Transport Corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia

Transport Digitalization Initiatives within the framework of TRACECA

ESCAP Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing Innovative Technologies to Advance Green Transformation for Sustainable Development in North and Central Asia

26 – 27 March 2024
Almaty, Kazakhstan and online
Projects and Initiatives towards Digitalization

Permanent Secretariat is currently working on initiatives aiming to introduce digital solutions on transport activities.

- eTIR: First project of piloting between Iran and Turkey (2015)
- eTIR: Second project of piloting between Azerbaijan and Iran (2019)
- eTIR: Third project of piloting between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (2020)
- eTIR: Fourth project of piloting between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (2021)
- eTIR: Fifth project of piloting between Iran, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan (2021)
- Signature of Single Transit Permit Draft Agreement (2021)
- Approval of the TRACECA Concept of Digitalization (2021)
- First pilot project of the Global Transit Document (2021)
- Presentation of the Global Transit Document Prototype Concept (2021)
- Approval of the TRACECA Concept of Digitalization (2021)
- Launch of TRACECA information system and mobile application for carriers

7 TRACECA member-states were the first in the world to test the use of electronic TIR (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan);
11 countries joined eCMR (Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan).

Action Plan 2022-2026

Implementation of the Concept of Digitalization

- Use of Electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note
- Introduction of Intellectual maps
- Use of Electronic Permits (Single/Transit/Multilateral)
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Road Transport Permits

**MULTILATERAL PERMIT**
- Applied since 2016;
- Used in 6 countries: Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Türkiye, Ukraine;
- Right to perform bilateral and transit transportations, as well as transportations to/from third countries.

**INITIATIVE on SINGLE TRANSIT PERMIT**
- Reducing the number of permits for transit transportations;
- Simplification of the transport process between the TRACECA countries;
- Increasing the return loading when transporting cargo by ferry vessels;
- Optimization of procedures for obtaining a transit permit;
- Applications of digitalization elements

**ACTION PLAN FOR THE TRANSITION TO ELECTRONIC PERMITS**
Harmonious and joint transition to the use of electronic permit forms exchanged bilaterally among TRACECA countries

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**Workshops on Customs Issues**
in cooperation with WCO, EU DG TAXUD, IRU, ADB, ICTD, …

- International Electronic Customs Transit Systems:
  - Special session for TRACECA member-states that are aspiring to access to the Convention on Common Transit / NCTS
  - CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and the Information Common Exchange Pilot Project;
  - TIR EPD and eTIR initiatives
- Mechanisms for systematic information exchange;
- Potential use of electronic queue systems;
- Minimum requirements for the equipment of checkpoints;
- Potential organization of joint checkpoints at the borders;
- Mutual Recognition of the Authorized Economic Operators (AEO)
Use of Electronic CIM/SMGS Consignment Note

1 Joint Workshop
- Use of CIM/SMGS consignment note (2022)

2 Joint Workshop
- Use of electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note (2023)

3 Joint Workshop
- Use of electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note (2023)

Signing MoU between interested railways
- Framework for piloting electronic CIM/SMGS (2023)

Adoption of Action Plan
- Implementation of Action Plan
- Digitalization of a prototype CIM/SMGS (2023)

Adoption of an International Agreement
- Preparing legal basis for e-CIM/SMGS
- Preparing at national and international level
- Deciding on tools used for information exchange
- Possible piloting for electronic supporting documents
- Conducting internal approval procedures (2024 - 2025)

Piloting e-CIM/SMGS (digital twin project)
- Implementation of pilot project
- Testing electronic CIM/SMGS prototype
- Drafting international agreement
- Analyzing supporting documents for further digitalization (2023-2024)

Joint OSJD, CIT, UIC, UN ECE & TRACECA activity (2025)

Initial Survey
- Survey on use of CIM/SMGS consignment note (2022)
Digitalization at National Level (Current Situation)

- Different levels of digitalization
- Partial data exchange
- Different approaches and priorities

Approaches in Digitalization of TRACECA Corridor

**Bottom-Up**
Pilot implementation of specific digitalization projects (e.g. eCMR, eCIM/SMGS, C2C ..) with interested TRACECA countries

**Common Core**
Harmonized standards, recommendations and best practices, (UN, WCO, EU)

**Top-Down**
Support for implementation of existing and negotiation of new regional / sub-regional initiatives (Conventions, Agreements)

Synergies with partnering organizations: ECE, ESCAP, OSJD, CIT, UIC, IRU, WB, ADB, WCO, EU, OECD, OSCE, CLDP, USAID, BSEC, TITR, …
IT and Legal Aspects of Corridor Digitalization

Connecting different stakeholders

Assessment of national legislation and development of recommendations on use of electronic transport documents and data exchange

Draft Framework Agreement on Transport Digitalization (corridor / TRACECA level)

- use of electronic documents;
- data composition;
- methods of data exchange;
- data storage;
- use of electronic digital signatures and mutual recognition;
- authorization methods;
- protection of personal data;
- safety and security;
- concept on national digital hubs / national electronic logistics systems / national digital platforms;
- options for connectivity on corridor level (infrastructure design and management)
**Next Steps**

- Continued support for limited transport digitalization pilot projects on selected routes
- Sharing experiences / support in harmonized development of national digital hubs / NELS / national e-platforms (transport and logistics)
- Providing international legal framework that supports corridor transport digitalization
- Facilitation / support of cross border connectivity (e.g. Interoperable cross-border network of platforms)
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