

GERMAN CUSTOMS DAY

On 1 September 2024, the German General Customs Directorate held German Customs Day in the city of Darmstadt, located in the southern part of the federal state of Hesse. The event warmly welcomed all those interested in looking behind the scenes of customs work and learning more about the wide range of tasks performed by the customs service.

📌 The event was attended by the coordinator of the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Project “EU Customs Law” (EUCUSTOMSSTU), Dr. Iryna Petrova, Associate Professor of the Department of Administrative Law, Procedure, and Customs Security at the Institute of Economics, Business and Management, as well as Iryna Blius, a second-year student of the Faculty of Taxation, Accounting and Audit (group OPSB-23-1).

📌 The Customs Day was officially opened with a welcoming speech by the President of the General Customs Directorate, Ms. Colette Hercher.

The programme offered a rich and informative experience, including:

demonstrations by canine teams and service dogs of various breeds trained to detect specific types of items;

a simulated detention of smugglers carrying different types of weapons;

informative discussions with representatives of various customs units presented in 27 thematic pavilions;

a customs auction where visitors could purchase items offered for sale;

laser shooting exercises with the customs ski team;

consultations with experienced customs officers on entry requirements and training in customs professions;

exhibitions of confiscated contraband, weapons, and prohibited goods;

quizzes and other interactive activities.

The event’s programme was accompanied by a performance from the customs instrumental ensemble COMBOZOLLA.

📌 Visitors could receive expert answers in thematic tents on a wide range of topics, including:

protection of endangered species - which animals and plants are protected;

the German Customs Museum - historical and modern concealment methods used in smuggling;

money laundering - its mechanisms and actors;

industrial property rights;

how to identify counterfeit branded goods;

illegal drugs - which narcotics and medicines are prohibited;

travelling abroad - what travellers should know when returning to Germany;

combating illegal employment - why it is prosecuted;

self-defence techniques;

the work of special customs units;

what types of goods are subject to customs duties;

weapons - what is allowed and what is prohibited;

customs clearance procedures;

the training of customs service dogs - methods, veterinary care, nutrition, training centres, and admission requirements;

cooperation of the German customs service with other German law-enforcement and financial authorities, as well as with international organisations, including the cooperation between the German Financial Intelligence Unit and the State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine in exchanging information related to money laundering, predicate offences, and terrorism financing.

📌 It was a vibrant and enriching day that offered an in-depth look into the customs profession. Today, the German customs service employs around 48,000 officers, who in 2023 alone, using the advanced IT system ATLAS and a risk-based approach, successfully processed over 413 million shipments worth €1.4 trillion across Germany.

Below are several vivid photos from German Customs Day in Darmstadt - a city officially recognised since 1997 as the “Wissenschaftsstadt”.





