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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions
affecting Transport

Informal ad hoc Expert Group on the
Computerization of the TIR procedure

Activities of the Informal ad hoc Expert Group

Follow up to decision ExG/41

Background to the Reference Model

Transmitted by the secretariat

A. BACKGROUND

1. At its fourth session, the Expert Group requested the secretariat to prepare, for discussion at the next session, a working document to amend Chapter 0.2 of the Reference Model, outlining its ideas how to integrate the step-by-step approach, adopted by the Working Party into the UMM framework used by the Expert Group (Decision No. 41) (ExG/COMP/2004/10, para. 6). To this end, the secretariat has prepared a new subchapter 0.2.2 as well as amendments to the renumbered subchapter 0.2.3. which are contained in Annex 1 to underlying document.

Annex 1

0.2.2 Step by step approach

At its one-hundred-and-sixth session, the Working Party agreed that, in the light of the complexity of the project and in order to achieve tangible results in the near future, a step-by step approach was the only feasible way to address the eTIR Project.

As stated in the introduction to Chapter 0.2, the UMM methodology is mainly based upon the Rational Unified Process (RUP), which originally has been used in the field of software engineering. The eTIR Project, although not being a software engineering project, nevertheless is confronted with many similar problems with regard to the complexity of the issues at stake. In order to address complex problems, software engineers usually issue a first version of a software, tackling the main issues. With every new release, they add functionalities to the software with a view to advance towards reaching the final objectives of the project.

In the eTIR project, the various steps to be undertaken to achieve results in the project may be considered as being equivalent to the various releases of software. Therefore (and in accordance with the RUP), every single step, after it has been clearly defined, will be considered as a specific sub-project and will have to pass through all phases of a project lifecycle. All sub-projects share the same final objectives but each individual sub-project contains different elements to achieve them.

0.2.3 Structure and updating of the document

The underlying document follows the methodology and structure presented above. The four main chapters correspond to the four workflows of the Inception and Elaboration phases. In addition, a number of annexes also forms part of the present Reference Model.

The requirements list and the glossary (TIR glossary) are two key cross-reference documents which are used throughout the process to ensure that all business requirements, terms, and definitions are recorded. These two documents are maintained as and recorded in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

Annex 3 contains a UML Symbols Glossary, describing the specific terms and symbols of the language to allow non-UML literates to understand the numerous diagrams contained in this document.

Annex 4 contains a UMM/UML Glossary, describing the specific terms used by the UMM methodology.

Annexes 5 and 6 contain the lists of, respectively, figures and tables contained in underlying document.

In Annex 7 the reader can find all references to the documents used to elaborate this document.

The Reference Model will contain the results of each work phase, in line with the description in Chapter 0.2.1. and in accordance with the decisions by the Expert Group. In view of the step-by-step approach, described in Chapter 0.2.2., the Reference Model will be amended by means of an iterative process, as shown in Figure 0.1.

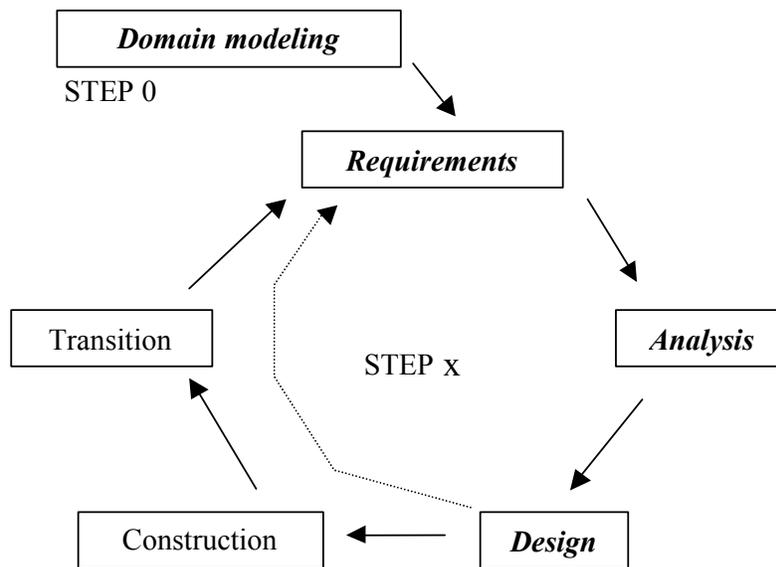


Figure 0.1 - Step-by-step iterative approach of UMM

Because UMM does not go beyond the design phase of projects, the actual construction and transition phases are beyond the scope of the eTIR Project. Thus, the Expert Group can already start drafting the requirements of the next step before the previous step will actually be in production (see dashed line in Figure 0.1.).

A step-by-step approach can only be successful if all steps, necessary to achieve the final goal, are well defined before starting the actual work. Therefore, the introduction to Chapter 2 contains the description of the different steps of the project and explains how these steps will complement each other in order to achieve the overall objectives of the eTIR Project.

In addition, some chapters or annexes may be added in the future to reflect the specificities of the TIR Procedure Computerization Project.
