



15th International Capacity-Building Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation

TRADE FACILITATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF MULTIMODAL DATA AND DOCUMENT EXCHANGE ALONG THE TRANS-CASPIAN CORRIDOR

IMPLEMENTING THE SPECA ROADMAP FOR THE DIGITALIZATION OF MULTIMODAL DATA AND DOCUMENT EXCHANGE ALONG THE TRANS-CASPIAN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR, USING UNITED NATIONS LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND STANDARDS,

<https://unece.org/speca/speca-digitalization-roadmap>

Hybrid capacity-building seminar, Aktau, Kazakhstan, 11-12 June 2024

To participate in this conference, in person and online participants, please register at: [registerSemTTFaktauJune2024](#). Close to the event, online participants will receive an email with a link to connect to the seminar.

Venue for in person participation: Aktau

Web page of the seminar: ...

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1. This event is organized in collaboration between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Ministry of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan, the International Association «Trans-Caspian International Transport Route» (TMTM), and other partners, including the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission of the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Central Asia (PS IGC TRACECA) and the Ukrvneshtrans association.
 2. The Presidential Summit of the States Participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) on 24 November 2023 adopted the SPECA “Roadmap for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the Trans-Caspian transport corridor, using United Nations legal instruments and standards”,¹ prepared with support from UNECE in 2022-2023. The Roadmap envisages action for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along supply chains in the Trans-Caspian Corridor, using the semantic standards and Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). At the SPECA Governing Council on 23 November 2023, the delegations of the SPECA participating States requested that UNECE organizes capacity-building on the use of the UN/CEFACT standards. This seminar is organized

¹ <https://unece.org/speca/speca-digitalization-roadmap>

as a response to this request and as the fifteenth UNECE trade facilitation and data sharing seminar in the region.

3. At the International High-level Conference “Digital Transformation of Information Exchange in Supply Chains Using United Nations Standards”, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 31 October 2022, and in the Joint Ministerial Statement from 17 April 2023, SPECA Ministers asked “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”. UNECE started such a project, together with TRACECA, for the digitalization of the CIM/SMGS railway consignment note along the Trans-Caspian Corridor. Five railway agencies from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Türkiye, and Ukraine participate in this pilot project. At the seminar in Aktau, we will review the results of the railway pilot project with a view to develop further multimodal data and document exchange in the Trans-Caspian Corridor and identify further pilot projects.
4. With these objectives in mind, UNECE, collaborating with partners in Kazakhstan and the other SPECA participating States, 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”.
5. The problem that our work is addressing is the fragmentation of digitalization efforts in supply chains along the Trans-Caspian Corridor and other SPECA corridors. The solution we suggest is to base information flows about cargo moved along multimodal digital trade and transport corridors on alignment with the UN/CEFACT global semantic standards and Multimodal Transport reference Data Model (MMT RDM).
6. In this sense, following the objectives of the SPECA digitalization Roadmap, the seminar will seek to:
 - a. Identify business requirements for the digital transformation of concrete documents and sectors of the supply chain in the Trans-Caspian Corridor and other SPECA corridors,
 - b. Assess the availability of technical skills to implement the international standards for a harmonized digitalization of multimodal transport data and document exchange; raise awareness and capacity of the participants to roll out digitalization of data and document exchange aligned with the UN/CEFACT standards,
 - c. Review best practices in implementing port community systems in the transition economies of the region and issue recommendations for standardization of data and document exchange. Given the important geographical position of Aktau along the Trans-Caspian Corridor, the seminar will focus on the use of the UN/CEFACT standards in multimodal data exchange in the port community hubs of the Trans-Caspian Corridor, notably in the ports of Baku, Aktau and Turkmenbashi,
 - d. Discuss the possibility to develop software for the digitalization of trade and transport documents accompanying goods (consignment notes, bills of lading and additional documents)
 - e. Discuss possibilities for concrete pilot testing of the digitalization of information exchange in collaboration with TMTM, TRACECA, and other development partners. Discuss with development partners possible launch of implementation projects.
7. The target audience of this seminar will include policymakers and experts with technical skills from the relevant national agencies dealing with digitalization, trade regulation, transport and transit procedures, as well as the business community (traders, transporters, freight forwarders, IT developers, etc.). This will be a capacity-building to generate skills in the target countries to

implement the innovative approach of harmonized digitalization of data and document exchange along the corridor. It will include knowledge and technology transfer for the implementation of electronic data and document equivalent exchange, aligned to UN/CEFACT standards and supporting tools. The target audience will include representatives from the beneficiary countries: the SPECA participating States, as well as Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and other neighbouring countries), as well as development partners and the business community in the region.

8. 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 and pilot projects to support relevant initiatives in the region.

CAPACITY-BUILDING SEMINAR AGENDA: DAY ONE, 11 JUNE 2024

OPENING SESSION

9:30 – 10:15

Welcome notes

High-level representative(s) of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Ms. Michaela Friberg-Storey, UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan (t.b.c.)

Mr. Gaidar Abdikerimov, Secretary General, International Association «Trans-Caspian International Transport Route».

The concept and expected results of the seminar and the digitalization Roadmap

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)

Presentation of the UN/CEFACT standards on the UN website – how to use them?

Mr. Kevin Bishop, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE

Best practice experience of the use of UN/CEFACT standards: EU Electronic Freight Transport Information Regulation

Representative of the European Union

11:15 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30

Implementing multimodal digitalization: the importance of electronic platforms to create a market for digitalization

Ms. Ulrika Hurt, expert, Estonia (t.b.c.)

Gap analysis of the implementation of the UN standards

Speaker (t.b.c.)

Digital Corridors and the use of UN/CEFACT standards

A UN/CEFACT expert

This session will end with a panel discussion from the perspective of the SPECA Roadmap for digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along trade and transport corridors, using the UN standards

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

SESSION II: PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

13:30 – 15:00

Moderator: Mr. Gaidar Abdikerimov, International Association «Trans-Caspian International Transport Route» (TMTM)

The UNECE and UN/CEFACT package of standards and pilot implementation projects

Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE

e-CIM/SMGS pilot project

Mr. Asset Assavbayev, Secretary General, TRACECA

Development of a prototype for the CIM/SMGS consignment note

Mr. Orkhan Namazov, UNECE consultant

Digitalization of railway consignment notes

Possible speakers from the Organization for Cooperation among Railways (OSJD), the International Committee on Railway Transport (CIT), Temir Joly, etc. (t.b.c.)

15:00 - 15:15

Coffee break

Use of international standards for business to customs information exchange (with emphasis on ASYCUDA)

Mr. Constantin Ciuta, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD/ASYCUDA team

Other possible digitalization projects 1

Mr. Rudy Hemeleers, UN/CEFACT expert, Luxembourg

Other possible digitalization projects 2

Representatives of ICAO & IATA

ESCAP's position on pilot projects

Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP

Digitalization of data and documents accompanying goods: the experience of Kazakhstan

Mr. Nurlan Kulbatyrov, QazTrade; Mr. Gaidar Abdikerimov, International Association «Trans-Caspian International Transport Route» (TMTM), and other presenters, t.b.c.

Tour de Table on pilot implementation of (1) the digitalization of consignment notes and additional documents, using the international standards, (2) legal aspects of the transition from document to dataset exchange

Brief interventions on the positions of railway operators from the SPECA participating States

CAPACITY-BUILDING SEMINAR AGENDA: DAY TWO, 12 JUNE 2024

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

9:30 – 11:15

Moderator: Representative of a Port Community System (Aktau, Baku or Odessa)

Port Community Systems and the use of UN/CEFACT standards

Mr. Nico de Cauwer, Secretary General, International Port Community System Association (IPCSA) (t.b.c.)

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

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

Port Community Systems as hubs of multimodal data and document interchange – possibilities for using the international standards.

1. Port of Aktau
2. Port of Baku,
3. Port of Turkmenbashi

How to align digitalization efforts in Caspian ports, maritime, rail, road and air cargo data exchange and international standards

Expert panel discussion

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 and Single Window) information flows

Sue Probert, UN/CEFACT Chair, Constantin Ciuta, UNCTAD-ASYCUDA

Standardized digitalization from the freight-forwarding perspective

FIATA (t.b.c.)

Methodology of implementing UN/CEFACT standards and tools in the Middle Corridor to simplify trade procedures

Expert t.b.c.

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

SESSION IV: PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE: FURTHER PILOT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR FUNDING

13:30 – 15:00

Partnerships and synergies in support of implementation pilot projects

Moderator: Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE ECT Division

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 other organizations are invited for this discussion. We will discuss possibilities for public-private partnerships in the implementation of the UN standards

Multimodal data and document exchange, UN standards, and pilot projects

Opening the discussion

Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT); Mr. Mario Apostolov UNECE Regional Adviser; Mr. Constantin Ciuta (UNCTAD)

The EU Global Gateway perspective and the use of global standards in the Trans-Caspian Corridor

EU representative (DG INTPA, DG MOVE)

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

Ms Aizhan Beiseyeva, DAI, USAID contractor (t.b.c.)

GIZ

Other development partners

Presenters t.b.c.

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 in implementation of the SPECA Roadmap for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the Trans-Caspian corridor using UN standards and legal instruments.
