



Information about the project is available on the following website:

www.lubelska.policja.gov.pl

in the section "Fundusze Pomocowe"
("Support Funds")

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**SAFE EUROPE – TOGETHER
AGAINST FRAUD ON THE
EXTERNAL BORDER OF THE EU**





This project is funded by the European Union under the Hercule III 2014 - 2020 programme implemented by the European Commission. The premise of the programme is to promote actions to protect the financial interests of the European Union. For more information, please visit:

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/policy/hercule_en

The Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin implemented a project entitled "**Safe Europe - together against fraud on the external border of the EU**", co-financed from the Hercule III programme. The aim of the project was to increase the effectiveness of combating organized fraud, especially cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting. The project included a 6-day training seminar on combating tobacco crime for representatives of the Police, Border Guard and Customs Service from Poland, Ukraine and Romania.

535 km Polish-Ukrainian border and the 531 km Romanian-Ukrainian border are both EU Schengen borders. These borders are particularly vulnerable to smuggling of excise goods, especially cigarettes, and Ukraine continues to be a major source of cigarette smuggling in the EU.

Police, border guards and customs officials from Poland, Romania and Ukraine fight illegal cigarette smuggling and manufacturing on a daily basis. They seize contraband cigarettes and dismantle illegal cigarette factories, preventing millions of euros in damage to the financial interests of the EU and member states. This is why the Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin took the initiative to organize a joint project bringing together

police, border guards and customs from Poland, Romania and Ukraine.

During the seminar, examples of domestic and cross-border cases conducted by the Police, Border Guards and Customs Service from Poland, Romania and Ukraine were presented. Methods of detecting and combating illegal production, smuggling and illegal distribution of tobacco products were discussed.

In the seminar the representatives of the following institutions took part:

- **Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin (Poland);**
- **Regional Police Headquarters in Rzeszów (Poland);**
- **Regional Police Headquarters in Białystok (Poland);**
- **General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police;**
- **National Police of Ukraine;**
- **Nadbużański Border Guard Unit (Poland);**
- **Podlaski Border Guard Unit (Poland);**
- **General Inspectorate of the Border Guard in Romania;**
- **National Border Guard in Ukraine;**
- **Customs and Tax Administration Chamber in Lublin (Poland);**
- **Customs and Tax Administration Chamber in Białystok (Poland);**
- **National Agency for Fiscal Administration in Romania;**
- **National Customs Service in Ukraine.**

The last two days of the seminar took form of workshops conducted by the representatives of the tobacco companies: **Imperial Tobacco Polska S.A., British American Tobacco Polska Trading Sp. z o.o., Universal Leaf Tobacco Poland and Philip Morris Polska Distribution Sp. z o.o.**

Experts from tobacco companies who are actively involved in dismantling illegal cigarette factories shared their experiences in methods of cigarette counterfeiting and smuggling, and expertise in identifying genuine products.

An important part of the seminar was a visit to the British American Tobacco cigarette factory in Augustów. Learning about the technological and production path of tobacco products will help officers of genuine and counterfeit products, as well as the use of counterfeit trademarks, and thus allow for more effective detection and prevention of fraud.

The project allowed its participants to exchange best practices, learn solutions and working methods, gave them the opportunity to enrich their professional knowledge, learn new ideas and solutions, which will facilitate their investigations on smuggling and counterfeiting cigarettes and other tobacco products on the external border of the EU.