



Ministry of
Transport and
Maritime Affairs

Ministry of Economy



UNECE

Recommendations from the UNECE Workshop on Achieving the Transport- and Trade-related SDGs Podgorica, 11-12 October 2017

The countries participating in the workshop (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia), have both the commitment to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to transport and trade, and the potential to achieve them. Promoting UN Conventions, rules, standards and practices that foster the parallel advance of transport and trade and sustainable development can lead to an efficient shift to a sustainable future for Southeast Europe. Economic and trade diversification, as well as economic, environmental, transport and social innovations related to sustainable development would create more trade opportunities and generate larger scale efficiency, while creating new “green” jobs. Acceding to UN Transport Conventions under the purview of UNECE can further facilitate the sustainability of the economies for passengers and the movement of freight.

Having that in mind, the workshop participants considered the following recommendations for further action:

- Foster increased cooperation within the Western Balkans region aimed at achieving the transport and trade related SDGs, with a particular focus on gathering statistics aimed at monitoring progress on the SDG targets.
- Continue the process of accession to the UN Transport Legal Instruments which have a direct impact on achieving the SDGs and in particular in relation to road safety (SDG 3.6), developing resilient infrastructure (SDG 9.1) and sustainable cities (SDG 11.2).
- Build on the discussions at the Workshop by improving the quality, depth and international comparability of transport statistics, with the aim of having a solid basis for policy decisions in the transport sector.
- Reinforce cooperation for the further integration of the Western Balkans into the international rules-based trading system under the WTO (SDG 17.10); explore possibilities to enhance intra-regional trade, cross-border supply chains, and access to environmentally friendly technologies and goods in the Western Balkan countries as a means to increase their share in global exports (SDG 17.11).
- Integrate the transport- and trade-related SDGs in national sustainable development programmes, regional cooperation and EU accession plans, voluntary reviews, exchanges of best practices, as well as the development of standards for sustainable trade. Appoint agencies responsible for achieving the trade-related SDGs, their monitoring and implementation.
- Promote international and regional trade governance frameworks that foster sustainability.

- Ask national trade facilitation committees and other trade support institutions to include alignment of trade facilitation and sustainable development into their work programmes.
- With regard to trade and sustainable development, measure progress, among others, by calculating the share of trade volumes in GDP to see the opening of the economy of each country within intra-regional trade.