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EUROPEAN UNION



CCI 2014 TC 16 I5CB 009

We Cross Borders

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International Conference

Monday, October 30th 2023
Thessaloniki

**Policy and Legislative Framework Analysis –
Action Plan**

Kyriaki Kissa
Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia
(Project Beneficiary 3)



Project co-funded by the European Union and
National Funds of the participating countries

INTRODUCTION

"We Cross Borders" aimed at:

- modernizing and improving infrastructure at the Evzoni and Bogorodica Border Crossing Points
- improving customs services provided to citizens and businesses of the two neighboring countries and the European Union in general,

As part of this project, a full Policy and Legislative Framework Analysis has been carried out, as well as an Action Plan for the necessary initiatives and steps in order to achieve the project's aims.

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #1

Section #1 of the Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis referred to the current situation with regard to the free flow of people, goods, services and capital as well as border security in Greece, North Macedonia and the European Union in general.

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #1

Policies & Legal framework analysis covered the following topics – 1:

- Legal Migration and Integration
- Irregular Migration and Return
- Common European Asylum System
- Schengen Treaty – Borders – Visas
- Innovation and Security Industry
- Organized Crime and Human Trafficking
 - Refugee Crisis and Terrorism

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #1

Policies & Legal framework analysis covered the following topics – 2:

- Police Cooperation for Terrorism
- International Relations and Terrorism
 - Europe for Citizens Program
- European Agenda for Immigration
 - European Safety Agenda
 - Securing European Borders
- International Rules on the Movement of goods (plant material, live animals, food, etc)

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis, Section #2

Section #2 of the Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis referred to the legal texts (legislation) of the Republic of North Macedonia regarding any specific legal status (if any) for the flow of people, goods, services and capital (to Greece), as well as for border security (to Greece) is described and addressed.

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Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #3

Section #3 of the Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan is the actual **Action Plan**, which includes views and suggestions on ways/actions to improve crossborder movement of people, products and capital and to create a common crossborder flow and registration database of transit citizens, goods, services and capital.

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #3

Three aspects of improving procedures of customs controls:

1. The Evzoni Customs, as an autonomous entity.
2. The Customs in relation to the Police Passport Control Department in Evzoni area.
3. The Evzoni Customs, in relation to the neighboring Customs Office of Bogorodica.

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #3

Main issues to be addressed at Evzoni crossborder point:

1. Long delays are observed in the Passport Control Department, namely private owned passenger cars and passenger buses.
2. Delays in freight traffic controls, i.e. trucks, have to do with the volume of work and the necessary processes that exist to handle exports.

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #3

Main actions that could improve current procedures and conditions at **Evzoni** crossborder point – 1:

1. Introduce video and audio cameras, signaling cameras, surveillance and control cameras, traffic displays etc. to **automate vehicle and goods control**.
2. Increase the number of police personnel to ninety (90) permanent employees.
3. Strengthen the Customs personnel with additional staff as, in the present circumstances, it is considered inadequate in number, resulting in fatigue and the risk of carrying out defective checks, in particular during peak periods.

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #3

Main actions that could improve current procedures and conditions at Evzoni crossborder point – 2:

4. Lanes for private cars should increase to eight (8), such as the number of lanes operating at the entrance of travelers to Greece, as during summer months (June, July & August) approximately the same number of travelers entering from (8) lanes exits from five (5), resulting in significant delays in leaving Greece.
5. During summer (June, July & August) as well as during festive periods (Christmas and Easter), cross-border checks procedures should be simplified for Greek and European Union citizens, in a way that used to be prior to the summer of 2017.

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #3

Main actions that could improve current procedures and conditions at Evzoni crossborder point – 3:

4. Place (in traffic lanes, as well as around the area of the Evzoni) cameras to record the movement, as well as to detect or deter persons attempting to enter or exit the border illegally.
5. Regularly inspect with carbon dioxide and heart rate detectors in lanes of lorries entry and/or exit.
6. Have a permanent FRONTEX police force who can provide specialized services such as identifying stolen vehicles.



Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #3

Main actions that could improve current procedures and conditions at Evzoni crossborder point – 4:

7. Systematic implementation of a risk analysis system which, based on comparable parameters, checks whether the particular goods or the carrier or the consignee or the consignor itself have any credible risk, in order to trigger physical control .
8. Immediate reinforcement of the X-ray system at the Customs Office for the detection of trucks and private passenger vehicles carrying goods illegally.

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #3

Main actions that could improve current procedures and conditions at Evzoni crossborder point – 5:

9. Strengthening of basic infrastructures and personnel, such as the permanent presence of a doctor and first aid unit /medical care in general, especially when there is a high volume of passenger traffic (during summer months and holidays).

Policy & Legislative Framework Analysis/Action Plan, Section #3

Main actions that could improve current procedures and conditions at Evzoni crossborder point – 6:

10. Common electronic database containing 4–5 basic fields, such as:

- o vehicle registration number,
- o driver's full name,
- o type of goods,
- o weight of goods,
- o value of goods,
- o type of goods document and
- o number of document moving on the other side



Thank you for your attention

KYRIAKI KISSA

Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia – PB3

e-mail: k.kissa@rdfcm.gr

tel: +302310403053



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