

Transport Corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia



Enhancing Corridor Connectivity through Digitalization: TRACECA's Instruments and Initiatives

*23rd CAREC Transport Sector Coordinating Committee
meeting, 08-09 June 2026*

TRACECA IGC

KEY DATES

May 1993
TRACECA Programme initiated

September 8, 1998
Signature of the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia corridor (MLA)

March 10, 2000
The First Annual Meeting (Conference) of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA on the transport corridor "Europe-the Caucasus-Asia"

February 21, 2001
Official opening of the office of the Permanent Secretariat of the IGC TRACECA in Baku (Azerbaijan)

September 10, 2018
Cooperation with CAREC Institute (MoU signed)

The development of economic relations, trade and transport communication in the regions of Europe, the Black Sea, the Caucasus, the Caspian Sea and Asia – one of the main objectives

Intergovernmental Commission

Decision-making structure – Competent Ministries

Permanent Secretariat

Executive structure – Implementation and Monitoring



An official opening ceremony of the office in Baku

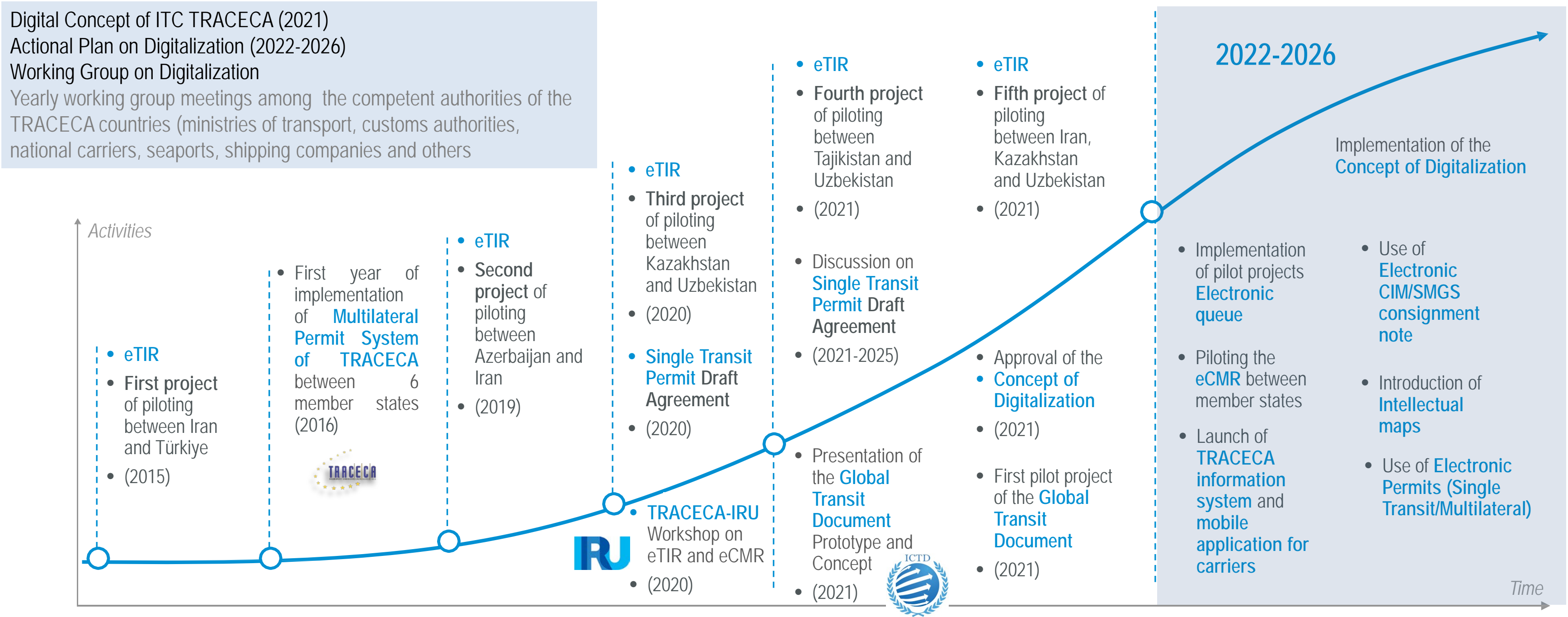
Permanent Representatives (National Secretaries) in 14 member states

National structure – Focal and Coordinating point between national competent authorities/organizations and the Permanent Secretariat



TRACECA Projects and Initiatives towards Digitalization

Permanent Secretariat is currently working on initiatives aiming to introduce digital solutions on transport



LEGAL ASPECTS OF DIGITALIZATION

- Analysis of the legal framework regarding applicability of electronic transport documents by national experts along Middle Corridor (2024)
- Report on Legal Position of Digital Transport Documents in the Middle Corridor (by international expert) (2024-2025)
Annex: Draft Agreement on Digitalization of Transport Documents
- Draft Agreement on the Application of electronic documents along ITC TRACECA (2025-2026)
- Draft Agreement on use of e-CIM/SMGC CN between interested railway operators (2024_2025) (develop and discussed under e-CIM/SMGS CN pilot project)

Main Principles for Digitalization of Transport

- Digital legal infrastructure (based on UNCITRAL Model laws and other relevant international conventions)
- Use of common standards (e.g. UN CEFAC Standards and MMT RDM)
- Digital operations (authorized parties, valid evidence at courts and regulatory procedures)
- Management of digital communications facilitated by national digital hubs;
- Creation of multiple digital service platforms that may interact via digital hubs;
- Standards of cybersecurity, protection of the integrity of data;
- Respect of the laws of the Party concerning personal privacy, data protection and commercial confidentiality;
- Principles for reliability of digital documents and data;
- Use of electronic signatures and their mutual recognition;
- Use of digitally exchanged documents and data to identify high risk consignments and for other consignments to simplify border crossing controls and expedite release



TRACECA Single Transit Permit (signed in Astana, May 15 2026)



Azerbaijan , Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Between the Governments of interested TRACECA countries

Builds on the 1998 Basic Multilateral Agreement

- *web portal
- *one electronic permit
- *digital verification



PILOT PROJECT e-CIM/SMGS CONSIGNMENT NOTE ALONG SELECTED TRACECA ROUTES

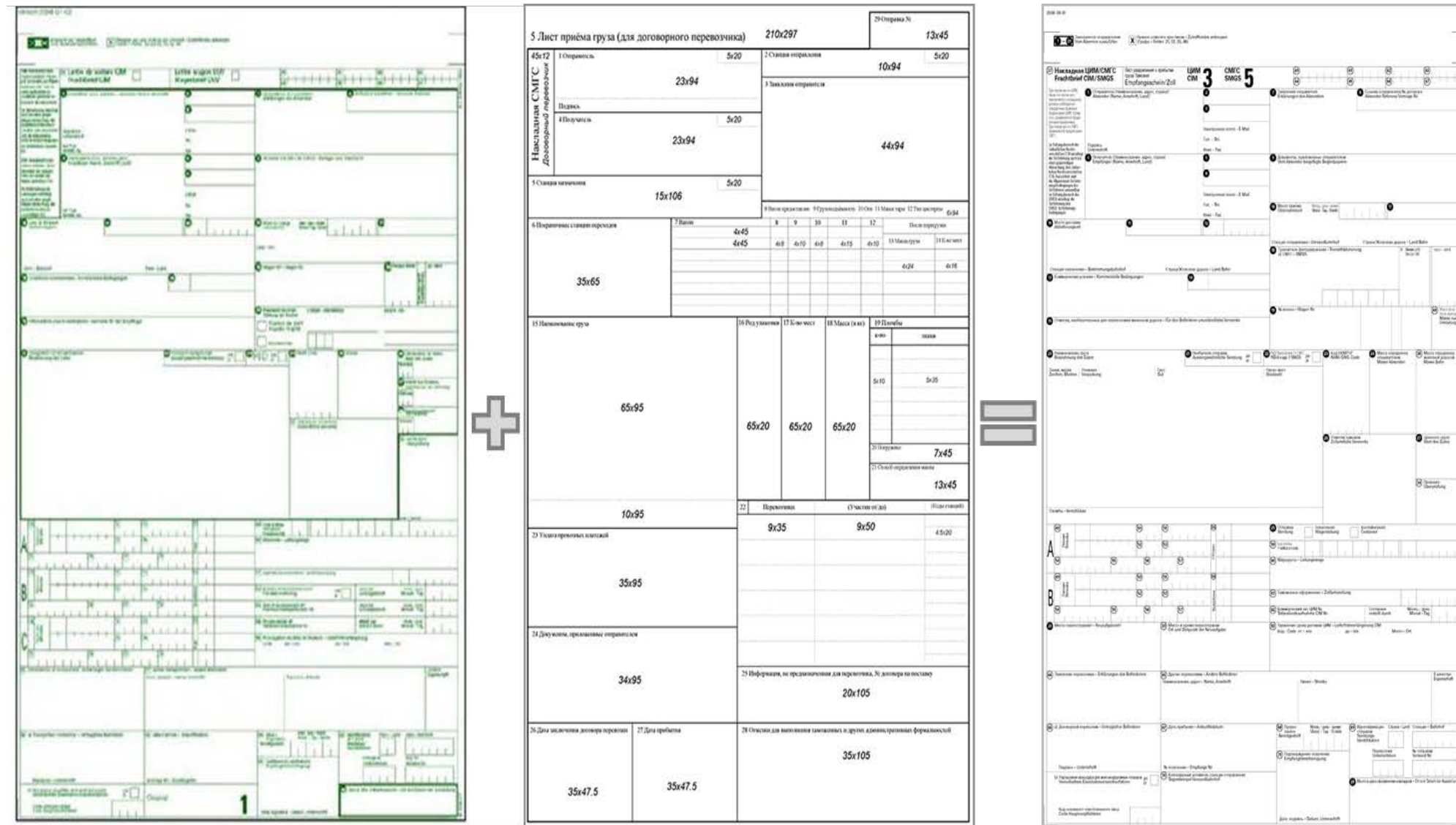
as a **Building Block** for the **Multimodal Digital Corridor**



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Introduction to the e-CIM/SMGS Pilot Project



CIM

SMGS

CIM/SMGS

1 Joint Workshop
 • Use of CIM/SMGS consignment note (Jun 2022)

Initial Survey
 • Survey on use of CIM/SMGS consignment note (Dec 2022)

2 Joint Workshop
 • Use of electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note (Jan 2023)

3 UN ECE Seminar
 • Use of electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note (May 2023)

Signing MoU between interested railways
 • Framework for piloting electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note (May 2023)

Adoption of Action Plan
 • Implementation of Action Plan
 • Digitalization of a prototype CIM/SMGS (2023)

Piloting e-CIM/SMGS (digital twin project)
 • Implementation of pilot project
 • Testing electronic CIM/SMGS prototype
 • Drafting international agreement
 • Analyzing supporting documents for further digitalization (2023-2024)

Joint OSJD, CIT, UIC, UN ECE & TRACECA activity

Adoption of an International Agreement

- Preparing legal basis for use of e-CIM/SMGS CN
- Preparing at national and international level
- Deciding on tools used for information exchange
- Possible piloting for electronic supporting documents
- Conducting internal approval procedures (2024 - 2026)

(2026)

MoU for organization of e-CIM/SMGS CN pilot project(s)

1. PURPOSE AND PARTICIPANTS

1. Organization of pilot project(s) between **participating railway operators** for use of electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note along selected TRACECA routes.
2. The participants will invite and endeavor to actively include:
 - o interested customers (consignors and consignees)
 - o carriers in other modes of transport and port terminal operators in the case of multimodal transport operations
 - o Customs and other border crossing authorities in their countries.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the pilot project(s) are:

- a) to review the legal environment to be able to fully implement electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note from legal perspective;
- b) to analyze operational and organizational issues;
- c) to test existing technical (IT) solutions and develop recommendations for potential adjustments / upgrading / development and implementation of other technical (IT) solutions.

3. OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes from the pilot project(s) are:

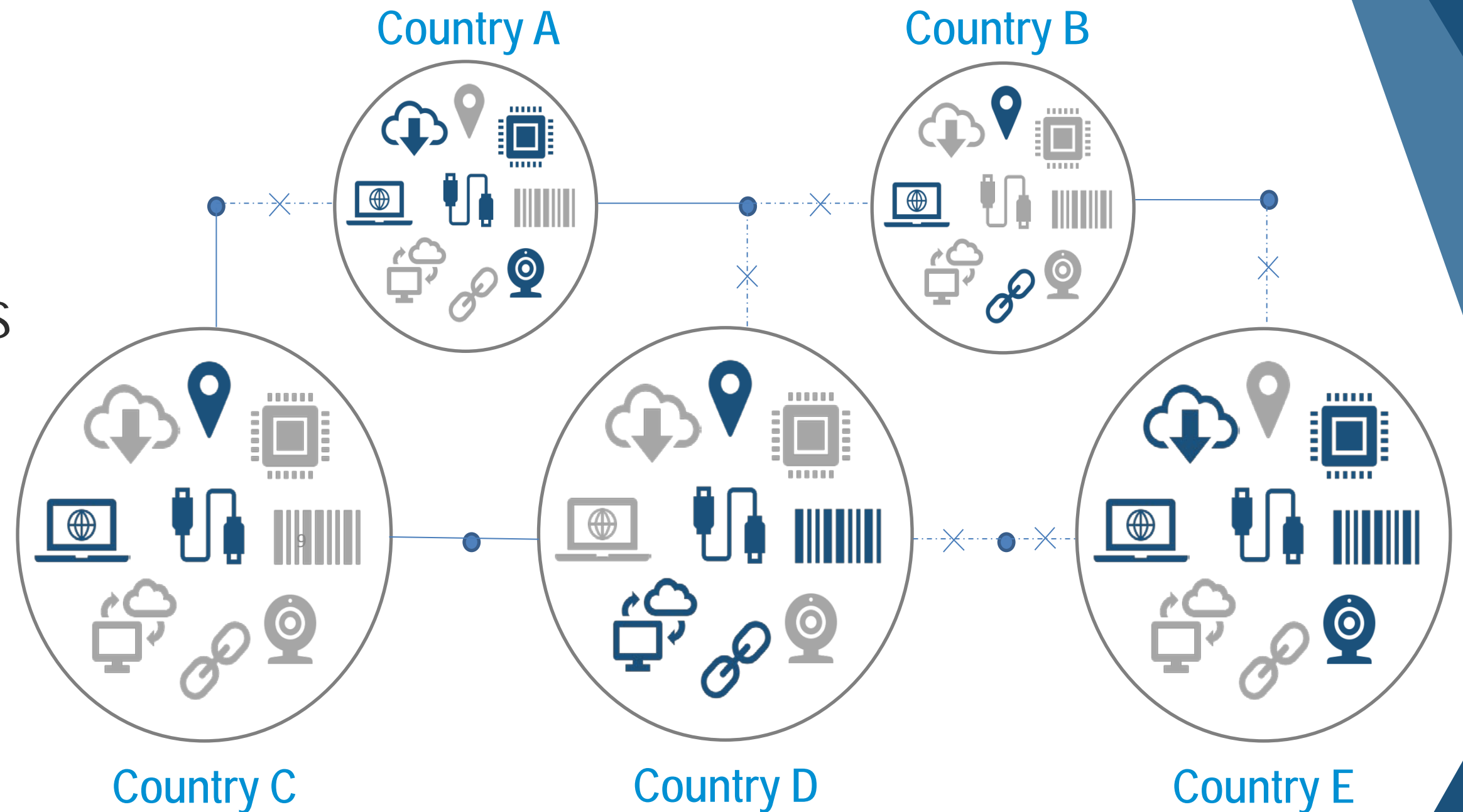
- a) Confirmation of the proof of concept;
- b) Indication on reduced railway costs;
- c) Indication on decreased railway time at reconsignment points;
- d) Indication on improved coordination with transport operators in other modes of transport and simplification of multimodal transport operations;
- e) Indication on reduced costs / decreased time for transshipment in multimodal transport operation;
- f) Indication on reduced costs / decreased time for Customs and border crossing processing.



MoU Signing Ceremony – Baku, 22 May 2023

Draft Agreement on Electronic Documents

- Promote paperless communication in road, rail, and maritime transport
- Cross-border exchange of electronic data & documents on UN/CEFACT standards
- 7 countries WGs already involved: **Customs**, other competent authorities, and participants in foreign economic activities



Simplification

- Priority and simplified procedures where applicable (e.g. dedicated fast lanes)
- Not required: paper-based copies of foreign Customs declarations, transport documents, permits, ... (if they are available in electronic form);
- Implementation of "single window" principle (delegating powers e.g. to Customs)
- Application of risk analysis to reduce controls and avoid unnecessary delays

Coordination

- Permanent Working Group with representatives from each Party
- Support from PS IGC TRACECA with Secretariat function
- Action Plan and Pilot projects

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