eCMR in ND region

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General Outline

The Proposed Project (NDPTL eCMR) aims to identify and propose solutions for the legal and ICT infrastructure challenges, including transboundary compatibility, of the NDPTL partners in enabling and mainstreaming digital exchange of the standardised consignment note document as agreed in the e-CMR protocol of the 1956 UNECE Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR Convention).

Via outreach and dissemination activities, the Project will also highlight the advantages of eCMR in general as well as bring attention to the NDPTL work on eCMR.

Moreover, the Project will facilitate linkages between Nordic-Baltic, pan-Baltic and national digital initiatives by providing concrete eCMR solutions further in the region and pave the way for collaboration between industry and governmental agencies.

The Project will ensure the compatibility between the digital tools implementing eCMR and the EU Regulation on Electronic freight transport information (eFTI).

Importantly, the Project will also contribute to the EU's collaboration with partner country by facilitating knowledge sharing and trust building with North Dimension countries.

Context (1)

A strong political focus on digitalization of economies and societies is reflected in the policies and strategies implemented at the national levels in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) countries that consequently leads to the increased awareness of the need to align and coordinate national strategies, approaches, and actions at a transnational level.

The focus area "Digitalisation, robotisation and automatization of the transport industry including autonomous vehicles and vessels" was addressed by the Moscow HLM 2017, Oslo 2019 HLM Communiques as well as highlighted in the NDPTL Road Map 2019-2024.

Furthermore, the Digital Single Market Strategy is the main priority for the European Union (EU) based on transnational collaboration on digitalisation. Besides, the European Commission (EC) supports the digital transformation via "Digitalising European Industry" initiative and engages in digitally transforming the public sector to support cross borderinteroperability via e. g. "Digital Single Gateway" initiative and the new "Data Strategy".

Digital transformation of businesses is an area where the BSR and NDPTL countries share challenges as well as obvious potentials, paving the way for developing and testing common solutions across borders. In close dialogue with national digital policymakers and industry, the most important digital challenges for the BSR have been identified, accompanied by the most important priorities for macroregional collaboration towards common solutions ("Transnational Digital Collaboration in the BSR: Working Paper for the PA Inno Strategy Guide, BDF 2016").

Context (2)

As of 20 August 2024, The EU eFTI regulation will enter into force. It focuses on business-to-government (B2G) data exchange and aims to reduce the administrative costs associated with the movement of goods. The regulation is considered as the main EU initiative that will unify requirements and standards in the EU e-logistics area. This regulation shall apply from 21 August 2025. Following the regulation, the Member States (MS) are required to set up systems for electronically checking freight transport information, for law enforcement purposes, over the next ~20-24 months. In the wake of the regulation on eFTI, an eCMR consignment note may be the most important document of compliance. Despite its many advantages the following key hurdles have been identified to slow the wider uptake of eCMR in the NDPTL countries:

- unclarities and lacunae in the national legal frameworks as regards to the use of eCMR;

- the varying readiness of public sector ICT services necessary for eCMR;

- lack of compatibility between the national frameworks (legal and technical).

This project will contribute to overcoming these challenges and catalyse a faster mainstreaming of eCMR in the NDPTL area. In its work it will build on, and develop further the results of, a number of recent and ongoing initiatives around the eCMR/eFTI theme.

Main objectives of the Project

The Proposed Project (NDPTL eCMR) aims to identify and propose

transboundary compatibility, of the NDPTL partners in enabling and mainstreaming digital exchange of the standardised consignment note document as agreed in the e-CMR protocol of the 1956 UNECE Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR Convention).

Via outreach and dissemination activities, the Project will also highlight the advantages of eCMR in general as well as bring attention to the NDPTL work on eCMR.

Moreover, the Project will facilitate linkages between Nordic-Baltic, pan-Baltic and national digital initiatives by providing concrete eCMR solutions further in the region and pave the way for collaboration between industry and governmental agencies.

The Project will ensure the compatibility between the digital tools implementing eCMR and the EU eFTI regulation. Importantly, the Project will also contribute to the EU's collaboration with partner countries by facilitating knowledge sharing and trust building with Russia (Kaliningrad).

Description of the Activities of the Project

The project will be implemented with 3 dedicated Work Packa

Lead Partner (LP) (Infobalt) will coordinate overall project administration, finances, marketing, etc. Additionally, LP will staff a project manager for the applied project.

Work Packages (WPs) Leaders (Ls) will lead and coordinate dedicated WPs implementation, timelines, and resources.

Project Management (PM) will be responsible for daily overall project coordination, financial management, coordination of WP-leaders and will manage overall coordination of the project according to the project application, signing contracts with and coordination of signing the partnership agreement between all Partners, composition and submission of project progress reports (incl. final reports), initiating, organising and leading project meetings, representing the project as a contact point, responsible for the project's major change process etc.

WP 2-4 will be structured according to implementing activities.

Theproject will invite NDPTL Secretariat to project meetings and activities to ensure a living link to the NDPTL networks.

The external marketing of the project and communication will be planned, structured, and carried out in cooperation with WPLs. The communication channels will be Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter. Additionally, Project Partners will use their developed networks to disseminate project results and communicate events.
Project results and Activities will be widely presented at the newly developed NDPTL webpage.

WP 2: Study on eCMR rea implementation roadmap a

The WP2 will be implemented by 3 activities:
- Activity 1 - Legal and technical framework readiness on eCMR review
- Activity 2: eCMR implementation Roadmap preparation and signing of Memorandum of Understanding
- Activity 3: Application preparation for further eCMR application

Outputs:

Output 1: Review reports
- Output 1A: Overview report(s) on the legal framework of the NDPTL countries on the exchange of electronic transport and logistics data directly relevant for implementation of the eCMR platform.
- Output 1B: Overview report on electronic transport documents (incl. eCMR) implementation readiness, availability, and feasibility across NDPTL countries.

Output 2: eCRM Regional Roadmap and Memorandum of Understanding:
- Output 2A: Prepared eCMR implementation RoadMap with recommendations on steps to be taken to mainstream eCMR in the NDPTL area.
- Output 2B. Drafted, adopted, and signed Memorandum of Understanding.

Output 3: Overview of funding needs and options.
- Output 3A: Review of necessary funding needs and possible funding mechanisms (national, regional, EU. Public, private).
- Output 3B: Review of possible consortiums and options of project scopes.

WP3: Further development of eCMR prototype

The WP3 will be implemented by 2 activities:
- Activity 1: Analysis report of possibilities to use EBSI on eCMR and its compatibility with eFTI
- Activity 2: Further development and possibly piloting of the eCMR prototype

Outputs:

Output 1: Prepared analyses:
- Output 1A: Report possibilities to use EBSI on eCMR platform.
- Output 1B: Analysis and roadmap on whether existing eCMR prototype covers eFTI requirements and what shall be done additionally to meet eFTI requirements.
- Output 1C: The e-CMR study to identify the points of contact with the involved Customs Authorities in charge of the respective data elements and processes will be made. The analysis and evaluation of accessibility for Customs Authorities to digital transport documents (e-CMR).

Output 2: Developed new functionalities and updates on existing eCMR prototype: GUI, EBSI and SSI connections.

Output 3: Possibly piloted updated eCMR prototype between different countries (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia).

WP 4: Outreach and dissemination of the eCMR activities

The WP4 will be implemented by 3 activities:
- Activity 1: Organization of the Hackathon for Start-ups in the eCMR topic
- Activity 2: Enhance public awareness in the eCMR usefulness
- Activity 3: Organization of the final conference

Outputs:

Output 1: Organized hackathon with NDPTL branding for start-ups' and no less than 5 winner teams awarded.

Output 2: Short NDPTL branded online video on eCMR created.

Output 3: A series of 9 (bi-monthly) blogpost articles on digitalization of transport documentation and transboundary logistics in the NDPTL area as well as activities of this project, published in the NDPTL website news/blog section as well as social media.

Output 4: Organised the final conference with NDPTL branding on mainstreaming the eCMR for governments and businesses with 500 international attendees.

Implementation Plan

Work Packages (WPs)	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
		Q1 2022			Q2 2022			Q3 2022			Q4 2022	
WP 1: Project Implementation Management												
Output 1		0		0		0		0		0		X
WP 2: Study on eCMR readiness, implementation roadmap and declaration												
Activity 1: Legal and technical framework readiness on eCMR review												
Output 1				0			0				X	
Activity 2: eCMR implementation Roadmap preparation and Declaration												
Output 2								0			X	
Activity 3: Application preparation for further eCMR application and internationalisation												
Output 3				0		0		0		0		X
WP3: Further development of eCMR prototype												
Activity 1: Analysis report of possibilities to use EBSI on eCMR												
Output 1			0		0		X					
Activity 2: Further development and possible piloting of the eCMR prototype												
Output 2		0		0		0		0		0		X
Output 3								0				X
WP 4: Outreach and dissemination of the eCMR activities												
Activity 1: Organization of the Hackathon for Start-ups in the eCMR topic												
Output 1		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	X		
Activity 2: Enhance public awareness in the eCMR usefulness												
Output 2			0		0	X						
Output 3		0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Activity 3: Organization of the final conference												
Output 4			0		0		0		0	X*	X*	

Activity timeframe

0 - Precheck report/event/activity

X - Final report/event/activity

X* - exact date to be determined, post-conference activities to be followed up

Partners

- Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sector A
- Ministry of Transport and Communication (Lithuania)
- Transport Innovation Association (Lithuania)
- Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (Estonia)
- Digilogistika Keskus: Digital Logistics Centre of Excellence (Estonia)
- Latvian ICT Association LIKTA (Latvia)
- Ministry of Transport (Latvia)
- Polish Chamber of Commerce for Electronics and Telecommunications (KIGEiT) (Poland)
- IBA project – TUIJAN "Transport corridor Uniting International Joint Aspirations in the Northern dimension" (key partners: VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland (Finland), Vediafi Ltd (Finland) and GoSwift Ltd (Estonia)
- Aalborg University (Denmark)
- Non-commercial partnership "Association of SMEs support centres of the Kaliningrad region" (Russia) (associate partner)

Partners roles:
Work package (WP) leader - organiser and implementer of the activities
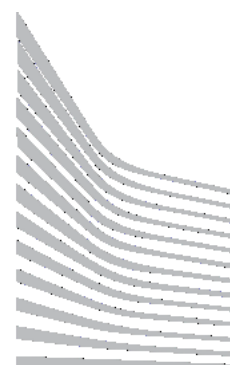Contributor - active participant and contributor in the activities
Observer - non-active participant in the activities, information and results receiver, participant in the meetings
Supporter - input and information provider, participant in the meetings

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European Commission

NDPTL
Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics