

Recommendation of the Joint Committee of the Central European Free Trade Agreement

No. 1/2025

On the CEFTA Customs Risk Management Strategy 2025-2028

Adopted on 2 December 2025

The Joint Committee,

Pursuant to Article 40.4 of Annex 1 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement;

With the objective to facilitate free trade in goods;

Following up on the CEFTA Customs Risk Management Strategy 2020-2024;

Has recommended the following:

- The CEFTA Joint Committee invites the CEFTA Parties to implement the CEFTA Customs Risk Management Strategy 2025-2028, as provided in the Annex to this Recommendation.
- The CEFTA Secretariat shall assist the CEFTA Parties in securing adequate funding for the implementation of the CEFTA Risk Management Strategy 2025-2028.

This recommendation shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

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Adopted in Pristina on 2 December 2025, in the presence of all CEFTA Parties.

Annex

CEFTA Customs Risk Management Strategy 2025-2028

Foreword

The development of the **CEFTA Customs Risk Management Strategy, Implementation Roadmap, and Action Plan** has been a structured and collaborative effort aimed at enhancing risk management practices across CEFTA. This document consolidates the work undertaken through extensive consultations, bilateral discussions, and technical assessments to ensure a harmonized and effective risk management framework. The document is divided into three key sections:

1. **The CEFTA Customs Risk Management Strategy** – This section presents the finalized strategy, structured around three core pillars:
 - **Pillar 1: Dual Ring Model** – A layered, intelligence-driven approach to risk assessment and targeting.
 - **Pillar 2: Technology as a Catalyst for Information Retrieval and Augmentation** – Leveraging automation and data-driven decision-making to enhance risk management.
 - **Pillar 3: Capacity Building** – Strengthening the analytical and operational capabilities of CEFTA Customs administrations to ensure sustainable improvements.
2. **Implementation Roadmap** – This section provides a structured pathway for executing the strategy, outlining phased implementation steps, resource requirements, and institutional responsibilities.
3. **Action Plan** – The final section details the concrete steps, timelines, and key performance indicators (KPIs) necessary for operationalizing the strategy and ensuring measurable outcomes.

The CEFTA Customs Risk Management Strategy is designed to enhance cooperation, improve selectivity in risk-based controls, and leverage technology to create a more efficient and secure trade environment. Through the collective efforts of CEFTA administrations, this strategy provides a foundation for continuous improvement and adaptation to emerging risks.

The CEFTA Customs Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2028) aims to strengthen risk-based selectivity and customs cooperation in alignment with EU and CEFTA wide trade facilitation initiatives, particularly the **Common Regional Market (CRM) 2.0 framework**. This strategy builds upon key enhancements identified in the **Comprehensive Roadmap for Enhancing Green Lanes, Improved Customs Cooperation, and Modernization of BCPs/CCPs**, ensuring the modernization of risk management processes.

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CEFTA RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2025-2028

Introduction

The development of the CEFTA Risk Management Strategy 2025-2028 is a result of extensive collaboration, research, and consultation with CEFTA Customs administrations. The strategy is designed to modernize risk management approaches, enhance cooperation, and integrate technological advancements to improve risk-based decision-making processes. This strategy builds upon the successful implementation of the previous strategy published in 2020 “CEFTA Customs Risk Management Strategy – Action Plan – Roadmap 2020-2024”.

Mission

Our mission is to establish a harmonized, intelligence-driven risk management framework that enhances trade security, facilitates legitimate commerce, and strengthens cooperation in CEFTA. By leveraging technology, data analytics, and capacity building, we aim to optimize risk-based decision-making, improve selectivity, and foster a transparent and efficient trade environment.

Vision

Our vision is to create a dynamic and adaptive risk management ecosystem within CEFTA that ensures seamless, secure, and efficient trade operations. By embracing cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence and predictive analytics, fostering crossing collaboration, and continuously enhancing institutional capabilities, we aspire to align with global best practices and EU advancements. This strategy will serve as a foundation for a resilient and future-ready customs environment, where risk-based approaches drive efficiency, compliance, and economic growth across CEFTA.

Pillar 1 - Dual Ring Strategy

Pillar 2 - Technology as a Catalyst for Information Retrieval and Augmentation

Pillar 3 - Capacity Building

Pillar 1 - Dual Ring Strategy

This pillar introduces a **layered risk management model** based on two levels: **alignment with EU advancements** (Inner Ring) and **incorporation of global best practices** (Outer Ring).

Inner Ring: Alignment with EU Advancements

Objective: Ensure CEFTA's customs practices and technologies are in step with EU standards, facilitating smoother integration and cooperation.

Outer Ring: Incorporation of Global Best Practices

Objective: Enhance the customs framework by integrating globally recognized best practices beyond EU standards.

Vision and Goals:

By the end of the strategy period, CEFTA Parties will have made **significant progress** toward a more structured and intelligence-driven risk management approach. Customs administrations will **enhance cooperation**, improve the **exchange of risk-related information**, and **strengthen the use of risk-based controls**. While full integration with EU and global best practices will take time, this strategy will **lay the foundation** for a more harmonized and effective risk assessment system across CEFTA.

Intended Outcomes:

- A more structured approach to risk management, progressively aligning with international standards.
- Improved cooperation and information sharing among CEFTA customs administrations and Other Agencies.
- More effective identification of high-risk consignments while facilitating legitimate trade.
- Gradual improvements in risk assessment methodologies, balancing enforcement and trade facilitation.

Pillar 2 - Technology as a Catalyst for Information Retrieval and Augmentation

Objective: Leverage advanced technologies, including AI and Machine Learning, not just for data analysis but as foundational elements for enhancing the quality and scope of information retrieval and augmentation.

Vision and Goals:

By 2028, CEFTA customs administrations will have **enhanced their technological capabilities** to support risk management efforts. While full-scale AI integration may take longer, administrations will **make better use of data analytics and automation tools** to improve risk assessment. The focus will be on **progressive digitalization**, ensuring that customs administrations have **practical and scalable** solutions tailored to their current capabilities.

Intended Outcomes:

- **Increased use** of data-driven approaches to support risk-based decision-making.
- **Gradual adoption** of automation and digital tools to improve customs selectivity and intelligence sharing.
- Enhanced IT infrastructure to support **more effective** risk management.
- A structured plan for **progressive adoption** of advanced technologies based on capacity of each customs administration.

Pillar 3 - Capacity Building

Objective: Expand the scope of risk management by developing institutional and human resource capabilities to address emerging threats.

Vision and Goals:

By the end of the strategy period, CEFTA customs administrations will have **strengthened their institutional and human resource capabilities** to support risk-based decision-making. Training and knowledge-sharing initiatives will **equip customs officials with the necessary skills** to adapt to emerging challenges. The focus will be on **building expertise over time**, ensuring that customs administrations have the foundation to progressively implement advanced risk management practices.

Intended Outcomes:

- A **structured and continuous** training framework to improve risk management skills.
- Strengthened **collaboration and knowledge sharing** among CEFTA administrations.
- Greater awareness and understanding of risk-based approaches within customs administrations.
- Closer engagement with the private sector to **support compliance and voluntary cooperation**.

Cross-Cutting Themes

The three pillars are interconnected by **cross-cutting themes** to ensure coherence and long-term sustainability:

- **Risk-Based Decision-Making:** Every initiative aligns with a structured risk assessment approach.
- **CEFTA-Wide Coordination:** Maintain a **risk management coordination body** (CEFTA Risk Management Working Group - RMWG) to oversee implementation and progress.
- **Regulatory Harmonization:** Ensuring risk management policies align across CEFTA.
- **Continuous Innovation and Sustainability:** Fostering a culture of continuous improvement and adaptation to emerging risks.

Governance and Coordination Framework

To ensure the successful implementation and oversight of this strategy, the governance structure aligns with the **CEFTA Risk Management Framework**. The following mechanisms will support and oversee risk management efforts across CEFTA:

CEFTA Risk Management Working Group (RMWG)

- Acts as the primary coordinating body for risk management across CEFTA.
- Oversees the development and implementation of the strategy.
- Validates and monitors joint enforcement actions.
- Maintains CEFTA common risk profiles.
- Establish and maintain risk registers.
- Facilitates capacity development and peer learning among CEFTA administrations.
- Serve as the **single liaison** between administrations and CEFTA.
- Share information and analytics with CEFTA bodies, elevating high-risk cases.
- Coordinate the implementation of CEFTA actions and decisions at the local level.
- Identifies capacity-building needs and develops training programs.
- Monitors and evaluates the performance of risk management initiatives.

CEFTA Risk Management Task Team (RMTT) ad-hoc

- Provide **Ad-Hoc** expertise in areas outside typical RM roles (e.g. Phytosanitary, Market Surveillance, Data Scientist, etc.)
- Provides technical expertise to support strategy implementation.
- Conducts advanced risk analysis, risk profiling, and joint action planning.
- Reporting to CEFTA RMWG on any activities conducted.

This governance model ensures **structured collaboration, effective information sharing, and continuous oversight**, enhancing the ability of CEFTA Customs administrations to manage risk more efficiently.

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

The successful implementation of the CEFTA Risk Management Strategy 2024-2028 will be executed in a phased manner, ensuring alignment with governance structures and the capacity of Customs administrations.

Phase	Timeline	Key Focus Areas	Alignment with Strategic Pillars	Expected Outcomes
Phase 1: Establishment of Coordination Structures	2025	Governance, coordination, foundational risk management improvements, initial capacity building	Dual Ring Strategy: Establish governance structures and cooperation frameworks. Technology: Define data-sharing standards and infrastructure needs. Capacity Building: Initial training and knowledge-sharing mechanisms.	Formalized risk management structures, enhanced cooperation in CEFTA, initial steps for data sharing.
Phase 2: Pilot Implementation of Risk Management Enhancements	2025-2026	Testing and refining risk assessment tools, initial digitalization efforts, strengthening selectivity processes	Dual Ring Strategy: Pilot selectivity improvements and risk profiling methods. Technology: Introduce data-driven risk assessment tools in pilot environments. Capacity Building: Develop hands-on training programs based on pilot findings.	Pilot initiatives for data-driven risk profiling, first steps toward automation, early lessons for scaling.
Phase 3: Full Implementation and Institutional Integration	2026-2027	Scaling up risk-based processes, improving interoperability, capacity building for sustainability	Dual Ring Strategy: Broader application of risk-based decision-making. Technology: Strengthen data-sharing mechanisms and improve automation. Capacity Building: Formalize structured training programs.	Broader adoption of risk-based approaches, improved data sharing, formalized training programs.
Phase 4: Review, Adaptation, and Continuous Improvement	2027-2028	Long-term sustainability, refining risk models, addressing new challenges	Dual Ring Strategy: Adjust risk management methodologies based on lessons learned. Technology: Upgrade AI and data analytics capabilities where feasible. Capacity Building: Strengthen training frameworks and future-proof risk management expertise.	Strengthened institutional framework, updated risk assessment methodologies, roadmap for future developments.

Phase 1: Establishment of Coordination Structures (2025)

The first phase focuses on laying the foundation for **enhanced risk management cooperation, governance structures, and capacity-building efforts**. This will ensure that CEFTA Parties have the necessary institutional frameworks, coordination mechanisms, and initial technological infrastructure to support future advancements in risk management.

Focus Area	Strategic Pillar Alignment	Goals for Phase 1
Institutional Setup & Governance	Dual Ring Strategy	Enhance governance structures and coordination mechanisms for CEFTA-wide risk management.
Data & Technology Infrastructure Preparation	Technology as a Catalyst	Assess IT capabilities to support future automation.
Capacity Building & Initial Training	Capacity Building	Provide introductory training on risk-based decision-making and international best practices.
Pilot Testing & Proof of Concept Preparation	Technology as a Catalyst	Identify areas for small-scale pilot initiatives to assess feasibility before broader implementation.
Expected Outcomes by the End of Phase 1:	<p>Governance Structures Enhanced: Formalized roles and responsibilities of Risk Management Task Team (RMTT).</p> <p>Improved Coordination in CEFTA: Strengthened mechanisms for information exchange and joint risk management initiatives.</p> <p>Capacity Assessments Conducted: Evaluations completed to determine the readiness of each CEFTA Party for future AI and automation integration.</p> <p>Initial Training Delivered: Customs officers introduced to modern risk management principles to support progressive adoption.</p>	
Monitoring & Evaluation:	<p>Semi-Annual reviews to track the progress of governance and coordination structures.</p> <p>Assessment of customs administrations' readiness for risk-based approaches.</p> <p>Documentation of lessons learned from early coordination efforts to inform future phases.</p>	

Phase 2: Pilot Implementation of Risk Management Enhancements (2025-2026)

This phase focuses on **testing and refining** risk management approaches through **pilot initiatives**. CEFTA Parties will begin implementing **data-driven risk assessment tools**, improving **risk selectivity**, and **enhancing cooperation mechanisms**. This phase is designed to be **incremental**, ensuring that lessons learned from pilots can inform broader implementation in later phases.

Focus Area	Strategic Pillar Alignment	Goals for Phase 2
Pilot Selectivity Improvements	Dual Ring Strategy	Implement targeted risk-based controls at selected BCPs/CCPs to enhance risk management.
Testing of Data-Driven Risk Profiling Tools	Technology as a Catalyst	Introduce AI-supported risk assessment in selected pilot locations to evaluate feasibility.
Capacity Development Based on Pilot Results	Capacity Building	Train customs officials on risk-based approaches and pilot lessons learned.
Early Digitalization and Automated Risk Identification	Technology as a Catalyst	Deploy initial digital tools for risk identification and explore gradual automation where feasible.
Expected Outcomes by the End of Phase 2:	<p>Pilot Risk Profiling Systems Tested: Small-scale deployment of data-driven selectivity models at selected BCPs/CCPs.</p> <p>Refined Risk Management Approaches: Adjustments made to risk-based processes based on pilot findings.</p> <p>Improved Use of Data for Risk-Based Decisions: Initial integration of data-driven insights into customs operations.</p> <p>Expanded Cooperation in Risk Assessment: Strengthened collaboration across CEFTA in identifying and addressing high-risk shipments.</p> <p>Enhanced Training and Skills Development: Officials trained on pilot findings, preparing them for broader implementation in later phases.</p>	
Monitoring & Evaluation:	<p>Pre- and post-pilot analysis to measure the effectiveness of risk profiling improvements.</p> <p>Performance metrics tracking the impact of digital tools on risk selectivity and customs efficiency.</p> <p>Feedback loops for continuous improvement, ensuring that pilot lessons shape Phase 3 implementation.</p>	

Phase 3: Full Implementation and Institutional Integration (2026-2027)

This phase focuses on **scaling up** the risk management improvements tested in Phase 2, integrating them into **customs procedures across CEFTA**. The emphasis is on **broader adoption of risk-based approaches, strengthening data-sharing mechanisms, and formalizing training programs** to ensure sustainability.

Focus Area	Strategic Pillar Alignment	Goals for Phase 3
Broader Application of Risk-Based Decision-Making	Dual Ring Strategy	Expand risk-based selectivity processes across more BCPs/CCPs.
Strengthened Data-Sharing and Risk Intelligence Mechanisms	Technology as a Catalyst	Enhance interoperability and coordination among CEFTA customs administrations.
Formalized Training Programs	Capacity Building	Establish a structured, sustainable capacity-building program for customs officials.
Gradual Expansion of Automated Risk Profiling	Technology as a Catalyst	Build on pilot successes to refine and expand digital risk management tools.
Expected Outcomes by the End of Phase 3:	<p>Risk-Based Selectivity Operational in More Locations: Broader application of data-driven risk management across customs administrations.</p> <p>Sustained Cooperation in CEFTA: Risk information sharing formalized through structured mechanisms.</p> <p>Improved IT Interoperability: Enhanced connectivity between risk assessment systems to ensure more effective targeting.</p> <p>Permanent Training Structures Established: Customs officials regularly trained through a structured capacity-building framework.</p> <p>Automation Where Feasible: Practical, scalable AI-supported tools integrated based on customs administration readiness.</p>	
Monitoring & Evaluation:	<p>Tracking of risk-based selectivity improvements across more BCPs/CCPs.</p> <p>Evaluation of data-sharing effectiveness in CEFTA.</p> <p>Assessment of training programs, ensuring knowledge retention and application.</p> <p>Continuous feedback loop, preparing for refinements in Phase 4.</p>	

Phase 4: Review, Adaptation, and Continuous Improvement (2027-2028)

This final phase ensures that the **CEFTA Risk Management Strategy remains adaptable and sustainable** by continuously refining risk models, strengthening institutional frameworks, and addressing emerging challenges. The focus is on evaluating past implementation efforts, making necessary adjustments, and developing a roadmap for the **next phase of risk management improvements** beyond 2028.

Focus Area	Strategic Pillar Alignment	Goals for Phase 4
Assessment of Risk Management Performance	Dual Ring Strategy	Evaluate the effectiveness of risk-based selectivity and adjust methodologies.
Ongoing Refinement of Risk Models and Processes	Technology as a Catalyst	Update data-driven risk assessment tools based on performance reviews.
Long-Term Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening	Capacity Building	Enhance governance structures and training frameworks for sustainability.
Identification of Future Priorities and Roadmap Development	Dual Ring Strategy & Technology as a Catalyst	Establish the foundation for next-generation risk management initiatives.
Expected Outcomes by the End of Phase 4:	<p>Comprehensive Review Completed: Evaluation of risk management strategy performance, with key lessons documented.</p> <p>Risk Management Models Improved: Adjustments made to risk assessment tools based on real-world implementation feedback.</p> <p>Institutional Framework Strengthened: Governance structures refined to ensure long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Future Roadmap Defined: A strategic direction for post-2028 risk management improvements developed.</p> <p>Capacity-Building Formalized: Training programs integrated into customs programs for ongoing professional development.</p>	

Monitoring & Evaluation:	Performance assessments of risk management methodologies , identifying areas for improvement. Stakeholder consultations to ensure broad-based feedback is incorporated into future strategies. Evaluation of training program effectiveness and adjustments for long-term sustainability. Final strategy report outlining progress, lessons learned, and future priorities.
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Monitoring and Evaluation

For each phase, the following **M&E mechanisms** will ensure progress tracking, risk mitigation, and alignment with CEFTA objectives:

- **Progress reports**, when available, exchanged between the RMWG and CEFTA Secretariat.
- **Semi-annual performance reviews** using key indicators (e.g., risk selectivity efficiency, clearance time improvements).
- **Annual risk management audits** assessing adherence to CEFTA risk protocols and strategy goals.
- **Feedback loops** for iterative improvements, ensuring best practices are incorporated in real-time.
- **Document Lessons learned** from Action Plan activities

Resource Allocation

Successful implementation of this strategy requires **targeted investment** in key areas to ensure effective risk management and enhanced operational capacity. These areas include:

- **Technology:** Procurement of AI-driven risk assessment software, secure data-sharing platforms, and cognitive analytics tools to improve efficiency and decision-making.
- **Human Resources:** Expansion of risk management units, recruitment of data scientists, and provision of specialized AI and cybersecurity training to strengthen expertise.
- **Training & Capacity Building:** Development of workshops, e-learning platforms, and on-the-job training programs to equip customs officers with necessary skills.
- **Infrastructure:** Upgrading IT networks to support real-time data exchange and ensure interoperability between CEFTA risk management systems.

The purpose of this strategy is also to understand what resources are needed for successful implementation. Understanding where investments are needed is essential when seeking funding and support from relevant institutions, donors, and development partners.

Risk Assessment

- **Emerging Threats:** Regular updates to risk profiles based on trade patterns, geopolitical shifts, and enforcement results.
- **Risk Scoring Adjustments:** Machine learning algorithms continuously refine risk indicators to improve selectivity accuracy.
- **Cybersecurity & Data Integrity:** Implementation of encryption standards and monitoring tools to safeguard sensitive customs data.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Ongoing alignment with **WCO, WTO, and EU risk management standards** to ensure international recognition.

ACTION PLAN

Short-Term Actions (2025-2026) – Laying the Foundation					
#	Activity	Pillar	Green lanes and CRM 2.0 Alignment	Participating Entities	KPIs
S1	Finalize the CEFTA Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan and ensure adoption.	All	Upgrade of CEFTA Strategy on Risk Management (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	CEFTA Secretariat	Strategy adopted by the CEFTA Joint Committee recommendation.
S2	Define the activities of the CEFTA Risk Management Task Team as an ad-hoc group created for specific activities, ensuring progressive alignment with EU risk management standards.	Dual Ring Strategy	Strengthening customs and tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 – 1.3)	CEFTA Secretariat, Customs Administrations	RM TT established as needed.
S3	Conduct a CEFTA-wide assessment of existing risk management frameworks, including Customs-Other Agencies cooperation, to identify gaps in aligning with the EU IBM framework.	Dual Ring Strategy	Horizontal trade measures – risk management (CRM 2.0 – 3.1.2)	RMWG, Customs Administrations, Other Agencies	Risk management gap assessment completed.
S4	Assessment of the staffing capacities and training needs. Capacity- and trust-building programs for CEFTA customs administrations, deepening collaboration between CEFTA and EU MS.	Capacity Building	Green Lanes Activity #4	RMWG, Customs Administrations, EU MS	All CEFTA customs administrations assessed.
S5	Establish Monitoring & Evaluation Dashboard for CEFTA to highlight	All	Strengthening customs and	CEFTA Secretariat	Dashboard established by end of 2025.

	progress of the Action Plan activities.		tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3)		
S6	Develop harmonized risk profiling criteria for customs selectivity and targeting, integrating Other Agencies controls where feasible, and align with international best practices, integrating elements of the EU Risk Information Form (RIF) system.	Dual Ring Strategy	Strengthening customs and tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3) Green Lanes & Risk Management (3.1.2)	RMWG, Risk Management Task Team (RMTT)	Standardized risk profiling model agreed upon by at least 50% of CEFTA Parties.
S7	Enhance SEED+ functionalities for structured risk information sharing. Define a long-term goal of full integration with EU risk management platforms, including phased milestones for data harmonization, regulatory alignment, and interoperability testing.	Technology as a Catalyst	CEFTA SEED+ Enhancements (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	CEFTA Secretariat, RMWG	SEED+ updated with improved risk data exchange (e.g. weighting of trucks, VAT refunds, scanner images).
S8	Maintaining existing electronic exchange of pre-arrival information (SEED+) from CEFTA to participating EU MS, expansion to all crossings and establishing data matching and sharing findings from EU to CEFTA.	Technology as a Catalyst	Green Lanes Activity #2, CEFTA SEED+ Enhancements (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	CEFTA Secretariat, RMWG	SEED+ updated with improved risk data exchange.
S9	Launch pilot risk-based selectivity measures at selected BCPs/CCPs to test new risk management methodologies, with participation from	Technology as a Catalyst	Green Lanes and risk management (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	Customs Administrations, RMWG, Other Agencies	At least two pilot projects launched with multi-agency participation.

	Other Agencies if possible.				
S10	Establishing electronic exchange of pre-arrival information (SEED+) at the remaining crossing points with the EU MS.	Technology as a Catalyst, Dual Ring Strategy	Green Lanes Activity #3, Green Lanes and risk management (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	Customs Administrations, RMWG, EU MS	At least six crossing points with EU MS established.
S11	Implement sharing of Inspection Reports as feedback on implementation of Common Risk Profiles. (Further alignment with the EU RM framework and to CRMS2.)	Dual Ring Strategy	Green Lanes and risk management (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	Customs Administrations, RMWG	At least one CEFTA customs administration sends data automatically to SEED.
S12	Develop training programs for Customs and Other Agencies officers on risk-based selectivity and digital tools.	Capacity Building	Capacity Building for Customs (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	RMWG, Customs Administrations	Training Program developed.
S13	Define a framework for inter-agency risk management cooperation (Customs-Other Agencies), incorporating lessons from EU inter-agency cooperation models such as DG TAXUD guidelines.	Dual Ring Strategy	Strengthening Customs Cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3)	RMWG, Customs Administrations, Other Agencies	Framework developed and endorsed by relevant CEFTA administrations.
S14	Define a Market Research activity so private sector companies can showcase their technologies as it applies to Risk Management.	Capacity Building	Capacity Building for Customs (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	RMWG, Customs Administrations	Market Activity completed.

Medium-Term Actions (2026-2027) – Expanding Implementation					
#	Activity	Pillar	Green lanes and CRM 2.0 Alignment	Participating Entities	KPIs
M1	Expand risk-based selectivity measures to additional BCPs/CCPs based on pilot results, incorporating Other Agencies cooperation, ensuring progressive compatibility with EU risk-based controls.	Dual Ring Strategy	Green Lanes and risk management (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	Customs Administrations, RMWG, Other Agencies	Risk-based controls implemented in at least five BCPs/CCPs in CEFTA.
M2	Define and establish the appropriate regulatory framework for improved customs cooperation between CEFTA and EU	Dual Ring Strategy, Technology as a Catalyst	Green Lanes #1, Strengthening customs and tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3), Digitalization & Paperless Trade (CRM 2.0 - 3.2.1)	Customs Administrations, RMWG, Other Agencies	Regulatory Framework for two-way data exchange between CEFTA and EU defined.
M3	Define and establish the appropriate regulatory framework for recognition of AEOs and establishment of key performance indicators for the control of goods (compliance with EU standards) and cooperation in the fight against fraud.	Dual Ring Strategy, Technology as a Catalyst	Green Lanes #1, Strengthening customs and tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3), Digitalization & Paperless Trade (CRM 2.0 - 3.2.1)	Customs Administrations, RMWG,	AEO Recognition Regulatory Framework defined.
M4	Implement sharing of Inspection protocols such as guidelines and checklists. (Aligning with EU practices)	Dual Ring Strategy	Green Lanes and risk management (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	Customs Administrations, RMWG, EU MS	At least two CEFTA customs administrations sharing Inspection Protocols.
M5	Pilot AI-based risk targeting models for high-risk trade lanes.	Technology as a Catalyst	Emerging Technologies in Customs (CRM 2.0 - 3.2.1)	Customs Administrations, RMWG, CEFTA Secretariat	AI risk models tested.
M6	Conduct training programs for Customs	Capacity Building	Capacity Building for	RMWG, Customs Administrations	14+ Customs & Other Agencies

	and Other Agencies officers on risk-based selectivity, joint risk management methodologies and digital tools.		Customs (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2), Strengthening customs and tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3)		officials trained.
M7	Ensure IT system interoperability for Customs-Other Agencies risk data sharing.	Technology as a Catalyst	Digitalization & Paperless Trade (CRM 2.0 - 3.2.1) CEFTA SEED+ Enhancements (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	CEFTA Secretariat, Customs Administrations	Administrations connected for risk data exchange.
M8	Integrate emerging risk management threats (e.g., health crises, cybersecurity, illicit trade) into customs risk models.	Dual Ring Strategy, Technology as a Catalyst	Addressing global risks in trade (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	RMWG, Risk Analysts	CEFTA-wide risk profiles include emerging threats.
M9	Explore the possibility of developing an inter-agency risk information-sharing mechanism for integrated risk management, ensuring compatibility with EU procedures.	Dual Ring Strategy, Technology as a Catalyst	Digitalization & Paperless Trade (CRM 2.0 - 3.2.1)	CEFTA Secretariat, Customs Administrations, Other Agencies	Multi-agency risk information platform reviewed.

Long-Term Actions (2027-2028) – Standardization and Sustainability

#	Activity	Pillar	Green lines and CRM 2.0 Alignment	Participating Entities	KPIs
L1	Implement risk assessment of digitalized LPCOs (Licenses, Permits, Certificates and Other Documents) throughout CEFTA.	Technology as a Catalyst	Digitalization & Paperless Trade (CRM 2.0 - 3.2.1)	Customs Administrations, RMWG, Other Agencies	Digital risk assessment of LPCO fully operational.
L2	Ensure risk profiling models continuously adapt to new threats (e.g., cybersecurity, fraud, illicit trade, health risks) based on updates from EU risk assessment guidelines.	Technology as a Catalyst, Dual Ring Strategy,	Emerging Technologies in Customs (CRM 2.0 - 3.2.1)	Customs Administrations, RMWG, Other Agencies	CEFTA-wide risk models updated periodically.
L3	Formalize integrated risk management within CEFTA regulatory frameworks, progressively aligning with EU risk-based control practices.	Dual Ring Strategy	Strengthening customs and tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3)	CEFTA Secretariat, RMWG,	Integrated Risk Management approach officially adopted.
L4	Develop a permanent CEFTA Risk Information Hub to centralize multi-agency risk data analysis, structured to be compatible with EU risk management platforms.	Dual Ring Strategy, Technology as a Catalyst	Strengthening customs and tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3)	CEFTA Secretariat, Customs Administrations, Other Agencies	Risk Information Hub operational with 50% of CEFTA Parties participating.
L5	Conduct a post-implementation review of risk-based selectivity effectiveness , aligning with similar reports performed by EU MS.	Capacity Building	Addressing global risks in trade (CRM 2.0 - 3.1.2)	RMWG, CEFTA Secretariat	Final evaluation report published.
L6	Ensure application of risk-based selectivity throughout CEFTA with Customs-Other Agencies coordination, ensuring full compatibility with EU customs risk frameworks.	Dual Ring Strategy	Strengthening customs and tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3)	CEFTA Secretariat, RMWG	Joint risk-based selectivity implemented throughout CEFTA.

L7	Granting priority passage for certain economic operators between CEFTA and EU (e.g. AEOs, perishable goods).	Dual Ring Strategy	Strengthening customs and tax cooperation (CRM 2.0 - 1.3) Green Lanes #11	CEFTA Secretariat, Customs Administrations, Other Agencies	Priority passage granted to 300 AEOs.
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Implementation Timeline¹

Activity		2025				2026				2027				2028			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
S1	Finalize the CEFTA Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan																
S2	Define the activities of the CEFTA Risk Management Task Team as an ad-hoc group																
S3	Conduct CEFTA-wide assessment of risk management frameworks																
S4	Assessment of the staffing capacities and training needs																
S5	Establish Monitoring & Evaluation Dashboard for CEFTA																
S6	Develop harmonized risk profiling criteria																
S7	Enhance SEED+ functionalities for structured risk intelligence sharing																
S8	Maintaining existing electronic exchange of pre-arrival information (SEED+) from CEFTA to participating EU MS.																
S9	Launch pilot risk-based selectivity measures at selected BCPs/CCPs																
S10	Establishing electronic exchange of pre-arrival information (SEED+) at the remaining crossing points with the EU																
S11	Implement sharing of Inspection Reports as feedback of implementation of Common Risk Profiles.																
S12	Develop training programs for Customs and Other Agencies officers.																

¹ The timeline is tentative and subject to change.

Activity		2025				2026				2027				2028			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
S13	Define framework for inter-agency risk management cooperation																
S14	Define a Market Research activity so private sector companies can showcase their technologies.																
M1	Expand risk-based selectivity measures																
M2	Define and establish the appropriate regulatory framework for improved customs cooperation between CEFTA and EU																
M3	Define and establish the appropriate regulatory framework for recognition of AEOs																
M4	Implement sharing of Inspection protocols																
M5	Pilot AI-based risk targeting models for high-risk trade lanes																
M6	Conduct training programs for Customs and Other Agencies officers on risk-based selectivity.																
M7	Ensure IT system interoperability for Customs-Other Agencies risk data sharing.																
M8	Integrate emerging risk management threats into customs risk models.																
M9	Explore the possibility of developing an inter-agency risk information-sharing mechanism for integrated risk management																
L1	Implement risk assessment of digitalized LPCOs (Licenses, Permits, Certificates and Other Documents)																

Activity		2025				2026				2027				2028			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
L2	Ensure risk profiling models continuously adapt to new threats (e.g., cybersecurity, fraud, illicit trade, health risks) based on updates from EU risk assessment guidelines.																
L3	Formalize integrated risk management within CEFTA regulatory frameworks.																
L4	Develop a permanent CEFTA Risk Information Hub to centralize multi-agency risk data analysis.																
L5	Conduct a post-implementation review of risk-based selectivity effectiveness, aligning with similar reports performed by EU MS.																
L6	Ensure application of risk-based selectivity throughout CEFTA with Customs-Other Agencies coordination, ensuring full compatibility with EU customs risk frameworks.																
L7	Granting priority passage for certain economic operators between CEFTA and EU.																