

***15th International Capacity-Building Seminar
on Trade and Transport Facilitation
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**ESCAP capacity building activities to promote digital transformation of
land transport in North and Central Asia**

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Project on promotion of Digital Transformation of Rail and Multimodal Transport in NCA

Participating countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Funded by: Russian Federation Global Fund

Implemented: from June 2022 to June 2024

Countries participating in the project

- Azerbaijan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Russian Federation
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

Project objectives and components

Research and analysis

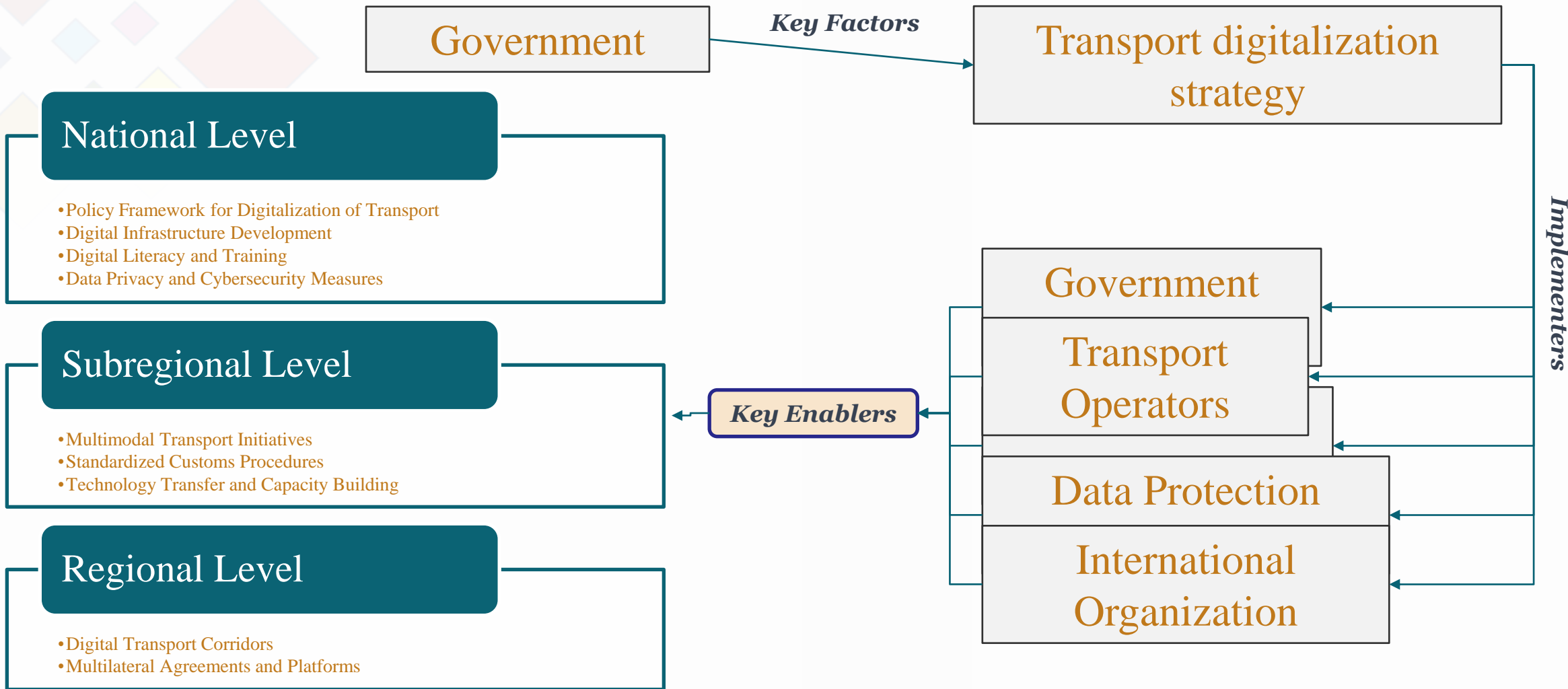
- Prepared a subregional inventory, mapping the policies, good practices and lessons in beneficiary countries and their main trading and transit partners in using new technologies and digital transformation (2022; 2024 updated version in preparation)
- Developed policy recommendations on strengthening cooperation to enhance digital transformation and application of new technologies in railway and intermodal operations in North and Central Asia and their main trading and transit partners (reviewed and finalized in early 2024)

Identifying Digitalization Enablers

- **Digital infrastructure** - provides the foundation for modern transportation systems
- **Big Data Analytics** - leverages large datasets to improve transportation planning and enable optimization
- **Seamless Exchange** - facilitates smooth information sharing among different transportation modes and stakeholders
- **Cybersecurity** - reliability and safety of transportation systems
- **Private Sector Support** - vital role in funding, innovating, and partnering
- **Technical Assistance** - provides the necessary expertise and guidance
- **Interoperability** - promotes efficient operations and enhanced user experiences.



Approach to Tailoring Digitalization Strategies



Project objectives and components

Capacity building

- Developed a capacity building programme for increasing efficiency, resilience and crisis-responsiveness of railway/multimodal transport utilizing the capacity of experts from the countries participating in the project (presented in early 2024, in finalization)
- Considered establishment of a self-sustaining network of experts on land transport digitalization in NCA
- Supported formulation of a framework agreement on strengthening transport connectivity in Central Asia (signed in September 2023), including digitalization
- Several events organized under the project, including EGMs and capacity-building seminars in Baku in September 2022 (in cooperation with UIC), in Almaty in April 2023 (in cooperation with CCTT), in Tashkent in March 2024, as well as today's Round Table in Moscow (jointly with Russian Railways)

Focus of follow-up activities as prioritized by the project countries

Project beneficiary countries were surveyed at the Final EGM in March 2024 and

- indicated their continued interest in the continuation of the activities related to digitalization of land transport in North and Central Asia at ESCAP's platform.
- further indicated the relevance of the theme topic under the current project and proposed that potential follow up activities should continue to cover rail and multimodal transport in the subregion of North and Central Asia and beyond
- suggested that follow-up activities should focus on sharing best practices and strengthen professional competencies of transport actors in ESCAP member States in accelerating digitalization of rail and rail-based multimodal transport

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