**Project Title**  
Enhanced ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) Plus

**Project Area**  
Trade Facilitation

**Beneficiary Countries**  
Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam (CLMV)

**Source of Funding**  
European Union

**Approved Budget**  
USD 549,700

**Project Description**

This project comprises of three activities, as follows:

1. **Activity 3.1.5: Assistance to Narrowing Development Gap in Customs (SPCD 13)**

   This activity will support the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Customs Development (SPCD), which aims to assist the Customs Administrations of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) in catching up with new developments in Customs techniques and strengthening their capability to conduct national programmes in a more sustainable manner, through the following:
   - Enhancing the technical and managerial capability of Customs officers and institutions of Customs Administrations of CLMV; and
   - Modernise legislative frameworks relevant to Customs.

2. **Activity 3.3.3: Roll out of ACTS in CLMV**

   This activity will prepare the CLMV for the deployment of the **ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS)**. The objective is to support the roll-out of ACTS to CLMV, including specification, procurement and installation of the necessary hardware and software at national level, associated training of stakeholders in the public and private sectors, national level testing, and pilot operations of the ACTS in CLMV. Helpdesk and corrective maintenance services will also be provided for CLMV starting in parallel with the pilot operations.

3. **Activity 2.3.2: Implementation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on Inspection and Certification Systems of Food Hygiene for Prepared Food Stuffs**

   This activity aims to assist the CLMV countries to implement Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) and harmonise regulatory regimes in the food sectors, in particular MRA on inspection and certification systems of food hygiene for prepared foodstuffs. This would be done through the following tasks:
   - Consultation with product working groups and CLMV regulatory agencies on assistance requirements to effectively implement MRAs and harmonise regulatory regimes in the food.
   - Review of the legislation in CLMV countries to facilitate the implementation of the MRA on inspection and certification systems of food hygiene for prepared foodstuffs.

**Objective**

This technical assistance aims to contribute to regional economic integration, and is guided by the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025. It builds on the achievements of the predecessor EU funded project, ARISE. ARISE Plus is a 4-year programme, and it formally commenced in November 2017.
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