

In Focus

Improving skills in recognising fake from original goods

On 15th of September, a training course on how to distinguish between fake and original products was carried out at hotel Continental in Skopje.

The training was a joint cooperation effort between React Macedonia, American chamber and this Twinning Project. At the event, there were participants from Customs, Market Inspection, Police and SOIP, representatives from Customs Administration Kosovo, right holders etc.



The training started by short presentations from right holders which were followed by a practical demonstration on how to recognise counterfeit goods from original ones. At the training a number of counterfeit products were analyzed and compared to the real products.

The participants were given the principles of how to examine goods in order to establish if it is a fake copy and how to consult databases to learn more about the details of the original products. Issues such

as the interpretation of cargo documents, understanding the mind-set of the infringer, including best practice examples were also discussed. As well as presentations and discussion of practical case studies from EU and the beneficiary country were held during the workshop.



Cooperation models between public and private sector were also tackled including challenges and benefits from the point of the EU Customs. In the afternoon session, presentations were given by the MK customs, REACT and four MS experts - Winfred Kooij and Peter Sannes from the Netherlands, Alicija Ceglaz from Poland and Gyula Almasi from Hungary.



Operational day at Skopje Airport

On 16th of September, at the Airport in Skopje there was a field day held between the Airport

Customs and fast couriers. On this occasion EU experts had an opportunity to directly observe the process of selection control and treatment of small consignment.

Namely custom officers from Customs House Airport provided a thorough elaboration of their collaboration with fast couriers in regards of the delivery of pre-arrival notice, that provides list of items categorized by quantity, value, price etc.

As customs officers reported the collaboration with fast couriers in terms of information related to small consignment is at appropriate level. Namely customs officers perform analytic research in terms of risk assessment and selection of items for further control based on customs declaration provided by fast couriers and their profiling techniques.

MS experts had the opportunity to visit the cargo centre for small consignment and witness some of the recently detained goods due to various infringements.

Among the wide range of criminal and misdemeanour act, more relevant for the MS experts were the infringements of Intellectual Property Rights, such as detained vehicle diagnostic devices trademarks, ignition keys due to infringement of trademarks and other related marks, watches. In addition smuggling of cannabis sativa seed within counterfeit CD cover was an interesting modus operandi, that attracted the attention of MS experts.

