



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 29.4.2021
C(2021) 2875 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

**on the financing of the Customs programme and the adoption of the work programme
for 2021 - 2022**

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Work programme for 2021-2022 for the Customs programme¹

1. Introduction²

This is the first work programme of the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs (the Customs programme/the programme) adopted under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. As a novelty, compared to the Customs 2020 programme³ annual work programmes, the Customs programme functions with multiannual work programmes. This first programming period covers 2021-2022.

The Customs programme has the general objective to support the customs union and customs authorities working together and acting as one to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, to ensure security and safety within the Union and to protect the Union from unfair and illegal trade, while facilitating legitimate business activity. As such, it is a tool that supports to the implementation of customs policy as well as customs legislation both at the European Union level and at Member States' level.

As regards customs policy, the programme addresses the priority actions identified in the Commission's strategic documents on customs policy, primarily:

- the Strategic Plan 2020-2024⁴; and
- the Communication on "Taking the Customs Union to the Next Level: a Plan for Action"⁵.

As regards customs legislation, a modernised legal framework of customs rules and procedures is in place since 2016⁶.

Customs authorities have an enormous range of supervisory and control responsibilities in relation to goods imported into the Union customs territory. They not only collect customs duties and value added tax on imported goods but also responsible to check that those goods meet product safety, health, environmental and a range of other Union standards. The Union's Internal Market, which established an area without internal frontiers to the

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/444 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2021 establishing the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013 OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1. (Customs Programme Regulation)

² The introduction covers equally the grants, the procurement and other expenditure sections of the document

Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing an action programme for customs in the European Union for the period 2014-2020 (Customs 2020) and repealing Decision No 624/2007/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 209)

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/strategic-plan-2020-2024-taxation-and-customs-union_en

⁵ COM(2020) 581 final -

https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/general-information-customs/customs-action-plan_en

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/union-customs-code/ucc-legislation_en

movement of goods, has indeed made it important to ensure the uniform application of rules at external borders to goods that can move freely once inside the customs territory. In parallel with efficient controls, customs must also ensure smooth and rapid handling of legitimate trade. This is vital to the prosperity of the Union: exports to the rest of the world have, in recent decades, become an increasingly significant source of business for European companies and of jobs for Europeans; while 80% of Union imports provide raw materials for Union production activities. This implies that the **customs authorities of the Union must act as though they were one**, achieving equivalent results, irrespective of the different geographical, economic, budgetary and organisational conditions. The implementation of the Union Customs Code (UCC) legal package⁷ is complemented by Union-wide interoperable IT systems, cooperation actions and guidance documents directly or indirectly reinforcing the uniform interpretation and application of law by all Union customs authorities, aiming towards a well-functioning customs union.

The key components of the customs union are:

- solid legal framework,
- modern digital customs environment, and
- cooperation and collaboration between the Member States' customs authorities as well as cooperation with the Commission, with economic operators and customs authorities in the enlargement countries.

Delivering on the commitments for **increased digitalisation in the area of customs is a top priority in the Union's customs union**. This level of importance is also reflected by the fact that approximately 90% of the Customs programme is dedicated to establishing and operating the customs electronic systems that allow customs authorities to manage better financial and security risks while facilitating trade. Work on upgrading and developing electronic systems designed to make the customs union a modern, interconnected and fully paperless environment should be completed across the European Union before the end of 2025 at the latest. As defined in the Multi-annual Strategic Plan for Electronic Customs (MASP-C Revision 2019⁸), a particular emphasis will be put in 2021-2022 on:

- 1) the maintenance and updates of operational IT systems (see. MASP-C Annex 2 fiche 4.8) and business continuity (see MASP-C Annex 2 project fiche 4.9), representing the highest budget consumption sector within the IT budget;
- 2) the design, development and deployment of UCC electronic systems (see. MASP-C Annex 2 UCC project fiches, e.g. 1.19 on UCC Import Control System 2 (ICS2), 1.6 UCC Automated Export System (AES), 1.7 UCC Transit System including New Computerised Transit System, Centralised Clearance at Import as described in fiche 2.10, etc.);
- 3) the design, development and deployment of non-UCC systems (e.g. 1.13 EU Single Window Environment for Customs (EU SWE-C), 1.16 Customs Risk Management System 2 (CRMS2), 1.18 Import of Cultural Goods) and support the Customs Action Plan.

Customs in the 21st century, as the rest of the society, faces a technological revolution by which it is and will remain heavily impacted. If customs wants to face these technological challenges, it has to re-invent itself, embrace new technologies, use innovative solutions and provide user-friendly tools for both customers and customs officers. The Customs programme facilitates these efforts by providing a platform to review and monitor modern and emerging

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/union-customs-code/ucc-legislation_en

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/general-information-customs/electronic-customs_en#heading_2

solutions (e.g. blockchain, artificial intelligence, machine-learning, technology transfers, solutions by start-up/scale-up ecosystems). Consequently, the development of a modern digital customs environment is a focal point of the Customs programme. This also includes the testing and delivery of high-quality and reliable new customs systems, the operation and maintenance of existing IT systems, which already play a key role in the customs union, and interoperability and connectivity with other border control systems.

Deep collaboration, including enhanced operational collaboration, between the Member States customs authorities directly contributes to the increased effectiveness and efficiency of Union customs authorities. The Customs programme provides fora for this collaboration: the authorities can share knowledge, experience, good practices and set guidelines together through the programme activities. The collaboration supported by the Customs programme can benefit the strategic policy aspects as well as the day-to-day operational functioning of the customs union and of the customs authorities. Working together in task teams, task forces, networks, project groups and other similar set-ups further reinforces operational synergies, deepens trust between the Member States customs authorities, and contributes to achieving equivalent results by them. In addition, the Customs programme facilitates collaboration with the key trade partners of the Union in the interest of the functioning of the customs union. The programme also supports close cooperation with and between enlargement countries to facilitate their integration process.

Due to their success, the ongoing expert teams will continue their activities funded either under the Customs 2020 programme grants or under this new Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP).

The collaborative tools, including training activities, of the Customs programme will also be used for putting in place a new financial instrument, the Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI)⁹, aimed to purchase and upgrade customs control equipment.

The legal and digitalised customs environments are just as valuable as the people implementing and using them. Therefore, the Customs programme also finances activities that directly contribute to **human competency building and training**. As such, promoting, keeping up-to-date and implementing throughout the European Union customs authorities a modern and comprehensive human competency-building framework is another relevant programme aspect. This model of competences, skills and behaviours for customs professionals aims to harmonise and raise customs performance standards throughout the European Union. The programme also provides for a wide scale of activities, such as e-learning modules, study visits, training sessions that directly contribute to human competency building.

The COVID-19 pandemic even further reinforced the need to ensure intelligent management and further digitalisation of the customs union. No matter what challenges arise for the European Union, customs authorities are expected to remain at their posts safeguarding the Union's revenues, supporting the economic recovery, the security and safety of supplies and the integrity of supply chains.

The programme will also play a support function to respond to the challenges presented by e-commerce. E-commerce is generally greatly welcomed for the benefits it brings for businesses and consumers. Facilitating e-commerce is a cornerstone of the Digital Single Market Strategy. However, tax and customs authorities have difficulties in ensuring the tax and customs compliance of goods purchased online. Customs authorities have the additional

⁹ Reference is not available at the time of the finalisation of this document

problem of ensuring that the goods imported meet European Union safety, security, intellectual property rights and other standards.

In addition, through the Union Analytics Capabilities¹⁰, customs authorities benefit from an increased capacity to analyse data and to access more data for a wide range of customs purposes. Better analysis helps with risk management. In the longer term, monitoring trends and patterns via data analysis is to help the European Commission and customs authorities to make policy decisions in a more informed way.

In pursuing its objectives, the Customs programme will continue feeding into the wider Commission agenda and create synergies with other European Commission programmes.

On the basis of the objectives given in the Customs Programme Regulation, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for years 2021-2022 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3), and
- for other actions or expenditure (point 4).

Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/444 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2021 establishing the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013 OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1. (Customs Programme Regulation)

Budget line

03 05 01 – “Cooperation in the field of customs (CUSTOMS)”

Objectives pursued

The programme is a tool that supports the implementation of the customs policy and customs legislation both at the European Union’s and the Member States’ level. The aim of the Customs programme is to support the customs union and customs authorities working together and acting as one to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, to ensure security and safety within the Union and to protect the Union from unfair and illegal trade, while facilitating legitimate business activity.

The programme aims to contribute to the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the European Union by strengthening the functioning of the internal market. It addresses the Commission priorities in terms of activities that contribute to an economy that works for the people, to protecting our European way of life, and to taking the customs union to the next level, equipping it with a stronger framework that will allow better protecting the Union citizens and the single market.

This concerns specifically the following policy areas and projects¹¹:

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/customs-action-plan-2020_en.pdf - Action a) point 1.

¹¹ The scope of the programme covers customs cooperation (Article 33 TFEU), the internal market (Article 114 TFEU) and commercial policy (Article 207 TFEU).

- Overall functioning and modernisation of the customs union;
- Development, implementation, evaluation and enforcement of customs union legislation;
- Customs risk management and supply chain security;
- Cooperation with third countries and international organisations, international agreements;
- Determination and collection of customs duties and related taxes;
- Customs tariff and classification;
- Rules of origin;
- Customs valuation;
- Customs procedures and formalities;
- Prohibitions and restrictions – Intellectual Property Rights, cash controls, cultural heritage, drug precursors, product safety and compliance, health, environment and other public interests;
- Competitiveness and trade facilitation;
- Effective and efficient customs administrations/authorities;
- Training and human competency building;
- Operational procedures and working methods;
- European Customs Laboratories;
- IT capacity building;
- Data analytics;
- Programme management¹².

Expected results

The actions are expected to support notably

- (1) the preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy;
- (2) customs cooperation;
- (3) IT capacity building including the development and operation of European electronic systems;
- (4) human competency building and training; and
- (5) innovation in the area of customs policy.

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme for 2021-2022 is EUR 11 650 000.

¹² Article 4 of the Customs Programme Regulation

By derogation to Article 190 of the Financial Regulation¹³, the Programme may finance up to 100 % of eligible costs of an action as stipulated by Article 10(2) of the Customs Programme Regulation:

- Reimbursement of the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiaries for the following items:
 - a) costs for hosting experts of the project (long-term missions), up to 100%;
 - b) depreciation costs for equipment needed for the project (only depreciation costs prorata the duration of the project), up to 100%;
 - c) costs for subcontracting, (external services for hiring special expertise, limited in volume and to non-essential parts of the project), up to 100%;
 - d) other direct costs (e.g. organisational costs for of events, software licences, printing promotion material, the purchase of consumables and supplies needed for the project), up to 100%;
- Reimbursement of the eligible costs on the basis of unit costs incurred by the beneficiaries for the following items:
 - a) travel costs for national participants, up to 100%;
 - b) daily allowances for national participants, up to 100%;
 - c) accommodation costs for national participants, up to 100%;
 - d) personnel costs for national participants and for the grant coordinator (based on basic salary), up to 100%;
- Reimbursement on the basis of a flat rate for indirect costs (overheads), corresponding to 7% of all direct eligible costs, up to 100%.

Specific eligible costs applicable to the specific grants shall be described in the grant agreement. The list of unit costs shall be annexed to the grant agreement.

2.1. General collaboration activities in the field of customs

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation¹⁴, 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 associated to the Programme as referred to in Article 5 of the Customs Programme Regulation, provided that the conditions set out in that Article are met.¹⁵

In accordance with Article 9(3)(a) of the Customs Programme Regulation, the work of the

¹³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1).

¹⁴ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1).

¹⁵ Article 9(3) Customs Programme Regulation

evaluation committee(s) shall be based on the general principles applicable to grants laid down in Article 188 of the Financial Regulation and in particular, on the principles of equal treatment and transparency, as well as on the principle of non-discrimination.

The evaluation committee(s) shall evaluate proposals on the basis of award criteria, such as, where appropriate:

- relevance of the proposed actions in view of the objectives pursued;
- quality of the proposed actions;
- impact, including economic, social and environmental impact; and
- budget and cost-effectiveness.

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 grant will provide financial support for carrying out customs cooperation activities supporting the achievement of the programme objectives in the areas referred to in point 1. Introduction (Objectives pursued) in the form of:

- (a) One-off events, such as seminars, workshops, study visits, support visits and similar activities;
- (b) Series of events, such as platforms, networks, steering groups, coordination groups, project groups, working groups, study visits, support visits and similar activities;
- (c) Innovation methodology activities, such as proof of concepts, pilots, prototyping initiatives and similar activities;
- (d) Other cooperation activities, excluding expert teams addressed under separate grants in points 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG TAXUD.

Indicative implementation start date: second semester 2021.

Indicative duration of the grant: until 31 December 2022.

2.2. Expert team on new approaches to develop and operate customs IT systems (ETCIT III)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation¹⁶, 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 associated to the Programme as referred to in Article 5 of the Customs Programme Regulation, provided that the conditions set out in that Article are met.¹⁷

¹⁶ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1).

¹⁷ Article 9(3) Customs programme Regulation - Update reference when the Regulation is adopted

In accordance with Article 9(3)(a) of the Customs Programme Regulation, the work of the evaluation committee(s) shall be based on the general principles applicable to grants laid down in Article 188 of the Financial Regulation and in particular, on the principles of equal treatment and transparency, as well as on the principle of non-discrimination.

The evaluation committee(s) shall evaluate proposals on the basis of award criteria, such as, where appropriate:

- relevance of the proposed actions in view of the objectives pursued;
- quality of the proposed actions;
- impact, including economic, social and environmental impact; and
- budget and cost-effectiveness.

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 grant will provide financial support for the customs authorities of the participating countries to facilitate and manage enhanced operational cooperation in the area of IT collaboration.

- Description of the activities: The expert team will support the participating countries in identifying new approaches for IT collaboration and elaborating a methodology for future collaboration projects by facilitating and promoting ideas among the participating countries and supporting projects and services with collaboration methods for joint development, maintenance, operation and procurement. The team will investigate the possibilities of establishing a long-term function in order to facilitate and manage IT collaboration among participating countries and the Commission.
- Expected results:
 - Direct, short-term deliverables and outputs:
 - Use of pooling of resources in the area of customs IT explored and assessed, pros and cons analysed;
 - Methodology and process for business case and organization for pilot project or proof of concept;
 - Mechanisms identifying and supporting future collaborative activities among participating countries and the European Commission;
 - Identified channels for communicating and promoting IT collaboration projects among the participating countries;
 - IT projects and services that use collaborative methods for joint development, maintenance, operations and procurement;
 - Cost-benefit analysis of IT customs projects developed jointly by the participating countries and the Commission.
 - Longer-term impacts:
 - Enhanced IT collaboration among participating countries and the Commission;
 - Collaborative tools and concrete proposals for policy decisions regarding future customs IT management;

- Input to the long-term EU strategy for customs IT systems;
- Consistency in long-term IT collaboration in customs.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG TAXUD.

Indicative implementation start date: Q1 2022.

Indicative duration of the grant: 18 months.

2.3. Expert team for pooling expertise to resolve complex cases of divergent tariff classification (BTI III)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation¹⁸, 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 associated to the Programme as referred to in Article 5 of the Customs Programme Regulation, provided that the conditions set out in that Article are met.¹⁹

In accordance with Article 9(3)(a) of the Customs Programme Regulation, the work of the evaluation committee(s) shall be based on the general principles applicable to grants laid down in Article 188 of the Financial Regulation and in particular, on the principles of equal treatment and transparency, as well as on the principle of non-discrimination.

The evaluation committee(s) shall evaluate proposals on the basis of award criteria, such as, where appropriate:

- relevance of the proposed actions in view of the objectives pursued;
- quality of the proposed actions;
- impact, including economic, social and environmental impact;
- budget and cost-effectiveness.

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 grant will provide financial support for the customs authorities of the participating countries to implement enhanced operational cooperation in the area of tariff classification and binding tariff information.

- Description of the activities:

The expert team will provide reasoned expert opinions on specific tariff classification cases supporting the Customs Code Committee in order to smoothly and rapidly find a solution to cases of divergent tariff classification between Member States.

¹⁸ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1).

¹⁹ Article 9(3) Customs Programme Regulation - Update reference when the Regulation is adopted

- Expected results
 - Direct, short-term deliverables and outputs:

Reasoned expert opinions, containing the rationale for a suggested tariff classification as well as, when requested, a draft proposal for a measure (classification Regulation or Combined Nomenclature Explanatory Note).
 - Longer-term impacts:

Enhanced collaborative cooperation between the European Commission and Member States.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG TAXUD.

Indicative implementation start date: Q1 2022.

Indicative duration of the grant: 12 months.

2.4. Expert team for pooling and sharing specific analytical expertise of Customs Laboratories at European Union level (CLET III)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation²⁰, 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 associated to the Programme as referred to in Article 5 of the Customs Programme Regulation, provided that the conditions set out in that Article are met.²¹

In accordance with Article 9(3)(a) of the Customs Programme Regulation, the work of the evaluation committee(s) shall be based on the general principles applicable to grants laid down in Article 188 of the Financial Regulation and in particular, on the principles of equal treatment and transparency, as well as on the principle of non-discrimination.

The evaluation committee(s) shall evaluate proposals on the basis of award criteria, such as, where appropriate:

- relevance of the proposed actions in view of the objectives pursued;
- quality of the proposed actions;
- impact, including economic, social and environmental impact; and
- budget and cost-effectiveness.

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 grant will provide financial support for the customs authorities of the participating

²⁰ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1).

²¹ Article 9(3) Customs Programme Regulation - Update reference when the Regulation is adopted

countries to implement enhanced operational cooperation in the area of customs laboratories.

- Description of the activities:

The expert team will assist the customs laboratories of the Member States and the enlargement countries by providing analytical capacity and expertise especially when sophisticated or rare laboratory equipment or special scientific expertise are required.

- Expected results:

- Direct, short-term deliverables and outputs: reports of laboratory analysis, reports of scientific expertise.
- Longer-term impacts: improved customs control throughout the whole Union.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG TAXUD.

Indicative implementation start date: Q4 2021.

Indicative duration of the grant: 36 months.

2.5. Expert team for Import Control System 2 (ICS2) Safety and Security Analytics (ICS2 SSA)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation²², 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 associated to the Programme as referred to in Article 5 of the Customs Programme Regulation, provided that the conditions set out in that Article are met²³.

In accordance with Article 9(3)(a) of the Customs Programme Regulation, the work of the evaluation committee(s) shall be based on the general principles applicable to grants laid down in Article 188 of the Financial Regulation and in particular, on the principles of equal treatment and transparency, as well as on the principle of non-discrimination.

The evaluation committee(s) shall evaluate proposals on the basis of award criteria, such as, where appropriate:

- relevance of the proposed actions in view of the objectives pursued;
- quality of the proposed actions;
- impact, including economic, social and environmental impact; and
- budget and cost-effectiveness.

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

²² Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1).

²³ Article 9(3) Customs Programme Regulation - Update reference when the Regulation is adopted

The grant will provide financial support for the customs authorities of the participating countries to implement enhanced operational cooperation in the area of Safety and Security Analytics based on advance cargo data in the ICS2 system.

The ICS2 system is a new strategic platform for customs risk management. It brings new and improved advanced cargo data flows (Entry Summary Declarations – ENS) - introducing a new requirement for advance cargo data on postal parcels from 15 March 2021, and introducing “multiple filing” requirements to bring better advance cargo data in air cargo (March 2023), maritime, road and rail modes of transport (from March 2024). It introduces new real-time collaboration between customs across the European Union, underpinned by a common repository that orchestrates the operational sharing of declared data and the results of risk analysis and controls. It brings forward a Safety and Security Analytics (SSA) capability which is to enable the Member States to work together with the support of additional tools and working methods, leveraging the common repository and ICS2 business processes to better manage safety and security risks, which need to be identified before loading in a third country (e.g. serious threats such as concealment of improvised explosive devices in aircraft) or before arrival in the European Union.

The SSA capability enters in the development phase in 2021, for live operations in 2023.

This activity requires a more intensive collaborative working method than can be provided in project groups. An expert team is considered a suitable vehicle to enable effective organisation of working methods and governance, without affecting competences. This need was presented to the Customs Policy Group²⁴ in June 2020.

- Description of the activities:
 - Establish the expert team as a functioning working method
 - Investigate and establish the potential operational structures, addressing key issues necessary for the operational use of ICS2 SSA capabilities in national risk management, in line with the ICS2 Concept. Issues, to be defined in a business plan, are expected to include:
 - The core expert team roles which will be provisionally indicated in the SSA Concept;
 - The project workflow including the project agreement process – prepare and clarify standardised decision-making processes taking account of legal and data protection constraints;
 - The working methods for effective participation of officers assigned to work on behalf of their Member States on SSA;
 - Prepare and engage participation from all Member States according to capabilities and interest (direct participation in core ET and/or assigned officer role);
 - Use cases (approach to using SSA for key risk management issues), consistent with SSA concept development, meeting priorities (including customs crisis response).
 - If feasible, carry out specific SSA pilot actions, establishing and refining the concept of virtual project team and the functioning of all roles, while:

²⁴

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- Developing specific analytical models which customs could use operationally to improve the detection of safety and security threats in real time, while goods are moving through the supply chain;
- Developing and testing the use of risk lists and indicators; and
- Identifying refinements needed for a next phase (SSA live in operation is 2023).
- Expected results
 - Direct, short-term deliverables and outputs:
 - New collaborative working method/processes are prepared and validated;
 - Member States are ready for “live” phase starting in 2023 (operating models and roles);
 - Specific analytical methods, tools and use cases designed for “Day 1” (if feasible based on pilot activity).
 - Longer-term impacts:
 - New strategic asset for customs: a multidisciplinary capability for operational collaboration, exploiting advanced data analytics tools, benefiting from mutual sharing of expertise, and leveraging the ICS2 common repository to strengthen protection of people and the internal market of the Union against safety and security threats linked with inbound goods (in line with the mandate of the Commission);
 - Overcome current barriers to collaboration, reducing lead times for deploying common projects to days or even hours in crisis situations;
 - Strengthened customs contribution, and identity, at external border;
 - Flexible working methods which could be adapted (subject to policy and legal considerations) to serve non-safety and security risk management (assuming a re-usable toolset is developed in parallel).

The grant will be implemented directly by DG TAXUD

Indicative implementation date: Q3 2021

Indicative duration of the grant: 18 months

3. Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2021-2022 is EUR 245 281 000. To this end, it is estimated to sign about 290 specific contracts under existing or new multi-annual framework contracts.

3.1. Development and operation of European electronic systems for customs (common components)

General description of the contracts envisaged

The Commission and the Member States are committed to deliver efficient, effective and

interoperable information and communication systems between public administrations, including between their front and back offices, in order to exchange and process public sector information across European Union in a secure manner. They set up and operate secure, integrated, interoperable and accessible electronic customs IT systems, also known as trans-European systems. These systems facilitate end-to-end supply chain logistics and customs processes for the movement of goods into and out of the European Union. They also reduce the risks of threats to the safety and security of citizens by further approximating the Member States' customs processes and enhancing information and data flow. The European Union electronic customs systems are built according to international standards as regards data sets/models and message formats, thus allowing future interaction with non-Union countries' systems as well.

Article 11 of the Customs Programme Regulation stipulates that the Commission and the Member States shall jointly ensure the development and operation of the European electronic systems for customs, including their design, specification, conformance testing, deployment, operation, maintenance, evolution, modernisation, security, quality assurance and quality control.

The Commission therefore intends to undertake IT capacity-building activities through contracts following public procurement. It concerns notably the development, maintenance, operation, and quality control of common components of the existing and new European electronic systems for customs (EES) with a view to ensuring the interconnection of customs authorities:

- Platforms acquisition, development and support including the management of infrastructure components (e.g. Common Communication Network (CCN), CCN2, Single Portal for Entry or Exit of Data 2 (SPEED2)) and that of the systems linking with Member States and third parties for data exchange and service management;
- Software development, including maintenance of existing customs IT systems and development of new customs IT systems. These contracts support the lifecycle from overall project management activities, feasibility studies, customs business analysis and modelling, through functional specifications, the development of software and initial tests, deployment, and support to service management of systems in operation;
- Operations include all the IT activities related to the technical and operational support of the infrastructure, platforms and IT applications. This involves testing, deployment, monitoring, configuration and administration of hardware and software components as well as integration of the technical, administrative and operational management;
- Support of and coordination with Member States for the delivery and operations of the non-Union components of the trans-European systems and quality assurance and control of all Customs IT projects and operations.

Procurement of services will be undertaken through specific contracts under existing or new framework contracts or through administrative arrangements, service level agreements or memoranda of understanding with other Commission Directorates General/Services.

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 270.

The total indicative amount for IT procurement represents approximately 90% of the total programme budget for years 2021-2022.

New invitations to tender for services expected to be launched in 2021-2022:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality assurance (QA5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description: Provision of services to the Commission Directorate-General for DG Taxation and Customs Union in the field of quality assurance, quality control and project management for its current and future IT projects and operations. ○ Launch of call: Q4/2021-Q1/2022 • ITSM-Integration (IT Service Management) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description: Provision of IT service management support including the architecture, operations, asset, contract, security and project management aspects. The main objective is to ensure the coherence, the completeness and the efficiency of the Commission Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union IT services. Services also include the provision of project management support, benchmarking and consultancy on collaboration. ○ Launch of call: Q2/2022 • ITSM – Trans-European system support (ITSM-TES) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description: Provision of services to the Commission Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union in the field of trans-European system management and coordination. Services include support and coordination with Member States for the delivery of national components of the trans-European systems. ○ Launch of call: Q4/2022
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Implementation

Directly by DG TAXUD

Additional information required by the basic act for the work programme

N/A

3.2. Other service contracts

General description of the contracts envisaged

<p>The Commission intends to undertake activities through contracts following public procurement notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specification, development, maintenance, support and dissemination of common customs training (e-learning, blended learning), online collaboration services and staff performance building services; • Studies, scientific and communication support (e.g. academic support, typology, data collection and comparative analyses in customs issues, provision of scientific and technical assistance in the field of scientific customs, mainly in the area of customs laboratories); • Communication and information support, including translations;

- Programme support activities, including programme management support tools and material; and
- IT collaboration support activities.

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 20

New invitations to tender for services expected to be launched in 2021-2022:

- Scientific customs (European Customs Inventory of Chemical Substances (ECICS) database & sampling procedures)
- Description: Lot 1. Scientific and technical assistance – Improvement of sampling procedures: update and development of the “Samancta” database and training of customs officers about sampling. Lot 2. Scientific and technical assistance – Revision and translation of chemical names in ECICS database procedures: establishment and update of procedures to translate chemical names in the ECICS database
- Indicative time of the call: Lots 1 and 2: Q1/2021
- Evaluation and impact assessment
- Description: Framework contract for the provision of evaluation and impact assessment related services
- Indicative time of the call: Q4/2021

Implementation

Directly by DG TAXUD

Additional information required by the basic act for the work programme

N/A

4. Other expenditure

4.1. Reimbursement of external experts participating in programme activities

Amount

EUR 400 000

Description

This measure allows supporting the participation of external experts referred to in Article 8 of the Customs programme Regulation to specific activities wherever this is essential for the achievement of the objectives of the activity.

Additional information required by the basic act for the work programme

N/A