

Reform inside the Lebanese Customs Administration



November 2012

Introduction



Lebanese Customs initiated a reform program in the 90's characterized by the adoption of world standards, risk management, extensive use of technology, participation of private sector and building of capacity within the service.

- ① NAJM: A reform project timeline across 20 years (1993 – 2012)
- ② Twinning with the Italian Customs
- ③ CUSTOM MED project under the supervision of the University of Genoa

NAJM Achievements – in a glance



NAJM is a Customs Clearance automated information System where its core objective is to facilitate Lebanon's international trade while maintaining adequate compliance with national laws and regulations.

- ① WAN covering all the Customs offices, One centralized application for the whole country, in house automation, balancing between trade facilitation and Customs enforcement.
- ② 24/7 brokers access & support to the Customs application.
- ③ Introduction of Paperless, E-Government and E-Payment.
- ④ Being in charge of the Twinning with the Italian Customs and CUSTOM MED project which is lead by the University of Genoa.

Twinning and CUSTOM MED projects

Aim to improve goods circulation between the Middle East and the EU by networking and adopting shared procedures and technologies in addition to provide better conditions for economic growth and trade facilitation in supporting and building up the administrative and operational capacity of the Lebanese Customs Administration.



- ① Under the supervision of Genoa University, the adoption of shared procedures will be established between the Lebanese Customs administration, Valencia Port Institute, Piraeus Port Authority, Alicante Port Authority and Aqaba Development Corporation.
- ② With the collaboration of the Italian Customs, 7 Key Experts will be responsible for the implementation of the six twinning components ; to this end, 58 Senior Officers with extensive experience will be in charge of studying and proposing new procedures.

EU projects Objectives



Both projects will finish around November 2014 and their total amount is 3.42 million Euros.

- ① Introduce Import/Export simplifications, improve Free zone functioning , Improve Customs Warehouse procedures, Modernise Manifest management, Enhance Transit operations, Modernise Travellers halls, improve inspections techniques including cars controls, Enhance Post clearance audit process, Improve Accounting system and electronic payment, Create paperless environment, Implement Single Window approach, Introducing IT control systems.
- ② Conduct a deep Analysis of the current legislation, Carry out a survey of model legislation based on the UNCITRAL model, Propose amendments to the current legislation.
- ③ 10 Study visits, 23 training for trainers, Providing assistance to improve current Customs Website, Providing recommendations to create efficient Call centres, Organising Workshops to present the proposed new procedures.

EU projects results



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- ① Reduce trade barriers , Simplify the co-ordination between all involved authorities, Improve the efficiency of the customs clearance process, Develop a stable customs-trade partnership, Improve control procedures by introducing risk profiles, Increase customs compliance, Enhance the IT System to ensure the whole modernization process of LCA.
 - ② Produce a complete survey on the current legislation and procedures, Create a complete and modern legal framework to support trade facilitation.

Difference between Public & Private Sectors



Public sector faces the below additional restrictions than the Private sector.

- Political Will and Commitment.
- Legislation Barriers.
- Existing personnel & Limitation in recruiting qualified personnel.
- Long and complicated bidding procedures.
- Multiple decision makers.
- Unwillingness to take initiatives.
- Culture of sticking to the current procedures.

Grazie per la vostra attenzione

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