



# Deployment of e-freight and implementation of the eFTI Regulation in the Western Balkans

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# Accelerating shift: the increasing pace of digitalization of freight transport information and related services

- eFTI
- UN/CEFACT Multi-Modal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT-RDM)
- National Computerised Transit System (NCTS) / CATs (CAREC Advance Transit System)
- eCustoms solutions, e.g. SEED/SEED+
- National e-way bills, National eLogistics Systems (NeLS)
- Middle Corridor Digital Hubs
- TRACECA cross-border data exchange initiative
- ...

# Why eFTI for Western Balkans and why now?

It's the time! The EU has already actively started the preparation for the eFTI deployment.

## EU trade relationship with Western Balkans

- The EU is the **#1 trade partner** in the Western Balkans
- EU – Western Balkans trade exceeds **70%** of total Western Balkan trade
- Potentially **millions of cost-savings and opportunities** for administrative simplification are missed without digitisation of freight information exchange
- The **EU has already recognized the benefits** of digitisation of the freight transport information

## Impact assessment in the Western Balkans:

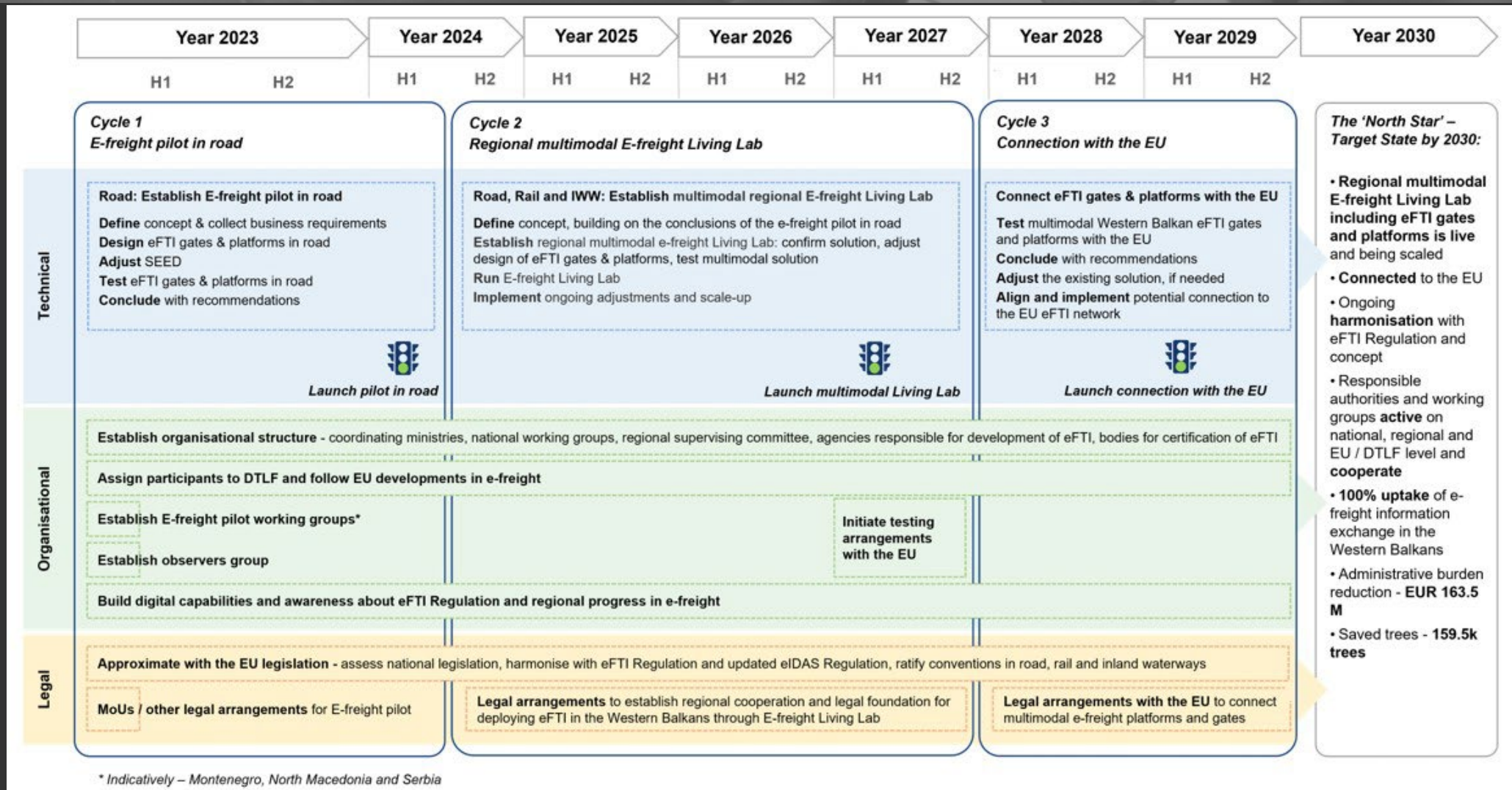
### ... economic impact:

- Overall **administrative costs** reduction about **EUR 27.3 M** annually
- **Compliance costs for authorities from EUR 11.1 M to EUR 18.6 M**, depending if eFTI solution is based on existing system
- **One company** could save up to **EUR 75,000** annually on cutting the administrative costs
- **One-off expenses** for a company could vary from **EUR 7,750 to EUR 142,500** depending on company size
- The payback period varies **from 11 to 23 months**, depending on company size

### ... environmental impact:

- Over **26,000 trees** saved annually

# Roadmap of eFTI deployment in the Western Balkans\*



\* Indicatively – Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia

# Phased approach of e-freight deployment

- The Western Balkans have developed the action plan of **3 cycles** and **estimated the budget for the eFTI deployment**.
- In the Western Balkans, the phased approach of e-freight deployment was chosen with the **aim to have multimodality and cross-border with the EU aspects covered in the last cycle**.
  - **Cycle 1** focuses on one transport mode (road) and involves only three Regional Partners in the piloting process.
  - **Cycle 2** focuses on the multimodality aspect and involves the whole region.
  - **Cycle 3** differentiates from previous cycles by connecting local developments (eFTI gates and platforms) with the EU.
- According to the action plan, the eFTI deployment should last **7 years** in the Western Balkans.

| Areas                              | Cycle 1: E-freight pilot in road       | Cycle 2: Regional multimodal E-freight Living Lab  | Cycle 3: <i>Connection with the EU</i>   |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Transport modes                    | Road                                   | Road, Rail and Inland Waterways  | Road, Rail and Inland Waterways  |
| Multimodality aspect               | ✘                                      | ✔  | ✔  |
| Cross-border aspect with the EU    | ✘                                      | ✘  | ✔  |
| Participants                       | Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia | All Regional Partners  | All Regional Partners and the EU member states   |
| Period                             | 1.5 years                              | 3.5 years  | 2 years  |
| Alignment with the EU developments | ✔                                      | ✔  | ✔  |
| Potential economic impact          | ✘                                      | Under 100% uptake rate businesses would save about EUR 7.2 million annually <sup>9</sup> | Under 100% uptake rate businesses would save about EUR 27.3 million annually <sup>10</sup> |



# Important eFTI deployment aspects to consider

- Stakeholders' awareness and engagement
- Institutional institutional capacities and capabilities
- Legal harmonisation
- Regional and national governance
- Varying digital systems and standards
- Data privacy and security
- Digital identity and trust

# Contacts



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