



Welcome PEN-CP community and network: consortium partners; all customs administrations; innovators and researchers; and all other public and private sector stakeholders in Europe and globally. Boosting customs innovations is what we do, ever since the year 2018! Below is a brief summary of the key PEN-CP activities and initiatives, selected from the past few months. All questions, comments and suggestions can be sent to Valentina Scioneri, CBRA Switzerland, valentina@cross-border.org , Tel & Whatsapp: +393341598179, www.pen-cp.net

1. PEN-CP Innovation Grant (PING) calls - make your submission latest by 1 June 2024!

Four exciting PING calls were announced in March 2024, targeting all innovative companies and research organisations out there, with a submission deadline of 1 June 2024:

- **PING-2024-1-Dark-Web:** Dark web monitoring to counter illicit trade in New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs), firearms and other contraband
- **PING-2024-2-Cannabinoids:** Enhanced handheld instruments for accurate measurement of cannabinoid levels in hemp and cannabis products
- **PING-2024-3-Biodegradable-Plastics:** A Software tool and database to help customs officers verify the declared biodegradability of plastics
- **PING-2024-4-Passenger-Drugs:** Fast non-intrusive screening of passenger flows to detect and deter body-worn drugs

For more information on each of the PING calls, click [here](#)

2. Pencasts aired

Recent podcast conversations with Customs innovation trend-setters and forward thinkers aired include:

- **Dr. Zsolt Dézi, Senior Training Expert at the National Tax and Customs Administration of Hungary**, talks about the remarkable history of Hungarian (and Austro-Hungarian) customs, some of the most dramatic moments of his career, and the key challenges for the next generation of customs officers at national and EU levels. Part 1 of 2, click [here](#)
- **Ashley Bell, Assistant Secretary for Customs and Border Modernization at the Australian Border Force**. Prior to joining the ABF, Mr. Bell served in important roles in the Australian Treasury, including director and senior advisor in the markets group; and as a senior Treasury representative and senior economic diplomat in New Delhi. Part 2 of 3, click [here](#)
- **Kunio Mikuriya, former Secretary General of the World Customs Organization, and high-level member of the Japanese Ministry of Finance**. Earlier in his career, Dr. Mikuriya served as Counsellor in Japan's Mission to the WTO and as a negotiator for Japan during

the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations. Part 2 of 2, click [here](#)

- **Edward Kieswetter, Commissioner of SARS (South African Revenue Service) and Chairperson of the World Customs Organization**, shares his background and his path to customs leadership in South Africa. Kieswetter emphasizes the need for a transformational modernization plan at the WCO and South African levels, focusing on inclusivity and partnerships. Part 1 of 2, click [here](#)

3. Penblogs published

Blog posts provide additional materials, links and other viewpoints on some of the themes of our Pencasts, as well as on events PEN-CP experts have joined. Recent posts included:

- Transcript of **Pencast with Dr. Kunio Mikuriya**, click [here](#)
- A transcript of the **Pencast with MEP Dragoş Tudorache**, together with further materials on the vitally important EU AI Act, click [here](#)

4. Penday guests

Our monthly online seminars, known as Pendays, regularly feature distinguished guest speakers to share their insights on latest and greatest on “Customs Innovations, Innovative Customs”:

- The Future of Customs: The Role of AI in Enhancing Efficiency and Resiliency, by **Greg Pilkington** – Customs GPT website (requires subscription), click [here](#)
- Experiences of the Dutch Customs during the first EBSI (European Blockchain Services Infrastructure) ELSA (European Logistics Services Authentication) blockchain pilot, by **Elliot Donata, Dutch Customs administration**, for a reference click [here](#)
- Next phase of the project, by **Nicolas Hauw, EUIPO** (European Union Intellectual Property Office). “Around 6 % of imported products in the EU are fake. This has dire consequences on the economy, the environment and citizens’ health and security.”, for a reference click [here](#)

For listing of all Penday guests since year 2021, click [here](#)

5. ‘Customs researchers’ recordings in YouTube

Customs researchers four playlists in our YouTube channel have new submissions – please check them out:

- **Playlist 1 on past research:** Abdullayeva (article_2023). Impact of customs expertise on economic security, click [here](#)
- **Playlist 2 on new studies:** Join the on-going Annual Study: Enhancing Customs Operations through Artificial Intelligence, click [here](#)
- **Playlist 3 on faculty research agendas:** Morini (multi_study...2023): Trade policy x Customs policy: Are they the same? How entangled?, click [here](#)
- **Playlist 4 on past (bigger) research and innovation projects:** EU H2020 project PROFILE (2018-22), click [here](#)

Are you personally working on Customs research? Please send an email to johan@cross-border.org and discuss submitting your own recording to our YouTube channel - global Customs audience is eager to learn about your research ambitions and results!

6. Follow us online

Please subscribe to our YouTube channel & join our LinkedIn group & follow us in X (Twitter), to broaden the reach and impact of PEN-CP and its network:

- Subscribe to our **YouTube channel**. Press the black “Subscribe” button, click [here](#)
- Send a request to join our **LinkedIn group** “Innovative Customs and Border Management”, click [here](#)
- Follow us on **X (former Twitter)**, click [here](#)

EU H2020 project PEN-CP, www.pen-cp.net

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