



# SITCIN data collection process in Serbia

Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators

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# Background

The UNDA funded the project entitled “Sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport related SDGs in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries” will strengthen the capacities of five countries (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Paraguay and Jordan) to design and implement an evidence-based transport policy framework that fosters sustainable transport connectivity at the national, regional and international levels and the implementation of transport-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Set of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN) was developed, based on which countries will be able to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of their transport systems and the level of compliance of national administrative and legal frameworks with UN legal instruments in the field of transport and border crossing facilitation,
- Capacity building event to present the proposed set of indicators, introduce and apply them in the national, regional and international context, and use them as a basis for the development of new and innovative, evidence-based inland transport policies.



# Phases of SITCIN implementation

## Phase I

- Kick-off meeting
- Fact-finding mission

## Phase II

- Connectivity assessment
  - *Development of specific questionnaires for data collection*
  - *Data collection*
- National Connectivity Report drafting (NCR)

## Phase III

- National Policy Dialogue meeting (NPD)
- Targeted national capacity building workshop
- SITCIN as regular tool for self-assessment and national transport policy development



# Main objectives of connectivity assessment



- To measure and assess country's international connectivity, not only in terms of the extent to which Serbia is connected to neighboring countries that give access to seaports, but also the connectivity in terms of transport, trade, customs and logistical processes
- To give the country the opportunity to report on the progress it is making towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- To give the country the opportunity to measure the effectiveness of its efforts in implementing UN legal instruments in the field of transport and work towards the harmonization and standardization of rules and documentation, including the implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral agreements.
- To provide inputs for national policy dialogues to develop an evidence-based transport policy framework that can promote sustainable transport connectivity at the national, regional and international levels



# Achievements

- **Phase I: Introducing the SITCIN project – Kick-off and fact-finding mission**
  - Kick-off separate meetings with public and private stakeholders held on 18.09.2019, participated by representatives of:
    - UNECE Transport division and consultants
    - Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (organization)
    - Ministry of Internal affairs – border police
    - Ministry of Finance – Customs administration
    - Port Governance Agency
    - Serbian Railway infrastructure manager
    - PE Roads of Serbia
    - National railway operator Serbia Cargo
    - Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia
    - Association of Road transport companies
    - Association of Freight forwarders
    - Several transport and logistics companies



# Achievements (2)

- **Phase I: Introducing the SITCIN project – Kick-off and fact-finding mission**  
Fact-finding mission was organized through 2-days visits to the most burdened border crossings (Road, Railway and River) and customs terminals:
  - Road BCPs - Horgoš at Hungarian border and Batrovci at Croatian border
  - Railway BCPs - Subotica at Hungarian border and Šid at Croatian border
  - IWW customs clearance point Novi Sad at Danube River



# Achievements (3)

- **Phase II: Connectivity assessment and data collection** - Development of specific questionnaires for data collection (covering all of 215 sub-indicators through inland modes including road, rail, inland waterways/ports and intermodal terminals), dissemination of questionnaires for collection of data, meetings for interviews and additional visits to border crossing points to Montenegro and North Macedonia, desktop research
- **Phase II: Development of methodology of analysis and drafting NCR**
  - Working document – National Connectivity Report 2019, Republic of Serbia



# Challenges

- The **quantity** and **quality** of data received, required additional efforts in terms of bilateral meetings and interviews (data were sometimes sparse and scattered, misrepresentations or omissions, or not available)
- Delays in data collection from certain agencies
- Data for 8 indicators (out of 215) were not available (3,7%): 6 road safety indicators and one each for Road and IWW transport of Dangerous goods





# Positive feedback in Serbia

- Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of Serbia as the key player for transport policy development recognized the added value of SITCIN and actively supported connectivity assessment process, organization of events and dissemination of the questionnaires and communication with other stakeholders
- Ministry of interior – border police, Ministry of Finance – Customs administration, Railway Infrastructure manager, Road infrastructure manager (PE Roads of Serbia), Serbia Cargo and Port governance Agency also recognized the need for such tool, provided all available data and endorsed the efforts of UNECE consultants and MoCTI.



# Positive feedback in Serbia (2)

- Availability of SWOT analysis by 6 SITCIN groups (Border crossing facilitation, Transport infrastructure, Safety and security, Transport of perishable foodstuffs and dangerous goods, Intermodality, Environment and energy), but also by modes of transport (Road, Railway and IWW)
- Positive attitude to SITCIN is also recognized from private sector, where Association for Transport of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, Association of Road haulers and Association of Freight forwarders had their comments and waiting to see results of connectivity assessment



# Way ahead

## Phase III

- National Policy Dialogue meeting (NPD) planned for October 2020 (Detailed presentation of SITCIN and endorsement of the project results)
- Targeted national capacity building workshop – delivering the methodology of data collection, analysis and reporting to officials who will be responsible for SITCIN in future
- SITCIN as regular tool for self-assessment and national transport policy development



Thank you for your attention.

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**TRANSPORT**

