



THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE TO GREECE'S TRADE FACILITATION REFORMS

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2012, UNECE supported the Greek Government to launch the Greek Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2013-2014, a holistic trade facilitation reform programme including key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress.

The Greek trade facilitation Roadmap is one of the most holistic national trade facilitation programmes that UNECE is aware of.

This Roadmap was approved by the Parliament and has become part of the lending agreement between Greece and the international donors. Its delivery is seen as a crucial milestone to establish trust in the Greek economy and to return to sustainable economic growth.

The Roadmap contains 25 specific reform programmes such as:

- substantive reform of Customs procedures and their automation,
- implementation of automate assessment and management of risks in import and export regulation,
- assessment of trade obstacles through process analysis,
- reform of agriculture trade procedures,
- implementation of modern electronic business instruments including paperless trade.

UNECE'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT

Following the completion of the Roadmap, the government of Greece and the European Commission asked UNECE to support the implementation of the Roadmap through a technical cooperation project.

A technical cooperation project was established. It aimed to:

- **assist Greek authorities in steering and managing the overall Roadmap**
- **provide managerial support for the implementation of different topics included**
- **provide specialist expertise in implementing the trade facilitation reforms included in the Roadmap**

Timeline: 2013-2014

Funds provided by the European Commission: EUR 1.100.000

PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project had several deliverables. Some of the project results are:

- A Operational Steering Committee and six Working Groups to manage the different reform programmes were established
- Substantive reform of Customs procedures initiated, support to the automation of the customs procedures (ICISNet rollout) and implementation of an automated risk assessment system
- Authorized economic operator scheme rolled out
- More than 15 workshops and capacity building events organised
- Business Processes Analysis and simplification undertaken using UNNEXT Business Process Analysis Method
- Authorized Traders Scheme established with over 40 exporters registered (accounting for 40% of the total exporting activity in fresh fruits and vegetables)
- Proposal for a competitive agriculture export strategy (Greek Smarter Food) developed pilot project for the implementation of a Single Window launched.

Doing Business	2012	2013	2014
Doing business*	100	78	72
Trading across borders*	84	62	52
Time to export (days)	20	19	16
Cost to export (US\$ per container)	1153	1115	1040
Time to import (days)	25	15	15
Cost to import (US\$ per container)	1265	1135	1135

Source: UNECE with data from World Bank Doing Business Report
www.doingbusiness.org

*International Ranking (smaller is better)

PROJECT IMPACT

In a very short time Greece has made important progress in the implementation of trade facilitation. For instance, in less than two years, Greece has significantly improved its international ranking in trade facilitation and trade competitiveness.

The actions already implemented by the Greek administrations as well as the private sector stakeholders bring tangible benefits to the Greek traders and businesses, as evidenced by international studies and reports that were published in the first quarter of 2014.

- Since 2012, Greece has improved its ranking in the World Bank Doing Business study by 28 positions from position 100 to 72*.
- The competitive position of Greece in the Logistic Performance Index has improved by 25 positions. The concrete results for Customs are overwhelming with an improvement by 52 positions, from 94 to 42.
- The time to export and import has been reduced by 20% and 40% respectively.
- The cost to export and import has gone down by approximately 10%.

The following tables show the positive results over the past years in the rankings of the Doing Business and the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) of the World Bank:

WB Logistics Performance Indicators (LPI)	2012	2014
LPI*	69	44
Customs*	94	42
Logistics*	73	40

Source: UNECE with data from World Bank Logistics Performance Index
<http://lpi.worldbank.org/>

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