

WCO ESA Project

Financially supported by the Finnish Government

1st Steering Committee Meeting

Nairobi, 11-12 October 2011

Resolutions

1. Election of the Chair

The SC decided in favour of shared chairmanship, in the sense that SC meetings taking place in the ESA region will be chaired by an ESA member country (as this time by Mrs. Rose Wambui Namu, Kenya Revenue Authority) and SC meetings in Finland will be chaired by Finland.

2. Background on the development of the Project

The SC confirmed the importance of the fact that the project has been based on the regional development Strategy and priorities.

3. Governance structure of the Project

The Regional Vice Chair will send a letter to all ESA members to nominate a National Contact Point to coordinate the project related activities on national level. The SC recommended that the NCP should at best be working at a modernization unit or a comparable unit within the administration. The NCP will also be responsible for liaising with the ROCB on other issues.

The SC agreed to implement measures of monitoring and evaluation in the project. The WCO will share mission templates used before and after the delivery of capacity building activities with the ROCB, in turn the ROCB will share them with the members. These templates contain fields for information on outcomes, achievements, lessons learned, challenges, etc.

In addition, the SC agreed to use the methodology that was agreed by the members during the capacity building committee for phase III of the Columbus Programme (Monitoring and evaluation).

The SC agreed to share background information on this methodology with the Finnish donor.

The SC saw the need to coordinate the project activities vis-a-vis other ongoing capacity building initiatives in the region. In that context the SC asked the WCO to examine the possibility of giving access to project map database to the ROCB.

The SC again emphasized the importance of gender balance and other cross-cutting issues as described in the Project document throughout the project activities.

4. Recruitment of 2 Regional Experts for the ROCB

The SC agreed on the recruitment of the two regional experts based on the two job descriptions as annexed to the project description with one amendment to the expert job description for component 2 of the project, this amendment refers to the need for the expert to liaise with RILO Office on the nCEN roll out.

The recruitment process will look as follows:

- The WCO Secretariat will as soon as possible advertise the job descriptions on the WCO website and send a respective letter to all Heads of Customs in the ESA region. The Vice chair and the ROCB will share the responsibility of publishing the advertisement on the regional website, too.
- The SC decided to allow for a maximum of two applications per country. The deadline for application is expected to be finalized at the beginning of November.
- Based on the applications, the WCO Secretariat will develop a shortlist, Members of the SC will be involved in the further selection process.
- At best the two selected candidates will take up their positions at the ROCB before the end of the year.

Kenya agreed to provide further information on the tax exemption situation of technical attachés seconded to the ROCB.

5. Introduction to the 5 sub-components of the Project

- Component 1: Leadership and management development

All SC members from the region volunteered to participate in a pilot of the 3 days top Management workshop on 12-14 December 2011. South Africa offered to host this pilot.

The SC requested the WCO to contact the International Network of Customs Universities (INCUI) in order to explore the possibility of co-facilitating the pilot top management workshop.

- Component 2: nCEN

The SC agreed on the outline of the nCEN component as described in the project description. The SC specifically endorsed the pilot projects in Mauritius and Kenya, and the technical developments before the regional roll out takes place.

The WCO Secretariat will share a demo version of nCEN with the members of the SC.

- Component 3: Co-ordinated Border Management

The SC agreed on the outline of the CBM component as described in the project description. They agreed to use the WCO TRS tool to monitor and evaluate the impact of this component.

The SC underlined the importance of addressing CBM during the policy dialogues for the region.

South Africa and Mauritius already offered support in developing the models on OSBP and Single Window respectively.

- Component 4: Support for the ROCB

Refer to agenda item 5.

- Component 5: Country-specific support Namibia

The SC endorsed the component as outlined in the project description.

6. Work plan for the first year of the Project

The SC endorsed the initial work plan as presented by Riitta Passi with minor amendments which will be taken into account.

Members of the SC will provide the ROCB and the WCO Secretariat at the latest by Tuesday, 18 October, with information related to the upcoming Top Management Pilots and the Policy Dialogue Pilots as follows:

- proposals for the contents of the Top Management event as described above (some of the topics put forward during the SC meeting include the use of research for management purposes, Change management, negotiations skills);
- current situation on national level with regard to co-operation and consultations with private sector and other stakeholders (esp. around CBM);
- expectations related to benefits from the Policy Dialogue.

The SC decided that between the Top Management workshop and the Policy Dialogue, there should be a minimum time of 2 months for the appropriate preparations for the Dialogue.

The participants of the Policy Dialogue pilot were invited to provide proposals for possible dates when they could take place on national level.

7. Any other business

The next Steering Committee meeting will take place in Finland during the last week of April 2012.