



PROJECT STARTING

The Twinning “Support to the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the accession to the Convention on a Common Transit Procedure, Convention on Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods and implementation of the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS)” officially started on the 1st of June 2020.

The **duration** of the project is **15 months** and the **budget** is **EUR 1 million**.

The Member State **implementing partner of the Twinning is the Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency**, supported, for the financial and administrative part, by Studiare Sviluppo (as Mandated body).

The overall objective of the project is to facilitate Azerbaijan’s connectivity with existing EU customs systems and to provide simplifications for trade facilitation among EU and Azerbaijan.

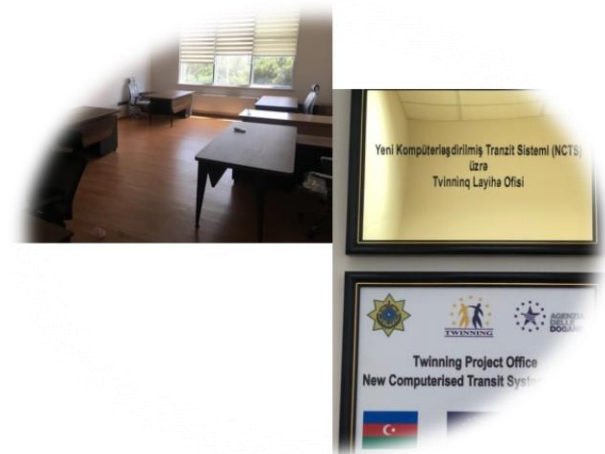
The specific objective of the project is to assist the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan in setting up the relevant legal, administrative and technical environment to support the accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Convention of 20 May 1987 on the Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods, the Convention of 20 May 1987 on a common transit procedure and preparing for the implementation of the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS).



PROJECT PREPARATION

Despite the impact that COVID Pandemic had over the project preparation phase, the first Rolling work-plan has been prepared remotely, jointly with the Beneficiary.

Also the selection process of the two assistants has been conducted by remote, while the Beneficiary started identifying the office space, equipping it with computers, Internet connection, phones, copy machine, printer, scanner and all the facilities for the twinning team.

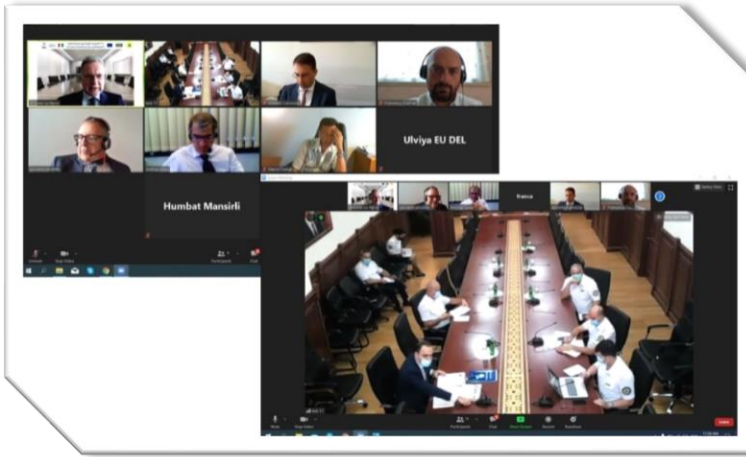


PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The **first Project Steering Committee**, that approved the first Quarterly Report and the first Rolling work-plan, was held on the 4th of September.

The meeting was attended by the two Project Leaders (MS and BC) and the two RTAs, by the Project Manager of the Mandated body, Studiare Sviluppo, by the EU Delegation Project Manager, by MoE Representative, Component leaders from both Customs administrations and project assistants.





Tentative Timetable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
September							1.1.1 (Iangro - Recano)											2.1.1 (Cusmai - Petral)														
October		1.1.2 (Cusmai)				1.1.3 (Bosnicasa - Dobosardi)								2.1.2 (Cusmai - Petral)							3.1.2 (Dongola - Iangro)							3.3.1 (Carroccia - Misard)				
November														2.2.1 (Cusmai - Petral)																		
December		3.2.1	3.2.1	3.2.1	3.2.1																											
January																																
February		1.2.3	1.2.3	1.2.3	1.2.3	1.2.3																										

STARTING OF ACTIVITIES

The first activity planned in the work-plan, consisting in the legislative assessment of the transit sector in Azerbaijan, was duly started on September 7, followed by the beginning of the assessment of transit procedures and IT component, to conclude, as of today, with the analysis of the organization of the Beneficiary in relation to transit customs procedure, which represent, all together, the main lines of development of the twinning.

At the moment, the activities are carried out remotely, waiting to be able to resume them in the traditional way, with the missions of the experts in the country.

In addition to the virtualization of activities, which strongly clashes with the successful principles and methods of twinning, the experts have tried to maximize the use of the digital platform in use, both by extending the number of participants and by giving rise to interactive sessions, through visualization in real time of the procedures, in use in Azerbaijan and in the EU, in the transit field.

Twinning Team
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ROLLING WORK-PLAN No 1

TO TWINNING GRANT CONTRACT "Support to the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the accession to the Convention on a Common Transit Procedure, Convention on Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods and Implementation of the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS)" - AZ16/EN/EC/01/15

WORK-PLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD: 1 September 2020 – 28 February 2020

ARTICLE 1: Objective

The Member State and Beneficiary PLs hereby notify the Contracting Authority of the detailed work-plan and budget of the above-mentioned Twinning Grant Contract for the six months starting on the 1st of September 2020 ending next 28 February 2021.

ARTICLE 2: Tasks (Inputs)

Budget Heading - RTA and related expenses

Resident Twinning Adviser
 The RTA started his assignment the 1st of June 2020. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the RTA, in agreement with the EU and the beneficiary, is working remotely from Italy. He will be seconded to the Beneficiary Country as soon as the Government Authorities of Azerbaijan will decide to reopen the borders admitting the entering of travellers into the Country.

In line with the EU COVID guidelines, the RTA, while in Italy, during the period of work from home, is entitled to receive the remuneration foreseen in the budget costs, exception made for the "Monthly travel" cost.

RTA Training Brussels
 The RTA and the Beneficiary PL or RTA will participate to the next RTA training session in Brussels (date not yet scheduled).

RTA Assistant contracts
 The Assistants have been selected through a public procedure, resulting in the following steps: publication of vacancy on the EU Delegation's and Studiare Sviluppo's websites; CVs' evaluation and related shortlist of candidates; interviews and notification of the results. The evaluation committee was composed by Mr. Giovanni Piccirillo (PL), Mr. Antonio Lo Parco (RTA) and Mr. Andrea Solisa (PM); as observers, were also members of the evaluation panel Mr. Anar Suleymanov (BC PL) and Mr. Farid Valiyev (BC RTA).
 The selected candidates are:
 - RTA Assistant: Ms. Fatima JAFAROVA
 - Language Assistant: Ms. Nurana RZAYEVA

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ARRIVAL OF RTA

The RTA arrived in Baku on September 14, and in accordance with the health rules in force in the country, underwent quarantine before starting to attend the Twinning office for his assignment. On 16 September, the Delegation of European Union to Azerbaijan organised a meeting with all RTAs of ongoing and ready-to-go twinings in Azerbaijan (to date only three RTAs are in the country), to learn about the different points of view and implementing experiences, creating a team building opportunity, before sending the "RTA Welcome Pack" to everyone, containing all the needed information to live and work in Azerbaijan.

This Project is funded by the European Union

"The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Antonio Lo Parco, RTA of the Twinning, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union"