

UNDA project on Customs-to-Customs (C2C) electronic information exchange for transit

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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)



The Project

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, by means of increased secure electronic exchange of information between Customs administrations. Simultaneously, the project will further secure the supply chain and the government revenues related to the international transport of goods. Ultimately, this project will contribute to increasing the cooperation between Customs administrations and promote the use of international standard electronic messages, in particular, for transit operations.

Background

Crossing borders has always been a problem in international transport and trade. Despite recent improvements, international transport still faces obstacles, costs and difficulties at borders. Overall, limitations to trade and transport facilitation are detrimental to economic growth, regional cooperation and integration. Control authorities at borders face security challenges related to smuggling, terrorism, illegal trade and immigration. In view of the large volume of cross-border transport operations nowadays, Customs authorities are no longer in a position to control every vehicle or container. Instead, they have to apply risk management and identify high risk consignments on the basis of data available. Often, the most reliable data on the goods transported is available at the Customs offices of departure at the origin of a transit movement following an export procedure. To the extent possible, these data should be captured and then made available to the Customs authorities of transit and destination countries through a common Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system, prior to the arrival of the goods.

The availability of advance electronic cargo information and the establishment of C2C network arrangements have been identified as cornerstones of the global supply chain security by the World Customs Organization.

Who benefits

- (a) Legitimate international trade and transport companies,
- (b) Customs administrations and other cross-border agencies and
- (c) organizations and companies providing guarantees, thus securing the payment of duties and taxes of goods in transit in case of irregularities.

Project activities

The activities have two major expected results: (1) the increased use of international standards, in particular when it comes to the submission of Business-to-Customs (B2C) electronic information, (2) as well as the increased collaboration between Customs of different countries and C2C exchange of relevant electronic information. The project activities are:

- (1) First inter-regional Expert Group Meeting to assess the legal and technical needs for the exchange of electronic information of 5 pilot countries with other countries on the basis of regional studies ("gap" analysis).
- (2) Development and deployment of a secure C2C versatile electronic exchange platform.
- (3) Technical assistance to national experts in at least five pilot countries.
- (4) Five technical workshops.
- (5) Second inter-regional Expert Group Meeting at the end of the project to present and evaluate the results achieved in the five pilot countries.
- (6) A seminar to promote the electronic exchange of Customs information and the adoption of standard electronic messages.

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