



*PARTNERSHIP IN CUSTOMS
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT*

Overview



→ Establish Customs as a Profession

Since 2006, the WCO PICARD programme aims to:

- Increase the professional knowledge and standing of Customs executives and practitioners;
- Provide a cooperation framework for Customs Education and Research;
- Encourage national adoption of integrated education, training and development scheme by education authorities;
- Initiate new approaches to Customs whole-of-career development strategies.

For a coherent professional body sharing specific and graduated knowledge, competencies and skills, and fully connected to today's economic and social challenges.

→ Establish a Customs Research Platform

- Initiate Research on relevant developments in the Customs domain
- Compile existing model, standard and reference Customs policies
- Prepare leaders to the future of Customs

Focal point to Academia and privileged working partner

The International Network of Customs Universities (INCUB, www.incub.org) gathers more than 100 affiliated institutions, Universities and Research Centers that are active in the field of Customs research, education and training.

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In relation to Research under **PICARD**, a rich vein of research in the field of Customs have been generated by Academia and the WCO Secretariat. INCUB's flagship bi-annual publication - the World Customs Journal (www.worldcustomsjournal.org) provides a mean for academics and practitioners alike to publish the results of their studies and experience in the Customs realm.

Education and Research

→ Professional Standards

A set of Professional Standards has been developed as a foundation for Customs professional education for Customs organizations and Academic Institutions.

Standards for Operational Managers and Senior Managers (Bachelor and Masters level) are available in 6 languages.

A comprehensive Customs professional qualifications framework, reviewing and broadening the current Professional Standards, is under development.

→ WCO Recognition of University Customs Curricula

If substantially compliant with the WCO Professional Standards, Universities' curriculum at the Bachelors or Masters levels may apply for formal recognition.

After Universities from Europe, and Asia/Pacific being awarded WCO recognition for their academic programmes targeting the Customs profession, more institutions from Africa and Americas have submitted their application.

→ PICARD Conferences

Annual conferences offer a sustainable networking opportunity for Customs administrations, Customs practitioners, academic partners and increasingly donor and international organizations, promote high level exchanges on Customs education and professionalism and encourage more academic research into topics relevant to Customs.

These research-based knowledge fora have successfully supported Customs decision-making since 2006.



PICARD 2020 Strategy: a Vision for Customs Professionalism and Research

- Standardization Building: PICARD Professional Standards kept up-to-date with evolving Customs competence.
- Whole-of-career Customs development paths: Integrated Strategic Human Resource Management and Leadership and Management Development.
- Recognition of Customs Qualifications: Building bridges between Professional Customs Training and National Education Systems.
- Driving a proactive Customs Research agenda and platforms at both the global and regional levels.



[More information](#)

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