Overview of the project

Project: CUSTOM MED

Programme: ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme (ENPI CBC Med)

Priority 3: Promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuing the mobility of persons, goods and capitals.

Measure: Improvement of conditions and modalities of circulation of goods and capitals among the territories.

Total budget: € 1.163.186 (90% programme contribution).

Duration: 30 months, From 12/04/2012 to 11/10/2014.

Partners: Beneficiary: University of Genoa, Department of Naval, Electrical, Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering (Italy, Liguria).

Partnership: Lebanese Public Customs Administration (Lebanon), Port Institute for Studies and Co-operation (Spain, Comunidad Valenciana), Piraeus Port Authority (Greece, Attiki), Alicante Port Authority (Spain, Comunidad Valenciana), Aqaba Development Corporation (Jordan, Al-Aqaba).

Associate Partners: Venice Port Authority, Italian Customs Agency.

Improving the goods circulation between the Middle East and the EU by networking and adopting shared procedures and Technologies (CUSTOM MED)

The intensification of trade in the Mediterranean area has been identified as a top priority under the European Neighborhood Policy. In particular, the Action Plans for Lebanon and Jordan stress on the importance of improving the export potential of both countries by further liberalizing trade in goods and simplifying customs legislation and procedures.

CUSTOM MED aims to increase goods circulation among selected Mediterranean ports by developing common customs procedures and increasing the use of ICT technologies. This will contribute in the long-term to reducing the length of import-clearing processes reinforcing at the same time the competitiveness of the concerned ports.

The expected results of CUSTOM MED are:

- Simplified and harmonized custom procedures shared among concerned ports.
- Increased integration and use of ICT technologies in port operations.
- Improved capacities of customs officials and port authorities’ agents.
- Reduced waiting time for goods in concerned ports thanks to quicker, easier and better organized customs procedures.

http://custommed.eu
CUSTOM MED project made the visits to the European ports of Alicante (Spain), Genoa (Italy), Piraeus (Greece), and the Mediterranean partner Countries ports of Aqaba (Jordan) and Beirut (Lebanon) in order to collect data on the customs regulation and procedures applied to maritime freight. The series of visits carried out by CUSTOM MED in selected ports of the Mediterranean basin aims to identify best practices related to the simplification of customs procedures and trade facilitation that will be then transferred to customs officials and port authorities agents.

CUSTOM MED Project visits the Port Authority of Alicante

CUSTOM MED partners have visited the Port Authority of Alicante as part of the Analysis of the Mediterranean Ports task foreseen in the project, to diagnose and identify the main aspects and stakeholders on custom procedures in the Mediterranean area. During the visit, the Lebanese Public Customs Administration and the Aqaba Development Corporation had the opportunity to learn about the legislation in force in the European Union and, in particular, in the Mediterranean, as well as the logistics cycles for import and export activities and the safety and security control cycles applied in Alicante.

The event included a visit to the Alicante Customs Agency, the Border Inspection Post and the TMS Project (Maritime Terminals of the Southeast). Finally, the study session concluded with a visit to the Tempe Company and Pikolinos Company, two important shoe companies located in Alicante and well known at international level.

CUSTOM MED Project visits the Port of Genoa

CUSTOM MED partners visited the Port Authority of Genoa as part of the Analysis of the Mediterranean ports involved in the project. The analysis of the Port of Genoa was organized involving the following bodies: Genoa Coast Guard; Italian Customs Agency; Genoa Port Authority; Venice Port Authority; University of Genoa; Liguria Customs Laboratory; AEO company: HAPAG LLOYD (ITALY) srl; V.T.E. - Voltri Terminal Europe; SECH – Terminal Container Genoa Port; Representatives of Genoa Containers Operators and Shipping Companies. The event included in the second day a visit to Voltri Terminal Europa - VTE: “customs control area - container scanner”; Genoa Port: “Port security - control gates - data capture”; SECH – “Genoa Calata Sanità - Port Container Terminal”. The event included also a round table, organized by the University of Genoa, which was designed to create a synergy between commercial operators and public authorities in order to stimulate discussion on the topics of trade simplifications in maritime transport, reducing the waiting time of transports and related costs.

CUSTOM MED Project visits the Port of Piraeus

CUSTOM MED partners visited the Piraeus Port Authority as part of the Analysis of the Mediterranean port involved in the project. Port of Piraeus study visit mainly concerned the container terminal management, in particular the Navis system for container management and its interface with the customs authorities. The visit continued to the customs authority and its management where a fruitful discussions and faq session on customs procedures took place. The visit ended with Port of Piraeus Cruise Terminal Customs and Port of Piraeus Car terminal.
Technical visits to ADC Jordan and Lebanese Public Customs Administration

Last 16th to 20th of June 2013, the CUSTOM MED Project held two technical visits and technical committees to the ADC, Aqaba Development Corporation, of Jordan and the Lebanese Public Customs Administration. During the visit, partners had the chance to know the facilities and working procedures of both ports and work on the SWOT Analysis and best practice identification and transfer activities among ports.

The meetings were attended also by key stakeholders such as the Ministries of Transport, the Chambers of Commerce, Universities, and other important Maritime, Customs and Clearance authorities and agencies at national level.

CUSTOM MED SYNERGIES WITH OTHER INITIATIVES

CUSTOM MED participated at the "Mediterranean Initiative Conference", held in Taormina (Italy) on 3rd October 2012. Promoted by the Italian Customs Agency (Agenzia delle Dogane), the "Mediterranean Initiative" aims to increase cooperation and coordination of actions between customs authorities of Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in the following strategic fields: Fighting against trafficking of drugs; Integrated border controls; Customs simplification and trade facilitation. The Mediterranean Initiative will contribute to sharing of experience and know-how in customs procedures, eventually leading to the planning of joint operations by the customs administrations.

More information

The CUSTOM MED project took part in the international conference "What future for the Mediterranean Port Systems: trends, challenges and opportunities", organised in Civitavecchia (Italy) on 10 May by the projects FutureMed and Mednet funded by the European Territorial Cooperation programme 2007-2013 (MED programme).

More information

http://custommed.eu
New European Union Infrastructure Policy

The European Commission has announced that the new EU infrastructure policy will transform the existing patchwork of European roads, railways, airports and canals into a unified trans-European transport network, TEN-T.

The new policy establishes a core transport network built on nine major corridors: 2 North–South corridors, 3 East–West corridors and 4 diagonal corridors, that will transform East–West connections, remove bottlenecks, upgrade infrastructure and streamline cross-border transport operations for passengers and businesses throughout the EU.

Financing for transport infrastructure will triple for the period 2014 – 2020 to €26 billion under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) that will connect: the 94 main European ports with rail and road links, 38 key airports with rail connections into major cities, 15,000 km of railway line upgraded to high speed and 35 cross-border projects to reduce bottlenecks.

More information

Blue Belt: a Single Transport Area for Shipping

The European Commission has set out a plan to ease custom formalities for ships that will reduce costs, simplify administration, facilitate trade and create a level playing field between all types of transport, making the sector more competitive and attractive compared to other forms of transport.

The Blue Belt sets out two key proposals that are expected to come into force in 2015:

Easing customs formalities for intra-EU shipping: make the procedures shorter and more flexible for shipping companies using regular route within the EU and transporting EU goods.

Easing customs formalities for ships that call in third country ports: distinguish the custom procedures the EU and non-EU goods should go through.

More information

The European Commission proposes to facilitate EU market access for Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

The European Commission has adopted the proposal to extend until 31st December 2015 the partial exemption from duty drawback prohibition established in the Association Agreements on free trade between the EU countries and Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

These measures allow products originating in these countries to be imported free of customs duty into the EU, without having to levy full customs duty on imported materials used in the manufacture of these products, facilitating their access into the EU market and promoting their economic development.

More information
Partners’ presentation

Lead Partner: University of Genoa, Department of Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications Engineering and Naval Architecture.
www.unige.it
The University of Genoa plays a leading role in research, innovation and technology transfer to increase competitiveness. DITEN has strong knowledge and conducts interdisciplinary academic research in the fields of engineering, maritime technology and transport.

Lebanese Public Customs Administration
www.customs.gov.lb
The Lebanese Customs Administration is responsible for ensuring that all goods and persons entering and exiting Lebanon are in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. The Customs Administration collects and protects a major component of government revenue.

Port Institute for Studies and Co-operation of the Valencian Region
www.feports-cv.org
FEPORTS builds links between the commercial and recreational maritime sectors and works to develop the maritime sector and the competitiveness of the Valencia Region, giving support to the ports of Alicante, Castellon and Valencia under the competence of the Regional Government.

Piraeus Port Authority
www.olp.gr
Piraeus plays a crucial role in the development of international trade and the local and national economy and develops a range of activities concerning the Commercial and Central Ports, ship services and real estate development.

Alicante Port Authority
www.portoalicante.com
APA works on the development and management of the logistical infrastructures of the Valencia Region thanks to its geographical location and optimal transport infrastructure: port, motorways, roads and airport, boosting its export capacity and tradition in commerce.

Aqaba Development Corporation
www.adc.jo
ADC works on the potential of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZ) by accelerating its economic growth and development and owns Aqaba’s seaport, airport and strategic parcels of land and the development and management rights of these infrastructures.

“This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union under the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Port Institute for Studies and Co-operation of the Valencian Region and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or of the Programme’s management structures.”

“The 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The Programme objective is to promote the sustainable and harmonious cooperation process at the Mediterranean Basin level by dealing with the common challenges and enhancing its endogenous potential. It finances cooperation projects as a contribution to the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of the Mediterranean region. The following 14 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Spain, Syria, Tunisia. The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French.”

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.”

http://custommed.eu