

## Priorities of International Cooperation in the Reform Process



On 2021, a regular monthly meeting was held with the assistance of international partners in the framework of the EU Public Finance Management Support Programme for Ukraine (EU4PFM Programme) to analyze the implementation of new tools and methods in the work of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

The participants of the meeting were deputy heads of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and heads of structural units of the State Customs Service, including the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services, representatives of the Ministry of Finance and experts of the EU4PFM Programme. They discussed the progress made at the beginning of 2021 and identified areas where joint efforts need to be strengthened to accelerate their implementation.

The representatives of the Department provided a general overview of the training events (structure, content and feedback from participants), which were organized and conducted together with experts of the EU4PFM Programme for customs officials of the State Customs Service.

It was agreed that, in addition to the implementation of the latest IT tools and the adoption of legislation, considerable attention will be paid to the analysis of the practical results of the use of international technical assistance tools.



## Chemical Safety Issues in the State Customs Service

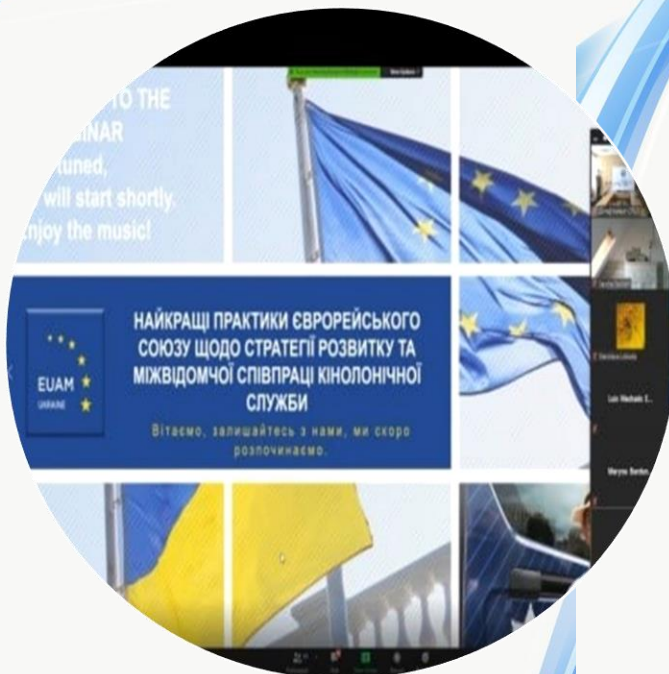
On February, 5 2021 online event was held to present the results of OSCE projects.

Serhii Petrov, National Project Officer for Chemical and Biological Safety and Security Projects OSCE, carried out an analysis and evaluation of the achievements of OSCE projects, in particular the project “Strengthening the control over the transboundary transfer of controlled and toxic chemicals”, the beneficiary of which is the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

Ambassador Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, stressed the importance of the chemical safety and the role of the OSCE.

The event was attended by Pavlo Biletskyi and Vadym Valihurskyi, the representatives of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service, who expressed their gratitude to OSCE for providing international logistical assistance in the form of technical equipment and reagents for the detection of dangerous chemicals.

Special thanks were expressed for assistance in organizing and conducting specialized training of customs officials of the State Customs Service on “Countering the illicit trafficking and movement of chemical precursors across the customs border of Ukraine”.



## **International Practices of Using of Canine Teams by Law Enforcement Agencies of Ukraine and Europe**

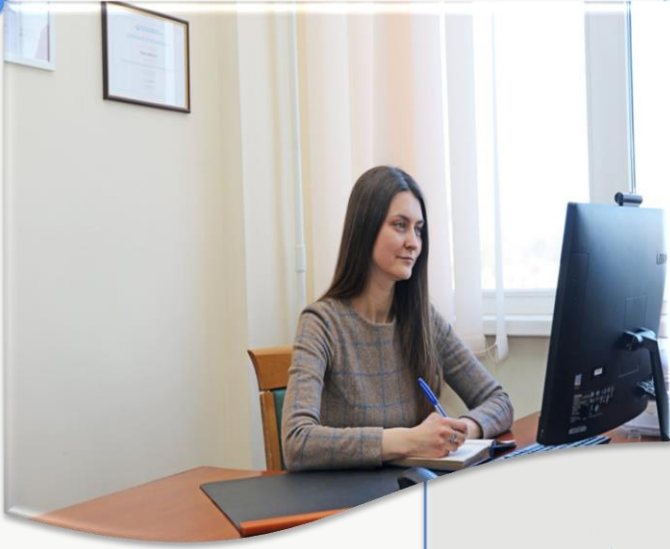
On February 17, 2021, specialists of the Directorate of Canine Services of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine took part in the first international webinar organized by the European Union Advisory Mission and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, during which the issues of strategy of development and inter-agency cooperation of canine services and use of the best practices of training of service dogs of law enforcement agencies of the European Union countries were discussed.

The webinar was attended by canine experts from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal. They shared with the participants the practice of training canine teams for law enforcement agencies and the peculiarities of sniffer dogs, search and patrol dogs usage during the service.

The first online webinar gave impetus to the organization of further cooperation of canine units of law enforcement and other state bodies and departments of Ukraine with European colleagues, which, as the organizers of the online event noted, planned to be implemented systematically and regularly.

It is expected that the holding of such events will provide an opportunity to expand the Ukrainian canine community with EU member states by implementing the best practices and experience of various canine services with a focus on strategy and inter-agency cooperation.





## Exploring New Tools for the Professional Development and Training

From 17 to 19 February 2021, a representative of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service took part in the training on new policies and tools for professional development and training, conducted under the EU Public Finance Management Support Programme for Ukraine (EU4PFM).

The training was aimed at familiarizing participants with new approaches to the organizational process of training and professional development of staff.

The main topics to consider during the training were determination of the purpose of training and professional development of the staff, practice of development of process of training and professional development, key priority directions for development the process of training and development, identification of training needs.

## Participation in Phase II of the 12th Session of the WCO Capacity Building Committee (CBC)



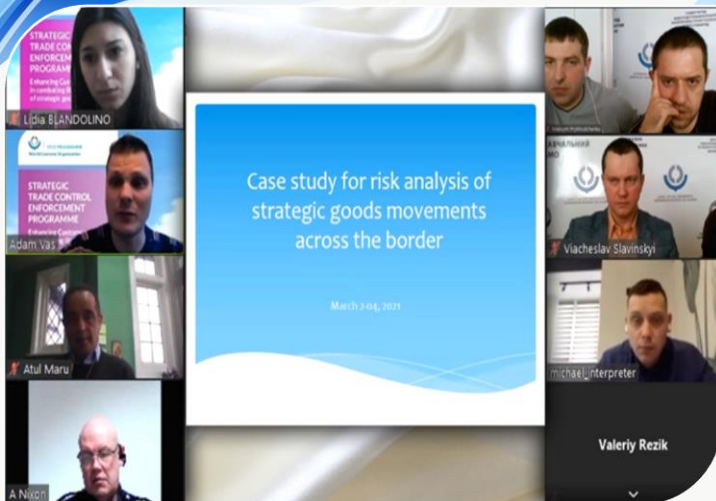
On February 22-24, 2021, officials of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine - Halyna Potashnikova, Acting Director of the Department, and Iryna Kykylyk, Head of the Division of Organization of the WCO RTC/RDTC Activities, participated in Phase II of the 12th session of the WCO Capacity Building Committee (CBC) under the theme “Leading Customs to Navigate Challenging Times and Beyond”.

The session was conducted in two phases, starting from January 25, 2021.

Phase I was a 2-week document-based meeting that took place between 25 January 2021 to 8 February 2021 in CBC group hosted on the WCO CLiKC! platform which delegates submitted their comments on the documents of the CBC’s agenda, where they are available in English and French, as well as in the WCO Membership Section.



Phase II included web-conference sessions during which participants discussed a number of key issues, that included People and Organisational Resilience; Capacity Building Report; Operationalizing the WCO Capacity Building Strategy – Action Plan on the WCO Organizational Development Package; Report of the Global Meeting of Regional Entities; Innovation, Digitization and Data Analytics in Support of Organisational Resilience; Individual and flexible approach to ensuring uninterrupted operation; Experts Management and Deployment; Progress Report of the WCO Working Group on Performance Measurement (WGPM)..



## Experts of the Department are Involved in Delivery of the WCO Seminar

Since July 2016, the World Customs Organization (WCO) has been implementing the Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE) Programme to combat illicit cross-border trafficking of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear substances.

The STCE programme realizes Cosmo operations aimed at improving the effectiveness and coordination of WCO member countries' activities in the identification and control of strategic and dual-use goods.

Considering that, Cosmo Operation is planned to be carried out in the Central Asian during the summer of 2021, as well as the interest of WCO member countries' and their staff to participate in training seminars, on March 2, 2021, a three-day WCO webinar on the application of risk management and targeting to control trade in strategic goods was launched.

23 representatives from 9 countries (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Azerbaijan) attended the event.

Officials of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service, who are the WCO accredited experts in the field of STCE, namely Viacheslav Slavinskyi, Pavlo Biletskyi and Maksym Prykhodchenko - were involved in the webinar, along with experts from the WCO and the UK Border Guard Service.

In his opening remarks, Mr. James McColm, WCO STCE Programme Manager, highlighted the importance of identifying dual-use items for international security and called on participants to actively participate and share their experiences.

The WCO webinar will improve the practical skills of customs officials of the Central Asian countries in applying a national risk analysis system to identify dual-use and military goods.





## WCO Global Webinar Series on Improving Awareness on COVID-19 Vaccines

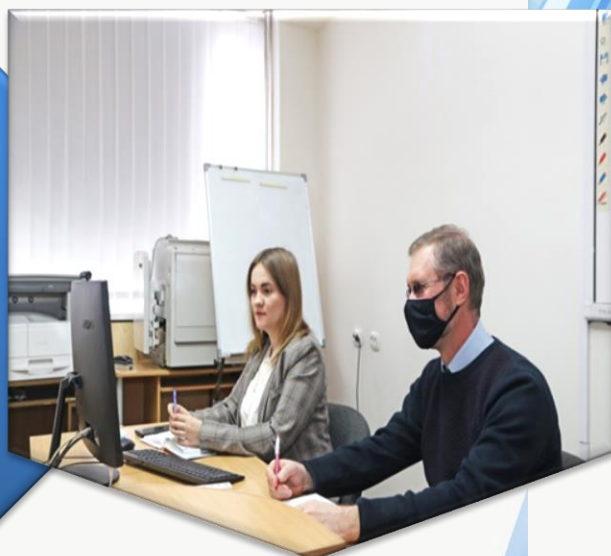
On March 15-16, 2021, representatives of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service participated in WCO Global Webinar Series on Improving Awareness on COVID-19 Vaccines.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a tremendous risk to the health and safety of people throughout the world and seriously jeopardizes future economic prospects on an international scale. Customs administrations are the only authorities to oversee international cross-border movements of goods, and thus the first line of defence against illicit trade of medicine and medical supplies during a pandemic situation.

This 2nd series of webinars will provide customs with knowledge of the essential characteristics and specifications of Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. This will enable Customs to be better equipped to identify and limit the traffic of counterfeit COVID-19 vaccines.

Further plans include the additional webinars with the active participation of the pharmaceutical industries that have produced vaccines.

## Participation in a Virtual Specialized WCO PITCH Training



Representatives of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service took part in a virtual specialized PITCH (Preventing Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Heritage) training, aimed at improving the knowledge and skills of customs officers to prevent offenses related to the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage.

A four days online training seminar for customs administrations of Eastern and Central Europe was jointly organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and took place on March, 15-18, 2021.

Participation in the event is quite important, given the relevance of combating the illegal export of cultural property from the Temporary Occupied Territories of Ukraine.





On April 14, 2021 the Governing Council of the OSCE Project “Strategic and co-operative approach in combatting illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives in Ukraine” held a regular meeting to analyze the progress achieved in the implementation of the program components, which was attended by representatives of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.



International experts highly appreciated the current results of the events held, presented short-term goals and outlined the main challenges on the way to implementing the Program.

Representatives of the main beneficiaries of the Program, which are the State Customs Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Border Service of Ukraine, reported on the current state of combating illegal arms trafficking, and also expressed gratitude to the OSCE for the support provided and confirmed their readiness to participate actively in the further implementation of the Program.

## Step by Step towards Advancing the Project to Counter Illicit Arms Trafficking

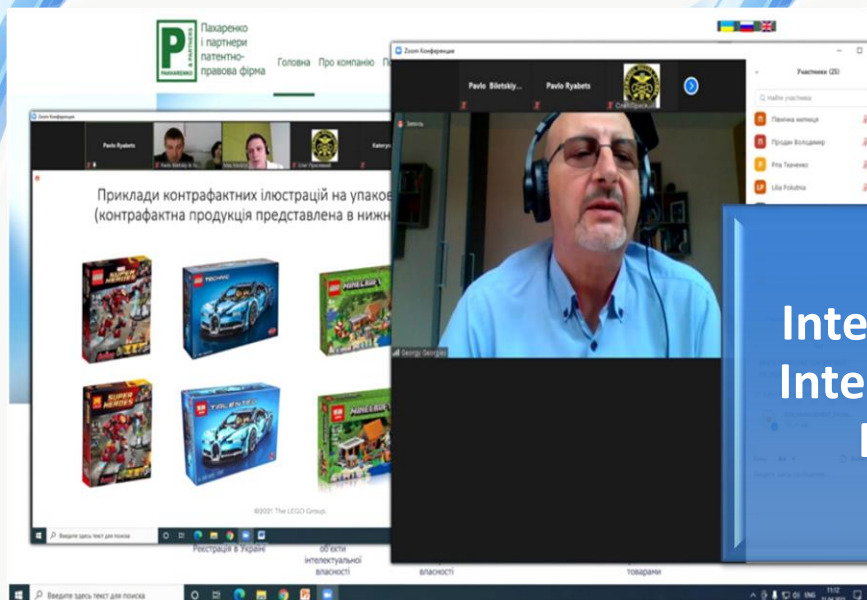


On April 20, 2021, the representatives of the Directorate of Canine Services of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service held a meeting with the representatives of the Guardia Civil Dog Training Center (Spain) with the participation of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as part of implementation of the OSCE project “Strategic and co-operative approach in combatting illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives in Ukraine”.

The main goal of the event was to agree on potential areas of cooperation in order to increase the capacity of the canine service of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to share experiences and methods of canine teams training in searching of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

During the meeting, colleagues from the Spanish dog training component introduced the participants the main aspects of canine teams training in searching of weapons, ammunition and explosives, the timing of such training, and offered to exchange experience during working visits to the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service, as well as to the Dog Training Center of the State Border Service of Ukraine in order to get acquainted with the methodology and peculiarities of canine teams training of the State Customs Service and the State Border Guard Service.

Coordination of further steps on joint study visits under this program will be carried out by the OSCE coordinators. The next online meeting is planned for May 11-12, 2021



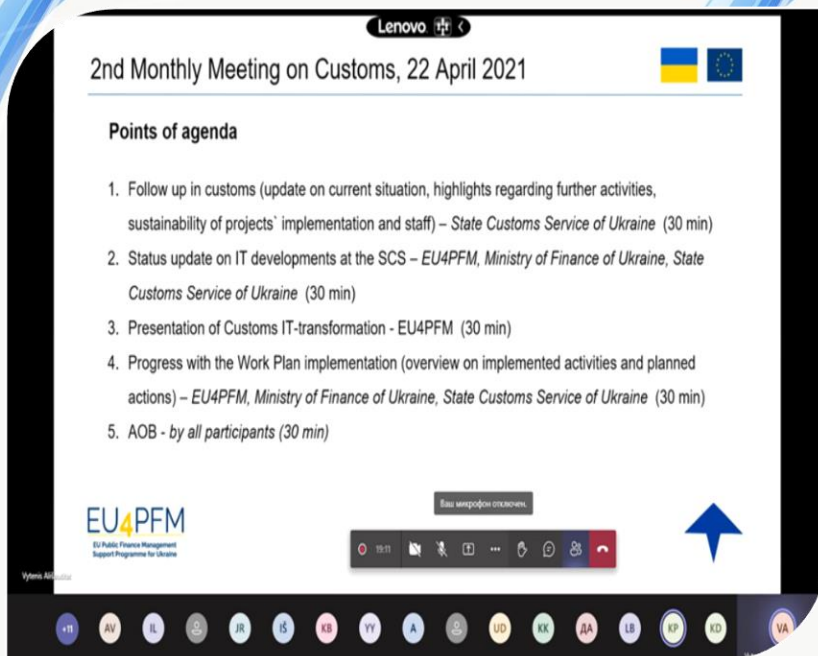
## International Standards for Intellectual Property Rights Protection in the EU

A workshop on the practical application of EU legislation on customs protection of intellectual property rights was held online on April 20-21, 2021 with the assistance of the EU Public Finance Management Support Programme for Ukraine and the participation of EU4PFM expert Georgy Georgiev (Bulgaria), representatives of “Pakharenko& Partners”, “The Lego Group” and customs officials of Ukraine.

During the workshop the procedure for application of the Regulation (EU) No 608/2013, features of identification of intellectual property objects in goods, the procedure for submitting applications for action by rightholders and their processing by the EU customs authorities were considered.

Special attention was paid to the issues of technology and risk management strategy in the EU, the application of the procedure for protection of intellectual property rights to goods in transit regime, as well as familiarization of customs officials with the functions of the Center for Operational Expertise on Intellectual Property Rights (24/7) and the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights.





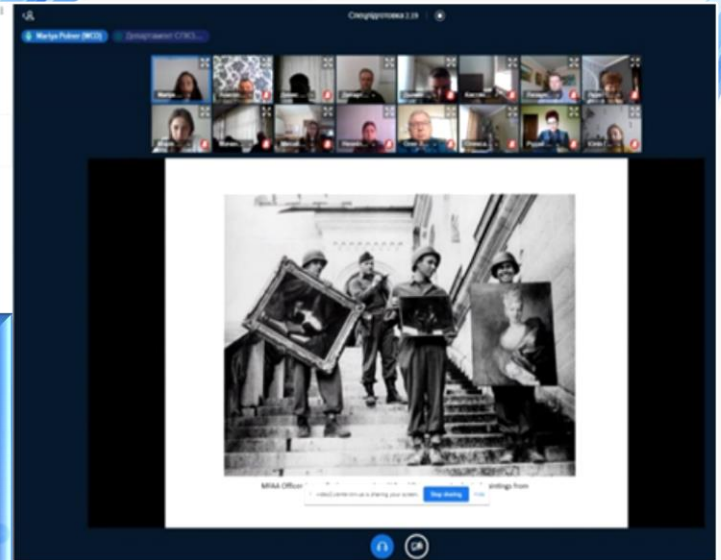
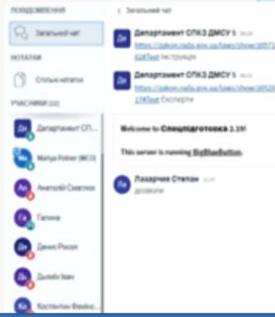
## Analysis of the Implementation of International Technical Assistance

On April 22, 2021 a regular monthly meeting was held with the assistance of international partners in the framework of the EU Public Finance Management Support Programme for Ukraine (EU4PFM Programme) to analyze the current progress of reforming the State Customs Service of Ukraine and implementation of new tools to review achievements, challenges, available resources and needs.

The acceleration, simplification of customs procedures and the saving of resources should be the key criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of each event in the framework of international technical assistance, as well as conducting a training event and developing an IT tool - such a joint position of the Ministry of Finance and the State Customs Service of Ukraine was voiced at the meeting.

The representatives of the Department provided a general overview of the training events (structure, content and feedback from participants), which were organized and conducted during March - April 2021 together with experts from the EU4PFM Programme for customs officials of the State Customs Service.

Therefore representatives of the EU4PFM Programme, sharing the above-mentioned requirements for the results of the realization international technical assistance, confirmed their interest in implementing the maximum number of planned activities and their readiness for further support of the State Customs Service, including considering issues at the level of key institutions of the European Union, in particular the European Commission (DG TAXUD).



## Prevention of Illegal Movement of Cultural Property through the State Border of Ukraine

On May 5-7, 2021, a virtual special training on “Prevention of Illegal Movement of Cultural Property through the State Border of Ukraine” was conducted on the basis of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service with the assistance of Ms. Mariya Polner, Senior Policy Advisor, Programme Lead – Cultural Heritage, Enforcement and Compliance SubDirectorate, WCO.

The training was aimed at increasing the level of capacity of customs officials of the State Customs Service to effectively solve tasks and problems related to customs control and customs clearance of cultural objects moving across the state border of Ukraine.

The main topics to consider during the training were the procedure for export of cultural objects across the state border of Ukraine; identification of cultural objects exported from the territory of Ukraine; development of skills in identifying of cultural values, which are exported from the territory of Ukraine, etc.

In addition, with the assistance of WCO expert Mariya Polner, the training participants had the opportunity to learn about some aspects of international control of the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Such activities will provide an opportunity to enhance cooperation between WCO and customs of the State Customs Service.



## Meeting of Representatives of Canine Services within the framework of the OSCE Comprehensive Program

On May 12, 2021, representatives of the Directorate of Canine Services of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service took part in the Second Expert Online Meeting of Representatives of Canine Services organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), within the framework of the OSCE Comprehensive Programme on Supporting the strengthening of the capacity of the state authorities of Ukraine in strengthening its response to preventing and combating the illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives in all its case.

Representatives of the Department had the opportunity to exchange experiences with colleagues from the Canine Training Center of the Spanish Civil Guard, OSCE Program Coordinators and Mr. Jeff Spicer, British International Expert.

During the meeting, further steps and concrete measures were coordinated and developed to build capacity in the field of cooperation to increase the level of the Canine Service of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine in the field of exchange of experience and training of canine teams in search of weapons, ammunition and explosives; the issues of mutual visits were discussed.

Along with that, a number of online meetings on conducting joint courses and trainings on service dog training, training programs, selection and testing of service dogs are planned, as well as their specialization.





## **BUILDING RELATIONS OF COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL CANINE CENTER OF THE STATE CUSTOMS COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

With the assistance of the Extraordinary and Authorized Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Ukraine Mr. Alisher Kurmanov the officials of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine met with the representatives of the The National Cynology Center of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on June 2, 2021.

During the meeting, the participants got acquainted with the organization of activities and the specifics of canine teams training in the customs departments of Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Since these entities have the status of WCO Regional Dog Training Centres, The management expect cooperation and further development of relationships by the building of joint efforts and developing strategies to address the problematic issues of their activities within WCO.