

IFC Western Balkans Trade Logistics Project



Term: February 2012 - June 2014

Donor Partner: European Commission

Budget: \$2 million

The Western Balkans Trade Logistics Project operates in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia to achieve two primary objectives:

- Reduction of number of documents and days needed for goods to be exported and imported
- Streamlined procedures for the flow of cargo by road, air and river.

Background

The Western Balkans Trade Logistics Project aims to reduce regulatory and administrative bottlenecks to cross-border trade in the region through more streamlined export, import and transit procedures; closer and more harmonized inter-agency cooperation in country and between countries, and greater use of electronic systems for data exchange, risk based controls; and trade-logistics related payments. The objective of the project is to improve the competitiveness of the private sector in the region through more efficient access to regional and global markets. The activities implemented by the project are to result in \$10 million in private sector savings.

The project is implemented by IFC in partnership with the European Union, and is being delivered in close cooperation with the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

Ongoing project activities:

- **Supply chain mapping** of agricultural product flows in the region
- **Streamlining of operations and simplification of procedures** of customs, technical agencies and private sector companies involved in import and export
- **Assistance with risk based controls** performed by customs and technical control agencies
- **Assistance with air cargo handling at major regional airports**
- **Assistance with simplification of clearance procedures for transit cargo on the Danube**

We are working with:

- **Public sector stakeholders:** lead ministries, customs and other border agencies
- **Private sector stakeholders:** chambers, associations, freight forwarders, exporters and importers
- **National working groups** to make recommendations for reform, and implement changes with IFC assistance

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