

**The WCO
Secretary General
held a meeting
with the Head of
the State Customs
Service of Ukraine**



On July 5, 2021, on the third day of official visit to Ukraine a delegation of the World Customs Organization (WCO) led by Secretary General Dr. Kunio Mikuriya met with the Head of the State Customs Service of Ukraine Mr. Pavel Ryabikin. At the meeting, the parties signed a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between the State Customs Service of Ukraine, the Swiss Federal Council and the WCO with regard to SECO-WCO Global Trade Facilitation Programme (GTFP).

Deputy head Mr. Vladyslav Suvorov and Mr. Ruslan Cherkassky and heads of structural subdivisions also took part in the meeting on behalf of the State Customs Service. The meeting was attended by Mr. Dashgin Aliyev, WCO Regional Development Manager for Europe region.

“This is my fourth visit to Ukraine. I am impressed by the progress made by the State Customs Service. I am very pleased with our cooperation and we still have many areas to improve our joint work”, the WCO Secretary General shared his impressions of the visit.

The activity of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services (WCO RTC/RDTC) was presented to the WCO Secretary General at the meeting. The main achievements of the Department, training programs as well as the activity of the Department during the coronavirus pandemic were demonstrated. During the presentation, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya used 3D glasses, which are used as a simulator for customs control and clearance training.

FAMILIARIZATION VISIT OF THE EXBS PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES



On July 19, 2021, Mr. Thomas Stefanello, Customs Enforcement Advisor arrived at the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine (hereinafter – the Department) on a two-day visit together with Ms. Olena Voronina, the EXBS Program Coordinator.

The purpose of the event was to get acquainted with the system of training and professional development of officials of the State Customs Service, technical capabilities of developing and conducting training courses, material and technical base of the Department and discussing ways of further cooperation under the EXBS Program.

During the presentation of the training courses for scanning system operators, Mr. Thomas Stefanello mentioned that one of the areas of his work in the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was the use of scanning systems during the customs control. After completing some exercises of this course, the guest demonstrated a high level of professional skills and at the same time noted the user-friendly software interface and thorough approach to the formation of practical tasks.

Representatives of the EXBS Program expressed their satisfaction with the organization of training and professional development of officials of the State Customs Service, the level of material and technical supply, competence of the Department's trainers, and noted their interest and readiness for further assistance in the development of practical skills of Ukrainian customs officers in the area of border security.



FAMILIARIZATION VISIT OF THE SPANISH CIVIL GUARD REPRESENTATIVES

From 29 to 30 September 2021 dog handlers experts of the Spanish Guardia Civil and representatives of the OSCE paid a two-day visit to the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine (hereinafter – the Department).

The meeting was held as part of the event “Strengthening the capacity of canine division of the State Customs Service of Ukraine in combating illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives”, in the framework of the OSCE Comprehensive Program on “Strengthening capacities of Ukrainian authorities in preventing and combating illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives in all its aspects”.

Representatives of the Spanish Guardia Civil got acquainted with the activities of the Department, the order of organization of canine services of the State Customs Service and practical aspects of training of sniffer dogs which were demonstrated by the canine teams of the customs of the State Customs Service, who were trained on the basis of the Department.

During the meeting, the parties exchanged experiences and discussed the next steps in the development of cooperation between Spain and Ukraine in the field of canine services.



WCO CTS USER TRAINING

On September 23-28, 2021, a training course on the use of the WCO CTS system for officials of structural divisions and territorial bodies of the State Customs Service of Ukraine was held on the basis of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine with the support of the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program of the US Embassy in Ukraine.

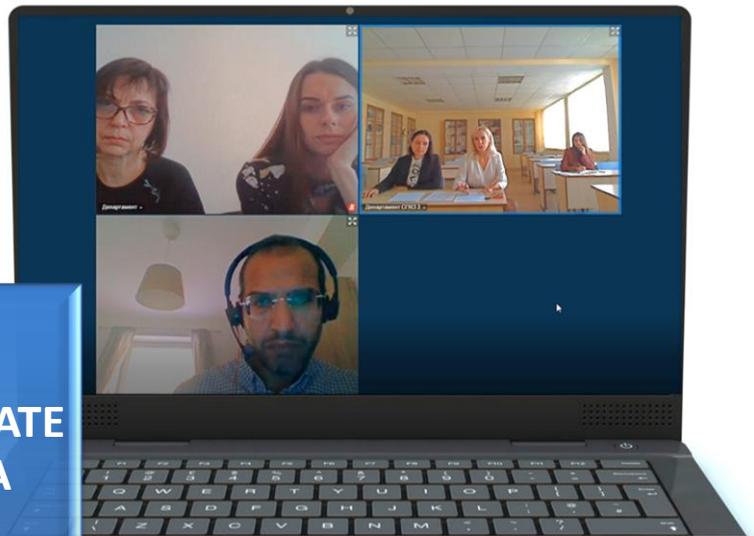
Experts from the World Customs Organization (WCO) explained the use of the WCO CTS system, taking into account the granted powers (there are three user roles: customs officer, manager and administrator) and helped the participants to perform practical exercises and test the functionality of the WCO CTS system.

Participants noted the key advantages of this system:

- simplicity of the interface and availability of its translation into different languages;
- efficiency – the result of the analysis of information on the movement of thousands of containers is formed in seconds;
- setting for automatic control of movements of goods;
- a wide range of criteria for selecting controlled items;
- commenting on the individual movement of the container.

“The WCO CTS system is a unique tool for risk assessment and targeting of cargo manifests, developed by the World Customs Organization for customs administrations around the world. This allows users of this system to implement international best practices in the field of cargo risk assessment. I am convinced that the active use of the WCO CTS system by Ukrainian customs officers will significantly increase the efficiency of selection of risky shipments of goods and control measures”, said Robert White, WCO expert, at the end of the event.

WORKING MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE CUSTOMS SERVICE WITH A WCO EXPERT



A working online meeting with the Technical Attaché of WCO Capacity Building Directorate, Mr. Si Mohamed EL HAIL was held in the framework of the WCO Regional Training Center (Khmelnyskiy) on the basis of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to implement the Personnel Management Strategy of the State Customs Service of Ukraine for the years 2021-2024.

The event was attended by the officials of the Personnel Department of and the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service. During the meeting, proposals on measures to implement Strategic Goal 2 “Improving the efficiency of staffing processes by developing and implementing a competency model and profiling” were discussed.

At the same time, a number of online meetings are planned to coordinate the next steps in the implementation of human resource management based on a competency-based approach.



ACQUAINTANCE WITH ALTERNATIVE RULES OF ORIGIN OF GOODS

On September 21-22, 2021 an online seminar was held by the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) with the assistance of the Ministry of Economy, in the framework of the project “Application and implementation of the European Union–Ukraine Association Agreement in the field of trade”.

More than 70 officials of structural divisions and territorial bodies of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and representatives of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services took part in the training event. They got acquainted with the EU practice of making preliminary decisions on classification of goods (BTI – Binding Tariff Information decision) and preliminary decisions on origin of goods (BOI – Binding Origin Information).

Particular attention was paid to the discussion of the using practice of Alternative Rules of Origin, which are planned to be implemented in Ukraine in the near future under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, as well as to the practice of issuing movement certificates EUR.1 and EUR-MED for the carriage of goods by EU customs.

This event became a unique tool for advanced training of officials of the State Customs Service for the introduction of new tools for customs implementation.

STUDY OF THE EXPERIENCE OF CANINE SERVICES OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



Representatives of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine together with officials of the Zakarpattia Customs paid a working visit to the special training canine center of the Slovak Republic. The purpose of the visit was to exchange modern best practices and increase the level of professional training of the staff of the State Customs Service of Ukraine, who is involved in the performance of official duties at the Ukrainian-Slovak border.

On October 10-12, 2021 the trip took place in the framework of the joint international project “SIBSU – Safe and Inclusive Border between Slovakia and Ukraine”.

Slovak, Ukrainian and Norwegian colleagues conducted special trainings on current trends in training sniffer dogs to detect illegal goods.

The participants of the visit observed the practical work of canine divisions during their preparation and use in real conditions on the basis of the canine training center.

The study of European best practices and best practices in the use of canine teams during the implementation of customs control brings the implementation of state customs affairs in Ukraine to the level of world standards.

**WORKING MEETING
TO DISCUSS THE
TRAINING FOR
OPERATORS OF
SCANNING CARGO
SYSTEMS WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF
EUAM**



On November 26, 2021, officials of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and representatives of the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) held a joint online meeting.

The event was attended by Jörg Einemann, Head of Integrated Border Management Unit at EUAM Ukraine, Mikko Groenberg, Visiting Expert on Customs at European Union Advisory Mission Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine) and Anastasia Zavada, Customs Service Officer at European Union Advisory Mission Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine).

The main purpose of the meeting was to get acquainted with the direction of cargo scanning system operators training and to establish further cooperation.

The representatives of the Department acquainted the European colleagues with the training programs and the material and technical resources that are used during the training.

At the end of the event, an agreement was reached on further cooperation and coordination of steps for interaction in the direction of training operators of scanning cargo systems.



FAMILIARIZATION VISIT TO THE SPANISH CIVIL GUARD

From 22 to 26 November, 2021 representatives of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine with the support of the OSCE took part in a familiarization visit to the structural units of the Spanish Civil Guard.

The main purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with the organization of training of canine teams of Spanish Civil Guard, the procedure for their involvement to control measures at the state border, joint use of canine teams and modern technical means of control, as well as coordination of the procedure for involving experts of the Civil Guard to the training of dog handlers of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

The program of the visit covered the following areas:

- visiting the Dog Training Center of the Civil Guard (acquaintance with the organization and training plan of dog handlers, material and technical support, the order of selection and maintenance of sniffer dogs, training methods);
- discussion of the content and structure of the training course for dog handlers-instructors of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. This course will be conducted in 2022 by experts of the Civil Guard who in particular have been trained in the framework of the European Union agency FRONTEX.
- attending interdepartmental competitions of canine teams of the Spanish armed divisions, during which the skills of searching for explosives, obedience (including in

extreme conditions - extraneous noise and light effects), detection of people under the rubble of buildings, etc.

- acquaintance with the Civil Guard control measures at all types of border checkpoints: aviation, sea and road. Participants also visited border crossings in the city of Melilla, which has additional threats of illegal movement of goods due to its geographical location.

For reference: Melilla is located on the Mediterranean coast of Africa, is the territory of Spain and has the status of an autonomous city. The city's main threat is attempts of illegal migrants smuggling from Africa across the state border, which could be used as a means of moving prohibited goods.

This visit was a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the procedure and results of training of canine teams of the Civil Guard, with the practice of their use during control measures at the border, as well as another step towards the development of international cooperation and the implementation of best practices in the activities of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.



DISCUSSION OF THE WCO RTC/RDTC STRATEGIC PLANS

On December 1, 2021, within the framework of the activities of the WCO Regional Training Center, representatives of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine (Khmelnyskyi) took part in an online working meeting with Mr. Eser ÇENGEL, the Head of the Regional Office for Capacity Building of the World Customs Organization (hereinafter - WCO ROCB), and Mr. Mirhasan Seyidzade, an Executive Officer of the WCO ROCB.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the WCO RTC/RDTC Strategic Plans (Khmelnyskyi, Ukraine) for 2022-2025.

Strategic Plans for 2019-2021 have been developed with the WCO expert to ensure the effective functioning of Regional Training Centers. As the Strategic Plans of the WCO RTC/RDTC (Khmelnyskyi, Ukraine) expire in 2021, the staff of the Department has prepared Strategic Plans for 2022-2025.

During the meeting, WCO ROCB representatives thanked officials of WCO RTC for their promptness and deep understanding of the importance of strategic planning. They also provided recommendations for improving the structure of these Strategic Plans namely adding SWOT analysis and monitoring tools.

WORKING SESSION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT WITH OSCE COORDINATORS



Regular meeting of officials of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine in the framework of the OSCE Comprehensive Program on “Strengthening capacities of Ukrainian authorities in preventing and combating illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives in all its aspects” took place on December 15, 2021 with the of OSCE.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the organizational issues of a multi-module training of dog handlers of the State Customs Service with sniffer dogs, which is scheduled to be held in 2022 by the Dog Training Center of the Civil Guard of the Spanish Guardia Civil with the assistance and support of the OSCE.