



## Inclusive Sustainable Economic Domain (ISED) The Global Trade Facilitation Programme



The Global Trade Facilitation Programme (GTFP) is the first joint initiative between the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the WCO. Its overall objective is to contribute to fostering and facilitating international trade in the selected beneficiary countries, through strengthened compliance, in particular of Custom Administrations, with international standards and best practices for the import, export and transit of commercial goods.

### Rationale

With this 4-year comprehensive capacity-building programme, both SECO and the WCO expect to strengthen the organizational and technical capacities of the beneficiary Customs Administrations (CAs). Inefficient and often bureaucratic custom procedures negatively affect trade flows. Reforming and enabling customs administration to apply international standards and best practices is thus crucial for increasing trade and economic growth.

Trade facilitation initiatives benefit both, the business community and governments. The business community benefits by obtaining enhanced competitiveness in national and international markets due to reduction in delays and costs which are achieved with more predictable and efficient movement of goods across borders. National administrations are able to utilize modern procedures to enhance controls, ensure proper collection fees and taxes and at the same time contribute to the economic development through increased trade and encouragement of foreign investment.

### Country:

Global, Uzbekistan

### Duration:

2018-2023

### Total Budget for Bolivia,

Colombia, Peru, Serbia,

Ukraine and Uzbekistan:

CHF 5'500'000;

For Uzbekistan:

EUR 370'000

### Partners:

State Custom Committee

under the Ministry of Economy  
and Finance of the Republic of  
Uzbekistan;

Ministry of Investments,  
Industry and Trade of the  
Republic of Uzbekistan

### Executing Agency:

World Customs Organisation

## Objectives and activities

The objective of the program is to contribute to fostering and facilitating international trade through strengthening compliance of SECO partner countries, in particular Customs Administrations (CA), with international standards and best practices for the import, export and transit of commercial goods. The purpose of the intervention is to strengthen the organizational and technical capacities of beneficiary CA to successfully lead, plan and implement sustainable and transparent Customs reforms, with involvement of relevant stakeholders, and with the aim to apply international standards and best practices, in particular those of the WCO and the WTO related to trade facilitation.

The program will pursue three goals, thus responding to the main challenges identified in the area of Trade Facilitation:

- Organizational Development – Sustainable management of customs reforms and modernization through enhanced organizational development capacities;
- Trade Facilitation – Facilitated and enhanced trade through modern and efficient customs procedures compliant with international standards and best practices. Improving of compliance capacity through specialized capacity building and training for CAs and relevant stakeholders to apply international standards and best practices related to trade facilitation;
- Performance measurement – A comprehensive performance management tool for CAs allows measuring and improving their performance in a more comprehensive and transparent manner.

## Key results

A Country Project Document was developed for Uzbekistan identifying the following specific activities to meet the needs:

- Develop a 4-year Customs Strategic Plan with strategic goals and key performance indicators.
- Implement WCO Time Release Study to enhance stakeholder engagement, map all processes and procedures during trade operations and identify bottlenecks and challenges to optimize Uzbek foreign trade.
- Streamlining the SCC information by establishing the Single Window to make sure that the information is only filed once.
- Establish a Post-Clearance Audit Unit with well-defined processes and standard operational procedures that allow the CA to develop investigations and program audits based on risk management that focuses on the operators rather than on specific operations.

This project document includes a national work plan 2021- 2023 with a total budget of 370'000 EUR. This tailor-made country work plan has been agreed by SECO, WCO and the SCC and signed in February 2021, along with a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the SCC, WCO and SECO.

### Contact:

Embassy of Switzerland

Shota Rustaveli Street,  
Impasse 1, House 4  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Tel.: +998 78 120 54 54  
tashkent@eda.admin.ch  
www.eda.admin.ch/tashkent

*printed in May 2023*