# United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation: UNECE Region 2021 Results

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Sustainability of TF implementation in times of crisis varies significantly across the region and within sub-regions.

#### TF in times of crisis - surveyed areas:

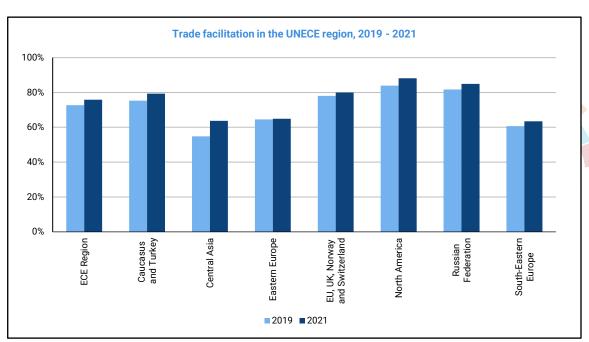
- An agency available to manage TF measures in times of crises and emergencies
- Publication of emergency TF measures online
- Coordination of emergency TF measures with other countries
- Implementation of additional (cross-border) paperless trade measures in times of crises and emergencies
- Preparedness of TF measures for future crises

#### **Survey responses:**

- A number of countries did not provide responses for this category.
- The average level of implementation of the TF measures in times of crisis in the UNECE region is 46%. Country level of completion for those implementing the measures ranges from 13% to 93%.



TF implementation improved since 2019 Survey in all sub-regions, most significantly in Central Asia, North America, Caucasus and Turkey.

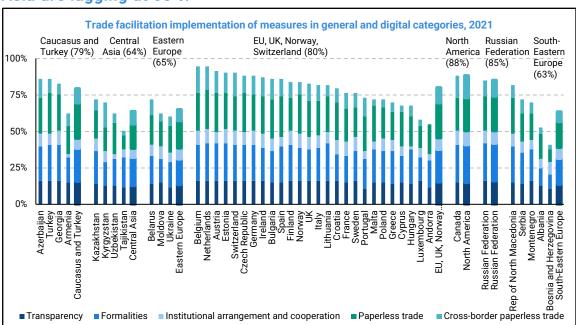


Source: United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019, 2021

Note: UNRCs are still receiving feedback from some member countries on data validation. Therefore, the results may be further – probably slightly – revised in the final report to be issued in the coming months.



Most sub-regions reached around 80% implementation of general and digital measures, while Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia are lagging at 65%.

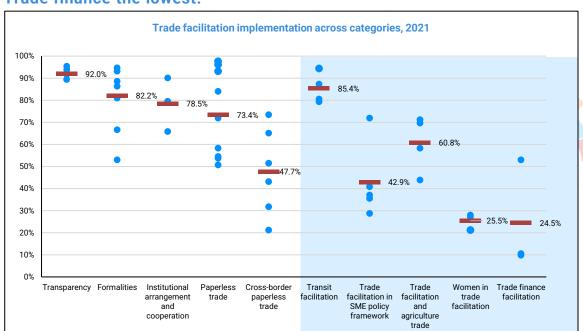


Source: United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021

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Transparency, Transit facilitation, and Formalities categories have the highest level of implementation, while Women in trade facilitation and Trade finance the lowest.



Source: United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021

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The number of most implemented general and digital TF measures increased compared to 2019.

Category	Most implemented (% of countries)		Least implemented (% of countries)	
	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)
Transparency	Publication of existing import-export regulations on the internet		Advance ruling on tariff classification and origin of imported goods	97.7 / 77.3
	Stakeholders' consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization)	100.0 / 81.8		
	Advance publication/notification of new trade- related regulations before their implementation	100.0 / 88.6		
	Independent appeal mechanism	100.0 / 72.7		
Formalities	Risk management	100.0 / 81.8	Establishment and publication of average release times	70.5 / 34.1
	Post-clearance audits	100.0 / 88.6	elease times	
Institutional arrangement and cooperation	National legislative framework and/or institutional arrangements for border agencies cooperation		Government agencies delegating controls to Customs authorities	81.8 / 47.7
Paperless trade	Automated Customs System	100.0 / 88.6	Electronic Application for Customs Refunds	70.5 / 29.5
	Internet connection available to Customs and other trade control agencies	100.0 / 93.2		
	Electronic submission of Customs declarations	100.0 / 84.1		
Cross-border paperless trade	Laws and regulations for electronic transactions	88.6 / 38.6	Electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin	38.6 / 4.5

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Trade Finance, Women in TF measures and preparedness of TF measures for future crisis are among the least implemented.

Category	Most implemented (% of countries)		Least implemented (% of countries)	
	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)
Transit facilitation	Customs Authorities limit the physical inspections of transit goods and use risk assessment	93.2 / 84.1	Transit facilitation agreement(s)	81.8 / 65.9
Trade facilitation in SME policy framework	Trade-related information measures for SMEs	84.1 / 54.5	SMEs in AEO scheme	43.2 / 31.8
Trade facilitation and agriculture trade	Special treatment for perishable goods		Electronic application and issuance of SPS certificates	63.6 / 18.2
Women in trade facilitation	Female membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee		Trade facilitation policy/strategy incorporates special consideration of female traders	34.1 / 11.4
Trade finance facilitation	Variety of trade finance services available	6877341	Single window facilitates traders' access to finance	13.6 / 4.5
Trade Facilitation in times of crisis and pandemic	Publication of emergency TF measures online	659/437	Preparedness of TF measures for future crises	47.7 / 20.5

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Support is required for implementation of TF measures that reduce inequality among traders and increase preparedness of TF for future crises.

#### **Findings:**

- TF implementation improved in all sub-regions, most significantly in Central Asia, Caucasus and Turkey, and North America.
- Implementation of general and digital TF measures is lowest in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.
- More measures are among the most implemented compared to 2019 survey.
- Measures for TF in crises address sustainability of TF in times of crisis and pandemic to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on TF implementation and increase preparedness of TF for future crises.
- Digitalization accelerate implementation of Paperless trade and Cross-border paperless trade measures to increase resilience in times of emergencies.
- SMEs increase access to Single Window, authorized operator certification, and representation in NTFCs.
- Women in trade design and implement government policies that increase women's participation in trade and their membership in NTFCs.

**Recommendations:** 



# **THANK YOU**

## **UNECE Region 2021 Results**

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