



Funded by the European Union, the Twinning Project **AL 17 IPA FI 02 20 “Support to the Albanian Customs Administration in relation to the implementation of the EU Customs Code and increase of operational capacities in the area of counterfeit goods”** will contribute to simplifying legislation and administration procedures for customs authorities and for economic operators. In this way, it will facilitate trade.

The project aims to bring the Albanian legislation closer to that of the European Union *acquis* – the set of rights, norms and obligations applied by all EU countries. The project will support the Albanian customs administration, and share EU best practices in the fight against counterfeit goods.

All EU member states are part of the EU customs union and follow the same customs rules and procedures. This requires **national laws to be harmonised with EU law**. It also demands **strong national authorities that can implement and enforce those rules**, while having access to **common computerised customs systems**.

On its way toward EU integration Albania has already made progress in approximating Customs legislation with the European Union *acquis*. The project will support the Albanian customs administration and customs houses to develop and implement new legislative instructions as well as practices to implement national law.

The project will also support the planning and **implementation of the electronic system INES+** in the customs headquarters and all customs houses. The INES+ software will be operated by the intellectual property rights protection office within the customs administration. The users of this system will be the physical control customs officers at each customs branch as well as structures of law enforcement department (Directorates of investigation, information, risk analyses, monitoring and anti-contraband).

The project is **managed by the Albanian Ministry of Finance and Economy** and implemented by the **Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance** for a total amount of **EUR 400 000**. The implementation period is **12 months** and started on 24 November 2020.

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Background information:

The Law No.102/2014, on “Customs Code of the Republic of Albania” was approved on 31.07.2014. This Law is partially aligned with the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council No.952/2013 “Union Customs Code” and with other important acts of the EU. The New Customs Code is fully in force and its implementing provisions were adopted by DCM no. 651, dated 10.11.2017 "On implementing provisions of law no. 102/2014, "Customs Code of the Republic of Albania".

Since 2018, the new customs code has enabled Albania to modernise customs legislation and procedures; increase clarification and unification of procedures by sanctioning the right to be heard; simplify and facilitate customs rules and procedures; take further steps towards a paperless environment; and support faster customs procedures for trustworthy economic operators who respect the law.