# Transport Corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia

# Pilot Implementation of Global Standards to Digitalize Information Flows along the TRACECA Routes

# TRACECA

The development of economic relations, trade and transport communication in the regions of Europe, the Black Sea, the Caucasus, the Caspian Sea and Asia – one of the main objectives

## KEY DATES

**May 1993**
Initiating of the TRACECA Programme

**September 8, 1998**
Signature of the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia corridor (MLA)

**March 10, 2000**
The First Annual Meeting (Conference) of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA on the transport corridor "Europe-the Caucasus-Asia"

**February 21, 2001**
Official opening of the office of the Permanent Secretariat of the IGC TRACECA in Baku (Azerbaijan)

### Intergovernmental Commission
Decision-making structure – Competent Ministries

### Permanent Secretariat
Executive structure – Implementation and Monitoring



An official opening ceremony of the office in Baku (left-right) *Minister of Foreign Affairs and representative of Swedish presidency in EU* **Anna Lindh**, *the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan* **Heydar Aliyev**, *Commissioner for External Relations* **Christopher Patten**, *Secretary General/ High Representative of CFSP* **Javier Solana**

### Permanent Representatives (National Secretaries) in 14 member states
National structure – Focal and Coordinating point between national competent authorities/organisations and the Permanent Secretariat
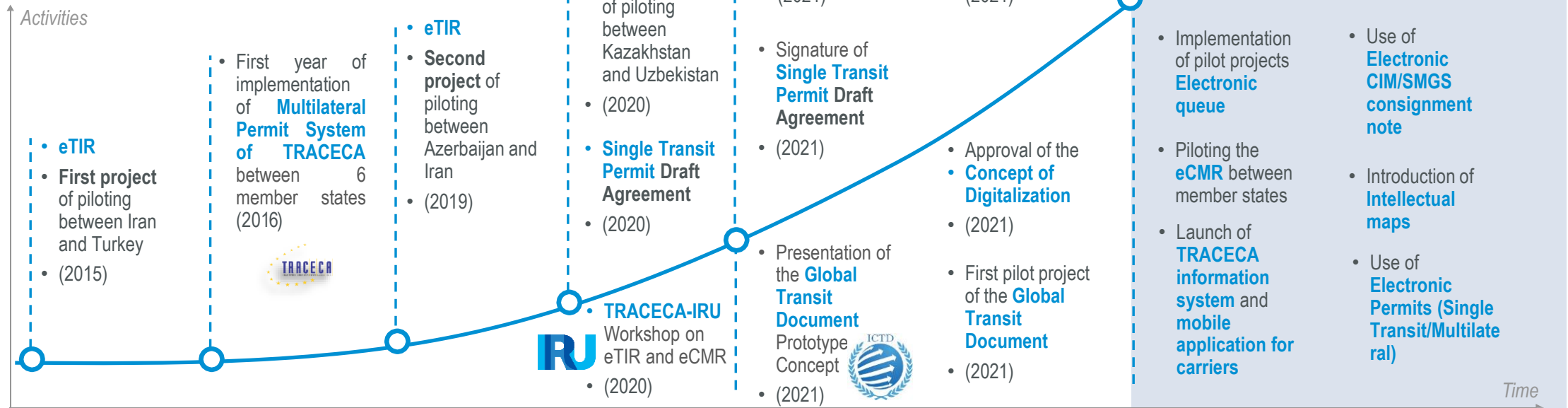
# Projects and Initiatives towards Digitalization

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

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)
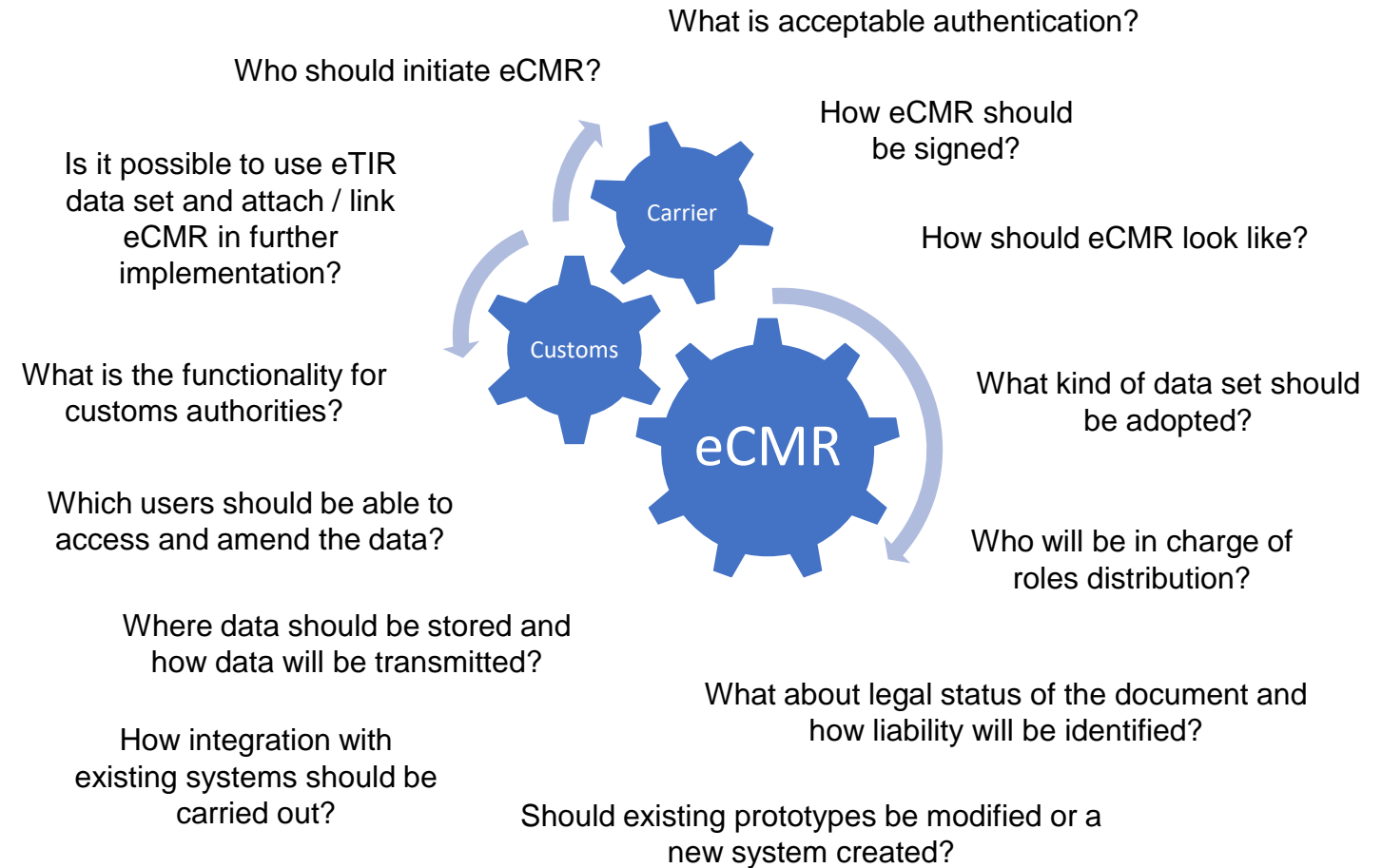
*Activities*

**2022-2025**

Implementation of the **Concept of Digitalization**

- **eTIR**
- **First project** of piloting between Iran and Turkey
- (2015)

- First year of implementation of **Multilateral Permit System of TRACECA** between 6 member states (2016)

- **eTIR**
- **Second project** of piloting between Azerbaijan and Iran
- (2019)

- **eTIR**
- **Third project** of piloting between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- (2020)

- **Single Transit Permit Draft Agreement**
- (2020)

- **TRACECA-IRU** Workshop on eTIR and eCMR
- (2020)

- **eTIR**
- **Fourth project** of piloting between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- (2021)

- Signature of **Single Transit Permit Draft Agreement**
- (2021)

- Presentation of the **Global Transit Document** Prototype Concept
- (2021)

- **eTIR**
- **Fifth project** of piloting between Iran, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- (2021)

- Approval of the **Concept of Digitalization**
- (2021)

- First pilot project of the **Global Transit Document**
- (2021)

- Implementation of pilot projects **Electronic queue**
- Piloting the **eCMR** between member states
- Launch of **TRACECA information system** and **mobile application for carriers**

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

*Time*

# Digitalization of e-CMR

- **2020 / 2021** – Analysis of eCMR pilot projects, existing prototypes and tools

- **2021 / 2022** – External consultations with eCMR solutions providers, participation at UN ECE expert meetings on operationalization of eCMR

- **2022 / 2023** – WG meetings on eCMR pilot project between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and drafting the next steps on digitalization of e-CMR
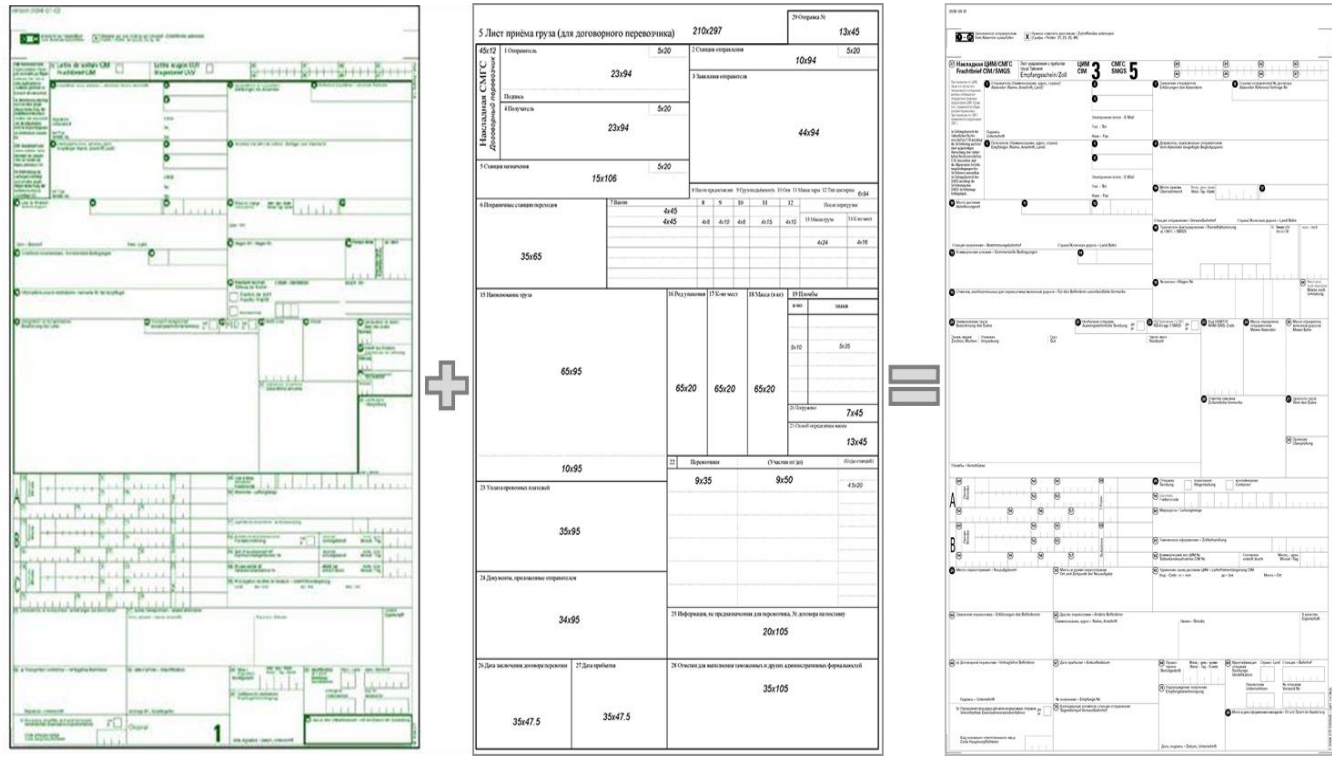
## Main conclusions

- Existing prototypes can not be implemented in TRACECA countries without required adjustments related to customs operations (mostly introduced in EU countries information systems do not have functionality for customs).

- Some prototypes rely on Cloud services for data storage, which will not be accepted by some countries due to the security issues.

- Preliminary information/declaration consists of mostly identical data sets, which requires additional time spent on filling in the data.

- Ways of authentication and electronic signature requirements differ (mutual recognition of e-signature has to be regulated)

## FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

What is acceptable authentication?

Who should initiate eCMR?

How eCMR should be signed?

Is it possible to use eTIR data set and attach / link eCMR in further implementation?

Carrier

How should eCMR look like?

What is the functionality for customs authorities?

Customs

eCMR

What kind of data set should be adopted?

Which users should be able to access and amend the data?

Who will be in charge of roles distribution?

Where data should be stored and how data will be transmitted?

What about legal status of the document and how liability will be identified?

How integration with existing systems should be carried out?

Should existing prototypes be modified or a new system created?

# Use of Electronic CIM/SMGS Consignment Note



**CIM**

**SMGS**

**CIM/SMGS**

**Joint OSJD, CIT, UIC, UN ECE & TRACECA activity**

(2025)

**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)

**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)

**Adoption of Action Plan**

- Implementation of Action Plan
- Digitalization of a prototype CIM/SMGS

(2023)

**Signing MoU between interested railways**

- Framework for piloting electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note

(2023)

**3 Joint Workshop**

- Use of electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note

(2023)

**2 Joint Workshop**

- Use of electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note

(2023)

**Initial Survey**

- Survey on use of CIM/SMGS consignment note

(2022)

**1 Joint Workshop**

- Use of CIM/SMGS consignment note

(2022)

# Working Group on Digitalization of the TRACECA corridor

**DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM**

**LEGAL ASPECTS**

**DIGITAL MODEL**

Digital infrastructure

Data exchange

E-documents

Mutual recognition of e-signatures

National IT-hubs

# Approaches in Digitalization of TRACECA Corridor

## Bottom - Up

- Activities based on specific needs / interest of TRACECA countries
- Pilot implementation of specific digitalization projects, e.g.:
    - e-CMR
    - e-CIM/SMGS
    - Systematic Customs to Customs data exchange
    - ...

## Common Core

Harmonization based on globally recognized standards, recommendations and best practices, e.g.,:
- UN CEFACT Standards
- UN CITRAL Model Laws
- WCO Standards and Recommendations
- EU e-FTI Regulation
- …

## Top-Down

- Support of existing regional / sub-regional initiatives
- New initiatives for regional / TRACECA arrangements, e.g.:
    - Framework Agreement on Digitalization (with focus on data composition, methods of data transmission / storage, data protection, recognition of electronic digital signatures and authentication methods)

Synergies with partnering organizations: UN (ECE, ESCAP), International Transport Organizations (OSJD, CIT, UIC, IRU), Development Banks (WB, ADB), WCO, EU, OECD, OSCE, USAID, TITR, ...

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## USEFUL LINKS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS

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