



# PEN-CP Monthly Digest - June 2024

Pan-European Network of  
Customs Practitioners



**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](mailto:valentina@cross-border.org) , Tel & Whatsapp: +393341598179, [www.pen-cp.net](http://www.pen-cp.net)**

## **1. PEN-CP Innovation Grant (PING) calls - total of 12 submissions received by the 1 June deadline!**

We are in the process of evaluating the submissions, selecting the winners and preparing the project contracts - more updates to follow in Pendigest July 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 2 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 3 of 3, 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 2 of 2, click [here](#)

### 3. Events joined

Time-to-time, PEN-CP experts join various European and global customs innovation, supply chain security and other relevant events, as speakers and panellists.

- **Workshop on Impact of Climate Change on Security Practitioners**, in Brussels, Belgium, organised on 21 May by CERIS, the Community for European Research and Innovation for Security. At the event, PEN-CP presented the upcoming Annual Study on Green Customs, providing an initial look into the Green Customs framework and its five case studies. The presentation was part of Panel 3: Impact on the practitioners' business model. Over 30 PEN-CP leaflets were also distributed to the participants. For more information, click [here](#)

### 4. Pendency guests

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

- Horizon Europe project "**PARSEC - Parcel and Letter Security for Postal and Express Courier Flows**" project mid-way updates (after 18 months), by Trevor Francis, Project Technical Manager, UK Border Force, click [here](#)
- Horizon Europe project "**METEOR - Transforming cargo screening for a safer world by a new concept of vapour screening technology**", by Ilse Bilsen, Project Manager, Unit Environmental Intelligence – Team Air Quality Management Systems, VITO NV, Belgium, click [here](#)
- Global services "**D-TECT® PARCEL - Ai First Non-Intrusive Inspection Solution dedicated to Air Cargo and E-Commerce**", by Gautier Huysentruyt, Anass Mouzouni and

Michael Knox, Connectivity & Products – Trade Facilitation Services, SGS, Switzerland, click [here](#)

For listing of all Pendency 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:** Souza (research\_paper 2024). Uncertainty Quantification and Customs, 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:** Veenstra (research agenda 2023): Future of Customs; Trade Management practices in companies, 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](mailto: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](http://www.pen-cp.net)

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