



14th International Capacity-Building Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation

TRADE FACILITATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF MULTIMODAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND SPECA, USING UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS

Hybrid capacity-building seminar, Baku, Azerbaijan, 22-23 May 2023

To participate in this conference, in person and online participants, please register at: [14th International Capacity-Building Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation](#). After registration, online participants will receive a message with a link to connect to the seminar.

Venue for in person participation: Library of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, 129 Huseyn Javid Ave, Baku ([mek.az](#))

Web page of the seminar: <https://unece.org/trade/events/fourteenth-international-capacity-building-seminar-trade-and-transport-facilitation>

1. This event is organized in collaboration between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Institute of Control Systems at the Ministry of Science and Education of the Azerbaijan Republic, and the Ukrvneshtans association as the fourteenth UNECE seminar on trade and transport facilitation held for the first time outside of Odessa, Ukraine. Session 2 is co-organized with the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission of the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Central Asia (PS IGC TRACECA).
2. The International High-level Conference “Digital Transformation of Information Exchange in Supply Chains Using United Nations Standards”, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 31 October 2022, enhanced the acceptance of the United Nations (UN/CEFACT) standards for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange in international supply chains. The participants in the Conference recommended to “strengthen work on training and raising the capacity of experts in the SPECA countries to understand and implement the UN/CEFACT standards and reference data models in the digitalization of data and document exchange in the region; develop and implement pilot implementation projects, e.g., digital twin projects on trans-Caspian movement of goods”; asking UNECE and Governments of SPECA countries to collaborate with development partners to secure funding for such pilot testing projects.
3. SPECA Ministers gathered in Geneva on 17 April 2023 and officially requested in their Joint Ministerial Statement “the UNECE to develop a Roadmap for a digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the trans-Caspian transport corridor using relevant United Nations standards, including through realizing a regional pilot project for SPECA participating States”.
4. With these objectives in mind, UNECE, collaborating with partners in Azerbaijan and the region, is organizing a hybrid capacity-building seminar under the UN Development Account 14th tranche project “Enhanced capacities of selected countries in the ECE region for pandemic-resilient, sustainable cross-border trade and transport” for the

beneficiary countries (SPECA, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and other neighbouring countries), and the business community to:

- a. identify business requirements for the digital transformation of concrete documents and sectors of the supply chain and availability of technical skills to implement the international standards in digital multimodal transport data and document exchange, using as a reference, for example, the supporting structures for the implementation of the European Union's Electronic Freight Transport (eFTI) Regulation – eFTI platforms,
 - b. review best practices in implementing port community systems in the transition economies and issue recommendations,
 - c. discuss possibilities for concrete pilot testing of the digitalization of information exchange in collaboration with TRACECA, and
 - d. discuss with possible development partners the development of implementation projects.
5. The participants in this seminar will include experts with technical skills from the relevant national agencies dealing with trade regulations, transport and transit procedures, as well as the business community (traders, transporters, freight forwarders, IT developers, etc.). This will be a capacity-building seminar for building skills in the target countries to implement innovation practices, including technology transfer for the implementation of electronic data and document equivalent exchange, aligned to UN/CEFACT standards and supporting tools.
6. Discussions on the contribution of UN standards and involvement of international organizations and the private sector will help formulate the conclusions and recommendations on the next steps to support relevant initiatives in the region.

CAPACITY-BUILDING SEMINAR AGENDA: DAY ONE, 22 MAY 2023

OPENING SESSION

9:30 – 10:15

Welcome notes

Mr. Fariz Aliyev, Head, Transport Policy Department, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Ms. Vladanka Andreeva, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan

Mr. Ali Abbasov, Professor Dr. , Director General, Institute of Control Systems at the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Ms. Elisabeth Türk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

Presentation of the concept and expected results of the seminar

Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

SESSION I: IMPLEMENTATION OF UN STANDARDS FOR THE DIGITALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY CHAINS

10:15 – 11:15

Moderator: Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Advisor, UNECE ECTD

How to implement the package of standards for digitalization of data and document exchange

Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Update on the status of implementation of the EU Electronic Freight Transport Information Regulation and use of UN/CEFACT standards

Ms. Lia Potec, DG MOVE, European Commission, Mr. Michael Dill, consultant to eFTI, DG MOVE

11:15 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30

Implementing the eFTI Regulation: eFTI platforms

Ms. Ulrika Hurt, Digital Transport and Logistics Forum, European Commission

Gap analysis of the implementation of the UN/CEFACT standards in Azerbaijan

Mr. Kazim Samadov, IT expert, State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan

Digital Corridors and the use of UN/CEFACT standards

Mr. Tahseen Akhmad Khan, UN/CEFACT Vice Chair

This session will end with a panel discussion on a roadmap for digitalization of multimodal information exchange along trade and transport corridors, using the presentations in this session suggestions for collaboration with Governments, the business community and development partners on the next steps

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

SESSION II: POSSIBLE PILOT IMPLEMENTATION TEST PROJECT WITH TRACECA, E.G. ON DIGITALIZATION OF THE CIM/SMGS CONSIGNMENT NOTE

13:30 – 15:00

Moderator: Mr. Goran Andreev, TRACECA expert

e-CIM/SMGS pilot project

Mr. Asset Assavbayev, Secretary General, TRACECA

Work on the digitalization of railway consignment notes

Mr. Erik Evtimov, Deputy Secretary General of the International Committee on Railway Transport (CIT)

Support for pilot projects

Ms. Sandra G  h  not, Director Freight, Coordinator European Region, International Union of Railways (UIC)

OSJD work on data harmonization and digitalization

Mr. Zurab Kozmava (or Mr. Mario Matta), OSJD (t.b.c.)

Digitalization of railway data and document exchange and multimodal and cross-sectoral interoperability, the role of UN standards

Mr. Mario Apostolov, UNECE ECTD Regional Adviser

15:00 - 15:15

Break

Business Requirement Specification and supporting artefacts (data sets, structures and schemas) enabling intermodal interoperability for the railway consignment notes

Mr. Kagisho Ramatsa, UN/CEFACT expert, and Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, UN/CEFACT

ESCAP's position on pilot projects

Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP

Practical development and testing of eCIM/SMGS based on UN/CEFACT standards in pilot projects

Mr. Uladzimir Padalitsa, former UNECE consultant and railway data exchange expert

Panel discussion on pilot project for (1) the digitalization of a prototype consignment note, using the international standards, (2) legal aspects of the pilot project

Brief interventions on the positions of railway operators from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, T  rkiye and Ukraine on the possible pilot projects

17:30

Signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on organization of pilot project(s) for use of electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note along selected TRACECA routes (t.b.c.)

CAPACITY-BUILDING SEMINAR AGENDA: DAY TWO, 23 MAY 2023

SESSION III: BEST PRACTICES IN PORT COMMUNITY SYSTEMS, INTEROPERABILITY, AND MULTIMODAL DATA EXCHANGE

9:30 – 11:15	<p>Moderator: Mr. Oleg Platonov, Head of Delegation of Ukraine to UN/CEFACT</p> <p>Port Community Systems and the use of UN/CEFACT standards Mr. Nico de Cauwer, Secretary General, International Port Community System Association (IPCSA)</p> <p>Building successful port community system on a transition economy's own resources Mr. Oleksandr Fedorov, CEO of PPL 33-35, Odessa port community system</p> <p>Linking port community systems to the UN/CEFACT standards and Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model to ensure interoperability in digital trade corridors Mr. Zakariyya Vakilov, Chief Operating Officer, Port of Baku</p> <p>Update on data exchange between Caspian ports Marco Politi, DBA Group SpA</p> <p><i>This session will focus on best practice experience of building port community systems from Ukraine, the Caspian Sea region, and the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA), and how this subject links to the harmonization and standardization of multimodal digital data and document exchange along the supply chain.</i></p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Linking public and private, business and regulatory (Customs) information flows Mr. Oleg Nikolaychuk, Deputy Head of the State Customs Service of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformations and Digitization (CDTO)</p> <p>Possible use of the UN/CEFACT standards for air cargo documents in pilot projects Mr. Elkhan Nahmadov, Deputy Regional Director, European and North Atlantic Office, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)</p> <p>A new approach to implementing UN/CEFACT standards and tools in the Middle Corridor to simplify trade procedures Mr. Iqbal Babayev, expert, Azerbaijan</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch

SESSION IV: PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE: POSSIBILITIES FOR FUNDING IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

13:30 – 15:00	<p>Partnerships and synergies in support of implementation pilot projects</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE ECT Division</p> <p><i>Representatives of the European Union, EU member States, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, China, Switzerland, Norway, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, ICAO, IMO, ADB, IPCSA, IsDB, World Bank, EBRD, USAID, GIZ, TIKA, JAICA, TRACECA, GUAM, CIT, UIC, FIATA, IATA, the Middle Corridor, and</i></p>
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other organizations are invited for this discussion. We will discuss possibilities for public-private partnerships in the implementation of the UN standards

UN/CEFACT Recommendation 41: Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation

Ms. Kamola Khusnutdinova, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division

Pathway to deploy eFTI in the non-EU countries: Insights from the EU4Digital Facility, Phase 2

Mr. Arturas Piliponis, EU4Digital Facility Team Leader, EY Digital and Technology Leader for EU institutions

Collaboration with EU4Digital, phase 2

Mr. Tofiq Babayev, Head, Department of Foreign Relations and Innovation of the Institute of Control Systems of Azerbaijan National Academy of Science

Cooperation in the framework of TCA's "Increased Trade across Trans-Caspian corridor objective"

Ms Aizhan Beiseyeva, DAI, USAID contractor

15:00 - 15:15

Break

CLOSING SESSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15:15 – 17:30

The conclusions of this seminar will address further steps in the development of practical pilot projects for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange using global standards.
