



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: Building of the Assembly of People, 130 000 Aktau, 34 micro-district (<https://2gis.kz/aktau/firm/70000001083530352>)

Web page of the seminar: <https://unece.org/info/Trade/events/390765>

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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 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, 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

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

organizes capacity-building on the use of the UN/CEFACT standards. This seminar is organized 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 results of the railway pilot project by now 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 is addressed 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 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, Kuryk, and Turkmenbashi,
 - d. Discuss possibilities for digitalization of trade and transport documents accompanying goods (consignment notes, bills of lading, and additional documents) as part of the information flows on cargo along the corridors,
 - 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 additional implementation projects.
7. The target audience of this seminar includes 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 is a capacity-building event to generate skills in the target countries to implement innovative approaches of harmonized digitalization of data and document exchange along the corridor. It will include knowledge and technology transfer for the implementation of electronic information 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, Türkiye, 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 national experts, 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. The objective is to prepare the recommendations as guidelines on how to use the UN/CEFACT semantic standards and Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT RDM) to enable multimodal interoperability in data flows along the Trans-Caspian and other SPECA corridors. How can port community systems become hubs or platforms to support multimodal data and document exchange. Participants, especially from the countries, are invited to formulate concrete actions that their governments may undertake to support the implementation of the Trans-Caspian digitalization roadmap and the UN/CEFACT standards in the digitalization efforts.

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

OPENING SESSION

9:30 – 10:15

Welcome notes

Ms. Aliya Alimbetova, Director, Ministry of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan

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

Ms. Judith Blank, the GIZ's project manager "Trade Facilitation in Central Asia"

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

Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

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

EU resource person (t.b.c.)

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 (online)

National e-platform

Mr. Ehtiram Guliyev, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, Azerbaijan

Digitalization and Implementation of UN standards: state of play and needs

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

UNECE - UN/CEFACT package of standards; pilot projects; and digital corridors

Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE

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 – 12:45

*Coffee break***SESSION II: PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION**

12:45 – 14:15

Moderator: Goran Andreev, Permanent Secretariat IGC TRACECA

e-CIM/SMGS pilot project

Mr. Goran Andreev, Permanent Secretariat IGC TRACECA

Testing the CIM/SMGS consignment note

Mr. Orkhan Namazov, UNECE consultant

Unified Railway Law – recent developmentsMr Francesco Dionori, Chief of Transport Networks & Logistics Section
Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE (online)**Tour de table discussion: digitalization of railway consignment notes**

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

Discussion on linking public, private, business, and regulatory information flows

14:15 – 16:30

Session II, part 2

Moderators: Mr. Gaidar Abdikerimov, International Association «Trans-Caspian International Transport Route» (TMTM); Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE

Use of international standards for business to customs information exchange

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

Other possible digitalization projects

Mr. Rudy Hemeleers, UN/CEFACT expert, Luxembourg (online)

The freight-forwarders perspective

Mr. Mark Bromley, FIATA

ESCAP capacity building to support pilot projects

Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP, or Fedor Kormilitzyn, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP (online)

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

Ms. Aliya Alimbetova, Director, Ministry of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan

eTIR and links to multimodal digitalization using UN/CEFACT standards

Mr. Anjum Khan, Transport Facilitation and Economics Section, Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE

Tour de Table and discussion on (1) digitalization of consignment notes and additional documents, using the international standards, (2) legal aspects of the transition from document to dataset exchangeMr Zavarsho Ismoilov, Ministry of Transport, Tajikistan, and *other brief interventions from country representatives*

17:00

Dinner

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

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

9:30 – 11:15

Moderator: Mr. Nico de Cauwer, Secretary General, International Port Community System Association (IPCSA)

Port Community Systems and the use of UN/CEFACT standards

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

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. Ports of Aktau and Kuryk
2. Mr. Zakariyya Vakilov, Port of Baku
3. Port of Turkmenbashi

Digitalization of trade and transport flows in Kazakhstan

Ms. Zhanar Bagashanova, Head of Programme Development, Global DTC

Discussion: How to align digitalization efforts in Caspian ports, maritime, rail, road and air cargo data exchange and international standards. Possible pilot project linking information flows among the Caspian ports

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

SESSION IV: PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE – SUPPORT FOR PILOT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS AND CAPACITY- BUILDING

11:30 – 12:30

Moderator: Ms. Dinara Mukhanova – National Coordinator in Kazakhstan of the GIZ project on trade facilitation in Central Asia

Partnerships and synergies to support implementation projects and the methodology for implementing UN digitalization standards.

Discussion introduced by Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE ECT Division

Train-the-trainers on implementing UN standards in the supply chain

Discussion introduced by Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, UN/CEFACT

Speakers from GIZ and other development partners

CLOSING SESSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12:30 – 13:00 *The conclusions and recommendations of this seminar will focus on (1) practical guidelines on concrete steps for implementing the UN standards in the real world digitalization projects in transport and supply chains; (2) what pilot digitalization projects for multimodal data and document exchange using global standards are needed (e.g., to implement the SPECA Trans-Caspian multimodal digitalization roadmap; (3) how to organize trainings of experts and a train-the-trainers network.*

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 19:00 **STUDY VISIT TO THE PORT OF KURYK**
