

KOSOVO

PRE-ARRIVAL PROCESSING FOR EXPRESS CONSIGNMENTS



The aim of the project was to introduce Pre-Arrival Processing (PAP) to accelerate customs clearance procedures for express consignments.

The project with Kosovo Customs was part of a regional measure that included three other countries in the region.

BACKGROUND

The trade policy of the Western Balkans countries is largely determined by the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between those countries and the European Union as well as by the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

According to a regional analysis, five trade facilitation measures contained in the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) have the greatest impact on the improvement of intraregional trade in the CEFTA region:

- 1) Advance Rulings
- 2) Pre-Arrival Processing
- 3) Post-Clearance Audit
- 4) Authorised Economic Operators
- 5) Single Window

The project approach for introducing PAP for express consignments was first piloted in Montenegro, with very positive results. Therefore, the General Director of Kosovo Customs decided in July 2017 to be part of a regional project and introduce PAP Express for Kosovo.

THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

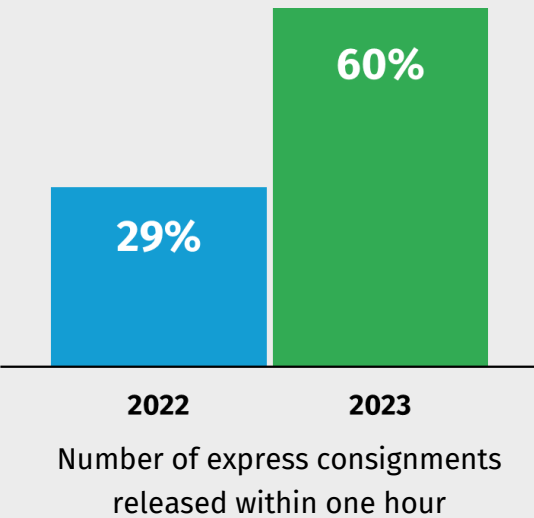
Title	Implementation of an Electronic Pre-Arrival Customs Clearance System
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in the framework of the „Open Regional Funds for South-East Europe - Foreign Trade“
Implementing Partner	National Customs Authority and Private Express Operators
Duration	September 2017 - March 2020

WHAT WE DID

The project was implemented from September 2017 to March 2020 and already showed initial positive results when the Covid-19 pandemic broke out. With the end of the pandemic, testing could be continued and the solution was finally rolled out. Project activities included:

- ✓ Analysing the national legal and IT framework for the introduction of PAP
- ✓ Identifying necessary changes in IT solutions
- ✓ Implementing the new IT solution and test run involving the private sector
- ✓ Capacity building for customs officials and companies
- ✓ Promoting regional knowledge exchange
- ✓ Implementing the new legal basis, procedures, and IT solutions

RESULTS



Data provided by one of the Express Operators shows a **strong increase of the number of express shipments being released within one hour.**

In 2022 the Express Operator imported 1,580 express consignments per month, and 29.2% were released within one hour. In 2023 the volume of express consignments per month remained stable (1,514), and the rate of release within one hour more than doubled to 60.3%.



POSITIVE IMPACT REPORTED BY THE EXPRESS OPERATOR

- Higher customer satisfaction due to the faster and simplified handling.
- Customers no longer have to spend much time dealing with Customs matters at the airport to get their shipments. Thus, the number of returns is expected to decrease.
- One category of shipments went from taking 2-5 days to being released on the same day.



BENEFITS FOR CUSTOMS

- Significant time reduction and efficiency gains.
- Risk focused system that allows for sufficient time for shipment profiling.
- Shortening Customs clearance time, also being a strategic goal of Kosovo Customs.
- Other benefits that increase the integrity of Kosovo Customs and its officers.

German Alliance for Trade Facilitation

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