



European Commission

RISK MANAGEMENT ENHANCING SAFETY BURDEN
 ENHANCING SAFETY STANDARDISATION REDUCED COST ENHANCING SAFETY BURDEN
 TRADE FACILITATION CUSTOMS UNION NATIONAL AUTHORITIES COMMON SOLUTIONS
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 REDUCED COST ENHANCING SAFETY STRENGTHENING SECURITY CUSTOMS
 E CUSTOMS JOINT ACTIONS TRADE FACILITATION CUSTOMS
 COOPERATION BURDEN STRENGTHENING SECURITY FASTER CUSTOMS
 E CUSTOMS NATIONAL AUTHORITIES LESS ADMIN
 TRAINING CASE STUDIES STANDARDISATION CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Customs 2013
 Cross-border solutions for cross-border problems!
 Final evaluation results

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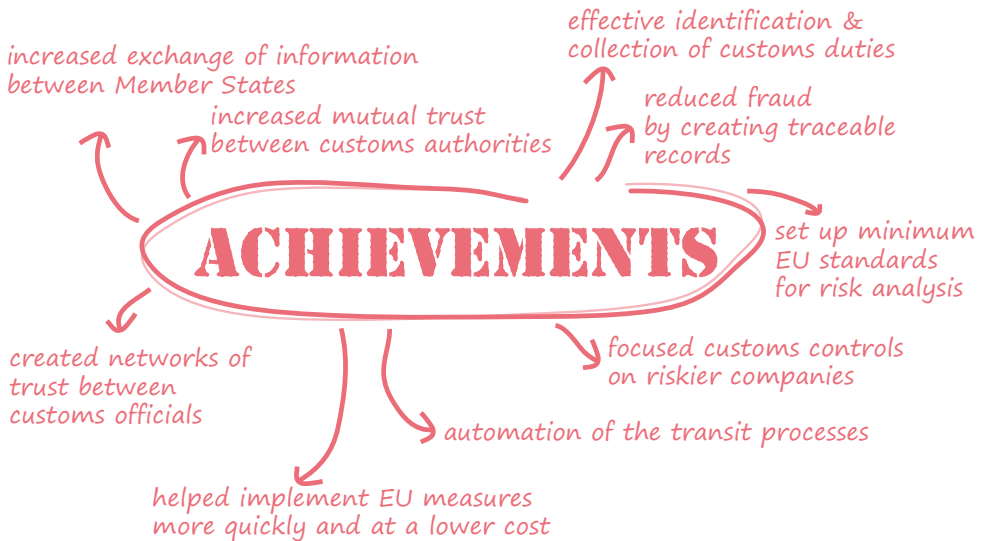
KEY PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Customs 2013 was a 6-year EU action programme [addressed to national customs administrations](#) of the EU Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries (33 countries altogether). The main objectives were to foster cooperation and coordination between the national customs administrations to meet the needs of the internal market, increase the interaction and performance of Member States' customs administrations to act as a single administration, protect EU's financial interests, ensure safety and security and prepare candidate countries for accession.

The programme supported [trans-European communication and information exchange systems](#) (over 60 IT applications were developed to support Customs programme and its sister Fiscalis programme), [joint actions](#) (such as benchmarking, seminars, project groups, working visits) and [training activities](#).

The overall budget was set at [EUR 323.8 million](#), of which almost 80% were allocated to the development and maintenance of trans-European IT systems.

Over [40 000 participants](#) took part in some 7 500 different activities.



WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

Over 5400 customs officials and 33 national programme coordinators responded to the evaluation questionnaires. These were complemented by series of interviews with key stakeholders and 6 on-the-spot case studies.

Strengthening safety and security

- ✓ the Import Control System facilitated the **exchange of information** with the other Member States, allowing them to respond to risks quicker and more efficiently;
- ✓ the Customs Risk Management System set a **minimum standard for risk analysis** by institutionalising the sharing of risk information forms between Member States;
- ✓ the Economic Operator Systems were mainstreamed during this period, increasing the ability of customs authorities to **pool information** about individual economic operators and increasing the amount of information about traders available for **risk analysis**;
- ✓ the Authorised Economic Operator system allowed the customs authorities to **focus on riskier companies**, increasing the chance that controls will uncover dangerous goods;
- ✓ the systems funded through the programme also **increased trust**, helping the Member States to regard the risk analysis carried out by others as credible and thereby targeting controls more effectively.

Protection of the EU's financial interests

- ✓ the TARIC system on the integrated Tariff of the European Union and the Tariff quotas and ceilings database (QUOTA) are the **only official sources for providing tariff-related information** to national authorities and the evaluation found them to be current, reliable and user-friendly;
- ✓ the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) that allowed administrations to **automate transit processes** was generally regarded to have **greatly reduced fraud by creating traceable records** for each transit transaction and reducing the scope for deviation from standard procedures as well as the need to file labour-intensive paper documents;
- ✓ in addition, the enhanced effectiveness of risk management systems has contributed not only to the enhanced control of dangerous goods, but also to the **effective identification and collection of customs duties**. This has a direct and positive impact on protecting the EU's financial interests.

Facilitation of trade

- ✓ the entirely paperless environment that now exists for handling customs declarations has allowed the Customs Union to become **more secure while carrying out fewer of the manual controls** that slow down the flow of trade;
- ✓ the New Computerised Transit System has **speeded the transit process** and reduced the amount of time during which guarantees must be withheld from economic operators and therefore facilitated trade, while creating electronic records that reduced the potential for errors and fraud.

The European added value of the programme

- ☑ IT systems funded through the programme were highly complementary to national initiatives as they were mostly related to implementing the EU customs legislation. This led to **reductions in administrative costs**, which would not have been possible if each Member State had to develop similar IT systems on its own;
- ☑ the vast majority of Member States administrations believed that the programme helped them **implement EU legislation more quickly and at a lower cost** than would have been possible without support from the programme;
- ☑ the Customs Risk Management System and the Import Control System both provided the platforms for national administrations to **exchange risk-related information electronically in a secure environment**. In addition to rendering the exchange of such information more systematic and effective, it also reduced the amount of time needed by officials to file official requests with their counterparts in other Member States;
- ☑ the **joint actions funded through the programme fostered trust** and encouraged the free sharing of information and uptake of common IT systems and other processes. The created networks played an important role in attaining the programme's objective to "act as one administration".

AND WE KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT EVEN BETTER!

The evaluation proposed 10 recommendations to further improve the programme. They will be implemented in the course of the Customs 2020 edition of the programme, jointly by the European Commission and the participating countries.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

- ✓ About [Customs 2013](#) and [Customs 2020](#) programmes.
- ✓ External [study](#) supporting final evaluation of Customs 2013 programme.
- ✓ [Commission Report](#) to other institutions on the final evaluation of Customs 2013 programme.

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