EU-WCO Programme for Harmonized System in Africa

Supporting a coordinated implementation and uniform application of HS in Africa

Key Data

Duration
2018 - 2022

Donor
European Union (EU)

Implementing partner
World Customs Organization (WCO)

Geographical scope
African Continent
The WTO’s Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO-TFA) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are expected to play a major role in increasing African trade flows, with Customs as one of the main actors in the implementation of these endeavours. The European Union through its External Investment Plan and the Joint Africa-EU Strategy actively contributes to these efforts through various initiatives and cooperation frameworks.

This programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by the World Customs Organization, aims to support various stakeholders in Africa towards a coordinated implementation and uniform application of one of the fundamental trade facilitation instruments – the Harmonized System Convention of the World Customs Organization.

Key Milestones

1. Mobilization and engagement
   - Consultations and commitments
   - Establishment of the Steering Committee
   - Diagnostic missions
   - Country profiles
   - Recommendations and work plans

2. Implementation
   - Capacity building
   - Demand-Driven Technical assistance
   - Provision of HS tools and publications
   - Modernization of e-learning platform
   - Outreach activities for interinstitutional and public-private cooperation

3. Follow up
   - Timely migration towards the HS 2022 version
   - Modern and sustainable tariff classification practices and management structures
   - Alignment with regional, continental and international standards and commitments
   - Capacities contributing towards the implementation of the AfCFTA and the WTO-TFA
   - Published rules and procedures for the application of HS
Objective

Support African countries in building the required organizational capacities and resources to apply the future HS versions in a timely and coordinated manner.

Outcomes

- Application of HS Version 2022 in January 2022
- Accession of non-contracting parties in Africa to the HS convention

Impact

- Contribute to the successful implementation of the AfCFTA and the WTO-TFA
- Contribute to trade facilitation and increasing intra-African trade, trade between Africa and Europe, and Africa and the rest of the world

Stakeholders

- African Union
- Regional Economic Communities
- Other Relevant Stakeholders
- Customs Administrations
- Other Government’s Administrations

Type of activities

- Continental, Regional and National activities
- Train the trainers
- Modernized tools and updated publications
- Exchange of best practices
- Study visits
- Diagnostic missions and country profiles
Position of African countries regarding the application of HS*

- HS 2012
- HS 2007 or no info
- Non contracting party
- HS 2017 applied on 01/01/2017
- HS 2017 applied after 01/01/2017

AfCFTA ratification barometer**

- 22
- Number of ratifications
- 18
- N° of ratifications
  - Countries that have deposited their instruments of ratification or received Parliamentary approval
- 52
- N° of signatories
  - Total number of countries that have signed the consolidated text of the AfCFTA Agreement

Pre-entry classification Recommendation 1996*

- 46
- N° of signatories
  - Countries that have deposited their instruments of ratification or received Parliamentary approval
- 8
- N° of ratifications
  - Countries that have accepted
- 52
- N° of signatories
  - Countries that have not accepted

Good classification work model Recommendation 1998*

- 40
- N° of signatories
  - Countries that have deposited their instruments of ratification or received Parliamentary approval
- 14
- N° of ratifications
  - Countries that have accepted

For more information

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*Source: WCO website, **Source: www.tralac.org