

Country: Greece

Background:

Type of body: National Trade Facilitation Committee

Official name: Operational Steering Committee

Motivation for its establishment: The need for the maximum coordination and cooperation of the stakeholders for implementing the 25 actions regarding Trade Facilitation described in the National Trade Facilitation Strategy and Roadmap, published in November 2012.

Year of establishment: 2012

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: Ministry of Development

Former multi-agency group/committee: No

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): Running

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: Act of Cabinet

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): *Ad hoc* group

Scope/mandate: The implementation, monitoring and coordination of actions of the National Strategy and the Roadmap for Trade Facilitation.

Terms of reference: No

Coordinating agency: Ministry of Development-National Committee for Extroversion.

Working structure of the group:

Coordinator and alternate coordinator; and

Four subgroups (Customs, Business Process Analysis, Information and Communication Technology, Agricultural issues).

Permanent technical secretariat: The Operational Steering Committee is supported by a Technical Support Team, including project managers and secretaries. The team is hosted by the Directorate-General for International Economic Policy of the Ministry of Development.

Funding:

Budget: Only a certain amount covering very basic operational needs of the Operational Steering Committee, including hardware/IT facilities, software tools, organisation of meetings, communication needs (web presence, organisation of events, etc), experts invitations among others.

Sources of funding: EU structural fund and national funds.

Items covered by the budget: Very basic operational needs of the Operational Steering Committee.

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: Implementing the specific action of the Roadmap.

Working plan: Yes

Monitoring and evaluation: Reporting of the permanent and the ad-hoc sub groups to the Operational Steering Committee.

Reporting form and supervisory authority: Reporting to the Operational Steering Committee every 15 days

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies:

Ministry of Finance;
Ministry of Development;
Ministry of Agriculture;
Ministry of International Affairs; and
Hellenic Exports Promotion Organisation.

Private associations or entities:

Hellenic Federation of Enterprises;
Chamber of Exporters;
Association of Custom Brokers; and
Association of Freight Forwarders.

Level of seniority of participants: Advisers to the ministers, high level staff of the ministries, members of the board of the private associations.

Participation:

Frequency of meetings:

Plenary session takes place every 15 days; and
Working groups meet more often.

Meetings format: No

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: A permanent and stable communication system, including a website, will be set up.

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: Participation of group members in similar committees such as the Committee for Logistics.

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: No

Benefits:

Impact:

Amendment of legislation in various issues;

Improvement in organisational and management issues, regarding exporting procedures and controls; and

Increase of the level of confidence between stakeholders.

Concrete operational outcomes: Business Process Analysis studies, Legislation changes among other.

Lessons learned:

Greatest obstacles:

Existing economic crisis and the significant wage cuts; and

Resistance to change of certain agencies. It seems extremely difficult to bring fundamental changes in areas where things remained stable for a long time.

These factors have made the officer from certain agencies very reluctant and suspicious in any attempt of change.

Lessons learned from your experience: Teamwork, cooperation, and coordination of various stakeholders and agencies.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: Plan and financing of actions.

Contact information:

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