NEW TRENDS IN DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA’S ECONOMIC BORDER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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Implementation and development of information systems is a very important aspect for all fields and especially for the customs system. Development of information systems at the economic border of Georgia is one of the strategic directions of the country. The activities of Georgia Revenue Service under the Ministry of Finance has become more transparent due to the development of information technologies.

There were no information systems implemented in the customs system of Georgia before 1996. Declarations for imported and exported products were filled in by hand or by means of printing machines.

The Government of Georgia has been carrying out a course of radical and irreversible reforms since 2003. Economic reforms have already been implemented in different areas, including the customs system of the country. A central database has been operating throughout the country since 2004. Simultaneously, ordinary customers as well as members of the administrative group have been offered the opportunity to take part in trainings, instruction courses and seminars. The country has been looking after the development of IT systems security, portals’ functional enhancement and implementation of the authentication system. Appropriate computer-aided jobs were created for officers occupying various posts. The taxpayer and tax administration systems have also been improved. Besides, databases have been normalized (the first stage of the normalization process was carried out within the scope of the project aimed at creating a common database). Other appropriate tasks have also been fulfilled.

With the assistance of the World Bank, US Government and European Union computer and network equipment, as well as software complying with the technical and system requirements of the new system were purchased.

At the Revenue Service installation of the equipment, complete utilization of the existing system by means of all modules, net extension and connection of the structure and all offices under the Operational Investigative Service using better communication means was carried out on a phased basis. A new strategy for informational security and data access levels was designed within the scope of the common information system. A new portal (www.rs.ge) was developed to make it possible for taxpayers to submit appropriate forms and declarations to the agencies under the Revenue Service.
Infrastructure corresponding with the modern standards that operates throughout the country has been already set.

So far, the following information systems dealing with crossing economic border have been operating in the Revenue Service under the Finance Ministry of Georgia:

- ASYCUDA World (the modernized version ASYCUDA World was implemented after the ASYCUDA system);
- Personal Identification and Registration System – PIRS;
- State Financial Management Information System.

All procedures connected with customs clearance are automated by means of ASYCUDA information system implemented throughout the agencies of the Revenue Service by an international group of experts. ASYCUDA is an automated system of customs data created within the scope of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference of Trade and Development). The first stage of the system installation was over in 2004. The platform ASYCUDA is based upon the world experience. ASYCUDA is an information system fully ensuring automation of all procedures connected with customs registration at the agencies of the Revenue Service. The platform ASYCUDA is organized so as to make identical all the processes of customs registration, corresponding procedures, nomenclatorial and tax databases throughout Georgia. At the same time any procedure carried out at any of the agencies is immediately reflected in the existing ASYCUDA server of the Revenue Service. This makes it possible to fully control the procedures. It's important that at the Revenue Service of the Finance Ministry a risk management system has been implemented by means of automated system ASYCUDA since 2007. The risk management system turned out to be successful as far as it made possible to reduce the time necessary for carrying out registration procedures.

The Personal Identification and Registration System (PIRS) is used in the portals of Georgia’s economic border where the economic border of the country is crossed. The system reflects information about passengers crossing the border and vehicles that cross the border empty. The system involves scanned travel documents, photos, passport and other data having a high-capacity control mechanism.

At all levels of the Finance Ministry functions a state financial management information system. Due to the system operating at all levels of the Ministry, all the officers working for the Finance Ministry of Georgia have access to the certain modules of the common base according to their functions and responsibilities. A module for tax violations of resident and non-resident persons and a module for simplified declaration registration of packages (procedures for simplified declaration registration of packages are carried out by means of the web site www.mof.ge) mainly function for the economic border.

Different legislative acts have been consolidated in Georgia since January 1, 2011. The Customs and Tax Codes have turned into a single act. It shall be mentioned, that in the current legislation of Georgia there is no term "customs" used.
After reaching compliance with all international standards established for procedures meant to carry out control over import, the supply of services turned out to be another problem. A whole number of works was carried out with this respect. Economic zones for registration were created within the scope of the country's new course towards offering fair, simple and reliable tax system to business.

It is worth mentioning that the automated information and consultation system is available on the official site of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia (www.mof.ge). The site provides its visitors with detailed information necessary to register products to be imported in Georgia, as well as legislation and e-calculators to calculate taxes for different goods, help information, etc. A web portal (www.rs.ge) of the Revenue Service has already been created to spare the time and energy as well as financial expenditures and labor of taxpayers.

During the recent years the achievement of the Revenue Service under the Finance Ministry of Georgia have become rather distinguished. Particularly, the implementation of the information systems and their proper functioning within the Revenue Service has made the activities of the Service transparent and successful.

Georgia’s co-operation (within the scope of various projects) with Ukraine and V4 countries will influence the exchange of experience among the countries, deepen the Euro-integration and collaboration in the international, border protection and other fields. Besides, the co-operation of the type will help to make contribution to building security in Europe.

Abstract

Implementation and development of information systems is a very important aspect for all fields and especially for the customs system. Development of information systems at the economic border of Georgia is one of the strategic directions of Georgia. The activities of Georgia Revenue Service under the Ministry of Finance has become more transparent due to the development of information technologies.

There were no information systems implemented in the customs system of Georgia before 1996. Declarations for imported and exported products were filled in by hand or by means of printing machines. Today trade declarations are filled in and registered in the online regime. A web portal (www.rs.ge) of the Revenue Service has already been created. The portal helps to save time and energy of taxpayers, as well as their financial expenditures and labor.

Different legislative acts have been consolidated in Georgia since January 1, 2011. The Customs and Tax Codes have turned into a single act. It shall be mentioned, that in the current legislation of Georgia there is no term "customs" used.

Interstate procedures have been simplified due to implementation and improvement of the economic border information systems (ASYCUDA World, Personal Identification and Registration System) operating within the Revenue Service under the Ministry of Finance of Georgia. The fact is one of high importance for Georgia and for the V4 countries.
Georgia’s co-operation (within the scope of various projects) with Ukraine and V4 countries will influence the exchange of experience among the countries, deepen the Euro-integration and collaboration in international, border protection and other fields. Besides, the co-operation of the type will help to make contribution to building security in Europe.

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