

Open Regional Fund Foreign Trade (ORF FT)

LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

The cooperation and partnership between the Open Regional Fund Foreign Trade and CEFTA dates back to 2009. The initial cooperation was mainly focused on transparency issues, with a gradual shift towards supporting CEFTA Parties in undertaking trade reforms in the region.

SUCCESS

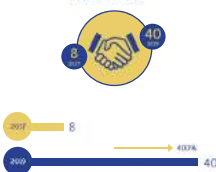
The reforms achieved between 2017 and 2020 with support of the GIZ ORF FT project, contributed to an increased number of simplifications of border procedures introduced and integrated in the regional level, which allows for a faster and simpler trade of goods in the region.

1

Mutual Recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO)

In 2017 only 2 CEFTA parties implemented the AEO scheme on a national level. By the end of 2019, there were 4 parties with systems fully harmonized with EU standards. The remaining 3 parties are in the process of establishing and operationalising the AEO programme. The procedure for Mutual Recognition of AEOs has been developed and piloted in 4 parties and is ready for full implementation.

Number of AEOs



2

Common Risk Management (RM) Framework

In 2017, all CEFTA Parties based their RM systems on national controls and information. By the end of 2019, a significant effort had been invested in harmonizing RM systems within the CEFTA region. On a regional level, 26 common risk profiles were created and piloted for all CEFTA parties. Most importantly, a Joint Regional Risk Management Strategy, Action Plan and Road Map were developed and adopted to secure to facilitate legitimate trade within the region.



Joint regional Strategy



Action Plan



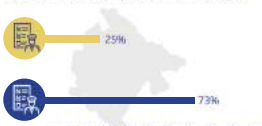
Road Map for Risk Management

3

Pre-arrival processing for express consignments

In 2017, pre-arrival processing for express consignments has been put in place and started operating in all CEFTA parties. In Montenegro, for example, clearance times at the borders have been cut in half.

In Montenegro shipments released in the first hour from arrival to the airport/country have risen from 25% to 73%.



4

Advance Rulings (AR)

The AR tool gives businesses more legal certainty in tariff and origin determination. Regional integration has been established through joint online database of valid BTIs (Binding Tariff Information) from all CEFTA Parties. This database can be accessed at: <https://transparency.cefta.int/bti/btignid>

The total number of issued ARs within WB 6 CEFTA Parties has increased from 537 in 2016 to 797 in 2019.

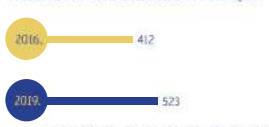


5

Approved Exporter (AE)

The AE is a simplified customs procedure which reduces time and number of documents required for export. Instead of requesting customs administrations for proof of origin for each export, the company simply declares the origin of the product on the invoice.

The number of companies with AE status has substantially increased from 412 in 2016 to 523 in 2019, in the WB6 region.



6

Mutual Recognition of Certificates for Fruits and Vegetables

The framework for Mutual Recognition of certificates for Fruit and vegetables was developed and adopted on the CEFTA level and aligned with the latest EU legislation, adopted on the EU level in December 2021.

Risk-based approach has been introduced for fruit and vegetables shipments. Rules and border formalities are harmonised.



7

Regional Business Advisory Group (RBAG) for Vegetables and Iron&Steel

An initiative for increased participation of the business community in addressing obstacles affecting trade within the region has been established for two sectors. RBAG was assembled in 2018 to provide support to decision makers to gain insight from the private sector on the impact of current or future policies on business development.

Increased involvement of the voice of the private sector in the regional decision-making process



CEFTA Region Exports
2016 – 2017 – 2018

