ITIO – Purpose, functions, user groups and operational modalities

WP.5, 34th session
Geneva, 16 September 2021
Agenda item 3 (a)

Background and mandate

- *During its twenty-eighth session (Geneva, September 2015) WP.5 organized a "Workshop on Road and rail transport corridors along Europe and Asia". Participants agreed that despite the numerous initiatives that exist and operate for transport corridor development along Europe and Asia, cooperation among these initiatives is very low or non-existent*

- *During its twenty-ninth session (Geneva, September 2016) WP.5 approved the development of a transport infrastructure observatory in Europe and Asia which should include all existing initiatives on transport infrastructure development and foster cooperation among these initiatives*

- *During its thirty-first session (Geneva, September 2018) WP.5 was informed that the preparation of the observatory was being funded by the Islamic Development Bank*

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Background and mandate – *Continued*

- *The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its eighty-third session (Geneva, February 2021) requested the secretariat to prepare an official document about progress regarding the development of the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory, providing information about the methodology, data sources, algorithms of actualization and mechanisms of data protection as well as responsibilities of stakeholders involved in this process*

- ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/4 entitled **"International Transport Infrastructure Observatory - Purpose, functions, user groups and operational modalities"** responds to this ITC request

Welcome to the Observatory

The International Transport Infrastructure Observatory is a multi-stakeholder, web-based GIS platform which hosts data on a large variety of transport infrastructure networks and nodes across different modes including road, rail, inland waterways, ports, airports, intermodal terminals, logistics centers and border crossing points

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User groups

GOVERNMENTS

Authorized Governments' users can access the Observatory from here

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MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS

Authorized International Financial Institutions' users can access the Observatory from here

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REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Authorized Regional Organizations' users can access the Observatory from here

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THE PUBLIC

The public can access all the publicly available information included in the Observatory from here

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Personalized user group dashboard

UNECE
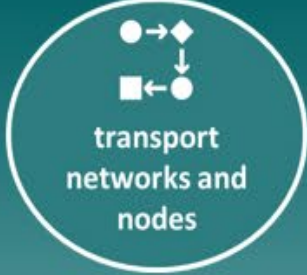
transport networks and nodes

Upload, revise and update data about all transport networks and nodes (road, rail, inland waterways, ports, airports, intermodal terminals, logistics centers and border crossing points).

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transport corridors

Visualize transport corridors passing through their territory (length, services, missing links, time schedules, tariffs).

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new transport infrastructure projects

Upload data about **new transport infrastructure projects**

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international conventions / agreements

Upload, revise and update data about international conventions / agreements ratification and implementation

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transport infrastructure construction costs

Benchmarking transport infrastructure construction costs

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adaptation for transport networks and nodes

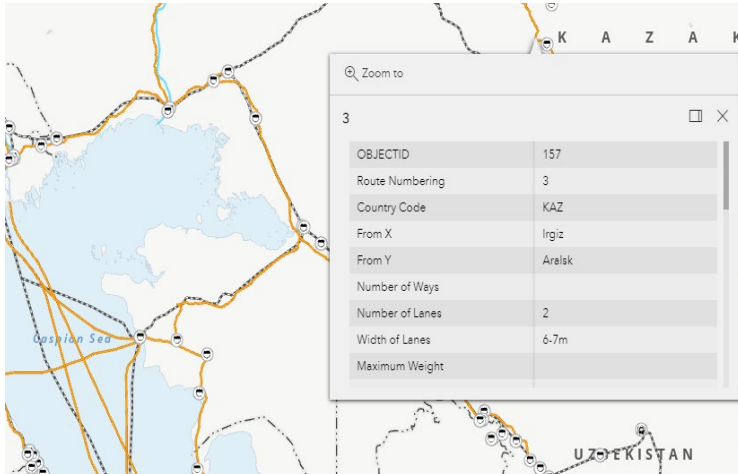Climate Change impacts and adaptation for transport networks and nodes

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I. Transport infrastructure networks and nodes

UNECE and ESCWA regions, overview of all available networks

II. Transport corridors

EATL, ESCWA, CETMO networks
As well as other initiatives...

III. Identifying bankable project proposals

Multilateral Development Bank application, access to new project proposals
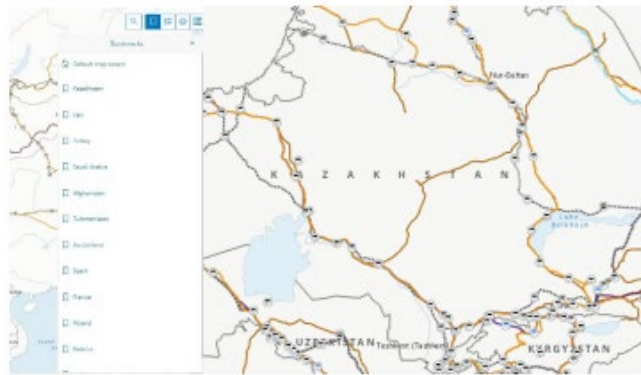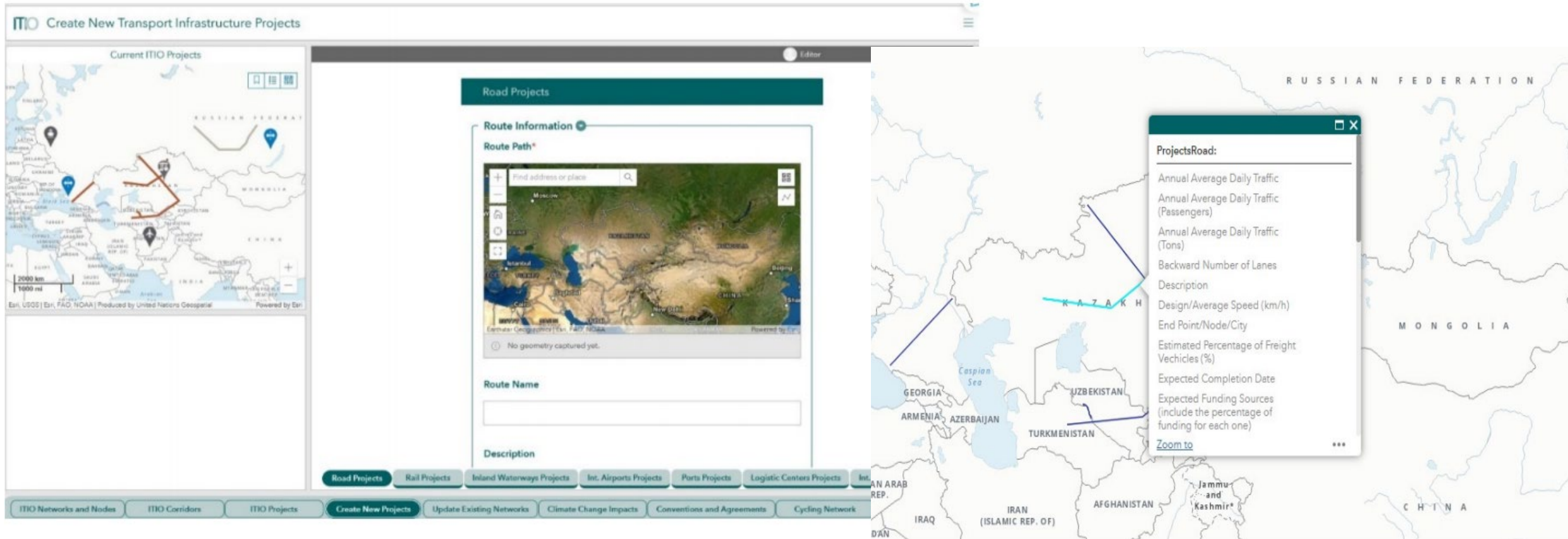
IV. Creating new project proposals

App for Governments to upload new projects in need of funding

V. Climate change impacts on infrastructure development

App for all users to assess climate change impacts on newly planned projects
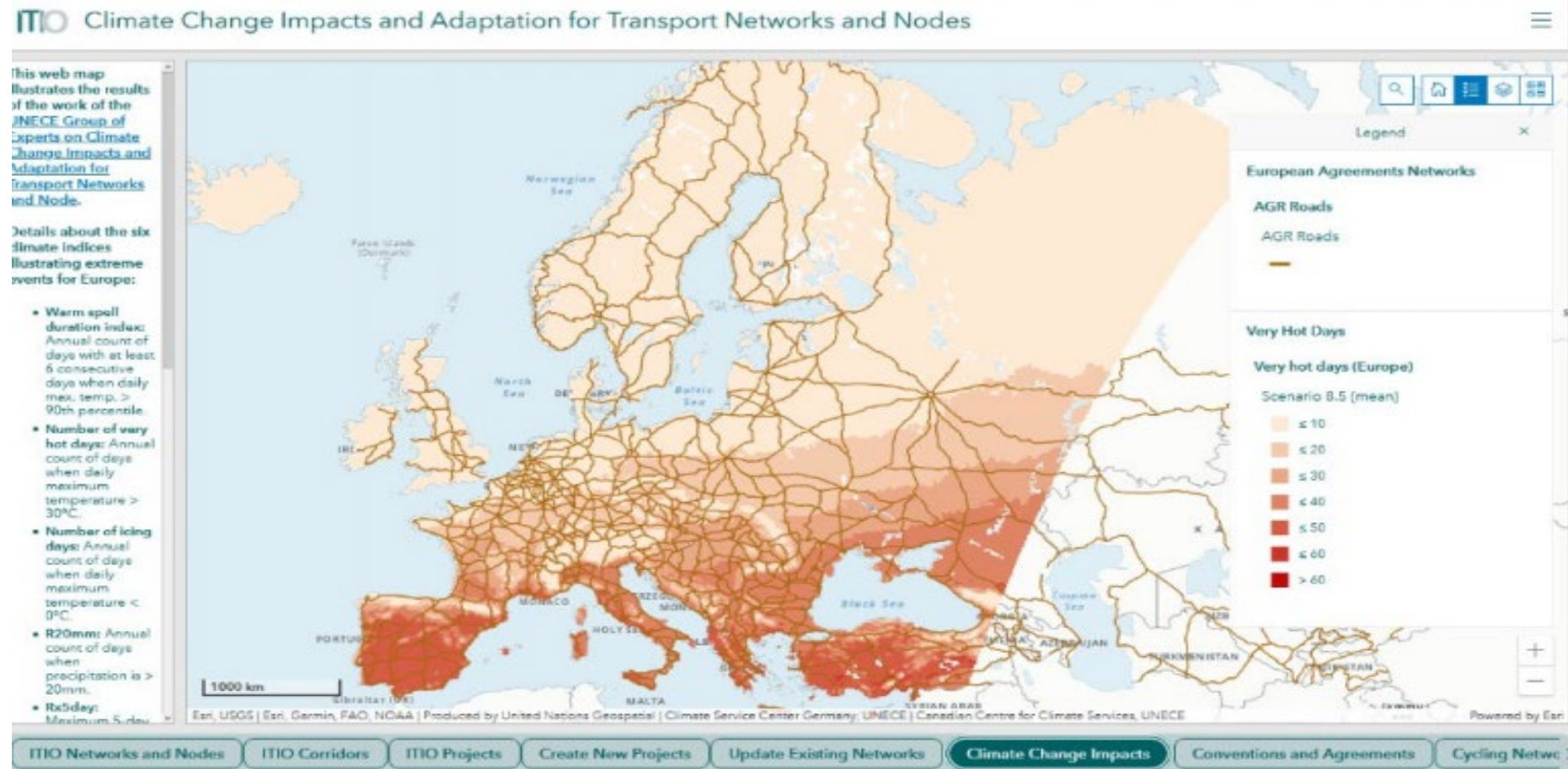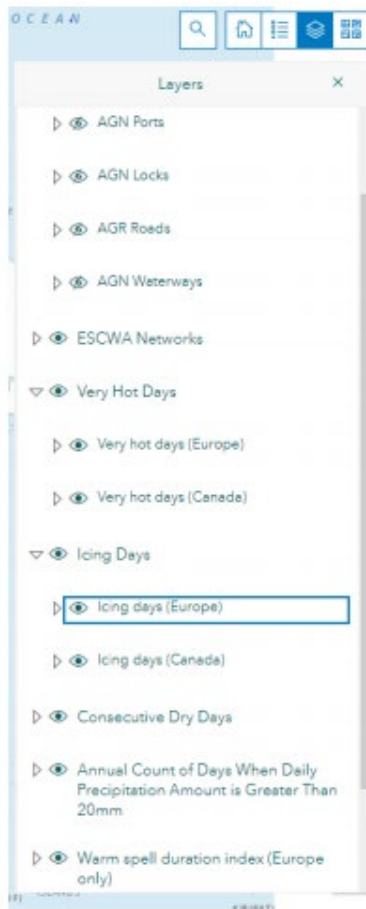
VI. Implementation rate of UN legal instruments

App for all users to assess ratification and implementation rates of UN legal instruments

Origin of data, hosting and security measures

- Geo-coded data on transport networks and projects can only be uploaded onto the ITIO by **accredited users (either Governments, MDBs or RCOs)/** Accredited users need to be officially endorsed by their Government and have a a username and password protected access

- Data is hosted on two servers located at ECE premises: a **data (or SQL) server** which hosts and registers all GIS data and an a**pplication server (ArcGIS Enterprise)** which hosts the webservices and applications

- Currently, the secretariat owns 5 licenses for editors (users having permission to edit data), 1 license for ArcGIS Enterprise, 2 licenses for ArcGIS Desktop Standard

- ESRI solutions are part of United Nations ICT approved standards, and there is a Direct Marketing Agreement between United Nations and ESRI

Next steps

A strong partnership:

- The Observatory will become publicly accessible as of autumn 2021/ ECE and ESCWA Member States will be informed in writing

- Enhanced cooperation with additional UN regional commissions and other international/ regional partners is envisaged

- Cooperation with additional Multilateral Development Banks and other stakeholders should be ensured

- Once established, efforts will need to be made to ensure continuous data collection and interaction with Governments and MDBs

- The development of additional ITIO applications, e.g. integration of GE.4 Transport Infrastructure Construction Cost data is ongoing

Guidance and support from WP.5

- Takes note and reiterates its support concerning the further development of the Observatory

- Requests the secretariat to officially inform Governments, regional organizations and IFIs / Multilateral Development Banks on Observatory's preparation, asking them to nominate focal points

- Invites and encourages the regional organizations and Governments to support the secretariat on this endeavor and provide all information requested / needed in order to ensure proper operations and use of the Observatory

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Guidance and support from WP.5

- Requests the secretariat to inform ITC on this important endeavor and achievement and prepare, if possible, an official launching of the Observatory during the next ITC session including the organization of a side event

- Inform the Working Party at its next session on any developments regarding the Observatory

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Thank you for your attention