



XIVth 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:

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 Ukrvneshtrans association as the fourteenth UNECE seminar on trade and transport facilitation held for the first time outside of Odessa, Ukraine.
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.
 - 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

Welcome note from the hosting organization

TBC

Presentation of the concept and expected results of the seminar

Mr. Mario Apostolov, UNECE ECTD Regional Adviser

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

10:15 – 11:15

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

Moderator: Mario Apostolov, Regional Advisor, UNECE

Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, 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, European Commission, 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 Customs Committee of Azerbaijan

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

Work on the digitalization of the railway consignment notes

Moderator: Mr. Goran Andreev, TRACECA expert, CIT, or OSJD

OSJD expert (Mr. Mario Matta, Ms. Zubaida Aspayeva)

CIT work on the digitalization of railway consignment notes

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

Support for pilot projects

Ms. Sandra Gehenot, Director Freight, Coordinator European Region, International Union of Railways (UIC) 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

Coffee 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 Sue Probert, Chairperson, UN/CEFACT

ESCAP's position on pilot projects

Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP

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, Türkiye 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

Building successful port community system on a transition economy's own resources

Moderator: Mr. Oleg Platonov, Head of Delegation of Ukraine to UN/CEFACT

Mr. Oleksandr Fedorov, CEO of PPL 33-35, Odessa port community system

Linking port community systems to the UN/CEFACT standards and Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model to ensure interoperability in digital trade corridors

Mr. Nico de Cauwer, Secretary General, International Port Community System Association

Mr. Eugene Seah, Chief Operating Officer, Port of Baku t.b.c.

DBA Group Spa t.b.c.

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.

11:15 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30

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)

Possible use of the UN/CEFACT standards for air cargo documents in pilot projects

Elkhan Nahmadov, Deputy Regional Director, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), European and North Atlantic Office

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

SESSION IV: PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE: POSSIBILITIES FOR FUNDING IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

13:30 – 15:00

Partnerships and synergies in support of implementation pilot projects

Moderator: t.b.c.

Representatives of the European Union, EU member States, Turkey, 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, CIT, UIC, FIATA, IATA, the Middle Corridor, and other organizations will be invited.

15:00 - 15:15 **Coffee 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.*
