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**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

**Customs Control Equipment Instrument Annual Progress Report 2024**

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With a view to achieving the long-term aim of harmonised application of customs controls by the Member States, the Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI) <sup>(1)</sup>, with an overall budget of **EUR 1 006 million** for the period 2021-2027, has the general objective to support the Customs Union and customs authorities in their mission to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, to ensure security and safety within the Union, and to protect it from illegal trade while facilitating legitimate business activity.

This report, issued to monitor the implementation of the Instrument <sup>(2)</sup>, summarises the progress achieved in 2024 <sup>(3)</sup> regarding its specific objective of contributing to **adequate and equivalent** results of customs controls, acknowledges synergies with other EU funding programmes, and presents lessons learned.

**In 2024, 43 new grant agreements** corresponding to over **EUR 237 million in EU contributions have been signed** following the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals supporting the purchase of new customs control equipment. By providing funding to modern and reliable state-of-the-art equipment for Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and Customs Laboratories in high traffic areas, such as seas, airports, and other modes of transport, the Instrument also supports the implementation of the European Ports Alliance initiative <sup>(4)</sup> in line with the **EU Roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime**.

**A total of 85 grant agreements** have been signed since the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals in 2022 with an overall amount of **EUR 510.5 million as EU funding awarded**. Only 9 projects have been finalised by the end of 2024. Procurement delays, mostly due to security and cybersecurity concerns and budgetary constraints at national level have impacted several projects from the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals, creating a considerable backlog. In addition, some Member States have inquired about the possibility to cancel their participation, ex post, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals for similar reasons. It is increasingly evident that despite the persistent efforts by the European Commission to raise the attention of the Member States on the security aspects, the fact that for some types of critical customs control equipment all major vendors are non-EU owned companies from third countries creates challenges.

The CCEI also continues to contribute to the implementation of the European Economic Security Strategy <sup>(5)</sup> seeking an EU wide solution to these challenges. In fact, the EU has launched a NIS2 <sup>(6)</sup> risk assessment in the framework of the Economic Security Strategy and the 3<sup>rd</sup> invitation to submit proposals will be launched after such assessment is finalised.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Hereinafter the CCEI or the Instrument.

<sup>(2)</sup> As set out in Recital 26 of the [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1077 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the instrument for financial support for customs control equipment](#); hereinafter the CCEI Regulation.

<sup>(3)</sup> As part of the performance reporting system, the annual progress report is prepared in accordance with the requirements specified under the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the CCEI, using indicators as laid down in both, the CCEI Regulation and [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2022/1528 of 4 July 2022 supplementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1077 of the European Parliament and of the Council with provisions on the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework](#).

<sup>(4)</sup> COM (2023) 641 final ‘New EU Roadmap steps up the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime’.

<sup>(5)</sup> [JOIN \(2023\) 20 final, Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council on “European Economic Security Strategy”](#), dated 20 June 2023.

<sup>(6)</sup> [Directive \(EU\) 2022/2555 of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union and Directive \(EU\) 2018/1972 \(NIS 2 Directive\)](#).

The implementation of the Instrument has been marked by **challenges**, including the effects of **external factors** such as the significant inflation increase, evolving complex geopolitical context, the impact on trade flows in some BCPs resulting from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and subsequent EU sanctions, as well as factors related to shortages at the level of global supply chain. At the same time, with more projects reaching their term, challenges at the level of national procurement procedures, including specific security requirements or national budget availability, became more evident.

The Instrument also continued to help customs authorities by proactively offering guidance and targeted support and by introducing mandatory security requirements in the second call. When required and duly justified, **amendments** to grant agreements were signed to adjust to the evolving realities faced by Member States when implementing their projects <sup>(7)</sup>.

## 2. OVERALL CONTEXT

### 2.1. EU Political Context

Within the political frame established by the Commission at the beginning of its mandate for the period 2019-2024 <sup>(8)</sup>, the Instrument continued to deliver on the priority of **“An economy that works for people”**, by contributing to ensure adequate and equivalent results of customs controls through the implementation of the grant agreements signed in 2022 <sup>(9)</sup> and the signature of 43 new grant agreements in 2024 <sup>(10)</sup>. Equally, the CCEI supported the priority of **“Promoting our European Way of Life”**, by encouraging the Member States' customs authorities to act as one, through the equipment procured, maintained and upgraded via the CCEI grants.

More specifically, through the additional 47 proposals that were successfully evaluated and the 43 grant agreements signed in 2024, over EUR 200 million of EU funding has already been allocated to purchase state-of-the-art equipment, allowing customs authorities to scan containers and other means of transport, thereby supporting the European Ports Alliance initiative and **increasing the effectiveness of customs risk management and controls related to illicit drugs and drug precursors** <sup>(11)</sup>. This includes support for customs laboratories, which also received funds to purchase **equipment to analyse illicit drugs, drug precursors and address the increasing challenges of designer precursors** <sup>(12)</sup>.

Kicked-off with the European Parliament elections in June, 2024 was a key moment for the future of the EU <sup>(13)</sup>. The end of the year was marked by the transition to and start of the mandate **of the new political leadership of the European Commission (2024-2029)** on the basis of the political guidelines set out by the President <sup>(14)</sup>. Building also on the guidance included in the mission letter for the Commissioner for trade and economic security <sup>(15)</sup>, the Instrument will continue contributing to these wider political guidelines which call for customs i.a. to play a crucial role in

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<sup>(7)</sup> 16 amendments were signed in 2024.

<sup>(8)</sup> [Political Guidelines 2019-2024](#)

<sup>(9)</sup> Under the [2021-2022 CCEI Multi-Annual Work Programme](#).

<sup>(10)</sup> Under the [2023-2024 CCEI Multi-Annual Work Programme](#).

<sup>(11)</sup> Drug-related organised crime is increasingly infiltrating EU supply chains, often with intimidation and corruption. Almost 70 % of the drugs seizures by EU customs authorities happen in its ports (source: European Drug Report 2024).

<sup>(12)</sup> Designer-precursors, close chemical relatives of traditional drug precursors, are purpose-made to circumvent the controls and usually do not have any known legitimate use.

<sup>(13)</sup> The reporting year was also marked by the agreement on and entry into force of the new EU Economic Governance rules ([IP\\_24\\_711\\_EN.pdf](#)) with the new medium-term fiscal structural plans at the centre of this framework. EU Member States governments, some of them renewed after the national elections of 2024, may adapt their spending priorities in a new way since the CCEI was introduced.

<sup>(14)</sup> [Political Guidelines 2024-2029](#).

<sup>(15)</sup> [Mission Letter Maroš Šefčovič](#).

ensuring a level playing field for consumers and businesses in area such as e-commerce <sup>(16)</sup>. The CCEI also contributes to the implementation of the European Economic Security Strategy <sup>(17)</sup>.

## 2.2. International Context

Within the larger international context, **Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine**, the related sanctions <sup>(18)</sup> decided by the EU and the various support initiatives towards Ukraine continued to impact the work of the Member States' customs authorities in 2024 <sup>(19)</sup> which, as in previous years, remained at the forefront of managing this complex reality. Additionally, customs authorities addressed the challenge of deploying effectively, on the one hand, their CCEI projects, and, on the other, the sanctions imposed to Russia and the implementation of the Solidarity lanes <sup>(20)</sup>.

CCEI funding provided in 2024 has been a key contributor to the **Union's capacity to manage this crisis and substantially improve the security and safety of supplies**. In fact, the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals focussed on policies such as **security and cybersecurity, the co-sharing of equipment, inter-operability, the systematic promotion of the multi-purpose nature of the equipment** <sup>(21)</sup>, and investment into **mobile equipment**. With increasing the mobility and agility to address a fast-changing environment, all these elements contribute to the safety and integrity of global supply chains by fighting against the multiple abuses to the legitimate trade as well as to the fight against drugs trafficking <sup>(22)</sup>.

## 2.3. Regulatory Context

The **2023-2024 Multi-Annual Work Programme** was prepared in accordance with the data provided by Member States participating under the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals (2021-2022) and taking into account the new initiatives impacting customs, most notably the **EU Customs Reform proposal** <sup>(23)</sup> which is still under inter-institutional negotiations, the **EU Roadmap to fight Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime**, including the European Ports Alliance initiative, as well as the increased concerns related to safety and security, including cybersecurity, at Customs Union level.

The abovementioned Work Programme was designed to contribute towards the objectives identified in these initiatives, as well as to improve the overall Customs Union performance through **five priorities**, leveraging the multi-purpose nature of the equipment funded, in order to (i) ensure **safety and security**; (ii) strengthen the capacity of customs to mitigate and adapt to **international crises**; (iii) address the challenges in dealing with the exponential growth in **e-commerce**; (iv)

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<sup>(16)</sup> As recently confirmed in the Communication from the Commission COM(2025) 37 final "A comprehensive EU toolbox for safe and sustainable e-commerce."

<sup>(17)</sup> [JOIN \(2023\) 20 final, Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council on "European Economic Security Strategy"](#), dated 20 June 2023.

<sup>(18)</sup> For an overall view of the EU sanctions against Russia see [here](#); for a detailed list of the customs-related measures see [here](#).

<sup>(19)</sup> E.g. Member States participating in the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals have been forced to amend their projects involving the borders with Russia for justified reasons relating to fast changing environment, security, and traffic flows.

<sup>(20)</sup> Communication from the Commission COM(2022) 217 final: An Action Plan for EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes to facilitate Ukraine's agricultural export and bilateral trade with the EU. In particular, the creation of new trade routes through the Solidarity lanes has enabled trade flows from Ukraine to the EU and through the EU to the rest of the world, creating new customs control needs at BCPs.

<sup>(21)</sup> As set out in the CCEI Regulation and Multi-Annual Work Programme.

<sup>(22)</sup> Global cocaine supply reached a record high in 2022, with more than 2,700 tons of cocaine produced that year, 20 per cent more than in the previous year, and 355,000 ha under coca bush cultivation. This may require customs to adapt to these new trends and consequently adjust their activities and equipment. [United Nations World Drug Report 2024](#).

<sup>(23)</sup> [COM \(2023\) 257 final](#).

contribute towards the **European Green Deal** <sup>(24)</sup>; and (v) continue to promote **innovation** in customs control equipment, including **interoperability** of the equipment.

Considering the instrumental role of customs authorities as the first line of defence against risks associated with goods entering in the EU market, the **priority ‘safety and security’ was mandatory to every work package of every proposal** <sup>(25)</sup>.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSTRUMENT’S SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

The Instrument’s specific objective is to contribute to **adequate and equivalent** results of customs controls through the transparent purchase, maintenance, and upgrade of relevant and reliable state-of-the-art equipment that is secure, safe, and environmentally friendly.

In 2024, the implementation of the Instrument’s specific objective was done through the:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals.
- Support and monitoring of ongoing projects and data gathering.
- CCEI Coordination Group.

#### 3.1. The 2nd invitation to submit proposals

##### 3.1.a) Successful participation of Member States in the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals

As reported in the previous Annual Progress Report <sup>(26)</sup>, the 2023-2024 Multi-Annual Work Programme <sup>(27)</sup> planned the launching of the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals with a targeted approach. Structured around 5 policy priorities (see section 2.3. on regulatory context) and with an emphasis on the fight against drugs trafficking, it used the data gathered from the proposals and reporting obligations of Member States under the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals.

In this context, launched on 12 December 2023, the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals closed on 29 February 2024. In total, **47 applications** were received from **25 Member States** <sup>(28)</sup> under two topics: BCPs and Customs Laboratories. Of these, **25 Member States applied for the BCPs topic, while 22 applied for the customs laboratory topic.**

To support Member States in the preparation of their funding proposals, the Commission:

- Provided country specific guidance prepared on the basis of data and information collected in the context of the Instrument so far, followed up by bilateral meetings; and
- Accompanied all Member States throughout the grant agreement preparation phase, which led to the signature of 42 grants <sup>(29)</sup> by the time to grant deadline of 30 November 2024, offering targeted help in different forms, including specific guidance and one-to-one meetings as well as two training sessions to ensure the timely completion and submission of their grant agreements.

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<sup>(24)</sup> [The European Green Deal](#).

<sup>(25)</sup> Each proposal can have up to 20 work packages (BCP topic) and 5 work packages (Customs Laboratories topic).

<sup>(26)</sup> [SWD\(2024\) 131 final](#).

<sup>(27)</sup> [C\(2023\) 8016 final](#)

<sup>(28)</sup> Estonia and Portugal did not submit proposals under the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation; however, they did apply to the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals. Therefore, all EU Member States have participated to the CCEI with at least 1 project since it was established.

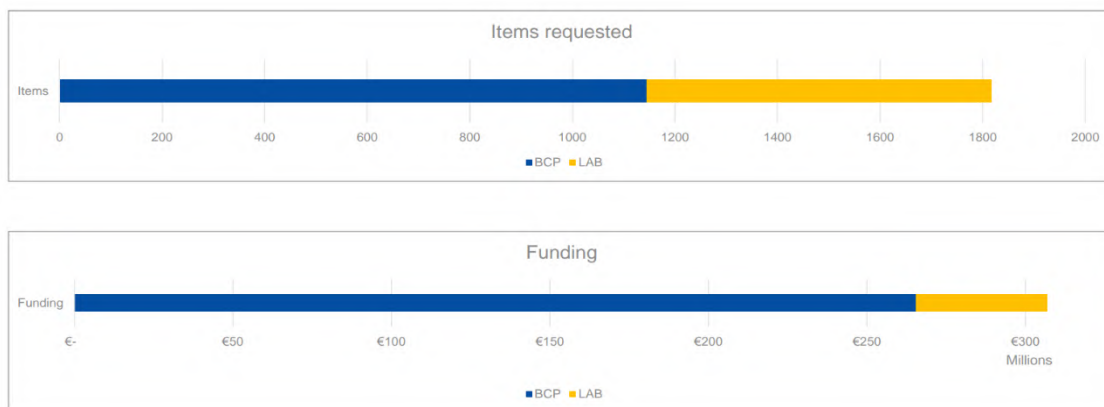
<sup>(29)</sup> One additional grant was signed before the end of 2024.

By its nature, the CCEI entails an important internal and external **security dimension**. In particular, equipment that is using software and/or is interconnected to IT systems is more vulnerable to cybersecurity risks <sup>(30)</sup>. In addition, the Instrument encourages innovation and interoperability of the equipment to promote flexibility and operational adaptation capacities at the BCPs and customs laboratories. This important aspect of interoperability nevertheless amplifies on the other side, the potential risk of cybersecurity threats.

In this respect, the CCEI also further expanded its requirements related to security and cybersecurity through the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals published in December 2023, including the call documentation and accompanying security guidance requiring that projects comply with EU policy interests and priorities in the field of security and cybersecurity when purchasing, upgrading or maintaining the equipment through the CCEI <sup>(31)</sup>.

### 3.1. b) Items and funding requested under the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals

Through the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals, over 1800 new pieces of equipment to be co-financed with CCEI funds have been requested, distributed across 266 BCPs and 46 customs laboratories <sup>(32)</sup>, aiming to modernise their deterrence and surveillance assets. This represents respectively for BCPs 87% and for customs laboratories 13% of the total budget available.



Comparing these results with the ones of the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals, a similarity in terms of items requested can be noted: at that time, in fact, around 1300 pieces of customs control equipment were proposed for cofinancing in over 210 BCPs and more than 500 pieces of customs control equipment in over 30 customs laboratories for a total of 1800 pieces of equipment <sup>(33)</sup>.

### 3.1.c) Distribution of equipment categories for projects under the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals

Similar to the overall outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals <sup>(34)</sup>, the equipment items in the BCPs were mainly requested to support non-intrusive inspections with an increasing trend

<sup>(30)</sup> Such as: X-ray for detection purposes, Radiation portal monitors, Automatic Number Plate Recognition Systems.

<sup>(31)</sup> CCEI Call document was updated and reinforced for the 2<sup>nd</sup> CCEI call and states that security related requirements need to be properly reflected in the procurement procedure and to cover all aspects of the use of the equipment throughout its life cycle as well as the related services, including installation, upgrading and maintenance of the equipment. In addition, the involvement of national security and cybersecurity services is highly recommended, especially when equipment will be used in critical infrastructure.

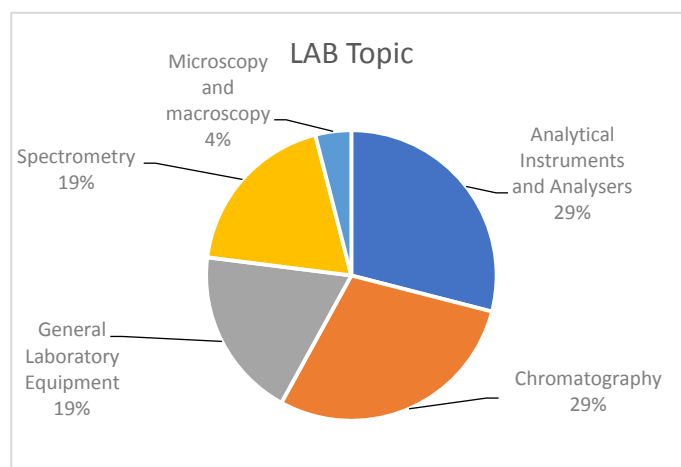
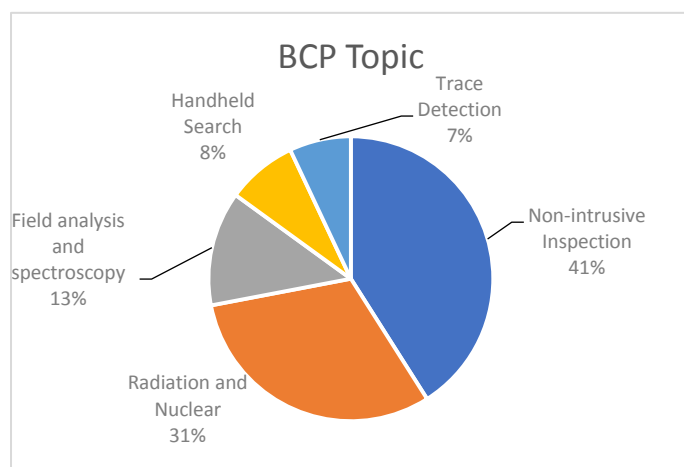
<sup>(32)</sup> Out of more than 2000 BCPs and 80 customs laboratories spread over the Customs Union. More information on the distribution of BCPs and customs laboratories in Annex III.

<sup>(33)</sup> Denmark, Greece and Malta did not participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals, whereas only Estonia and Portugal did not participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> one. 25 Member States applied for the BCPs topic and 22 applied for the customs laboratories' project in 2024, these numbers were respectively 24 and 19 under the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals in 2022.

<sup>(34)</sup> Further information may be found in the Customs Control Equipment Instrument Annual Progress Report 2022, SWD (2023) 251 final.



in relative terms (31% in 2022 and 41% in 2024) and radiation and nuclear controls, on the opposite, with a decreasing trend (38% in 2022 and 31% in 2024). For the laboratories, the distribution shows, in relative terms, a slight decrease of demand for chromatographs (32% in 2022 and 29% in 2024) as well as for analytical instruments and analysers (32% in 2022 and 29% in 2024).



#### 3.1.d) Co-financing equipment to fulfil the adequacy and equivalence components of the Instrument

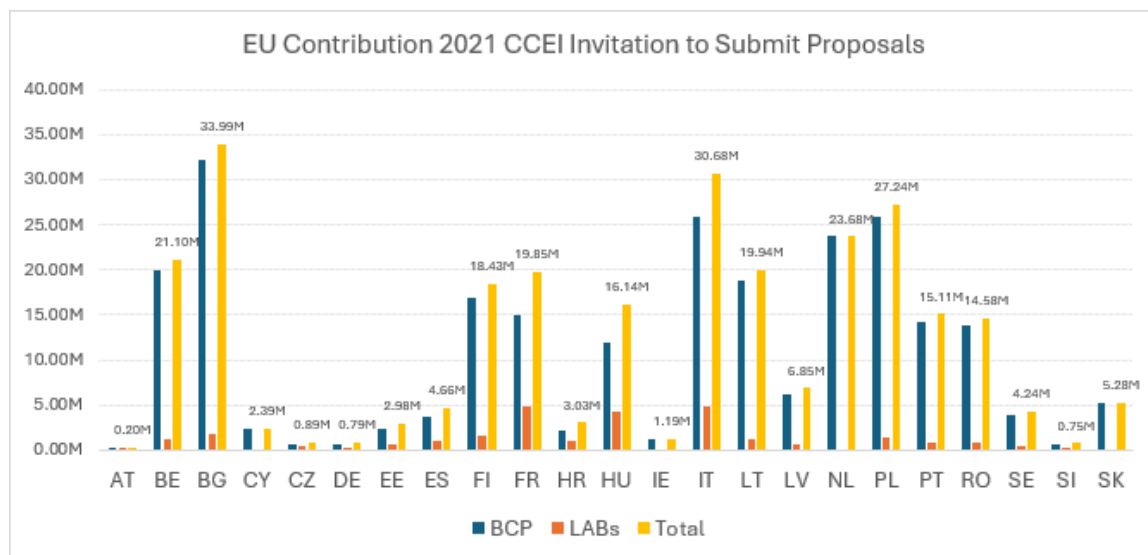
As a result of the evaluation <sup>(35)</sup>, **43 grant agreements were signed**, resulting in the allocation of funds to co-finance the purchase, maintenance, and upgrade of customs control equipment for a total **EU funding of more than EUR 237 million**. Following exchanges with two Member States, 3 other projects were put on hold due to country's further internal considerations. One project from the reserve list was invited by the end of the reporting year, in view of a possible grant agreement preparation and signature in 2025.

#### 3.1.e) Value of maximum grant amount (EUR):

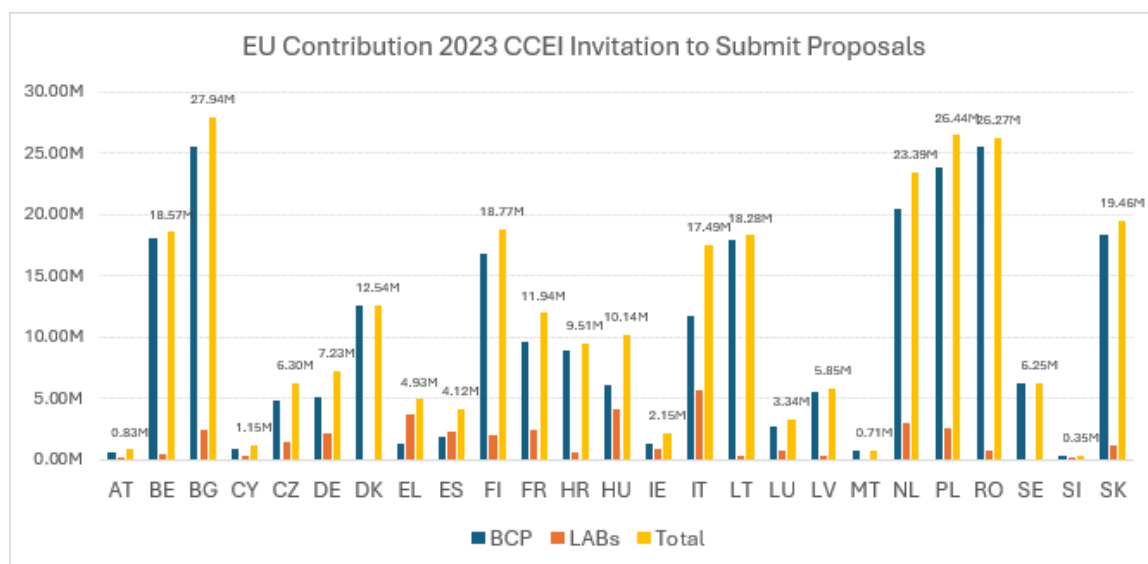
Distribution of maximum grant amount allocated under the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposal <sup>(36)</sup>:

<sup>(35)</sup> The evaluation was conducted against the award criteria (Relevance, Added value, Sustainability, Innovation) and the rules outlined in the call conditions.

<sup>(36)</sup> The final amount of EU level contributions at the end of each project may decrease as a result of adjustments during the project implementation (i.e. reduced acquisition costs, reduction of project scope, etc).



Distribution of maximum grant amount allocated under the 2nd invitation to submit proposal, including projects pending signature <sup>(37)</sup>:



In terms of payments, close to EUR 117.5 million were already or are in the process of being transferred <sup>(38)</sup> to Member States as pre-financing, corresponding to 50% of the total grant amounts of accepted projects (EUR 237 million). Once grant agreements were signed, Member States were expected to start the process through their national procurement procedures for the acquisition, delivery, and put into use of the equipment funded by the Instrument.

Combining the values of grant agreements of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd invitation to submit proposals, **the total value committed to the Member States' customs authorities is EUR 558 million, i.e. the 55.5% of the whole CCEI budget.**

### 3.2. Support and monitoring of ongoing projects and data gathering

Following the signature of **42 grant agreements** in 2022 <sup>(39)</sup> responding to the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals, all individual projects continued with their operational implementation <sup>(40)</sup>. In

<sup>(37)</sup> *Ut supra*, ft. 37.

<sup>(38)</sup> As of end of 2024.

<sup>(39)</sup> SWD (2023) 251 final.

<sup>(40)</sup> The average duration of the projects is 32 months.

addition to the 4 projects (out of the 42) already completed in 2023, 5 additional projects came to an end during the reporting year.

In the course of 2024, some Member States informed the Commission of the different challenges or concerns faced during the implementation of their projects, mostly linked to security and cybersecurity concerns.

Although the equipment's security falls within the Member States competence, the CCEI Coordination Group supported beneficiaries by providing inputs and recommendations to strengthen the security related guidelines under the 2nd invitation to submit proposals.

The Commission further reinforced the call conditions and included requirements to ensure the security of the equipment and its use (including the protection of data produced) within the CCEI relevant procurement and the recommendation to involve the national security/cybersecurity services in the process when appropriate. Nevertheless, these issues have caused delays in the Member States implementation of the CCEI grants. They are also resulting in divergent and fragmented procurement practices in Member States.

In addition, the CCEI requirement for customs equipment to be interoperable can come into conflict with security considerations, by allowing to export risks from one (type of) equipment to another one within larger IT systems. Risks can also arise when newly procured equipment must be made interoperable with existing equipment, that is subject to lower security standards. Such situations cannot systematically be addressed through guidance on technical specifications for interoperability requirements. The issue will be looked at further in order to avoid potential negative impacts on equipment interoperability and to ensure that all procedures linked to the Instrument are performed coherently and legally. The launch of the NIS2 Risk Assessment as part of the European Economic Security Strategy also aims to provide a harmonized EU approach to these challenges.

These challenges, when duly justified, proved to have an impact on the signed grant agreements, led to a total of **16 amendments** of the initial grant agreements which is a steep increase compared to the previous year (recording 4 amendments).

To support Member States during the implementation of their first projects, the Commission continued (i) to proactively reach out to beneficiaries, either individually or by organising meetings with all national coordinators, as well as (ii) to provide guidance from programming, policy, legal, and/or financial perspectives. In addition to this targeted support, the Commission kept on answering the steady intake of queries received from the beneficiaries<sup>(41)</sup>. When it comes to putting in place an EU-wide solution to the security/cybersecurity challenges affecting the CCEI implementation and the interoperability of the customs control equipment in the EU in general, the Commission initiated the work on a NIS2 risk assessment in the framework of the Economic Security Strategy. The results of the risk assessment will feed into the third invitation to submit proposals and any additional guidance necessary for an efficient management of the CCEI grants.

Furthermore, the CCEI data-cycle, initiated in 2019 with a needs assessment, is updated regularly through the information provided by Member States when submitting their proposals and by fulfilling their reporting obligations. Over time, the data should qualify the impact of the equipment funded on the overall capacity of customs authorities to perform customs controls.

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<sup>(41)</sup> From the start of the implementation of the Instrument in 2021, more than 800 questions from Member States were received and replied to by the Commission.

As part of the reporting obligations <sup>(42)</sup>, **28 progress reports were due in 2024**, with **15 having been submitted, out of which 8 were approved** <sup>(43)</sup>, and **13 reports not submitted by the due date** <sup>(44)</sup>.

The information included in the beneficiaries' progress reports, together with the feedback collected through the annual survey, has been used to calculate the CCEI performance indicators presented in Annex II to this report. The data collected show that over 900 pieces of customs control equipment co-funded by the Instrument are already in operation in the Member States BCPs or customs laboratories.

### 3.3. CCEI Coordination Group

Member States involvement is intrinsic to the success of the CCEI and is secured through (i) their contributions to policy development <sup>(45)</sup>, and (ii) their implementation of the grant agreements. In 2024, the CCEI Coordination Group met in two occasions to assist the Commission by working on 14 policy topics <sup>(46)</sup>, finalising additional 5 deliverables <sup>(47)</sup> hence completing the foreseen deliverables planned for the 2021-2024 period. Additionally, the CCEI Coordination Group supported the operational implementation of the Instrument, notably to exchange information on issues of common interest. These relate to best practices and lessons learned about project management; the submission and monitoring of deliverables; individual guidance; the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals; qualitative indicators under the CCEI's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework <sup>(48)</sup>; security concerns; as well as training.

## 4. COHERENCE WITH OTHER EU POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS

Policy coordination between the Instrument and other EU programmes is designed around two strategic goals:

- **Efficient spending of EU funds:** making sure that the EU programmes offer synergies in the way the funds are spent, not only with the focus on avoiding double funding, but also with the objective of increasing the impact through their multiplier effect.
- **Policy coordination:** ultimately, even though different policies are pursued, the EU programmes should be complementary to each other <sup>(49)</sup>.

In 2024, the Instrument continued building synergies with the Customs programme as well as with other programmes and initiatives. Notably, the 2023 **European Ports Alliance** announcement influenced both the 2023-2024 Multi-Annual Work Programme and the objectives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals launched at the end of 2023, reflecting the strong role of customs

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<sup>(42)</sup> The CCEI monitoring and evaluation framework functions as follows: (i) through the continuous reporting obligations to be performed regularly by Member States and; (ii) through surveys sent annually to national customs authorities.

<sup>(43)</sup> Progress reports might be submitted but not approved if the information provided is not sufficient to accurately measure the progress of the project. In those cases, the beneficiary of CCEI funds is requested to resubmit the progress report.

<sup>(44)</sup> Exchanges are ongoing with the beneficiaries to clarify the causes of these delays.

<sup>(45)</sup> Such contribution is ensured by Member States' participation in the CCEI Coordination Group, whose mandate is aligned to the duration of the CCEI Instrument.

<sup>(46)</sup> Further information on the topics, based on pre-defined policy subjects, can be found in SWD (2022)56 final.

<sup>(47)</sup> 1) Deliverable 6: testing of new innovative equipment, 2) deliverable 12: equipment performance metric and indicators, 3) deliverable 13: CCEI needs assessment of equipment, 4) deliverable 15: gap analysis and methodology, 5) deliverable 14: centres of expertise.

<sup>(48)</sup> SWD (2022) 314 final. In particular, an annual survey to calculate: Proportion of national administrations who report positively on the overall CCEI support and the efficiency of the implementation process; Proportion of national administrations who agree that the CCEI has contributed to adequate customs controls with equivalent results; Percentage of positive replies for BCPs and Customs Laboratories.

<sup>(49)</sup> SWD (2022) 314 final.

control equipment in the broader fight **against drugs and drug precursors** context. This initiative, which specifically named the cooperation with the CCEI, will continue to bring about synergies for the Instrument to showcase its added value in funding modern and reliable equipment for BCPs and customs laboratories in **areas of high traffic such as sea, airports and other modes of transport. For instance, 1260 equipment financed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals will be used, among other violations of customs legislation, to fight against drugs.**

The security and cybersecurity concerns related to the equipment provided exclusively by non-EU owned manufacturers from third countries affecting the procurement and the interoperability of the CCEI equipment require close coordination with related EU policies such as the European Economic Security Strategy, the EU Internal Security Strategy, the EU Cybersecurity agenda etc. Specifically, the EU has **initiated a NIS2 risk assessment in the framework of the Economic Security Strategy** and the third invitation to submit proposals will be launched only after such assessment is finalised.

#### **4.1. Collaboration with the Customs Programme**

The Instrument has a specific focus: to co-finance the purchase, maintenance, and upgrade of customs control equipment, while complementing and supporting actions, such as exchange of good practices, lessons learnt or training relating to the equipment concerned, are supported by the Customs programme <sup>(50)</sup>. In that sense, several collaborative actions and training activities under the Customs programme ensured its connection with the Instrument.

##### Collaborative activities

The **Customs Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border Expert Team (CELBET)** <sup>(51)</sup> throughout 2024 organised activities and trainings related to the use of customs control equipment such as:

- The Customs Control Skills Development training organized in Röske – Hungarian – Serbian BCPs; and
- The representatives of Ukrainian and Moldavian Customs Administration visit of the CELBET Center of Expertise on X-ray in Gdańsk, Poland.

As in previous years, the new equipment funded by the Instrument provided opportunities for operational cooperation within the **Customs Laboratories Expert Team (CLET)** <sup>(52)</sup>. The purchased equipment reinforced the analytical capabilities of CLET, which resulted in a more solid support offered to the customs laboratories' community in the EU, levelling out this community's contribution to customs control functions <sup>(53)</sup>.

Still in relation to customs laboratories, 2024 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Customs Laboratories European Network (CLEN)**. In addition to commemorating this occasion <sup>(54)</sup>, a series of workshops were organised, providing participants with both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience with equipment funded under the Instrument. Specifically, sessions were held

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<sup>(50)</sup> Recital 16 of the [CCEI Regulation](#).

<sup>(51)</sup> CELBET gathers 11 land border Member States (BG, FI, EE, EL, HR, HU, LT, LV, PL, SK, RO). It has been effective in delivering operational solutions on the ground, has proven experience in collaborating with other law enforcement authorities and ultimately ensures that customs controls are performed in a harmonised way at the land border of the EU. Further information on CELBET can be found in the 2024 Customs Programme Annual Progress Report (WD(2025) 113 final).

<sup>(52)</sup> Further information on CLET can be found in the 2024 Customs Programme Annual Progress Report (WD(2025) 113 final).

<sup>(53)</sup> By the end of 2024, 334 pieces of equipment co-funded by the CCEI have been put into use in over 15 EU customs laboratories.

<sup>(54)</sup> For further information see press release - [Customs Laboratories European Network \(CLEN\) celebrates 25th anniversary - European Commission](#).

on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance with a focus on the identification and quantification of drugs and drug precursors, on the analysis of textile materials and on the use of handheld devices which are also important for the control of drugs and drug precursors. Additionally, CLEN organised an inter-laboratory comparison study aiming to test the detection and identification of different chemicals using various Raman handheld devices, an equipment commonly included in the Member States' requests for funding under the Instrument.

Furthermore, under the administrative arrangement CLEN2SAND IV <sup>(55)</sup>, JRC in collaboration with the CLEN, successfully completed the analytical characterization and identification of new psychoactive substances. Subsequently, these findings were notified to the European Union Drugs Agency. Equipment funded under CCEI were also used for the identification <sup>(56)</sup>.

2024 marked also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Customs Inventory of Chemical Substances (ECICS) which has the goal to help economic operators to declare correctly chemicals at customs and customs officers to control these declarations. In the near future, ECICS will play an even more critical role as its CUS code <sup>(57)</sup> becomes mandatory in the customs declarations, allowing for more precise identification of chemicals, including controlled substances and drug precursors and/or designers. This code can then be verified using laboratory equipment, such as that funded by the CCEI programme.

Finally, the Customs programme supported several collaborative activities that directly contributed to the management and implementation of the Instrument, such as the **CCEI Coordination Group** <sup>(58)</sup>.

#### Training activities

Based on the training needs analysis performed by the CCEI Coordination Group, three eLearning training modules (Infrared and Raman handheld and X-Ray backscatter) have started to be developed with the support of national experts. In addition, under the **Common Learning Event Programme (CLEP)**, six face-to-face training courses related to CCEI equipment took place in 2024, with a total of 39 experts. The topics of these trainings were focused on the use and image interpretation of different x-ray scanners (two training events organised in Germany and one in Poland, in a recognised centre of training expertise, organised by CELBET), the radiation protection and detection options (organised in Czech Republic) and specific sessions for customs laboratories. For the latter, two of these training events were organised with the collaboration of and in the training facilities of the Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra (Italy), focusing on the use of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy for customs laboratories controls, a key tool used in the identification of seized illicit drugs and drugs precursors.

## **4.2. Coherence with other EU Programmes**

The Instrument is part of the **Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF)**, which also comprises the **Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI)** <sup>(59)</sup>. The two Instruments are conceived as complementary, but with distinct scopes: the CCEI covers customs controls (mainly goods), and the BMVI border controls (mainly focusing on control of persons crossing the EU external borders). Linking customs and border controls enables customs and border authorities to

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<sup>(55)</sup> CLEN2SAND IV, the administrative arrangement between DG TAXUD and the JRC-F4 to provide the CLEN with assistance on Scientific Activities on New Drugs, was established in December 2021.

<sup>(56)</sup> The Belgian Customs laboratory identified this new substance with Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance purchased with CCEI funding.

<sup>(57)</sup> Identification numbers assigned to chemical products in the [ECICS database](#).

<sup>(58)</sup> Further information may be found above in section 3.2.

<sup>(59)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.

better work together and maximise the impact of the Union's budget through co-sharing and interoperability of control equipment <sup>(60)</sup>.

Investments in customs equipment go hand in hand with capacity building in the areas of human resources, infrastructure, IT and innovation. This message was echoed at the Customs Policy Group meeting of 11 December 2024 where the Directors-General of all EU customs administrations were reminded of the wider landscape of EU Funding opportunities and programmes that are complementary to the CCEI. In this context, besides the **Customs programme**, the CCEI maintains i.e. close links with the **Union Anti-Fraud Programme (UAFP)** <sup>(61)</sup>, the **Horizon Europe programme** <sup>(62)</sup> and the **Connecting Europe Facility** <sup>(63)</sup>. Complementarities and synergies amongst programmes are reinforced at two stages: 1) policy coordination (i.e., while drafting work programmes); 2) through the evaluation process, to allow for possible 'multiplier effects'.

During the reporting period, such synergies were observed with:

- **The Union Anti-Fraud Programme (UAFP):** besides the existing policy coordination between the UAFP and the CCEI ensuring complementarity between the Work Programmes, 11 new grants under the UAFP were signed involving 8 Customs Authorities<sup>64</sup> already benefitting from the CCEI. The projects provide for additional capabilities in terms of Intelligence, Equipment, as well IT software and hardware that are not eligible under the CCEI but are fully complementary to its objective to harmonise customs controls and to contribute to adequate and equivalent results.
- **Horizon Europe:** Through effective policy coordination with DG HOME, Research and Innovation related to Customs Control Equipment is integrated into Horizon Europe Cluster 3 – Civil Security for Society and its destination on Effective Management of EU External Borders. While many projects are ongoing under this destination, 5 projects were of particular relevance to the CCEI in 2024:
  - the “Parcel and Letter Security for Postal and Express Courier Flows” (PARSEC) and “Advanced technologies for scanning and detection of illicit material for postal services and express courier flows” (iFlows) projects are developing technologies to improve detection of illicit trade in e-commerce parcels. The results of these projects could lead to the availability of more modern equipment at the border and enhanced capabilities regarding e-commerce which is a policy priority of the CCEI.
  - The “Border Control Agencies for Interlinked and Interoperable Future” (BORDERLINK) project, which entered into force in 2024 aims at improving the interoperability of systems between border authorities supporting more integrated operations in Border Crossing Points. The project could deliver interesting results and lessons regarding the interoperability of the equipment procured under the CCEI.
  - The “Rapid, portable and reliable cargo screener - New concept of vapour screening technology - Ion Mobility Chemical Fingerprint Detector” (METEOR) and “Using cosmic rays for better, more portable and efficient analysis and detection for customs” (COSMOPORT) projects are both relevant for the non-intrusive inspection of cargo in key hubs like ports, and for the detection of illicit or dangerous materials such as drugs and drug precursors, in line with the CCEI

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<sup>(60)</sup> Recital 18 of the CCEI Regulation.

<sup>(61)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021.

<sup>(62)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021.

<sup>(63)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 February 2021.

<sup>(64)</sup> The 8 Customs authorities are: CZ, DE, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV and SK.

priorities and in alignment with the EU Roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organized crime.

- **Connecting Europe Facility:** Three new projects started in 2024 <sup>(65)</sup> with the purpose of adapting and improve the transport infrastructure for the Union's external borders. These projects, totaling EUR 85 million of EU contribution, provide complementary investments in Border Crossing Points supported by the CCEI and come in support of the solidarity lanes with Ukraine. Customs authorities are directly involved in two of the projects.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

In 2024, the CCEI demonstrated significant success from several perspectives:

- The total number of Member States' projects agreed for the Instrument's funding increased to 85 (from 42 agreed in 2022);
- Combining the results of the first and the second invitation to submit proposals, all EU Member States have now become beneficiaries of the CCEI;
- The number of equipment pieces to be purchased, maintained or upgraded with the CCEI funding has increased to more than 3600 (i.e., around 1800 pieces of equipment under the grant agreements concluded respectively in 2022 and 2024);
- With additional EUR 284.5 million committed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals, the overall Instrument's funding to Member States so far amounts to EUR 558 million <sup>(66)</sup>.

Furthermore, the Instrument demonstrated its flexibility by reacting adroitly to the external factors that impacted the customs controls performed under the Customs Union by adjusting, accordingly, both the country specific guidance as well as the priorities defined under the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals. The principal external factors encountered in 2024 were:

- **The changing trade flows since the 2022 Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine**, along with the consequences of the sanctions implemented by the customs authorities, which forced a reassessment of the appropriateness of specific customs control equipment at certain BCPs (reflected as such in the country-specific guidance shared with the participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation to submit proposals).
- **The European Ports Alliance**, as part of the **EU Roadmap to fight Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime** adopted in 2023, which had a significant impact on the Instrument implementation in 2024 with the vast majority of the funding (EUR 200 million) allocated to increasing the effectiveness of customs risk management and controls related to illicit drugs and drug precursors. More than 1200 pieces of equipment's to prevent/detect drugs trafficking, with over 300 items to be directly located in BCPs at EU ports premises were accepted for CCEI funding.

Additionally, the Instrument also supported the Member States regarding:

- The Solidarity Lanes to facilitate trade to/from Ukraine by co-financing equipment at relevant BCPs in order to streamline customs controls and to improve the trade flows with Ukraine.

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<sup>(65)</sup> 23-PL-TG-S17 PL UA border, 23-EU-TG-RO-MD-UA GGR BCP, 23-HU-TG-HU-UA RAIL BCP-PH II.

<sup>(66)</sup> For a total of 89 grants (of which 85 in force by the end of 2024).



- The Maritime Corridor to Gaza, encouraging the sharing between beneficiaries of CCEI funded equipment to be used in the controls of goods arriving to that region via Member States' territories.

Weaknesses can, however, be observed when looking at the implementation of the Instrument at the level of Member States:

- Challenges, varied in nature, indicated the significant influence of external factors on the grants, including the impact on trade flows in some BCPs due to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, improvements in technology available in the EU and the limited market for specialised equipment, delayed national procurement procedures, national budget factors, inflation, security including cybersecurity concerns, impact on interoperability and interconnectivity of the equipment, among others. These developments all contribute to increased complexity to manage the CCEI projects and create difficulties for some customs authorities when procuring equipment.
- Despite the efforts to ensure a proper and reliable continuous monitoring of the ongoing projects, the delayed (or incomplete) fulfilment of the reporting obligations <sup>(67)</sup> or changes in the implementation of the grant agreements during their project's lifetime in some Member States, evidenced by the increasing number of grant agreement amendments (16 amendments in 2024 vs. 4 in 2023) <sup>(68)</sup>, have a negative impact on the Instrument's performance. For concerned projects, the Commission activated closer monitoring as of 2025.

2024 was also the year in which the Instrument's interim evaluation exercise was launched. Due to be finalised in 2025, this evaluation will look at the progress made in implementing the Instrument, assess its performance as well as identify potential adjustments.

Moreover, further considerations emerged regarding the future of the Customs Union driven by the EU Customs Reform proposal. In this context, any interventions linked with the CCEI objectives would be implemented by the future EU Customs Authority and target the enlargement countries in order to reinforce the customs controls at the (future) external EU borders as well as address crisis situations.

Finally, as the implementation of projects under the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation to submit proposals has been demonstrating delays due to prolonged national procurement procedures or shortages in the supply of relevant equipment on the global market, and considering recent attention toward strengthening centralized initiatives such as the Customs Data Hub <sup>(69)</sup>, after proposal of the responsible Commission's service, the budgetary authority agreed a budget redeployment <sup>(70)</sup> to support the preparations related to the EU Customs Reform. The transfer has been proposed considering the remaining CCEI commitments and taking into account the administrative capacity of the Member States to absorb and deploy new projects.

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<sup>(67)</sup> Related to the grant agreements concluded in 2022.

<sup>(68)</sup> In most of the cases the amendments had a low impact on the end results of the projects: from a slight extension or reduction of the project's duration due to delays in procurement procedures to the relocation of equipment/ budget between BCPs locations or, instead, to the early conclusion of the action. In some rare cases: amendments were needed to significantly reduce (e.g. by more than 10%) the initially agreed budget, or to completely exclude a BCP from the project scope (e.g. due to changes in traffic flows). In these cases, deviations from the original grant agreements were mitigated through amendments to ensure that the projects meet the objective of the Instrument to the maximum extent.

<sup>(69)</sup> Funded under the EU Customs programme.

<sup>(70)</sup> EUR 84,95 million have been agreed for transfer from the Heading 4 (IBMF - CCEI budget line) mainly to Heading 1 (Customs budget line), with effect on the commitments only for the years 2025-2027.



**6. ANNEX I: ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS**

Acronym	Definition
<b>BCP</b>	Border Crossing Point
<b>BMVI</b>	Border Management and Visa Instrument
<b>CCEI</b>	Customs Control Equipment Instrument
<b>CEF</b>	Connecting Europe Facility
<b>CELBET</b>	Customs Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border Expert Team
<b>CLEN</b>	Customs Laboratories European Network
<b>CLEP</b>	Common Learning Event Programme
<b>CLET</b>	Customs Laboratories Expert teams
<b>ECICS</b>	European Customs Inventory of Chemical Substances
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>IBMF</b>	Integrated Border Management Fund
<b>ISF</b>	Internal Security Fund
<b>MAWP</b>	Multiannual Work Programme
<b>OLAF</b>	European Anti-Fraud Office
<b>RRF</b>	Recovery and Resilience Facility
<b>UAFP</b>	Union Anti-Fraud Programme

## 7. ANNEX II: INSTRUMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### OP 1.1 <sup>(71)</sup>: Number of pieces of equipment per Member States Border Crossing Points (BCP) and Customs Laboratories that were purchased, maintained or upgraded through CCEI funds

*Equipment purchased, maintained and upgraded through the Instrument for Border Crossing Points (BCPs) as of 2024*

Type of BCP	Border Crossing Points (BCPs) type of equipment to be purchased, maintained and upgraded as result of the CCEI grant agreements															TOTAL
	Field analysis and spectroscopy			Handheld search			Non-intrusive inspection			Radiation detection and nuclide identification			Trace Detection			
	P*	M	U	P	M	U	P	M	U	P	M	U	P	M	U	
Air	10			1			47			59			7		2	126
Land	21			18			35	5	3	88	1		31			202
Mobile	13			15			9						28			64
Postal	3						8	2 <sup>(72)</sup>		9			4		1	27
Rail	4			3			2		1	5						15
Sea	7			1	2		53	10		65			1			139
TOTAL	57	0	0	38	2	0	154	17	4	226	1	0	71	0	3	573
	57			40			175			227			74			

\*P = Purchased, M = Maintained, U = Upgraded

*Equipment purchased, maintained and upgraded through the CCEI for Customs Laboratories as of 2024*

Customs Laboratories type of equipment to be purchased, maintained and upgraded as result of the CCEI grant agreements															TOTAL
Analytical Instruments and Analysers			Chromatography			General Laboratory Equipment			Microscopy and macroscopy			Spectrometry			
P*	M	U	P	M	U	P	M	U	P	M	U	P	M	U	
98	12		84	12		48	4		13			56	7		
TOTAL	110		96			52			13			64			334

\*P = Purchased, M = Maintained, U = Upgraded

<sup>(71)</sup> Indicators OP 1.1, OP 1.2, RES 1.1 and RES 1.3 (quantitative indicators) are calculated using the information provided by beneficiaries of CCEI funds during their proposals, as well as during their continuous monitoring and reporting obligations.

<sup>(72)</sup> The maintenance of 2 equipment for non-intrusive inspections was allocated to an Air BCP in the 2023 CCEI Annual Progress Report, but moved since then to Postal BCP after a change in BCP categorisation by the beneficiary of CCEI funds.

**OP 1.2: Use of equipment concerned per Member States' Border Crossing Points and Customs Laboratories that were purchased, maintained or upgraded through customs control equipment Instrument funds**

*Occupancy rate for equipment purchased, maintained, or upgraded through the Instrument for border crossing points and Customs Laboratories in 2024 <sup>(73)</sup>*

Border Crossing Points (BCPs) type of equipment					Customs Laboratories type of equipment				
Field analysis and spectroscopy	Handled search	Non-intrusive inspection	Radiation detection and nuclide identification	Trace Detection	Analytical Instruments and Analysers	Chromatography	General Laboratory Equipment	Microscopy and macroscopy	Spectrometry
62%	99%	90%	79%	95%	48%	68%	73%	52%	62%

**OP 1.3 <sup>(74)</sup>: Proportion of national administrations who report positively on the overall customs control equipment Instrument's support and the efficiency of the implementation process**

This indicator measures on one side, Member States' satisfaction with the guidance and programme management support provided and, on the other, whether the procedural and management tasks are carried out in a timely manner by the CCEI project team and the national customs administrations.

*Percentage of positive replies on CCEI support, in 2024 <sup>(75)</sup>*

	2024 Value	2023 Target	2027 Target
Satisfaction with the programme management support and guidance provided	100%	70%	70%

*Member States level of satisfaction, in 2024, with:*

	Not at all satisfied	Not satisfied	Satisfied	Fully satisfied
The quality of the guidance provided at the application stage	-	-	46%	54%
The quality of the information contained in the call documentation	-	-	56%	44%
The quality of the ongoing guidance provided during the implementation stage <sup>(76)</sup>	-	3%	47%	50%

<sup>(73)</sup> These results represent the measurement of occupancy rate at a certain moment in time. Occupancy rate has slightly decreased compared to the values reported in 2023 due to an increase in the sample size.

<sup>(74)</sup> Indicators OP 1.3, RES 1.3 and RES 2 (qualitative indicators) are calculated using the information provided by beneficiaries of CCEI funds during the survey activity performed annually by the Commission.

<sup>(75)</sup> Replies received from 23 Member States for a total of 37 projects for indicator OP 1.3.

<sup>(76)</sup> 3 projects declined to provide an answer to this question.

### ***Efficiency of the implementation process, in 2024:***

	2024 Value	2023 Target	2027 Target
Adherence to deadlines/timelines set out in the relevant Grant Agreements <sup>(77)</sup>	91%	80%	100%

### EU level project implementation timeline for 2023 and 2024:

<i>Step:</i>	<i>Effective date:</i>
Launch of call for applications for second CCEI' invitation to submit proposals	12 December 2023
Deadline for submission	29 February 2024
End of evaluation of applications, with the transmission of evaluation result letters to Member States (time to inform)	June 2024
Signature of all grant agreements (time to grant)	30 November 2024
Payment of pre-financing (time to pay)	No later than 30 days after the signature of each grant

### **Results indicators**

#### **RES 1.1: Specific results achieved by Member States through use of CCEI funded equipment**

This indicator measures the extent to which Member States achieve their commitments in relation to the expected results (defined by Member States at application stage) from the use of the equipment concerned.

#### Percentage of achieved commitments per policy building block of the CCEI <sup>(78)</sup>

Ensuring safety and security	Protection of the financial interests of the Union	Protecting the EU from unfair and illegal trade, including protection of environment	Trade facilitation	2024 Target	2027 Target

<sup>(77)</sup> Adherence to the timelines calculated in basis of the legal deadlines established in the grant agreement and agreed by the beneficiaries of the Instrument. For the reporting year, the time-to-grant indicator (by 30/11/2024) stands at 91%, with 42 out of 46 grant agreements signed on time, one project finalised after the time-to-grant deadline (30/11/2024) and three projects on hold. For the indicator, a baseline of 91% and a target of 95% were established. The deviation from the target is attributed to exchanges with two Member States, which resulted in 3 projects being put on hold due to country's further internal considerations.

<sup>(78)</sup> The four building blocks of the CCEI are: Union safety and security; Protection of the Union's financial interests; Protection of the Union from unfair and illegal trade; Facilitation of the legitimate business activity.

<b>Commitments achieved (%) <sup>(79)</sup></b>	14.14%	15.5%	10.48%	20.51%	By 60% <sup>(80)</sup>	By 80% <sup>(81)</sup>
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## **RES 1.2: Proportion of national administrations who agree that the Customs Control Equipment Instrument has contributed to adequate customs controls with equivalent results**

*Proportion of National Administrations who agreed <sup>(82)</sup> that the Customs Control Equipment Instrument has contributed to adequate customs controls with equivalent results in 2024, disaggregated by types of threats <sup>(83)</sup>*

	2024 Value	2023 Target	2027 Target
Radiological and nuclear materials	95%	60% <sup>(84)</sup>	80% <sup>(85)</sup>
Weapons, firearms, ammunition, explosive material, precursors thereof and dual use	95%		
Drugs and precursors thereof, pharmaceuticals	95%		
Waste, and hazardous and toxic materials	95%		
Goods in violation of intellectual property rights	95%		
Non-compliant and unsafe products	95%		
Cash declared incorrectly (Cash Control)	95%		
CITES (endangered species)	95%		
Cultural goods and treasures	100%		
Non-compliance with other trade regulations, prohibitions, and restrictions	95%		
Non-compliance with environmental standards	95%		
Under-valuation	95%		
Fiscal/VAT Fraud (customs gap, goods in evasion of tax and duties)	95%		
Misclassification of goods and misdeclaration of origin	95%		
Need for equipment processing capacity	95%		
Equipment preparedness/capacity for e-commerce	95%		

## **Commission's services perspective on external factors which may influence the results:**

*No external factors were identified by National Administrations in 2024 that had negatively affected the output initially envisioned by Member States in their projects.*

*The external factors presented to National Administrations in 2024 by the Commission are:*

- *“The Russian aggression against Ukraine and consequent sanctions against Russia have negatively disrupted the activity at specific BCPs / customs laboratories.”*

<sup>(79)</sup> Based on the risks reported by beneficiaries of CCEI funds, 4283 indicators data points were expected (data points are specific statistics for an unique BCP or customs laboratory, e.g. “Amount of unpaid duties detected” or “Value of tobacco and related products (excise goods)”, but only 2483 usable data was received after multiple corrective steps (equivalent to a 57% response rate), among which only 823 were an updated figure from the initial baseline, lowering the data quality and usefulness of the indicator input. Additionally, many different units of measurement are used for all the indicators (samples, unit, €, gr, time, percentage...).

<sup>(80)</sup> Includes specific target of minimum of 10% increase across all categories of risks and threats.

<sup>(81)</sup> Targets are indicative and will be adjusted based on indicator values after the implementation of the first Work Programme.

<sup>(82)</sup> For each risk/threat, the Commission looks at the proportion of Member States that have agreed or fully agreed with the statements proposed to them during the Annual Survey activity.

<sup>(83)</sup> Replies received for 31 projects from 21 Member States.

<sup>(84)</sup> 60% target for each type of threat.

<sup>(85)</sup> 80% target for each type of threat.

- “The rise of the cost of materials due to inflation has made more difficult the achievement of the project objectives.”
- “Disruption(s) in the supply chain due to the lack of components / raw materials has delayed the project's implementation.”

**RES 1.3: Degree of adherence of BCPs and Customs Laboratories equipment to the common list of equipment <sup>(86)</sup> that should be available per laboratory/type of border crossing point <sup>(87)</sup>, contributing to a harmonised application of customs controls**

*Degree of adherence of Border Crossing Points and Customs Laboratories, in 2024<sup>(88)</sup>:*

Type of BCP	Degree of adherence (%)	Target 2024	Target 2027
Air	15%	60%	80%
Land	7%		
Mobile	33% <sup>(90)</sup>		
Postal	14%		
Rail	10%		
Sea	16%		
<b>Overall adherence level</b>	<b>10.67%</b>		

Customs Laboratories	Degree of adherence (%)	Target 2024	Target 2027
Customs Laboratories <sup>(89)</sup>	30%	60%	80%

**RES 1.4: Coverage of risks and threats present at Border Crossing Points/Laboratories contributing to a harmonised application of customs controls**

This indicator is designed to gather data to suggest that the Instrument has contributed to harmonised application of customs controls across the different categories by ensuring the conditions to address the threats and risks present at the BCPs and laboratories with the funded and available equipment. It comprises of quantitative data gathered at the application and reporting stages where Member States specify the risks and threats present at each BCP/laboratories, linking it with the equipment to be funded.

*Coverage of non-financial and financial risks and threats of BCPs and Customs Laboratories in 2024:*

	Non-financial risks/threats	Financial risks/threats	2024 Target	2027 Target
Air	62%	65%	70%	90%
Land	35%	30%		

<sup>(86)</sup> The common list was adopted at the meeting of the CCEI Coordination Expert Group on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

<sup>(87)</sup> In addition to the categories envisaged by the CCEI regulation, the mobile BCP category was added due to its strategic role in increasing the efficiency of the customs controls by providing greater flexibility and unpredictability in the performance of the controls.

<sup>(88)</sup> The information is based on data provided by Member States, the data comprehensiveness rating for which is assessed at 73.6% for BCPs compared to 67.1% in 2023. The rating takes into account data on available equipment, BCP categorisation, traffic modalities and threats/risks identified by Member States.

<sup>(89)</sup> The common list for the Customs Laboratories was adopted at the meeting of the CCEI Coordination Expert Group on 5 December 2023.

<sup>(90)</sup> Degree of adherence for mobile BCPs slightly decreased compared to 2023 values due to a shift on BCP categorisation as well as risks/threads identified by Member States.



Mobile	79%	93%		
Post	73%	74%		
Rail	54%	50%		
Sea	59%	55%		
Customs Laboratories <sup>(91)</sup>	59%	60%		

## **RES 2: Proportion of National Administrations who report positively on the contribution of the Customs Control Equipment Instrument to the better implementation of the Customs Risk Measurement Framework (CRMF)**

This indicator is designed to collect data on the ways in which the CCEI contributes to the better implementation of the CRMF <sup>(92)</sup>.

Percentage of positive replies for BCPs and Customs Laboratories in 2024:

	2024 value	2024 Target	2027 Target
Proportion of National Administrations who report positively on the contribution of the Customs Control Equipment Instrument to the better implementation of the CRMF	95%	<b>60%</b>	<b>80%</b>

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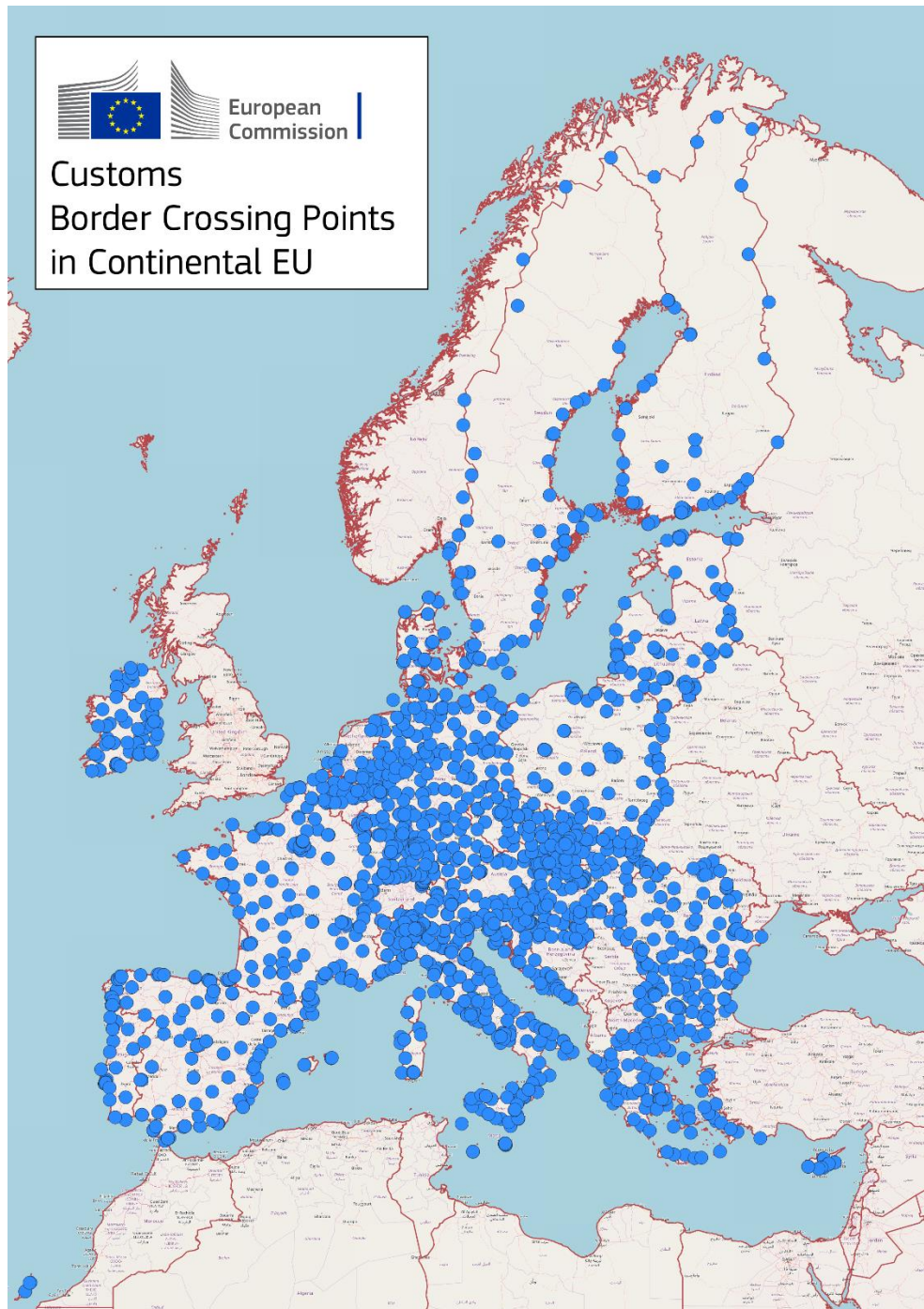
<sup>(91)</sup> The matrix correlating risk/threat and laboratory equipment was adopted at the CCEI Coordination Expert Group meeting on 5 December 2023.

<sup>(92)</sup> Feasibility to report on the indicator on a yearly basis is dependent on consistent cooperation of Customs Risk Management and Customs Controls departments of specific Member States, which may take time to establish. In the meantime, reporting may be less regular.

## 8. ANNEX III: DISTRIBUTION OF BORDER CROSSING POINTS AND CUSTOMS LABORATORIES ACROSS THE EU CUSTOMS UNION

### Distribution of Border Crossing Points across the EU Customs Union

More than 2000 BCPs are located on the EU territory, including more than 1000 points of first entry. The number of BCPs in Member States ranges from 6 to 479, reflecting the asymmetric nature of EU Member States borders.



Source: Customs offices with operational competences referenced in the [CSRD2](#) database.

### Distribution of customs laboratories across the EU Customs Union

80 customs laboratories and 27 mobile laboratories are spread over the 27 EU Member States. The majority has a single central laboratory often located in the capital city or close, while others also have a network of laboratories distributed over their territory and often located in strategic points (e.g., seaports, airports, borders, etc.).



Source: *Customs Laboratories - European Commission*