Trade facilitation is the simplification, modernization and harmonization of export and import processes - World Trade Organization (WTO)

The Global Trade Facilitation Programme (GTFP) is the first joint initiative between the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO) of Switzerland and the World Customs Organization (WCO) aimed at fostering trade facilitation.

The Programme

The Programme is implemented using WCO methodology aimed at assisting governments worldwide to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in a harmonized manner.

Why is Customs so relevant for implementing the TFA?

WTO TFA Structure

Of the WTO TFA involves Customs, and is the leading agency for 70%.

The GTFP’s Fully Fledged interventions

Bolivia
- Develop a Time Release Study – Identify bottlenecks to trade
- Enforce Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)
- Establish an Advanced Rulings Procedure
- Develop a Risk Management Strategy and strengthen risk matrix

Colombia
- Design and implement a risk-based PCA scheme
- Develop a risk management strategy and identify technical requirements for risk assessment system

Peru
- Strengthen coordinated border management by developing standard operation procedures
- Develop a risk management strategy and strengthen organizational structures aligned to Customs’ Trade Facilitation project (FAST)

Uzbekistan
- Develop a Time Release Study – Identify bottlenecks to trade
- Design and implement a risk-based PCA scheme
- Improve national trade single window system

Expected outcomes

- Increase risk management efficiency by 5%
- Increase overall TF performance at least by 5%
- Reduce Customs clearance time by 5%
- Improve work climate at least by 5%

Expected impact

- Increased efficiency of the clearance process (WIS UR 2018)
- Increased overall trade facilitation performance (OECD Indicators 2017)

You can find more information on the programme by clicking here.

Other countries will join at a later stage.