



CELBET1 beginning of unique teamwork.

This newsletter was created at the beginning and for the purpose of CELBET 2 which is continuation of unique project CELBET 1. Why is it so unique? Eleven different countries working together as a team and that what is most important – working out practical and useful operational and management solutions for land border that is almost 9 300 km long.

As a Team we have one common aim

CELBET 1 and its continuation CELBET 2 have one goal: to join border crossing points officers, receive information and share it as much as possible among 11 different countries CELBET- to strengthen and improve cooperation and overall performance.

What were the main CELBET1 outcomes ?

- regular risk profiles
- Joint Intensified Activities (JIA)
- mapping and analysis of non-commercial Border Crossing Points (BCPs)
- analysis of green border smuggling
- inventory of control and detection equipment at BCPs
- set of technical specifications
- pilot trainings with real life situations
- training catalogue
- random control methodology and joint exercises
- pilot for measurement of the border crossing time at three BCPs with different models of synchronized checks

CELBET 1 -What have we done during 2018 ?

Several reports of CELBET1 have been finalized under different subtasks. There have been two pilot trainings, one in January on inter-agency cooperation at FRONTEX, the audience being Custom and Border Guard officers. The latter one on targetting and control procedures was organized in Slovakia, BCP Wysne Nemecke, for customs officers of all 11 MS.

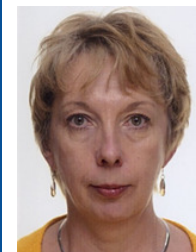
CELBET1 in numbers:
24 tasks, 46 subtasks, 54 deliverables

Our Team



Jyrki Linna
Head of CELBET2 Expert Team,

He works for Finnish Customs for 36 years.
Hobby: winter swimming, culture and family



Pille Jogisoo
Grant Coordinator of CELBET2

She works for Estonian Tax and Customs Board for 20 years
Hobby: gardening and books



Elina Cirule
Risk Management Team Leader

She works for National Customs Board of State Revenue Service in Latvia for over 7 years
Hobby: dancing and enjoying time with her family

What's next ?

- **CELBET** management meeting will be held in Romania, Bucharest on 26th-27th of March.
- Jyrki Linna will attend in Customs Cooperation Working party meeting in Brussels on 5th of April
- **CELBET** Steering Committee kick-off meeting will be held in Poland, Warsaw, on 24th-25th of April

Pilot training

Less paper - more practice! This is what was the base of pilot training idea. Taking into account experience on pilot training with Frontex we recruited the trainers, we made agenda and we organized it. The project was realized in Training Centre at Vyšné Nemecké Border Crossing Point in Slovakia. The topic of pilot training was customs control process. The participants were taking part in real control: they checked cars, looked for local risk factors, and decided about choosing the car to the detailed control.

What are the results?

We elaborated the best practices, spread them and built the expert network. Officers within the network exchanged information, opinions, pictures so that means that it works. Thanks to the activity the training catalogue was updated. The catalogue is a living document, its intention is to assist the CELBET member states in improving the performance level of the target group and contribute to the harmonisation of the customs control process.

What are participants' opinions?

Officers from different countries claimed that pilot training was good opportunity to share experience and make new contacts. Moreover, the most important factor was real control on border lane.

You can also see slovakian TV releases about the training:

<http://bit.ly/2FkgmRC>

<http://bit.ly/2oPPVsU>

<http://bit.ly/2oXi00D>



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Operational control
Team Leader

She works in Romanian Customs Service for 24 years.
Hobby: travelling, sci-fi movies, spicy food, dancing



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He works in Revenue Administration Regional Office in Przemysl for 25 years.
Hobby: behavioral economics and decision-making psychology



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She works for Estonian Tax and Customs Board for 18 years.
Hobby: badminton, running, painting



Norbert Jakus
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He works for Slovak customs administration for 10 years.
Hobby: sport, family, theory of human resource



Anna Hatala-Wanat
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She works, for Polish Revenue Administration Regional Office in Olsztyn for 13 years.
Hobby: singing, cooking, books, graphic design



How did it begin?

- CELBET project is conducted in the interest of security and legal trade of all the EU Members States - Head of CELBET1 Urmas Koidu explains.



In May 2014, Mr. Jacek Kapica, Director General of Polish Customs Service invited customs leaders from 10 Member States to Krakow to mark the 10 anniversary of joining the EU and discuss the challenges of customs.

It was recognized that **customs in those 10 countries, mainly located at the eastern border of EU, are experiencing same difficulties in fighting with illegal activities.** Following the conclusions of Krakow seminar, Director General of Estonian Tax and Customs Board, Mr Marek Helm took the lead and the heads of 11 countries from eastern and southern part of EU gathered in border town of Narva, Estonia, in March 2015. As the result of Narva seminar, common understanding was reached that there is a need for intensive cooperation in land border issues.

A group of people from Customs of Poland, Finland and Estonia started to develop the idea of joint expert group and involved other land border countries. Having recognized common interest among all the 11 countries with the same situation, the idea was presented to the management of DG Taxud in order to find format of cooperation for such initiatives.

I would like to mention the great support and constructive approach of Mr Philip Kermode, Director at TAXUD, in this process. CELBET launched its work in Vilnius, in September 2016, where nearly 30 experts together with the heads of customs of 11 countries had kick-off meeting. Intensive period of meetings of six teams followed in order to map the situation in agreed areas: Risk Management, Operational Controls, Evaluation, Cooperation, Equipment and Training.

From the first outcomes of the project, I would like to highlight Inventory of existing equipment in more than **170 border crossing points** along the land border. This comprehensive study provided first comparative overview of customs technologies and equipment that was used in all 11 CELBET countries. It is not only a lack of resources that impede customs to perform qualitative inspections, but also knowledge of the latest solutions and expertise in this area.

One of the most tangible results of the CELBET 1 was the measurement of the level smuggling in selected BCPs. All cigarettes, smuggled and legally brought in EU without taxes, were reported. As the result the theoretical **value of non-taxed cigarettes brought through these 11 BCPs per month reached nearly 7 mln EUR.** One can play with this number, taking account the total number of BCPs.

In the first phase of CELBET, among others, several practical exercises were conducted: joint operations based on common profiles; measurement of border crossing times; establishment of common training catalogue; and as the grand finale a common training in Slovakia.

From my personal point of view, leading the CELBET was the most valuable experience in my career. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of close personal contacts and professional conversations. I wish success to Mr Jyrki Linna, Head of Celbet 2, and to all the team leaders and experts who make every effort to achieve common goals. **CELBET project is conducted in the interest of security and legal trade of all the EU Members States.**



The CEL BET 1 had a valuable feedback and that's why it is continued...

During these busy 18 months expert teams learned that the project is very useful and got valuable feedback from stakeholders. CEL BET 2 is continuation of this unique team work.

The last meeting for CEL BET 1 and the the same time first meeting of CEL BET 2 was organized on 20-22 February at CEL BET office in Warsaw. The meeting was taking the stock of the major outputs of CEL BET 1 and finalizing the implementation plan for CEL BET 2.

Many tasks from CEL BET 1 will be continued in CEL BET 2, but according to our goals of improving cooperation and information exchange the new issue will be introduced – networks. We will create BCP network, National Risk Analysis Centre Network, Training network and PR Network. The role of BCP network will be elementary and it will be agreed in the next Steering Committee meeting. The visibility and communication will be of utmost importance during the whole lifespan of CEL BET. That's why You are reading this newsletter as a part of our publicity.



**CEL BET 2 in
numbers:
28 tasks
23 subtasks
45 deliverables
4 networks**

In CEL BET 2 there will be experts (including teamleaders) from all CEL BET member states: Bulgaria 2, Croatia 2, Estonia 3, Finland 3, Greece 1, Hungary 2, Latvia 4, Lithuania 5, Poland 5, Romania 2, Slovakia 2.



CEL BET

**CUSTOMS
EASTERN AND SOUTH-EASTERN
LAND BORDER EXPERT TEAM**

CEL BET – crossing borders

We want You to look forward to our next newsletter so what would You like to read in it?

Or You like it as it is... Please give feedback:

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Soon we will be on [Twitter](#) @celbet_2