Customs Data Exchange: UNCTAD ASYCUDA Experience

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Information/data exchange preconditions

Data harmonization context (WHAT)
- WCO Data Model (new Ver.3.6), UNCTAD ASYCUDA derived package
- DG TAXUD Data Model
- UNECE. UNESCAP standards and recommendations
- Regional Customs Unions standards

ICT context (HOW)
- Robust national Customs IT systems
- E-declarations, e-supporting documents
- Transactional environment, XML, Web-services, Cloud computing
- Qualified IT personnel

Enforcement context (WHY)
- Use of exchanged data for Customs intelligence purpose
- Customs Risk Management/Multiagency Risk Management
- Strengthening operational capacity of Customs and other border agencies
- Combating smuggling, drug trafficking and other infringements
- Securing regional stability
Practical examples: Afghanistan - Tajikistan

- Political will at the top level
- Growing bilateral trade (120 mln. USD per annum)
- Ambitious regional infrastructural and transit projects
- Intergovernmental agreement on Customs Cooperation
- Successful Customs automation process (EAIS of Tajikistan and ASYCUDA in Afghanistan)
- Sound human capacity
- World Bank financial support
- UNCTAD ASYCUDA expertise
- Preparatory work on data harmonization by UNECE
Practical examples: Afghanistan - Tajikistan

Technical aspects of data exchange

- Reliable VPN Tunnel
- Test servers/PC to work as gateways
- Triggers in both gateways
- XML messaging
- IT security and data protection settings
Practical examples: Afghanistan - Tajikistan

- New level of bilateral information interaction
- Improved control and monitoring of trade and borders
- Increased operational capacity to combat smuggling, drug trafficking and other infringements
- Trade facilitation and supply chain security
- Better environment for regional transit
- Gradual involvement of other agencies to cross-border data exchange in the Single Window format
- Involvement of other countries (Iran, Pakistan)
- Formation of regional transit corridors
- Improved regional security and stability
- New international projects (UNODC)
Practical examples: Syria-Jordan

- Data exchange between two ASYCUDA user-countries
- Challenging regional environment
- Implemented via an intermediate database at border
- No direct connection between Database1 & Database2
- Use of generic messaging module for data transfer
The status of the vessel is changed for "Departed" only when all controls are finalized by all agencies concerned.

The data on "Departed" vessels is automatically sent from Gibraltar Customs to French Customs via web-services.
Common transit: Regional Transit (CEMAC)

- 5 CEMAC member-states
- CEMAC Memorandum of Understanding + bilateral agreements
- Homogenous Customs IT systems (ASYCUDAWorld, ASYCUDA++)
- Regional transit hub/server (Headquarters of regional organization)
- Transit declarations (T1 type) are automatically sent from Country 1 to Country 2 and copied to the regional transit server
- National transit guarantees (regional guarantee under negotiation)
South African Customs Union

- SACU Memorandum of Understanding
- Bilateral agreements, including at the Presidential level
- WCO support, awareness seminars
- Utility block (harmonized data)
- ASYCUDAWorld, ASYCUDA++ and non-ASYCUDA users

- Data exchange through Cloud computing
- Public-Private Partnership (Trade Hub)
- Export declaration data from Country 1 uploaded to the Cloud
- Data from the Cloud in Country 2 used for generating import declaration
- Data protection challenge (need for government-controlled clouds)
Reference Data and Code Lists

1. National Reference Data
   - Customs Office List (NTCS guidelines)
   - Authorised Economic Operator Registration and Identification (NTCS guidelines)
   - Information exchange volume evaluation (who will generate most of Reference Data)
   - Frequency of updates and high number of records in the database (diversions etc.)

2. Common Reference Data
   - Harmonisation of reference data based on ISO codes and/or on Recommendations of Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures ECE/TRADE
   - Harmonization of reference data such as HS codes, Transit Declaration Type and Control Result Code
### Albania-Kosovo Transit Corridor

- Reference tables aligned with the NCTS EU requirements
Albania-Kosovo Transit Corridor

Fully operational

1. **Customs Office of Departure**
   - Transit Document Data is sent automatically by Customs Office of Departure to the Customs Office of Transit and Customs Office of Destination ("push" system)
   - Data is sent for each Albania-Kosovo movement after "Validate Departure" operation
   - Any updates on Transit Document Data (En route control, Diversion etc.) are sent to the Customs Office of Transit and Customs Office of Destination ("push" system)

2. **Customs Office of Transit** Notification of Crossing Frontier, sent to Office of Departure

3. **Customs Office of Destination**
   - Any updates on Transit Document Data (En route control, Diversion etc.) are sent to the Customs Office of Departure
   - Arrival Notification is sent to the Customs Office of Departure
   - Results of inspections are sent to the Customs Office of Departure
   - Discharge the Transit Procedure is sent to the Customs Office of Departure (Office of Departure will Release the Guarantee)

**Coming soon**

- Re-use of transit document data to generate Import Declaration
- Mutual recognition of transit guarantee
- Integrated border management (drivers' documents)
- from Common Transit to the Customs Union
- Full alignment with the EU legislation
- Full conformity with the EU NCTS standards
New project: Republic of Kazakhstan - EAEU

- Implementation of integrated ASTANA-1 system (ASYCUDAWorld technology) in the SRC MF RK;
- Regional norms and standards EAEU Customs code;
- Different national Customs IT systems;
- Alignment with EAEU - XML format;
- Integration of transit and Customs declarations;
- Automated transit shed/Customs warehouse management;
- Automated guarantee management;
- Incidents in transit (route deviation; transshipment; time limit; broken seals);
- Mobile Customs groups (ultra-light clients);
- Integration with other control systems (GPS etc.);
- Barcode/car plate readers; electronic gates;
- Automatic generation
Data exchange with external systems
Controlled goods (International conventions)

- iPIC - UNEP (Ozone depleting substances)
- CITES - UNEP (endangered species)
- FCTC/WHO (tobacco products)
- OPCW (chemical weapons)
- IPAS- WIPO (intellectual/industrial property)
- CDS/ISIS UNESCO (cultural values)
Data exchange with external systems
International organizations

- IATA (air cargo XML)
- IRU (TIR-EPD, SafeTIR)
- UPU (CUSITM XML and CUSRSP XML)
- WCO (Cargo targeting system)
- UNODC-WCO (container control)
- LogIK - OCHA (humanitarian relief consignments)
- MIDAS - IOM (migrants database)
- Interpol (watch lists of individuals and stolen vehicles)
- DCTA (excisable goods movement control)
- WTO (Integrated Trade Database)