

## **Europe's Regional Capacity Building Structures pave the way for better regional coordination and strengthening own capacities**



The group had the opportunity to take a photo with the President of FYROM, Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, during a social occasion.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Regional Training Centres (RTCs) for the Europe Region took place in Skopje, FYR Macedonia, on 18-19 May 2010. Representatives of the Vice-Chair's Office (Luxembourg), a contact person for the future European Regional Office on Capacity Building (ROCB) in Baku, and 5 out of 6 Europe Region RTCs (Baku, Budapest, Moscow, Skopje, Kyiv) attended the meeting which was hosted by the Faculty of Economics of the University of "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje. The Centre in Skopje is currently the only RTC in the world which functions as a joint endeavour by Customs and the academia.

The meeting's main objective was to strengthen the process of better coordination of the Capacity Building and Training activities at the regional level and initiate the drafting of the regional Capacity Building plan for 2010/2011.

The meeting in Skopje provided ample opportunity for the regional structures to openly discuss and review the state of play of the Capacity Building needs collection process in the region and for planning of capacity building activities for the next year in line with the regional priorities. The participants sought innovative ways to achieve better coordination procedures to deliver quality training and efficient CB activities based on the active and complementary cooperation of the RTCs.

In an effort to establish a mechanism for strengthening the regional structures' own capacities, participants also agreed to work together on several projects focusing on Research Coordination, Communication and Promotion, Regional Pool of Experts, Development of standard operational procedures for regional events, Regional CB Needs Collection and Assessment Process. For each of these projects one of the RTCs undertook to have a lead role, while the others will contribute.