Pathway to deploy eFTI in the non-EU countries
Insights from the **EU4Digital** Facility, Phase II

**Funded by
the European Union**

EY
**Building a better
working world**

This programme is
implemented by an EY-led
consortium

EU4Digital Facility paves the way for the digitalisation in the transport & logistics

- EU4Digital **project coordinated by DG NEAR**

- **Implemented by EY and subject matter experts**

- **Phase I** – 3 years (2019-2022)

- **Phase II** – 3 years (2022-2025)

- **6 Eastern partner countries** – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus*, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

- **Overarching communication and monitoring activities** – https://eufordigital.eu/

- **Involved beneficiaries** – country representatives from the public and private entities

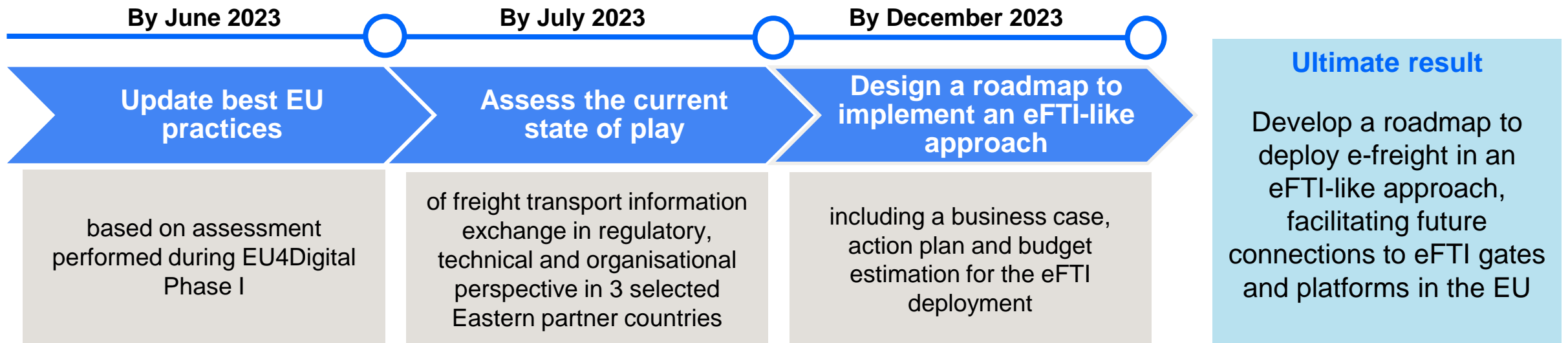| 1. Digital Infrastructure	2. eGovernance	3. Digital Economy and Innovation

*As a result of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine and the involvement of Belarus recognised in the European Council Conclusions of February 2022, the EU is further suspending planned and ongoing programmes and activities with the participation of Belarusian public authorities and state-owned enterprises. The EU will continue to step up its support to Belarusian civil society.

Facilitating eFTI deployment in the Eastern partner countries

- **Transport modes covered**: road, rail, and inland waterways

- **Objective**: to enable an interoperable electronic freight information exchange system in the region, reducing administrative burden for logistics operators, and facilitating multimodal transport

- **Selected Eastern partner countries (for customised roadmap)**: Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine

By June 2023	By July 2023	By December 2023	
Update best EU practices	**Assess the current state of play**	**Design a roadmap to implement an eFTI-like approach**	**Ultimate result**
based on assessment performed during EU4Digital Phase I	of freight transport information exchange in regulatory, technical and organisational perspective in 3 selected Eastern partner countries	including a business case, action plan and budget estimation for the eFTI deployment	Develop a roadmap to deploy e-freight in an eFTI-like approach, facilitating future connections to eFTI gates and platforms in the EU

Digital Transport Corridor and/or eFTI?

# **Fast border-crossing** is critical in the Digital Transport Corridors

- **Goal**: facilitate data exchange between customs, make faster release of goods and introduce advanced risk management in customs processes

- **Data exchanged:** on empty means of transport

- **Concept**: implementation of SEED nodes at bordering pilot countries to exchange empty trucks data set

EU4Digital phase I

- **Geographical scope**: Moldova – Romania
- **Time of the pilot**: March 2022

EU4Digital phase II

- **Geographical scope**: Ukraine – Romania
- **Time of the pilot**: June 2023
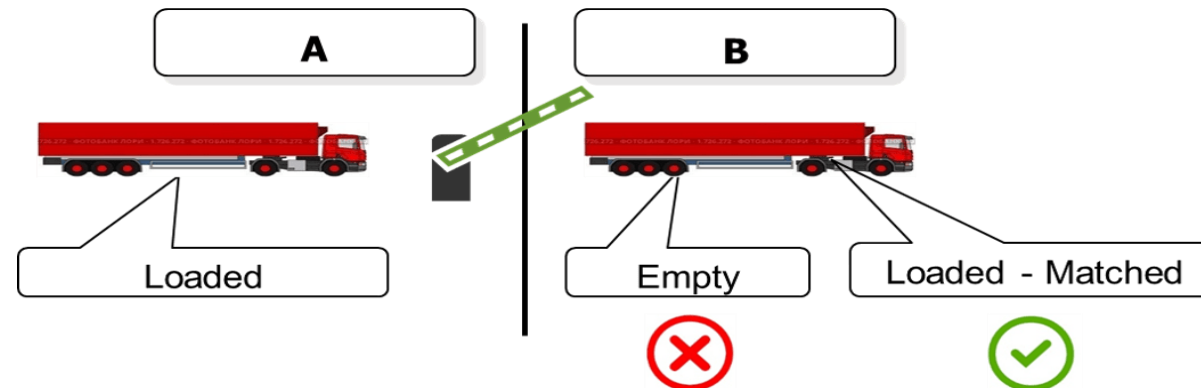
Cross-border eInvoice could be a foundation for digitalising other freight related information exchange

- **Goal**: paperless information exchange using established EU-wide solution and standards

- **Solution and use case**: performed standardised invoice data exchange between cross-border partners in Peppol eDelivery Network (30+ members in Europe and globally)

- **Geographical scope**: Armenia – Ukraine, Ukraine – Poland, Moldova – Ukraine

Company A
Exports and sends eInvoice via eDelivery

Company B
Imports and receives eInvoice

eFTI in practice: paperless freight transportation

- Two companies from different countries trade
- Before cargo leaves a country, freight information about goods is entered to certified platform of a choice

- Platform generates unique shipment ID, which business can choose to share with business partner for access / editing

- Cargo starts its journey, but no documents are with the driver

- Cargo is stopped for inspection, driver shares unique ID of cargo, and inspection is done online
- Same happens with other competent authorities that request documentation
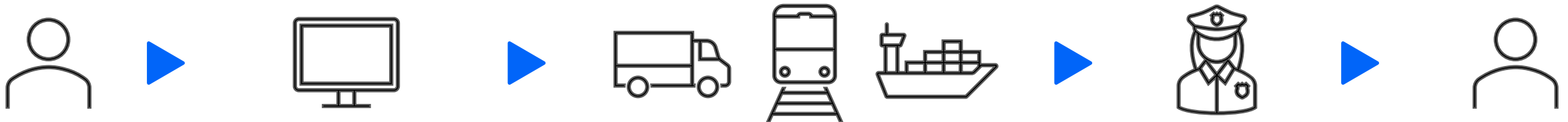
- **eFTI Regulation entered into force** in the EU in **August 2020**
- Requirements on **eFTI dataset & national requirements** - **by July 2023**
- Specifications on **eFTI platforms & service providers - by November 2023**
- Requirements for **certification of eFTI platforms - by March 2024**
- **Full application of eFTI - by December 2025**
- **Authorities will be obliged to accept information in electronic format if businesses decide to do so**

7

Why eFTI?

It's the time! **The EU** has already recognised the benefits and **actively started the preparation** for the eFTI deployment.

Other neighbouring regions are actively preparing as well. For example, if all freight information **was exchanged only digitally** in the Western Balkans:

… environmental impact:

- Over **26,000 trees** saved annually

- … while Central Park in New York City has over **18,000 trees**

… economic impact:

- **One company** could **save up to EUR 75,000** annually on cutting the administrative costs

- **One-off expenses** for a company could vary from **EUR 7,750 to EUR 142,500** depending on company size

- The payback period varies **from 11 to 23 months,** depending on company size
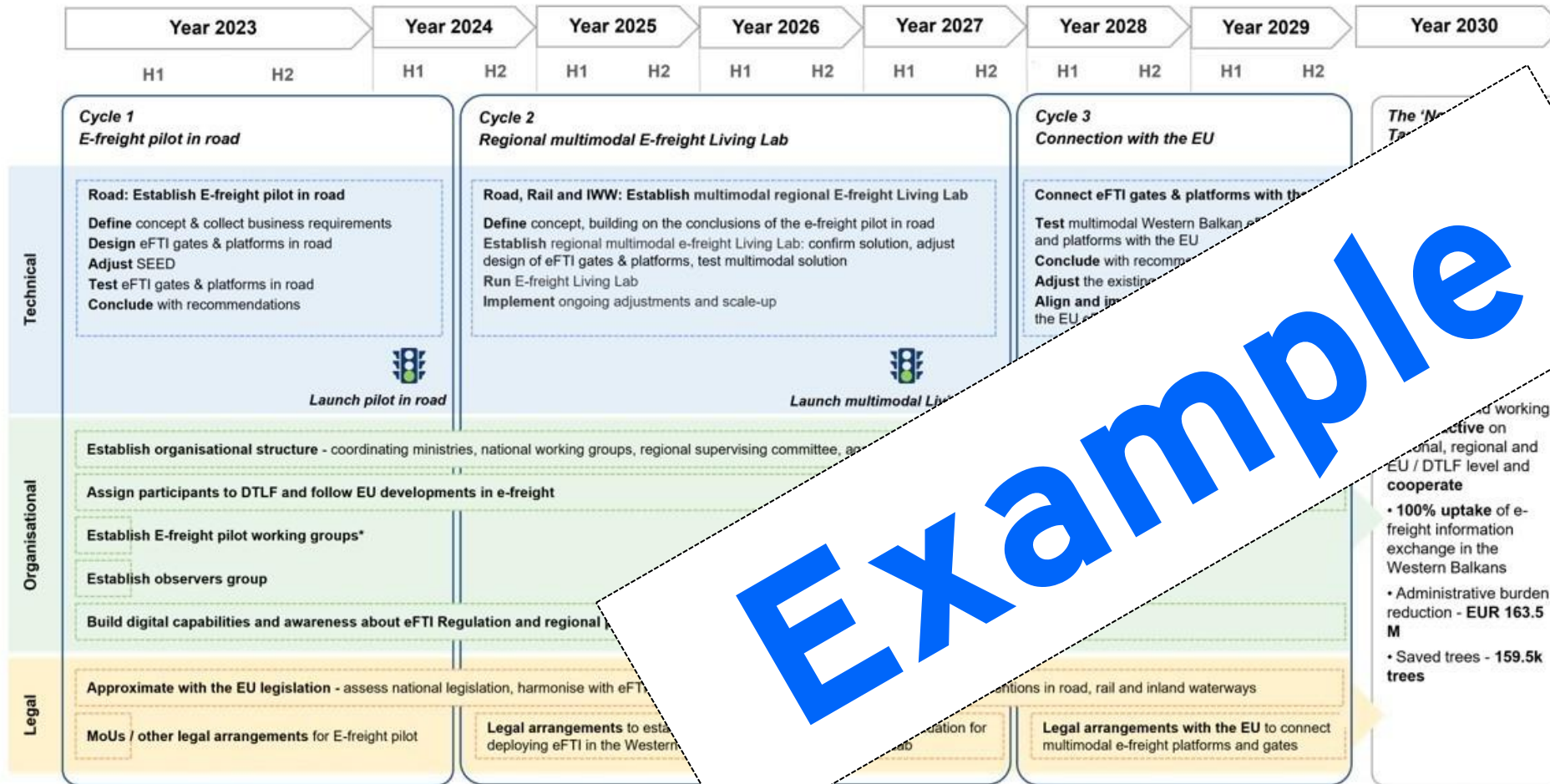

8

eFTI deployment action plan: Western Balkans example

- The Western Balkans have developed the action plan of **3 cycles and estimated the budget for the eFTI deployment**.

- In the Western Balkans, the phased approach of e-freight deployment was chosen with the **aim to have multimodality and cross-border with the EU aspects covered** in the last cycle.

  - **Cycle 1** focuses on one transport mode (road) and involves only three Regional Partners in the piloting process.

  - **Cycle 2** focuses on the multimodality aspect and involves the whole region.

  - **Cycle 3** differentiates from previous cycles by connecting local developments (eFTI gates and platforms) with the EU.

- According to the action plan, the eFTI deployment should last **7 years** in the Western Balkans.

Areas	Cycle 1: E-freight pilot in road	Cycle 2: Regional multimodal E-freight Living Lab	Cycle 3: *Connection with the EU*
Transport modes	Road	Road, Rail and Inland Waterways	Road, Rail and Inland Waterways
Multimodality aspect	✖	✔	✔
Cross-border aspect with the EU	✖	✖	✔
Participants	Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia	All Regional Partners	All Regional Partners and the EU member states
Period	1.5 years	3.5 years	2 years
Alignment with the EU developments	✔	✔	✔

Roadmap example: developed during the eFTI deployment project in the Western Balkans

Roadmap to deploy e-freight in the Western Balkans, including action plan, pilot projects, necessary legal and organisational activities, and financial estimates

What's next?

1. Following EU developments

2. Understanding current state in different transport modes

3. Understanding the business case

4. Building awareness among key stakeholders

5. Having clear action plan

6. Starting practical steps

7. Aligning with ongoing eFTI Regulation developments

Thank you!

EU4Digital Facility

Artūras Piliponis | EU4Digital Facility Team Leader | Arturas.Piliponis@lt.ey.com | eu4digital@lt.ey.com

EU4Digital website: https://eufordigital.eu/

Newsletter: https://eufordigital.eu/?#newsletter