



Prot. 89383/RU

Roma, 1 agosto 2016

COMUNICATO STAMPA

“Progetto SEED Maintenance and Development”

L’Agenzia delle Dogane e dei Monopoli ha sottoscritto con la Commissione Europea, il contratto relativo ad nuovo progetto nell’Area Balcanica, denominato “*SEED¹ Maintenance and Development*”.

Tale progetto, della durata di 24 mesi, con uno stanziamento di fondi europei pari a circa 900.000,00, rappresenterà la prosecuzione del *SEED Maintenance II*, programma gestito da questa Agenzia e destinato alle Amministrazioni doganali dell’Albania, Bosnia Erzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo e Serbia avente lo scopo di agevolare lo scambio di dati in tempo reale con il fine di facilitare il commercio e al contempo contrastare le attività illecite. Obiettivo ultimo è avvicinare le Amministrazioni doganali dei summenzionati Paesi in un futuro prossimo ad una gestione autonoma del sistema di scambio dati e quanto più vicina a quella in corso fra gli SM dell’UE. Il nuovo progetto includerà, inoltre, l’estensione delle attività a nuovi ambiti (rimborsi IVA, proprietà intellettuale, controlli scanner, AEO) nonché la predisposizione di ipotesi di sviluppo per il coinvolgimento di altre Amministrazioni in aggiunta alle Dogane.

Si evidenzia che il progetto in parola è stato già inserito dalla Commissione Europea quale contributo qualificante delle discussioni in corso della diplomazia europea nell’Area balcanica e contribuirà ad implementare gli accordi che gradualmente saranno presi per sviluppare le facilitazioni al commercio nell’ambito dell’Accordo di libero scambio CEFTA (*Central European Free Trade Agreement*).

Il progetto “*SEED Maintenance and Development*”, costituisce un ulteriore riconoscimento del lavoro dell’Agenzia a livello europeo nella gestione dei programmi di cooperazione internazionale e conferma il ruolo strategico dell’Italia in un’area cruciale come quella dei Balcani.

¹ *Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data*, www.eu-seed.net

Catching the export cheats: Customs agencies join forces

Cooperation across borders in the Western Balkans is being improved and customs procedures harmonised. This will help catch those exporters who deliberately falsify export data in order to avoid paying customs duty. Not only is this illegal, but they are also harming cross-border trade.

ELECTRONIC SYSTEM

To help crack down on these practices, a specialised IT system has been developed to establish electronic connections between all regional customs agencies. This allows for accurate and rapid exchange and analysis of customs data.

The project, known as “Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data” or SEED, has also contributed to reducing the security risks in the area and in making consistent steps towards EU integration. The concept of an effective integrated border management system has been also promoted.

The system has been designed and developed based on examples of the EU’s e-Customs systems. It operates within the Customs Administrations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

This IT system not only helps catch exporters who try to cheat, but it also speeds up procedures and encourages legitimate trade. It also reduces smuggling and helps in collecting the correct customs duties.

NEW SOFTWARE

Based on the additional requirements of the beneficiary administrations, a special new version of the computer software was developed, tested and deployed.



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Western Balkans

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM.

The main value of the system is in its preventative aspect. If exporters think that irregularities in their customs documentation may be spotted, they will be more careful. Already in Serbia alone, this new system has detected 19 cases worth €0.3 million within 6 months.

Because this project operates across borders in the Western Balkans, there is also a significant benefit for

the EU Member States in that SEED allows for improved border protection at the EU's external borders, especially in preventing fraud and illegal traffic.

This multi-beneficiary project will also speed up customs procedures and reduce the spread of organised crime. Moreover the system can also prevent corruption within the customs services.

PROJECT DETAILS –

Maintenance of the Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data system in the Western Balkans (SEED Maintenance)

Partners:
Agenzia delle Dogane (Italy)

Total cost in €:
2.05 million

EU contribution:
100%

Start date:
October 2012

End date:
June 2014

Results:
Increased regional cooperation and security; customs fraud prevention; faster customs clearance

Techniques:
Training information exchange



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