



National Capacity-Building Seminar

DIGITALIZATION OF MULTIMODAL DATA AND DOCUMENT EXCHANGE, USING UN/CEFACT STANDARDS

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 29 March 2024

Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 100128, Tashkent,
Shaykhontakhur dist., Zulfiyakhonim St., 3

To participate in this seminar, in person and online participants, please register at: <https://registerNatSemTashkent29Mar2024>

In case you would like to join the meeting **online, please use zoom link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83871123234?pwd=KNld1xEijEbrN276ALa0WGJgZfmg3L1>

Meeting ID: 838 7112 3234; Passcode: 277319

1. This event is organized in collaboration between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade and Ministry of Transport of Uzbekistan as a national seminar to build capacity on digitalizing data and document exchange in the SPECA region using United Nations standards. It is a response to the demand of the delegations of Uzbekistan and other States participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) at the SPECA Governing Council on 23 November 2023 in Baku that UNECE organizes capacity-building on the use of the standards of the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) in the rollout of the Trans-Caspian Corridor Digitalization Roadmap.
2. The Presidential Summit of the States Participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) on 24 November 2023 adopted the SPECA "Roadmap for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the Trans-Caspian transport corridor, using United Nations legal instruments and standards",¹ prepared with support from UNECE in 2022-2023. The Roadmap envisages action for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along supply chains in the Trans-Caspian Corridor, using the semantic standards and Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT RDM) of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT).
3. The idea for this Roadmap for digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the Trans-Caspian and other SPECA corridors came at the International High-level Conference "Digital Transformation of Information Exchange in Supply Chains Using United Nations Standards", Baku, Azerbaijan, 31 October 2022. In their Joint Ministerial Statement from 17 April 2023, the SPECA Ministers

¹ <https://unece.org/speca/speca-digitalization-roadmap>

requested “the UNECE to develop a Roadmap for a digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the trans-Caspian transport corridor using relevant United Nations standards, including through realizing a regional pilot project for SPECA participating States”. UNECE started such a project, together with TRACECA, for the digitalization of the CIM/SMGS railway consignment note along the Trans-Caspian Corridor. At the seminar in Tashkent, we will invite Uzbekistan to join this and launch other multimodal data and document exchange projects.

4. The problem that we seek to address is the fragmentation of digitalization efforts in the supply chains in this and other SPECA corridors. The solution we suggest is to base information flows about cargo moved along multimodal digital trade and transport corridors on alignment with UN/CEFACT’s global semantic standards and Multimodal Transport reference Data Model (MMT RDM).
5. In this sense, the seminar will seek to:
 - a. Identify business requirements for the digital exchange of data and documents among various modes of transport and sectors in supply chains in the SPECA corridors,
 - b. Assess the availability of technical skills in Uzbekistan to implement the international standards for harmonized digitalization of multimodal transport data and document exchange; raise awareness and capacity of the participants to digitalize data and document exchange aligned with the UN/CEFACT standards and reference data models,
 - c. Explore the possibility of establishing “centre(s) of expertise” in Uzbekistan, comprising business and IT experts, who will learn the details of using the UN/CEFACT semantic standards and MMT RDM to be used in practical digitalization projects for multimodal data and document exchange,
 - d. Review progress in the implementation of the UNECE-TRACECA pilot project on the digitalization of a railway consignment note (CIM/SMGS); consider including other Central Asian countries in it; explore the possibility to start new pilot projects (e.g., for road, air, and interoperability of data exchange),
 - e. Discuss the possibility to develop software for the digitalization of trade and transport documents accompanying goods (consignment notes, bills of lading and additional documents) to link to the Single Window in Uzbekistan,
 - f. Discuss other possibilities for concrete pilot testing projects of the digitalization of information exchange in collaboration with development partners.
6. The target audience of this seminar will include policymakers and experts with technical skills from the relevant national agencies dealing with digitalization, trade regulation, transport, and transit procedures, as well as the business community (traders, transporters, freight forwarders, IT developers, etc.). This is a capacity-building event to generate skills in the target countries to implement the innovative approach of harmonized digitalization of data and document exchange along a digital corridor.
7. Discussions on the contribution of UN standards and involvement of international organizations and the private sector with a view to formulate the conclusions and recommendations on the next steps and pilot projects to support relevant initiatives in the region.

CAPACITY-BUILDING SEMINAR AGENDA: 29 MARCH 2024

OPENING SESSION

9:30 – 10:30

Welcome statements and opening

Representatives of the Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan. **State of play in digitalizing documents accompanying goods**

The concept and expected results of the seminar and the digitalization Roadmap

Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

SESSION I: IMPLEMENTATION OF UN STANDARDS FOR THE DIGITALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY CHAINS

10:30 – 11:15

UNECE and UN/CEFACT package of standards and pilot implementation projects

Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE

UN/CEFACT international supply chain standards. Presentation of the UN/CEFACT standards on the UN website. Best practice experience of the use of UN/CEFACT standards: EU Electronic Freight Transport Information Regulation

Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

11:15 – 11:30

Break

11:30 – 12:30

Implementation of eTIR in Uzbekistan

Mr. Elyor Khakimov, Head of unit in the Customs Committee of Uzbekistan

Digital Corridors, the Trans-Caspian Corridor digitalization Roadmap, and the use of UN/CEFACT standards. The importance of electronic platforms to create a market for digitalization

Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE

Discussion from the perspective of the SPECA Roadmap for digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along corridors, using UN standards

12:30 – 13:30

Break

SESSION II: PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

13:30 – 15:00

Digitalization of Railway consignment notes: introduction

Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, UN/CEFACT,
Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE

Digitalization of information Exchange in Uzbekistan railways

Mr. Mirali Mirmahsudov, Deputy Director General DAS UTU

e-CIM/SMGS pilot project

Mr. Goran Andreev, TRACECA (online)

Development of a prototype for the CIM/SMGS consignment note

Mr. Orkhan Namazov, UNECE consultant, IT Expert, Azerbaijan (online)

15:00 - 15:15

Break

15:15 – 17:15

Digitalization of road and air consignment notes, dangerous goods declarations

Ms. Sue Probert, Chair, and other UN/CEFACT experts

Work on the digitalization of consignment notes in Uzbekistan

Representatives of the Ministry of Transport of Uzbekistan; Customs Committee under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan, airlines

Digitalization of documents accompanying cargo transported by road in Uzbekistan

Mr. Dmitriy Chubenko, Head of Claims and Information Analytics, Association of International Road Carriers of Uzbekistan (AIRCUZ)

Use of international standards for business to customs information exchange

Ms. Sue Probert, Chair, and other UN/CEFACT experts

Partnerships and synergies in support of pilot implementation projects

Development partner representatives:

Ms. Guzal Kahharova, GIZ Tashkent

Mr. Valery Virkovski, Mr. Tofiq Babayev, experts on EU4Digital, eTrade/eLogistics

Discussion on (1) possible pilot digitalization of consignment notes and additional documents, using international (UN) standards, (2) legal aspects of transition from document to dataset exchange, (3) launching centres of expertise/excellence on multimodal data and document exchange in SPECA participating States / Uzbekistan

17:15 – 17:30

CLOSING SESSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
