
Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

17th Session
25-26 April 2012
Almaty, Kazakhstan

Monitoring of performance of major transport corridors/routes

(Item 4.5 of the Agenda)

Note by UNECE/UNESCAP

1. In order to improve the efficiency of international transport routes and corridors, both transport infrastructure and facilitation issues need to be addressed. Major bottlenecks along international transport routes need to be identified, isolated and eliminated.
2. The UNESCAP secretariat, in cooperation with UNCTAD and other regional commissions including UNECE, started to implement a Development Account Project entitled “Capacity Building for Control Authorities and Transport Operators to Improve Efficiency of Cross-border Transport in Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries” from 2012. The project will demonstrate the use of collaborative mechanism and upgraded UNESCAP time/cost-distance methodology to identify corridor-related national and corridor constraints to smooth and efficient transport operations and identify ways to effectively address the problems. The project will be implemented through national facilitation committees with involvement of all stakeholders. The implementation will be supported by national planning or research institutes.
3. As support to the SPECA programme, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have been selected for pilot implementation of the project in Asia.
4. National workshops will be organized in the second half of 2012 to train national experts. National and corridor consultation meetings will be later organized to discuss issues in cross-border and transit transport, and possible solutions.
5. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) launched a jointly produced handbook on border crossing policies in Vienna, Austria on 22 February 2012. The Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation

Perspective offers a rich array of reference material and more than 120 best practice examples at border crossings. It covers available legal instruments, inter-agency and international co-operation, balancing security and facilitation measures, processing of freight, risk management, design of border crossing points, use of ICT technologies, human resource management and benchmarking. It will help facilitate legal trade and stop illegal trade, as well as cut red tape. It combines theoretical and practical knowledge of the two organizations.”

6. The publication was produced with financial contributions from Belgium, France, Finland, Kazakhstan and the U.S. It is currently available in English at <http://www.osce.org/eea/88200> and http://www.unece.org/trans/publications/wp30/best_practices.html, and will soon be made available also in Russian.

The Project Working Group may wish to:

- Take note of the handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective, jointly published by UNECE and OSCE and encourage SPECA countries to use it widely;
- Encourage the implementation of the UNESCAP/UNCTAD Development Account Project in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.