET Risk Management and Customs Controls Teams support this initiative and help to identify shortcomings and vulnerabilities. The Commission Plan for Action highlights the needs of active international cooperation within risk management: *“Data analysis at EU level is needed to drive a better and more extensive use of data from all sources, including through international customs cooperation, and facilitate interlinkages in risk management, customs controls and anti-fraud actions”.*

To gain and to share data from all sources, basing on the international cooperation area, CELBET is an example of international team that is connected closely and practically to customs and border issues, is a part of the whole chain which connects key initiatives. Collecting, analyzing and sharing of data is performed by CELBET Risk Management team which creates risk profiles, quarterly collects seizure data and updates lists of risks. The data is shared among National Risk Analysis Contact Points and some seizures information is shared among CELBET MS via Training Platform in the Interesting Seizures folder.

The Risk Management team has started drafting a questionnaire to gather knowledge regarding the risk management in passengers traffic and control strategies in CELBET MS. Experts of the Risk Management team are involved in the activities of the Customs 2020 Security Risk Rules Project Group (SRR PG) „Analytics Subgroup“. This subgroup has been convened, to help bring forward a practical vision/concept for the implementation of analytics shared services support in the ICS2.

CELBET Risk Management activities are based on the analysis of received information. CELBET acts as a coordinator and supports Member States via NRACs to mitigate specific risks in different modes of transport, including rail, road and passenger traffic.

Based on the risk information received from the Member States and feedback received from regional and BCP level activities or Joint CELBET Activities, the Team, in collaboration with the Member States, could develop risk profiles for activation either regionally or in all CELBET Member States.

Here is the graph of the risk management key objectives: by COM



Customs Controls team together with Risk Management

CELBET Customs Controls team together with Risk Management team plan, carry out and evaluate CELBET Joint Actions (JCA). Thanks to these activities CELBET can gain and share information and data on seizures at a certain time and place. Customs Controls team activity is concentrated on passenger and commercial traffic, road and rail BCP and second line control out of BCP with customs mobile units.



Customs authorities acting as one

Action: Enhance cooperation between customs and security and border management authorities and synergies between their information systems

This action is supported by the Cooperation team. The team in cooperation with COM consider practical methodologies that can be used to assess progress in implementation of the Guidelines on Customs Administration and Border Guards cooperation.

There is also another link between CELBET and Commission Plan for Action initiative of mobility programme: missions. In CELBET we call it customs officers' exchange and missions that aim to exchange best practices, support harmonization of customs control performance at the EU Eastern and South-Eastern land border BCPs, both road and rail, and to build functioning coordination and cooperation mechanisms. The concept was developed in CELBET 2.

CELBET Cooperation team is responsible for establishing the concept and, afterwards also its implementation. All CELBET teams, Head of CELBET and Grant Coordinator have contributed to this future-oriented way of working.



Action: Customs Union Performance

This area is related to formalise the tool which helps the Commission to collect annual and quarterly information from MS on customs-related processes. The activities of Customs Controls team organized together with the Risk Management team, are in line with focusing on the greater availability and use of data and data analysis for customs purposes.

For example both teams agreed to elaborate questionnaire to get additional information from MS on customs control process and working methods on selected BCPs, i.e. how the control process is organized, what is the percentage of detailed customs checks on passenger flow, commercial flow, how the work is organized during night shifts etc. Such information will provide additional background where and how to intensify control activities during Joint CELBET Activities.

The Customs Controls team has also updated Vulnerability table with LFCG raw data from 2019. Additionally, seizures on drugs, IPR, alcohol and cash were added to the Vulnerability table in order to have more comprehensive level of BCPs vulnerability. As a response to new emerging threats CELBET Customs Controls team organized Short CELBET Action (SCA) at selected BCPs. The SCA lasted three days on 3-5 November and was focused on truck cabins' controls.

The objective of SCA is to provide better picture on the real situation at the external EU land border in all 11 CELBET countries.



Action: Better equip Member States with modern and reliable customs control equipment

Being one step ahead the smugglers is possible only with a modern and reliable customs control equipment. But it is important also what kind of equipment to choose. CELBET share the same approach as Commission Plan for Action: *“...customs control equipment would help to address weak points of entry/exit of goods into the customs territory that are detrimental to the protection of the EU’s financial interests, safety and security and to ensure equivalent levels of customs controls in the future”*. Advisory function of CELBET can play vital role in proper use of available funds and in making gap analysis.

Equipment team, to a large extent, can play vital role in this instrument. The team is in possession of data base for market researches including possibilities for deploying new and emerging detection technologies, commonly agreed technical specifications for procurements, set of suggested pre-purchase test protocols, recommendations for common evaluation of procured equipment and training materials. The team has analysed if Automated Number Plate Recognition System (ANPRS) could be used in all Eastern and South-Eastern land border BCPs.

Action: Deploy and deepen cooperation mechanisms under the Customs programme

The Commission has underlined in its Plan for Action that *“in recent years, Member States have shown an increasing interest in enhanced operational cooperation between customs authorities on a geographical or thematic basis in the form of expert teams, one of the tools of the programme”*.

CELBET, as an expert team, contributes to better protection of internal market and the EU interests, correct application of EU legislation at the EU Eastern and South-Eastern land border BCPs, through inter-agency cooperation and diagnostic studies and implementation of the EU Strategy and Action Plan for customs risk management and of the common risk management framework for customs controls.

“There is also a need to strengthen the profile of the customs profession in order to attract the best people to work for customs and for common approaches to training including for the purpose of reducing costs.” This action is supported by all CELBET training activities: common trainings, Centres of Expertise and CELBET Missions, which give customs officers an opportunity to work in a different environment.



IMPROVING COOPERATION ON THE GROUND

More support to customs authorities thanks to enhanced cooperation and training.

- > *Rolling out the EU-wide work of expert teams (e.g. land borders, laboratories)*
- > *Training courses to modernise the Customs Union: 828,000 customs professionals trained since 2014.*
- > *Further develop common competency standards for customs officers.*

Graph source: TAXUD



INFOBOX

Sharing resources where appropriate and possible is one of the most important goals listed in Charter of Customs Administrations of the European Union signed by the Ministers of Finance of the Member States in July 2018 on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of the Customs Union. To enable an exchange of best practices, support harmonization of customs control performance at the EU Eastern and South-Eastern land border and to build functioning coordination and cooperation mechanisms the concept of **Mission** has been developed and initiated during CLEBET 2.

Mission is deploying customs officers from CELBET countries at the territory of the other CELBET country. **CELBET Mission** is a practice-oriented exchange of CELBET customs officials at the EU Eastern and South-Eastern land border. The general aim is to exchange best practices and improve customs control performance in order to enhance the safety and security and facilitate the trade.

In the next CELBET Magazine you will find more about mission procedure, requirements, and how CELBET MS officers can take part in this activity.

Think globally – train locally

Developing the Training team's products

Pandemic time is very challenging for the training area. CELBET Training team strategy has been focused on the establishment of the necessary conditions for continuation of training activities as effectively as possible. The efforts of the team were focused on the delivery of Training Webinars in the customs control area, support for national implementation of CELBET trainings, improvement of the CELBET training platform and other instruments. The team's progress and achievements are visible in several areas:



Methodological support

The Training team developed guidance documents in order to support the implementation of its tasks: guide on how to use the CELBET Webinar tool – BBB, information about the use of CELBET Training platform and Guide on the national implementation of CELBET trainings. The plan is to improve the process of preparation and delivery of Training Webinars as well as to provide support to CELBET "online" trainers.

Implementation of the CELBET Webinar tool – Big Blue Button and improvement of the CELBET Training platform

The Training team implemented the BBB tool on the CELBET training platform in order to ensure the continuation of the training activities and the development of topics in the customs control area. The tool is also used for most of CELBET teams' work meetings as well as Networks meetings. The Training platform is also used for sharing of all kind of training material and work documents, for presentation of actual information, etc. In many MS they do not have Webinar tools so CELBET can provide them with the Training platform tools.

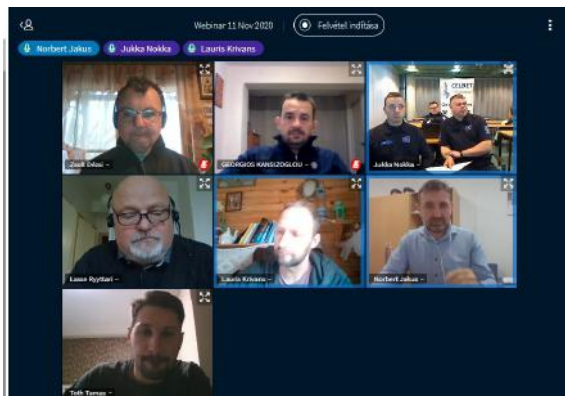


Preparation and delivery of Training webinars and work meetings

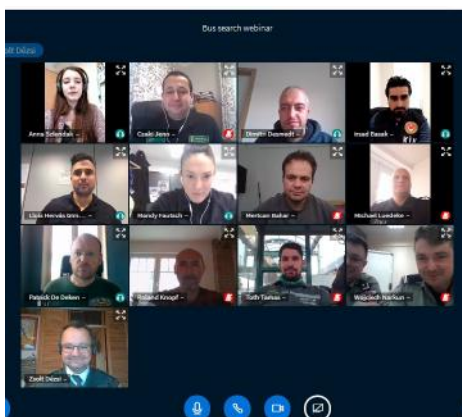
The team organized and delivered 3 webinars in the Risk analysis area and several webinars are under preparation: car search, bus search, training for X-ray operators and professional language training.



On 11 November, “Car search” training webinar was organized. Finnish customs officer from CELBET Car Search Centre of Expertise located in Finland, shared knowledge of new tools for hybrid- and full electricity cars, mobile car search vehicle and service, advanced training for trainers / electrical safety training, smuggling in Europe, hideouts etc. The webinar was held on CELBET Training Platform which again proved to be extremely useful and practical solution in the training area. This enabled customs officers from all 11 CELBET Member States to participate in this webinar.



For the first time in a "Bus search training", organized not only for CELBET Member States but also for other EU states, participants from Austria, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, Slovenia, Spain, Sveden, Turkey, and North-Macedonia took part.



The training was developed by CELBET in the cooperation with the **Polish Revenue Administration, Polish Tax and Customs Academy and Hungarian National Tax and Customs Administration.** The training contained a lot of practical info, pictures videos about the stucture of buses, the hiding places, the smuggling methods and also useful and meaningful case studies.

Active at national level

As the international activities are currently frozen, it is important to encourage delivery of CELBET topics at national level. To support this process, the team developed Guidelines which were agreed by the National Training Contact Points. It sets up a procedure for regular reporting on the implementation process at national level and present practical approach that could help national training units implement this task in an effective way.

The annual Training Network Meeting was held at the end of September as being essential for communicating the ongoing and future plans of the Team with the responsible training experts from the MS as well as for getting feedback from them about their needs or issues which need to be solved. Several trainings have been implemented in Bulgaria, Greece, Slovakia, Hungary and Lithuania.



Network is a key tool in CELBET. We have several networks: Equipment, PR and BCP. We will tell more about BCP Network in next edition.

Only distance can save us... and the Training Platform

During the pandemic any tool that help to communicate is priceless. But the tool has to be reliable, easy to use, safe and if it has more function than just to communicate and it's marked with the own logo – it is true success and thing that really matters. Here is short infographic of what is and how does the Training Platform work. Since the launching the platform, about **half thousand officers have been trained**.



The infographic features a grid background with various school-related icons: a graduation cap, a hand holding a pen, a pencil, a paperclip, and a folder. The CEL BET logo is prominently displayed at the top center.

TRAINING PLATFORM

by Training Team

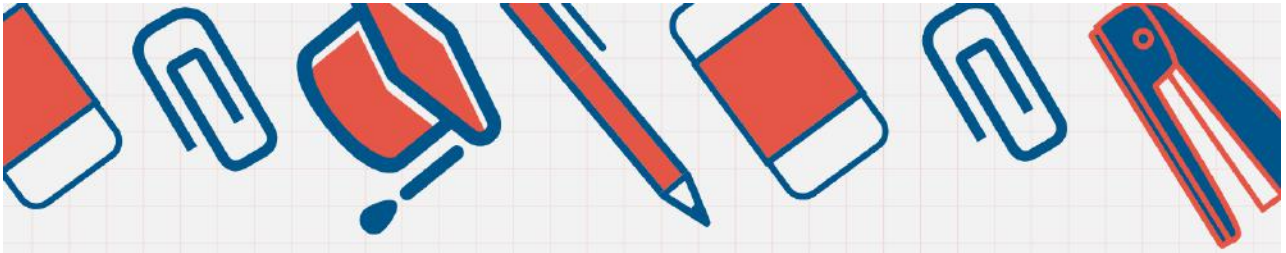
available on www.edu.celbet.eu

The platform, equipped with many various training courses is used during the whole training cycle: before, during and after the training. It is also used for collecting feedback and organizing tests. The training platform contains also actual information on CEL BET training activities, trainings schedule, contacts.

Courses available on the CEL BET platform:

- Risk analysis - profiling & document control
- Bus search
- Interesting seizures - case studies
- Car search
- Truck search
- Train search
- Equipment used for customs control
- Profiling & interviewing
- Goods control
- Detection/recognition of drugs/illegal medication
- Risk Analysis
- Enhanced cooperation between CA & BG
- X-Ray Image Analysing
- Professional Foreign
- Language Training
- Sniffer Dogs Training

New folder on the platform !
"Interesting Seizures" created by Risk Management Team



Available courses



Risk analysis - profiling and document control

Goal and objective
To prepare trainers for training customs officers in a field job.

[Click to enter this course](#)



Bus search

- To identify, develop, share and apply best working practices and provide practical examples and share experiences.
- To reinforce the skills and competences of...

[Click to enter this course](#)



Interesting seizures 2019 - case studies

[Click to enter this course](#)



Car search

- To identify, develop, share and apply best working practices and administrative procedures.
- To reinforce the skills and competences of...

[Click to enter this course](#)



Truck search

- To increase understanding, knowledge and practical skills on how to properly control and dismantle different types of trucks and trailers.
- To reinforce the skills and competences of customs...

[Click to enter this course](#)



Train search

- To increase understanding, knowledge and practical skills on physical inspection and control of the trains.
- To give instructions for safety measures and procedures.

[Click to enter this course](#)



Equipment used for customs control

- The main objective of this training is to spread common approach in using equipment and tools when performing customs control at the EU external border by sharing working examples, best practices and methods.

[Click to enter this course](#)



Profiling and interviewing

- To identify, develop, share and apply best working practices and administrative procedures in the field of people profiling.
- To reinforce the skills and competences of...

[Click to enter this course](#)



Goods control

- To identify, develop, share and apply best working practices and administrative procedures.
- To reinforce the skills and competences of customs officials.

[Click to enter this course](#)



Detection/recognition of drugs/illegal medication

- To spread common approach in detection and/or recognition of drugs and/or illegal medications at the EU external border by...

[Click to enter this course](#)



Risk Analysis

- To improve overall knowledge of exploited database repositories which can be used to data exchange within customs administrations of MS and risk assessment process as well.
- To increase understanding, knowledge and practical skills on how to properly read and evaluate x-ray images presenting different means of transportation (trucks) as well as...

[Click to enter this course](#)



Enhanced cooperation between Customs and Border Guard at external land border crossing points

CELNET2 related activities; check-list of CVBG shift leaders activities; updated Guidelines on CVBG

[Click to enter this course](#)



X-Ray Image Analysing

- To increase understanding, knowledge and practical skills on how to properly read and evaluate x-ray images presenting different means of transportation (trucks) as well as...

[Click to enter this course](#)



Professional Foreign Language Training

- To reinforce the skills and competences of customs officials.
- To improve administrative capacity of the...

[Click to enter this course](#)



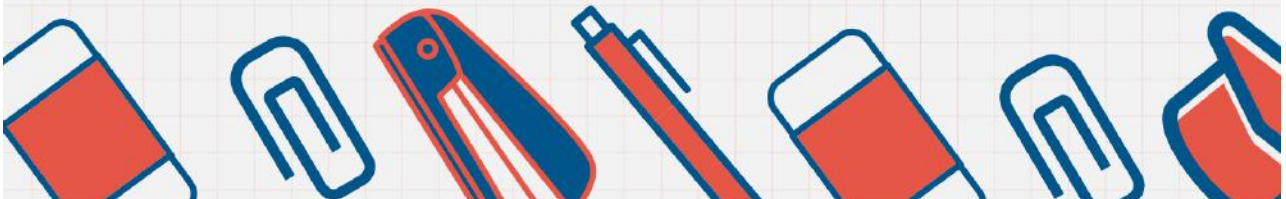
Sniffer Dogs Training

- To enhance the sniffer dogs' training.
- To improve the vocational skills of the dog handlers.
- To exchange the practical experience and best...

[Click to enter this course](#)

To use the courses on the CELNET e-learning platform an access is needed which is given to the participants to the related courses.

www.celbet.eu



See the impossible, detect the invisible

by Istvan Nemeth

In 2020, a renewed, modern X-ray training programme was introduced in the National Tax and Customs Administration (NTCA) in Hungary. This is a great achievement, especially in light of the fact that pandemic is everywhere in the world, including Hungary, make our work and everyday life more difficult. Thanks to the programme, the units for X-ray inspections were able to break the traditions of the old school.



The operators of road and rail X-ray equipment have learned the knowledge “necessary” for the use of scanners through an instructor’s teaching method. This means that the newly assigned X-ray operator has been assigned to an X-ray operator who provides the necessary knowledge and experience at work. The transferred subjective knowledge and experience might result in non-equal levels of ability and performance.

In recent years, criminal groups specialising in smuggling have evolved and they use special hiding places in vehicles and consignment. The customs administrations have to respond to that, and definitely need to act.

The nature of life is progress and evolution and the development of customs X-ray training methods need to follow that approach. The X-ray training programme has the ability to develop continuously. All the training courses are evaluated and the outcomes of evaluation represent added value in next training sessions.

This spiral of knowledge and the continuous development of training material and methods is the secret of innovation in this area.

The cascade way of training, in a form of train-the-trainer course, was organized and held by CELBET in CELBET X-Ray Centre of Expertise in Gdansk, Poland, in May 2019.

During this high-quality, well-organised training course, highly experienced x-ray specialists have done everything they can to provide the knowledge needed to create a national X-ray training system.





CEL BET X-ray train-the-trainer course was the “Big Bang” for the development of X-ray training in Hungarian Customs Administration.

As a result, training events accelerated compared to previous years. In the 4th month following the training in Gdansk, the first national X-ray image analysis course was completed in Hungary. The evolution of national X-ray training is currently on the advanced level as we have X-ray image analysis software, laptops, and wide spectrum training material for education. The main source of continuous updating of the training material is the CEL BET X-ray Image and Data Exchange Platform, where CEL BET Member States continuously upload and share complex description of their seizures made by scanners.

In response to the existing health situation, the NTCA is also able to organize new, modern hybrid X-ray image analysis trainings, where during the training events external experts on radiation protection expert or maintenance/technical issues can hold their presentations as part of a webinar/videoconference.



Istvan Nemeth – manager of the X-ray training programme, policy officer at National Tax and Customs Administration of Hungary, Central Management, Enforcement Department, x-ray trainer for NTCA.

Duty on the border never ends



Greece

Pandemic is the time of border restrictions and passenger's traffic limits. The trucks are still crossing the border points and, as it appears, they are used for smuggling purposes. We have got news from CEL BET countries, what and how the smugglers tried to slip through the border with cigarettes, drugs, money and other goods

✓ July, 20.000 EUR in cash and 100.000 EUR in bank checks found at the Customs Office of Kakavia. The owner was travelling to Albania

✓ October, 5,5 kg of heroin was discovered at the Customs Office of Kipoi. The drugs were placed inside 6 cloth cases, which were tied around a woman's waist. The woman was coming from Turkey.

✓ September, 269.180 EUR in cash, 6.209 USD, in cash and 2 gold plates, were discovered at the Customs Office of Kipi. The money and the gold were discovered inside a truck driver's briefcase, with destination to Turkey

✓ October, 34.000 GBP in cash were discovered at the Customs Office of Kakavia. The owner was travelling to Albania. The money was hidden inside a bag seam, on the sides



Bulgaria

- ✓ June, Customs officers found water-pipe tobacco in cages for birds. The customs officers from Yuzhna Morska Territorial Directorate seized 220 kg of water-pipe tobacco at an inspection of a van, entering the country from Turkey. Tobacco was hidden in cages for birds.
- ✓ August, Customs officers from the General Directorate of Customs Intelligence and Investigation and the Territorial Directorate Yuzhna Morska seized hundreds of packages of contraband medicaments and sexual products. 156 blisters with 2356 tablets and 20 tubes with different types of medicines were seized, as well as 330 factory packages containing a total of 73.29 kg of sexual potency products. They were found in adapted hiding places and in the luggage of drivers and passengers, during customs inspections at the Lesovo Customs Checkpoint in the last days of three cars entering the country from Turkey.

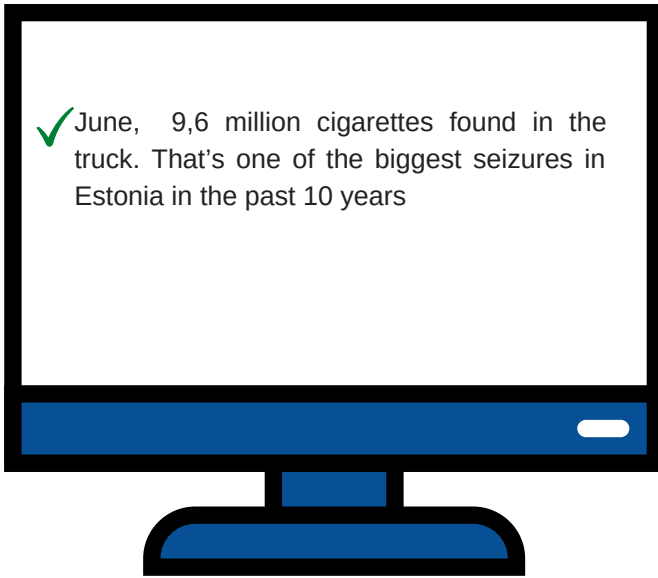


Slovakia



- ✓ The biggest seizure of drugs in history of Slovakia. May, 2020 Custom officers from the Nitra Customs Office inspected two metal tanks for liquids, the transport of which they identified as a risky operation. The shipment came along a well-known drug route from Mexico. Thanks to mobile scanning device, a crane for handling oversized loads and a sniffer dog, they identified the suspicion that there were illegally transported goods in the tank - 1.5 tons of methamphetamine. The value of the substance reaches EUR 300 mil., in the case of one-off user benefits up to the value of EUR 2 billion (estimated).

Estonia



Numbers that matter...



CEL BET in numbers



| | |
|--|---|
| <h2>100%</h2> <p>of our members have experience in customs for more than 5 years</p> | <h2>246</h2> <p>number of people involved in CELBET</p> |
| <h2>9300</h2> <p>number of km of the length of CELBET MS' land border</p> | <h2>100</h2> <p>trainers are registered in the CELBET training system</p> |
| <p>CEL BET is for the future</p> | |

Who is who in CELBET 3 teams

Border Crossing Point Evaluation team

The team will continue to plan and carry out BCP Diagnostic studies and follow-up procedures in selected BCPs. The team will assist BCPs, which are interested in performing the monitoring checks for measurement of the level of smuggling. The team together with the Training team will explore existing measures for prevention of corruption and will provide input for the Training team on organisation of trainings for the Member States.

BCP Evaluation team leader



Mika Poutiainen,
Enforcement, Department,
Finnish Customs

Experts:



Georgios Kansizoglou-
Customs officer,
Department of Anti-
smuggling Enforcement,
Customs of Kipi,
Hellenic Customs,
Greece



Atanas Manchev -
Territorial Directorate
“Yugozapadna”,
BCP Gyueshevo,
Bulgaria.



Aneta Lomanska-
Grzegorzak -
National Revenue
Administration Regional
Office in Rzeszów,
Poland.



Inga Pileckaja - Chief
specialist of Statistics
Analysis Division,
Customs Department
under the Ministry of
Finance of the Republic
of Lithuania.

Risk Management team

Two main activities will be continued: quarterly collection of the seizure data from the CELBET Member States and updating the List of Risks. Team will explore the Minimal requirements for risk analysis of vehicles and passengers crossing the Eastern and South-Eastern borders of the EU. Risk Management and Customs Controls teams work in collaboration when planning and conducting JCAs. Risks based control strategies at the borders in the CELBET Member States will be explored and in a result a document for risk management on risk-based control strategies for passengers and commercial traffic on the tactical level in the Member States will be prepared.

Risk Management team leader



Marian Toth - Prevention and Risk Analysis Department, Customs Office Michalovce, Slovakia

Experts:



Mindaugas Butkus - Customs Criminal Service, Risk Management Division, Lithuanian Customs



Keijo Keisu - Risk Management in Tornio, Finnish Customs



Paweł Janicki - Border Unit, Revenue Administration Regional Office in Olsztyn, Poland



Atis Pīlats - Head of Fiscal Risk Analysis and Control Planning Unit, Risk Management Division, National Customs Board, State Revenue Service of Latvia

Customs Controls Team

The activities will be reshaped with a focus on planning controls based on sharing practical experience at the road and rail BCP level and additionally on the second line control out of BCP with customs mobile units.

The team will be planning, carrying out and evaluating JCAs, “Joint CELBET Activities” in consultation and cooperation with the Risk Management team. Missions will be organized together with the Cooperation team and within the joint actions. The team will develop and utilize a vulnerability study to support the planning of control related activities.

Customs Controls team leader



Olga Grzibovska, Customs Process Management Division, National Customs Board, State Revenue Service of Latvia

Experts:



Sandor Horvath - Tax and Customs Directorate, Border Enforcement Department, National Tax and Customs Administration, Hungary



Jukka Pesonen - Senior Customs Officer, National Operational Center in Helsinki, Finland.



Cezary Nowacki - Head of I Mobile Unit, Customs and Tax Control Office in Opole, Poland



Achilefs Tourtoglou - customs officer, Customs Region of Thessaloniki, Greece

Equipment Team

Equipment Team will advise and assist Member States in market research and preparing technical specification of procurements on various items of customs detection technology. Team will assist Member States in the preparation of procurements for customs control equipment. Members of the EQ team will use missions organised by Cooperation team for movement of officers and customs detection technology from one country to another in order to share practical experiences by working together. The Equipment Team will work closely together with Detection Technology Project Group in order to exclude duplication and organize regular meetings with CELBET Procurement Expert Network. Work on the creation of CELBET Automated Number Plate Recognition System (ANPRS) will be continued. CELBET Scanner Cooperation Network (including X-ray Centre of Expertise) will be established and maintained in order to enhance operational cooperation and explore the use of new technologies

Equipment team leader



Andras Bartha, senior counsellor,
National Tax and Customs
Administration, Hungary

Experts:



Ivan Donev – "X-ray
systems" Department,
Central Customs
Directorate,
Bulgarian Customs
Agency, Bulgaria



Martin Kopka - X-ray
operator at the BCP
Matovce, Slovakia



Mario Kolar – Sector for
Mobile Units, Central
office,
Customs
Administration, Ministry
of Finance
Republic of Croatia



Lauris Krivans - Dep.
head of Customs
Process Management
Division, National
Customs Board, State
Revenue Service of
Latvia



Indrek Pold –
Estonian Tax and
Customs Board,
Inspector, Estonia

Training Team

The main role of the training function will be to guarantee the sustainability of the CELBET training system. The objective of the CELBET training team will be to ensure effective functioning of the Centres of Expertise being the key tool for meeting the training needs through sharing expertise and experience in the customs control area among and outside CELBET MS. CELBET training network will be used to reach particular target groups from the BCPs identified during the training needs analysis in CELBET 2 and practical tailor-made trainings in various customs control areas will be delivered. Train-the-trainer approach will be applied not only at international level but also for the national trainings. Specialized language trainings will be organized to allow participation in missions, networks and professional trainings for the customs control functions

Training team leader



Norbert Jakus, Service and project coordination department, Customs section, Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic

Experts:



Dr. George Bucnaru - Transit Department, General Customs Directorate, Romania



Zsolt Dezsi – Institute for Training, Health and Culture, National Tax and Customs Administration, Hungary



Kalina Chobanova - Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate, Central Customs Directorate, Bulgarian Customs Administration, Bulgaria



Hanna-Kaisa Mikkonen - customs officer in Vaalimaa BCP, Finland

Cooperation Team

The main role of the training function will be to guarantee the sustainability of the CELBET training system. The objective of the CELBET training team will be to ensure effective functioning of the Centres of Expertise being the key tool for meeting the training needs through sharing expertise and experience in the customs control area among and outside CELBET MS. CELBET training network will be used to reach particular target groups from the BCPs identified during the training needs analysis in CELBET 2 and practical tailor-made trainings in various customs control areas will be delivered. Train-the-trainer approach will be applied not only at international level but also for the national trainings. Specialized language trainings will be organized to allow participation in missions, networks and professional trainings for the customs control functions

Cooperation team leader



Bartosz Gruszecki,
Regional Revenue
Administration Office in
Rzeszów, Poland

Experts:



Ana Burkovskiene -
International Relations
Division, Customs
Department, Ministry of
Finance of the Republic
of Lithuania



Raluca Mihail - Risk
Management Office,
Directorate for Customs
Surveillance and
Control, General
Customs Directorate,
Romania



Jorens Grintals - Deputy
Head of Riga Freeport
CCP 0210, National
Customs Board, State
Revenue Service of the
Republic of Latvia



Nikolai Voronin - Expert
on International
Relations, Estonian
Tax and Customs
Board, Estonia

Feasibility study on the future of CELBET Team

The analysis will contain a problem/needs statement, legislative environment, a feasibility study of possible future solutions, financing options, including funding of personnel costs and a pilot exercise on most practical solution.

Feasibility study team leader



Mariusz Koter, Head of International Customs Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Finance, Poland

Experts:



Annika Magipold - Head of International Relations of Customs Department, Estonian Tax and Customs Board, Estonia



Miroslav Lucic – Coordinator, NCP Celbet, Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Croatia

CELBET Grant Coordinator



Pille Jogisoo - International Cooperation and EU Matters, Customs Department Estonian Tax and Customs Board, Estonia

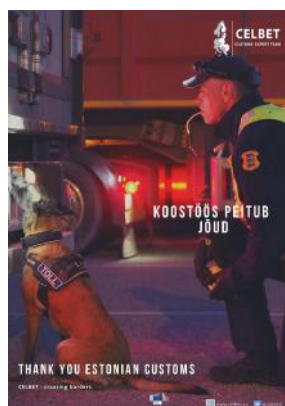
CELBET PR expert



Anna Hatala-Wanat, Border Unit, Revenue Administration Regional Office in Olsztyn, Poland

The success story of CELBET has been built on the efforts of many different people from 11 different countries with the EU external border. Our activities, solutions and best practices are delivered thanks to involvement and hard work of experts, teams' leaders, networks members but also thanks to those who are in a first line of control – customs officers from the border points.

That's why the intention of making these posters was to show that the things that matter are made by the efforts of each member of customs administration.



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More information about CELBET activities on
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&
Twitter: @Celbet3



Photo cover taken by
Marek Hamryszczak from
Customs & Tax Office in
Przemysl, Poland



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