Developing a cooperation framework and an action plan for joint customs-police activities in research-innovation-education, in the context of two multi-year pan-European security practitioner innovation promotion and networking projects

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The PEN-CP project receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement No 786773.
Background

European Parliament:

- “...cross-border law enforcement cooperation — involving the police, customs and other law enforcement services — is designed to prevent, detect and investigate criminal offences across the European Union...”
- “...in practice, this cooperation mainly concerns serious crime (organised crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings and cybercrime) and terrorism...”

EC DG HOME:

- “... for 2018-2021 10 EU crime priorities were identified: drugs trafficking, facilitated illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings, excise and VAT fraud, cybercrime, firearms trafficking, organised property crime, environmental crime, document fraud and criminal finances and asset recovery...”
- “...criminal networks and their activities become more and more international.... this trend calls for strengthened cross-border cooperation between competent authorities and for more joint operations involving police, customs, border guards and judicial authorities in different EU Member States.

Such statements highlight the importance and urgency to explore new ways for customs and police agencies to work together - not only in intelligence sharing, targeting, investigative and other operational issues, but also in the context of research, innovation, and education activities.
Using the Horizon2020 framework, funding directed to creating networks of security practitioners started in 2017

- To monitor research and innovation projects with a view to recommending the uptake, or the industrialisation of results,
- To express common requirements as regards innovations that could fill capability and other gaps and improve their future performance, and
- To indicate priorities as regards areas requiring more standardisation.

“Pan-European Network of Customs Practitioners” (PEN-CP), comprises 13 customs partners; and “Innovation Law Enforcement Agencies Dialogue” network (iLEAD), comprises law enforcement partners in around 10 countries.

- PEN-CP and iLEAD have agreed to cooperate, from summer 2019 onwards.
The proof-of-concept for a novel Customs innovation boosting community and network, with valuable innovation intermediary services, offered through an online platform.

**Goal**

**Partners**

17 in total (13 Customs)

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<tr>
<th>Customs Administrations</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
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<td>Albania</td>
<td>ARTTIC, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Cross-border Research Association, Switzerland (Coordinator)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>TU DELFT, Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>University of Lausanne, Switzerland</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
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<td>Lithuania</td>
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<td>Macedonia</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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**Duration** 60 months

**Start** 1 September 2018

**Budget** 3.5 million EUR
Customs & Police have multiple areas with strong synergies.

Collaborative monitoring of markets on technology products can include: Chemical-Biological-Radiation-Nuclear- detection (CBRN), narcotics, small arms and light weapons, anti-counterfeiting and drone technologies.

Benefit 1: More effective coverage of products and developments.

Benefit 2: Potential to extend market influence beyond current respective levels.
Joint development of awareness-raising and training materials, for example regarding export controls, or verification of dual-use goods.

Benefit 1: Access to more comprehensive skill set.

Benefit 2: Cross-discipline upskilling; plus, could improve intelligence capture.
Preparation for joint customs-police tendering or procurement of innovative solutions.

- **Benefit1:** Potential for financial and time savings through joint procurement.
- **Benefit2:** Potential to raise the bar for requirements and influence enhancements.
- **Benefit3:** Potential to benefit from wider market size.
PEN-CP & iLEAD: First actions and way forward

Common innovation interests:
- Shared interest recognised in drugs/new psychoactives /weapons entering through post/fast parcel environments.
- PEN-CP sighting iLEAD on innovation work being undertaken for detection of drug threats in post.

Events for cross-participation:
- PEN-CP invited to participate in iLEAD technology-focussed industry day (Helsinki, Nov2019)
- iLEAD will be participating in PEN-CP annual meeting (Budapest, Nov2019)

Joint outputs from both Customs and Police collaboration will inform the EU Commission in terms of capability gaps, user needs and priorities for standardisation, meeting a number of the pillars the networks are expected to address.
- May lead to investment in innovation to address areas of concern.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Key PEN-CP Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>(A) Collecting, analyzing, storing and sharing customs challenges, problems and user needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>(B) Monitoring developments in technologies, solutions, services, projects and patents</td>
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<tr>
<td>(C) Match-making between customs challenges and user needs versus innovative solutions – projects - patents</td>
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<tr>
<td>(D) Sharing user experiences and data sheets between customs partners on existing technologies and solutions</td>
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<td>(E) Organizing technology prototyping / field-tests, in: data analytics, detection technologies, lab equipment</td>
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<td>(F) Organizing open innovation activities, including challenge competitions, crowdsourcing ideas, hackathons</td>
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<tr>
<td>(G) Identifying common innovation priorities and opportunities with other agencies: police, forensics, etc.</td>
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<td>(H) Connecting innovation-spirited experts across customs administrations = network of customs experts</td>
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</table>
Thank you

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Annex 1. Author bios

- **Mr. Trevor Francis** is Technical Manager and subject matter expert for UK Border Force, with experience of operations and transformation. Since 2011 he has represented the UK in the EU-led Customs Detection Technology Project Group which shares best practice, common challenges and looks to influence development of bespoke customs technology. He also is the Border Force lead in several Horizon 2020 projects and proposals.

- **Dr. Juha Hintsa**, founder and CEO of Cross-border Research Association (CBRA, www.cross-border.org), is a well-known researcher, lecturer and consultant in supply chain security and global trade facilitation, with some 30 projects and 70 publications on these topics. He currently coordinates two EU-projects, with 15 customs administrations as partners: Customs security innovation network (www.pen-cp.net) and Big data for customs risk management (www.profile-project.eu).

- **Mr. Janno Rätsep**, Estonian Tax and Customs Board, Customs Detection Technology Expert, is a Customs officer with 8 years of field experience. Last 3 years responsible of Customs department detection technology projects and new developments, especially on X-rays. Also management of x-ray technology and responsibility as trainings coordinator including trainings technical solutions developer.

- **Ms. Susana Wong Chan**, a Scientific Assistant at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and a doctoral candidate at the Warsaw School of Economics, Poland. She is also the head of educational materials at the Cross-border Research Association, where she works on topics related to trade facilitation and supply chain security. Past jobs include Trade negotiator at the Ministry of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica in the area of rules of origin and trade facilitation and Director of the Custom Administration and Trade Program at the University of Costa Rica.

- **Dr. Ari-Pekka Hameri** is professor of operations management at University of Lausanne, Switzerland. He has been involved with numerous international research and spin-off projects dealing with industrial IT and supply chain management. He has published over 70 articles in international management and science journals concerning technology management and transfer, and management of production, projects and supply chains.

- **Dr. Toni Männistö** is a logistics security and trade facilitation researcher with a PhD in supply chain security and MSc in industrial engineering and management. Toni has been working on transportation security and related topics since 2009 when he joined Cross-border Research Association for the first time. In 2015, after three years of doctoral studies in Switzerland, Toni rejoined CBRA as Head of Research.

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