Digitalization of data and document exchange for multimodal transport and trade in Azerbaijan, using the UN/CEFACT standards and reference data models

PROJECT REPORT

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Terms and definition

UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UN/CEFACT - United Nations Center for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

BSP DM - Buy-Ship-Pay data model

SCRDM - Supply chain reference data model

MMT RDM - reference data model for multimodal transport

CBM RDM - reference data model for cross border management

EU CDM - Customs data model of the European Union

WCO - World Customs Organization

WCO DM - data model of the WCO

Project overview

The objective of the current project is further development of the digital transport documents that could provide seamless information flows accompanying cargo flows between countries along the GUAM transport corridor. Due to its position in the middle of the cargo transport routes between Europe and Asia, the use of UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations for cargo information sharing along this route makes much sense.

The focus of the project is on the practical application of the data models and standards to facilitate real-world transport operations that take place along this transport route, in particular, in transforming from trade and transport documents, represented in UN/CEFACT multimodal transport reference data model (MMT RDM) to customs documents, represented in the data model of World Customs Organization (WCO) through the UN/CEFACT Cross Border Management data model (CBM).

Background of the project.

The serious disruptions caused by the COVID19 pandemic to societies, economies, cross-border trade, and COVID's devastating impact on the livelihood of people, call for action to tackle the many social and economic dimensions of the crisis. Unprecedented measures to halt the spread of the disease through lockdowns, travel restrictions and social distancing have resulted in a significant reduction of supply and demand. The UN reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, world output shrank by 4.3 per cent, over three times more than during the global financial crisis of 2009. The modest recovery of 4.7 per cent, which is expected in 2021, would barely offset the losses sustained in 2020. This makes even more pressing the need to intensify joint efforts to counter the negative tendencies in international trade. There is much to be gained from using United Nations standards to overcome the fragmentation of data and document flows for the digitalization of trade and transport across borders.

This underlines the importance of digitalization of information flows along supply chains and transport corridors to address the immediate threat of the COVID-19 pandemic by diminishing person-to-person contacts and the need to increase efficiency in trade and transport. Drivers and other workers in cross-border supply chains may be subject to the risk of contamination, quarantine requirements or other impediments. Risk mitigation measures should include the digitalization of transport, customs and trade documents, and their automated exchange based on international (UN) standards.

The COVID-19 crisis has, at the same time, opened a window of opportunity to harmonize standards and solutions for electronic trade and transport information exchange along multimodal digital corridors that would allow for seamless and contactless data sharing among various modes of transport and sectors. The effects of the pandemic have clearly shown that we should and can go beyond vested corporate, institutional or national interests, beyond departmentalized solutions for the digitalization of international trade and move towards the harmonization of data, documents and processes based on global standards for sharing data and documents.

In the context of implementing the recommendations of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 UNECE "Odessa" seminars to support the development of digital multimodal transport corridors, with a view to increasing the harmonization and standardization of data exchange in international transport, trade and logistics to encourage electronic data exchange and

World Economic Situation and Prospects: February 2021 Briefing, No. 146, 1 February 2021, https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-february-2021-briefing-no-146/

thereby to reduce person-to-person contacts during the COVID-19 crisis and in the postpandemic recovery, using relevant UN/CEFACT standards, a pilot project started along the corridor including the countries-members of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development GUAM ²(Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova - the GUAM corridor), that includes:

- Analysis of the current practice of using transport and trade documents by the Azerbaijan Customs
- Identifying potential points of facilitation
- Determination of the list of transport and trade documents involved in the selected processes for further work within the project
- Mapping of the selected documents to the UN/CEFACT data models and creating transformation to the WCO DM dataset.

The aim is to foster harmonization of electronic data sharing using global (UN/CEFACT) standards for transport, trade and logistics, and to prepare standards for edocuments based on the UN/CEFACT semantic standards and reference data models. The focus will be on the development of electronic document equivalents for the documents mentioned above, using UN/CEFACT tools in the countries developing a digital multimodal transport corridor.

² https://guam-organization.org/en/

Project Activities and Outputs

1. Project background

The GUAM transport corridor connects four countries: Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova. It is part of the larger East-West and TRACECA transport corridors and is also linked to other regional and international transport corridors.

The countries situated along this transport corridor established a regional organization: the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM in 2006. The main goals of this organization are: strengthening of democratic values; ensuring the supremacy of law and respect for human rights; ensuring sustainable development; strengthening international and regional security and stability; deepening European integration for the creation of a common security space and the enlargement of economic and humanitarian cooperation; developing of socio-economic, transport, energy, scientific, technical and humanitarian potential; stimulating of political interaction and practical cooperation in fields of mutual interest. The GUAM Organization cooperates at the level of international organizations, in particular, the UN and the OSCE.

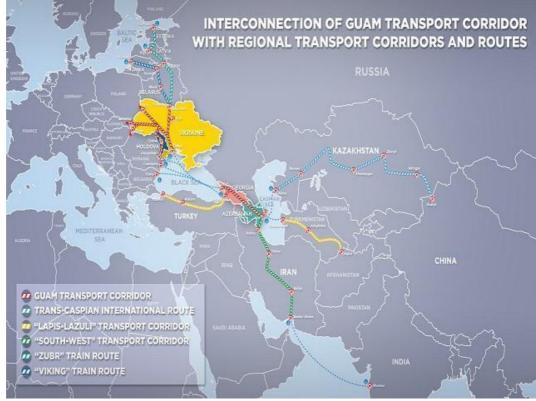


Figure 1: Interconnection of GUAM transport corridor with regional transport corridors and routes

Source: guam-organization.org

2. Assessment of the processes "AS-IS"

Assessment of the processes "AS-IS" is aimed at the gathering of the existing requirements of the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan, elimination of the points of facilitation with focus on the data from the real transport documents.

The assessment was performed based on the questionnaires for each mode of the transport.

2.1. Maritime transport

Registration of goods in the port of Alyat (Azerbaijan) is carried out, depending on the type of transportation, on the basis of the following documents:

- SMGS for wagons on the board of the vessel
- CMR, TIR Carnet for trucks on the board of the vessel
- Cargo Manifest/Declaration and Bill of Lading for liquid, bulk, containerized or directly on board cargoes. Information for the customs system is based on the Bill of Lading.

In addition to documents related to goods, the following documents are provided:

- Passenger list
- Crew list
- General declaration,
- Crew's effects list
- Ship's stores list

Table 1: Maritime transport - Questionnaire

No	Request / Question	Answer
1	Describe at what stages of the transport process this document is used by Customs	 To cross the border To register cargoes
	To cross the border	
2	Specify the form of receiving of the document by Customs	An original paper document
3	Specify the format of receiving of the document by Customs	Physically transmitted by the captain of the vessel
4	List the details that are used by Customs in this process	 Type of operations Itinerary (Country of departure) Itinerary (Country of arrival) Port of departure

No	Request / Question	Answer
		5. Port of arrival 6. Full/Empty 7. Type of vessels 8. Flag 9. IMO number 10. Ship's name 11. Cargo manifest (pdf) 12. HZ code 13. Description of goods 14. Amount 15. Currency 16. Brutto 17. Pieces 18. Itinerary(from) 19. Itinerary(to) 20. TaxID of importer 21. Name of importer 22. TaxID of exporter 23. Name of exporter 24. Customs security details/seals 25. Container number 26. Bill of lading number 27. Customs of destination 28. Pdf of Bill of lading
5	Specify whether the document is supplemented with any information from customs	A stamp with the details of the customs point
6	Describe what additional documents may be required by Customs when working with this document	 Packing list Invoice Cargo manifest
7	Describe whether there are difficulties with the time of receiving of the document (or information from the document)	There are no problems with receiving the document on time because the original paper documents are required during crossing the border.
8	Describe whether there are difficulties with the	No

No	Request / Question	Answer
	form of receiving of information	
9	Describe whether there are difficulties with the completeness of the information	• not all details required by Customs are filled in
10	Describe whether there are difficulties in trusting the information provided	No
11	Describe whether there are difficulties with feedback from subjects	 There is the possibility of registering to receive SMS messages about goods and vehicles related to this person, undergoing customs procedures on the portal of the customs service for residents of the country. Most residents use this service. An EDS is obvious. The presence of non-residents during the passage of customs procedures is mandatory.
	To register cargoes	
2	Specify the form of receiving of the document by Customs	• A copy in electronic form (scan)
3	Specify the format of receiving of the document by Customs	Import - scanned version of Bill of Lading uploaded as PDF as an accompanying document during crossing the border
4	List the details that are used by Customs in this process	 Type of operations Itinerary (Country of departure) Itinerary (Country of arrival) Type of vessels Flag Ship's name HZ code Description of goods Amount Currency Brutto

No	Request / Question	Answer
		12. Pieces 13. TaxID of importer 14. Name of importer 15. TaxID of exporter 16. Name of exporter 17. Customs security details/seals 18. Container number 19. Bill of lading number 20. Customs of destination 21. Pdf of Bill of lading 22. Pdf of Invoice
5	Specify whether the document is supplemented with any information from customs	Bill of lading is only an accompanying document which confirm the information submitted to the customs declaration
6	Describe what additional documents may be required by Customs when working with this document	Other documents depending on the type of goods
7	Describe whether there are difficulties with the time of receiving of the document (or information from the document)	• No
8	Describe whether there are difficulties with the form of receiving of information	• No
9	Describe whether there are difficulties with the completeness of the information	• No
10	Describe whether there are difficulties in trusting the information provided	There are no such problems because all identification operations are carried out at the border crossing in import and export
11	Describe whether there are difficulties with feedback from subjects	There is the possibility of registering to receive SMS messages about goods and

No	Request / Question	Answer
		 vehicles related to this person, undergoing customs procedures on the portal of the customs service for residents of the country. Most residents use this service. An EDS is obvious. The presence of non-residents during the passage of customs procedures is mandatory.

2.2. Road transport

Table 2: Road transport - Questionnaire

No	Request / Question	Answer
1	Describe at what stages of the transport process this document is used by Customs	 To cross the border To register cargoes
	To cross the border	
2	Specify the form of receiving of the document by Customs	 An original paper document A copy in electronic form (scan)
3	Specify the format of receiving of the document by Customs	 In the case of filing a short (import), transit (transit) or export declaration, the scanned version of the CMR is uploaded as a PDF as an accompanying document within the cargo declaration system. Physically transmitted by the business representative: import - in the absence of a summary import declaration in all the above cases to confirm the authenticity and verification of electronic data with the original

No	Request / Question	Answer
4	List the details that are used by Customs in this process	 Number Consignee Consignor TaxID (import/export) Country of departure Country of arrival HZ code Description of goods Brutto Pieces Container number Truck number Seals
5	Specify whether the document is supplemented with any information from customs	 A stamp with the details of the customs point, Date and time of crossing the border
6	Describe what additional documents may be required by Customs when working with this document	 Packing list Invoice Other documents depending on the type of goods
7	Describe whether there are difficulties with the time of receiving of the document (or information from the document)	 There are no problems with receiving the document on time because the original paper CMR form is required during crossing the border for authentication. In accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the declared information must be indicated in the Azerbaijani language. This creates problems when submitting documents (including CMR) are written in other languages. Inside the country, when registering cargo, documents are translated into Azerbaijani by translators. At the border, when submitting a CID, this issue is resolved by the declarants. An urgent problem at the border with Iran (documents are submitted in Farsi), and

No	Request / Question	Answer
		other customs posts when importing from China and other countries.
8	Describe whether there are difficulties with the form of receiving of information	The original paper document must be presented during crossing the border to confirm the authenticity and verify the electronic data with the original. Stamps are affixed to the original paper document.
9	Describe whether there are difficulties with the completeness of the information	 not all details required by Customs are filled in not all details required by Customs can be used: unreadable text, unknown fill language use of classifiers not used by Customs
10	Describe whether there are difficulties in trusting the information provided	• problems of falsification of paper documents
11	Describe whether there are difficulties with feedback from subjects	 There is the possibility of registering to receive SMS messages about goods and vehicles related to this person, undergoing customs procedures on the portal of the customs service for residents of the country. Most residents use this service. An EDS is obvious. The presence of non-residents during the passage of customs procedures is mandatory.
	To register cargoes	
2	Specify the form of receiving of the document by Customs	• A copy in electronic form (scan)
3	Specify the format of receiving of the document by Customs	Import - scanned version of the CMR uploaded as PDF as an accompanying document during crossing the border

No	Request / Question	Answer
		Export - a scanned version of the CMR uploaded as a PDF as an accompanying document and uploaded to the cargo declaration system
4	List the details that are used by Customs in this process	 Number Consignee Consignor TaxID (import/export) Country of departure Country of arrival HZ code Description of goods Brutto Pieces Container number Truck number Seals
5	Specify whether the document is supplemented with any information from customs	
6	Describe what additional documents may be required by Customs when working with this document	 Packing list Invoice Other documents depending on the type of goods
7	Describe whether there are difficulties with the time of receiving of the document (or information from the document)	In accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the declared information must be indicated in the Azerbaijani language. This creates problems when submitting documents (including CMR) are written in other languages. Inside the country, when registering cargo, documents are translated into Azerbaijani by translators.
8	Describe whether there are difficulties with the form of receiving of information	• No

No	Request / Question	Answer
9	Describe whether there are difficulties with the completeness of the information	 not all details required by Customs are filled in not all details required by Customs can be used: unreadable text, unknown fill language use of classifiers not used by Customs
10	Describe whether there are difficulties in trusting the information provided	 There are no such problems because all identification operations are carried out at the border crossing in import and export When exporting, in case of suspicion, the customs clearance officer may require a paper form to confirm the authenticity and verify the electronic data with the original
11	Describe whether there are difficulties with feedback from subjects	 There is the possibility of registering to receive SMS messages about goods and vehicles related to this person, undergoing customs procedures on the portal of the customs service for residents of the country. Most residents use this service. An EDS is obvious. The presence of non-residents during the passage of customs procedures is mandatory.

2.3. Rail transport

Table 3: Rail transport - Questionnaire

No	Request / Question	Answer
1	Describe at what stages of the transport process this document is used by Customs	To cross the borderTo register cargoes

No	Request / Question	Answer
	To cross the border	
2	Specify the form of receiving of the document by Customs	 An original paper document Electronic data exchange between the railway operator (ARW) and Customs is developed. The pilot launch is scheduled for early 2023.
3	Specify the format of receiving of the document by Customs	 The original paper document is received from the railway operator, scanned and entered into the system Electronic data exchange between the railway operator and Customs is developed.
4	List the details that are used by Customs in this process	 Type of operations Itinerary (Country of departure) Itinerary (Country of arrival) RW station of departure RW station of arrival Full/Empty Type of wagons Vagon number Home country HZ code Description of goods Currency Brutto Pieces Itinerary(from) Itinerary(to) TaxID of importer Name of importer Customs security details/seals Container number RW Consignment Note number Pdf of RW Consignment Note Pdf of Invoice

No	Request / Question	Answer
5	Specify whether the document is supplemented with any information from customs	 A stamp with the details of the customs point, Date and time of crossing the border Information from the SMGS is entered into the customs control system during crossing the border. Also additional information is entered: the results of weighing the vehicle, the results of scanning the vehicle with the help of special means, other customs details of control (numbers of seals, etc.), Also certain types of customs payments are calculated and collected, indicated in the system (calculations are automated, payment is electronic/cash)
6	Describe what additional documents may be required by Customs when working with this document	 loading/wagon lists - used to clarify information (not entered into the system) Invoice Other documents depending on the type of goods
7	Describe whether there are difficulties with the time of receiving of the document (or information from the document)	At the border with Iran, SMGS is filled at the border by ARW and handed over to the Customs. At all borders, SMGS is first registered by ARW and then it is handed over to Customs. This process slows down the registration process. Electronic data exchange between the railway operator (ARW) and Customs will speed up this process.
8	Describe whether there are difficulties with the form of receiving of information	There is the original paper document. For entering into the customs control system, the information is translated into Azerbaijani
9	Describe whether there are difficulties with the completeness of the	No

No	Request / Question	Answer
	information	
10	Describe whether there are difficulties in trusting the information provided	In case of suspicion, additional customs procedures are carried out
11	Describe whether there are difficulties with feedback from subjects	 There is the possibility of registering to receive SMS messages about goods and vehicles related to this person, undergoing customs procedures on the portal of the customs service for residents of the country. Most residents use this service. An EDS is obvious. The presence of non-residents during the passage of customs procedures is mandatory.
	To register cargoes	
2	Specify the form of receiving of the document by Customs	A copy in electronic form (scan)
3	Specify the format of receiving of the document by Customs	Import - scanned version of the CMR uploaded as PDF as an accompanying document during crossing the border
4	List the details that are used by Customs in this process	 Itinerary (Country of departure) Itinerary (Country of arrival) Vagon number Home country HZ code Description of goods Currency Brutto Pieces TaxID of importer Name of importer TaxID of exporter Name of exporter In information is used only as clarifying/certifying information from the Customs declaration

No	Request / Question	Answer
5	Specify whether the document is supplemented with any information from customs	SMGS is only an accompanying document which confirm the information submitted to the customs declaration
6	Describe what additional documents may be required by Customs when working with this document	Other documents depending on the type of goods
7	Describe whether there are difficulties with the time of receiving of the document (or information from the document)	• No
8	Describe whether there are difficulties with the form of receiving of information	• No
9	Describe whether there are difficulties with the completeness of the information	• No
10	Describe whether there are difficulties in trusting the information provided	 There are no such problems because all identification operations are carried out at the border crossing in import and export When exporting, in case of suspicion, the customs clearance officer may require a paper form to confirm the authenticity and verify the electronic data with the original
11	Describe whether there are difficulties with feedback from subjects	 There is the possibility of registering to receive SMS messages about goods and vehicles related to this person, undergoing customs procedures on the portal of the customs service for residents of the country. Most residents use this service. An EDS is obvious. The presence of non-residents during the passage of customs procedures is

No	Request / Question	Answer
		mandatory.

2.4. Air transport

Cargo registration at the Heydar Aliyev Baku Airport is carried out on the basis of the following documents:

• Flight Cargo Manifest and Airway Bill. Information for the customs system is based on the Airway Bill.

In addition to documents related to goods, the following documents are provided:

- Passenger list
- General declaration
- etc.

Table 4: Air transport - Questionnaire

No	Request / Question	Answer
1	Describe at what stages of the transport process this document is used by Customs	 To register goods in ports Customs clearance
	To register goods in ports	
2	Specify the form of receiving of the document by Customs	An original paper document
3	Specify the format of receiving of the document by Customs	Physically transmitted by the captain of the vessel
4	List the details that are used by Customs in this process	 Type of operations Itinerary (Country of departure) Itinerary (Country of arrival) Airport of departure Airport of arrival Full/Empty Type of vessels Home country Flight number Place Cargo manifest (pdf)

No	Request / Question	Answer
		12. Passenger list 13. HZ code 14. Description of goods 15. Amount 16. Currency 17. Brutto 18. Pieces 19. Itinerary(from) 20. Itinerary(to) 21. TaxID of importer 22. Name of importer 23. TaxID of exporter 24. Name of exporter 25. Customs security details/seals 26. Container number 27. Bill of lading number 28. Customs of destination
		29. Pdf of Bill of lading 30. Pdf of Invoice
5	Specify whether the document is supplemented with any information from customs	A stamp with the details of the customs point
6	Describe what additional documents may be required by Customs when working with this document	 Packing list Invoice Cargo manifest
7	Describe whether there are difficulties with the time of receiving of the document (or information from the document)	There are no problems with receiving the document on time because the original paper documents are required during crossing the border. Also the Airway Bill information is compared with the preliminary BCT information.
8	Describe whether there are difficulties with the form of receiving of information	Preliminary BCT information is added with data from the Airway Bill and invoice.
9	Describe whether there are difficulties with the completeness of the	• not all details required by Customs are filled in BCT and Airway Bill

No	Request / Question	Answer
	information	
10	Describe whether there are difficulties in trusting the information provided	• No
11	Describe whether there are difficulties with feedback from subjects	 There is the possibility of registering to receive SMS messages about goods and vehicles related to this person, undergoing customs procedures on the portal of the customs service for residents of the country. Most residents use this service. An EDS is obvious. The presence of non-residents during the passage of customs procedures is mandatory.
	Customs clearance	
2	Specify the form of receiving of the document by Customs	• A copy in electronic form (scan)
3	Specify the format of receiving of the document by Customs	Import - scanned version of Airway Bill uploaded as PDF as an accompanying document during crossing the border
4	List the details that are used by Customs in this process	 Type of operations Itinerary (Country of departure) Itinerary (Country of arrival) Flight number HZ code Description of goods Amount Currency Brutto Pieces Customs security details/seals Container number Bill of lading number Customs of destination Pdf of Bill of lading Pdf of Invoice

No	Request / Question	Answer
5	Specify whether the document is supplemented with any information from customs	Airway Bill is only an accompanying document which confirm the information submitted to the customs declaration
6	Describe what additional documents may be required by Customs when working with this document	Other documents depending on the type of goods
7	Describe whether there are difficulties with the time of receiving of the document (or information from the document)	• No
8	Describe whether there are difficulties with the form of receiving of information	• No
9	Describe whether there are difficulties with the completeness of the information	• No
10	Describe whether there are difficulties in trusting the information provided	There are no such problems because all identification operations are carried out at the border crossing in import and export
11	Describe whether there are difficulties with feedback from subjects	 There is the possibility of registering to receive SMS messages about goods and vehicles related to this person, undergoing customs procedures on the portal of the customs service for residents of the country. Most residents use this service. An EDS is obvious. The presence of non-residents during the passage of customs procedures is mandatory.

2.5. Customs Dataset

As a final result of the "AS-IS" process assessment, the Customs Dataset was created on the basis of the data from the transport documents. This dataset combines all data

attributes from all transport documents that are used in Customs clearance procedures. So, the focus of the next steps, particularly - overview of the individual datasets (of the transport documents), mapping the datasets to the UN/CEFACT and WCO data models - is on the attributes that are listed in the Customs Dataset.

Table 5: Customs dataset

		Transport documents			
	Attributes	Road	Avia	Maritime	Rail
1	Type of operations	X	X	X	X
2	Delivery control period to the destination	X			
3	Itinerary (Country of departure)	X	X	X	X
4	Itinerary (Country of arrival)	X	X	X	X
5	Airport of departure		X		
6	Airport of arrival		X		
7	Port of departure			X	
8	Port of arrival			X	
9	RW station of departure				X
10	RW station of arrival				X
11	Full/Empty	X	X	X	X
	Technical characteristics of the vehicle				
1	Type of vessels/wagons/trucks	X	X	X	X
2	Number of vessels/wagons/trucks	X	X		X
3	Marks	X			
4	Chassis number	X			
5	Weight of wagons/trucks	X			
6	Number of axles	X			
7	Year of issue	X			
8	Home country/Flag	X	X	X	X
9	IMO number			X	
10	Ship's name			X	
11	Flight number		X		
12	Place		X		
13	Pdf of the Cargo Manifest		X		
14	Pdf of the Passenger List		X	X	
	Driver's information				
1	Driver document's number	X			
2	Citizenship	X			
3	Surname	X	1		
4	Name	X			
5	Middle Name	X	1		
6	Tel. number/Address	X	1		
	Goods				
1	HZ code	X	0. X	X	X
				1	

2	Description of goods	X	X	X	X
3	Amount	X	X	X	
4	Currency	X	X	X	X
5	Brutto	X	X	X	X
6	Pieces	X	X	X	X
7	Itinerary(from)	X	X	X	X
8	Itinerary(to)	X	X	X	X
9	TaxID of importer	0.X	0.X	0.X	0.X
10	Name of importer	X	X	X	X
11	TaxID of exporter	0.X	0.X	0.X	0.X
12	Name of exporter	X	X	X	X
13	Customs security details/seals	X			X
14	Container number	X	X	X	X
15	Bill of lading number	X	X	X	X
16	Number of customs documents	0.X		0.X	
17	TIR Carnet number	X			
18	Customs of destination	X	X	X	X
19	Pdf of the Bill of lading	X	X	X	X
20	Pdf of the Invoice	X	X	X	X

3. Overview of the individual datasets

Table 6: Datasets list

Document	Base International Reference Standard
CMR	UN/CEFACT Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model
Maritime Bill of Lading	UN/CEFACT Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model
SMGS	UN/CEFACT Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model
Invoice (for Customs use)	UN/CEFACT Supply Chain Reference Data Model

Source: The authors

The individual reports and outputs attached in annexes of this report reflect datasets created per provided paper document used along the GUAM transport corridor. These subsets show the usage of paper documents names and terms in alignment with international standards data exchange modeling. In addition, box numbers from paper documents are reflected in the reports where applicable.

The data model provides the possibility to hold information about document authentication inside the Exchanged Document section of each document (dataset). However, the legal aspects were out of the scope of this assessment, and we decided to hold the message-related (or document-related) electronic signature data in the message envelope and thus separate it from the message contents. The Signatory Authentication information in the Exchanged Document section can be used for the metadata about an authentication for the content (paper or electronic signatures).

Real world examples of the documents included in the scope of the project are listed in the Annex I.

4. Mapping the datasets to the UN/CEFACT and WCO data models

Reference Data Models (RDMs) provide a comprehensive subset of the UN/CCL and its associated code lists with all the information pertinent to a sector of activity such as Supply Chain Management (SCRDM) or Multi-Modal Transport (MMT RDM).

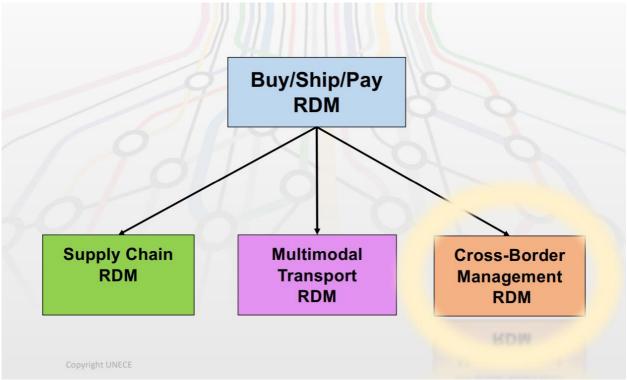
RDMs group together all the necessary data requirements for a sector of activity and cover all of that sector's relevant documentary and information requirements. The pertinent code lists are recommended within the subsets and all non-relevant codes are removed—making it easier to reuse and supporting global interoperability. For example, the UN/CEFACT unit of measure code list is restricted to weight-related codes for gross weight only (volume and distance are not included).

Individual messages related to a sector of activity are seen as a subset of the RDM, which itself is a subset of the UN/CCL (like a box within a box within a box). The RDMs are not exclusive to each other as they will obviously share a lot of the same information. Furthermore, as the UN/CCL is a hierarchical data model, the RDMs also inherit the underlying hierarchy. This allows identifying relationships between data (such as a "Seal Identification" being related to the container on which it is affixed). This hierarchy enables a process-driven (or event-driven) approach to data exchange instead of being obliged to consider information only in the context of a paper-based data exchange.

The CBM RDM:

- Provides a Regulatory Reference Data Model within the UN/CEFACT semantic library to assist authorities' link this information to the standards of other organizations.
- Delivers a RDM to cover the trade and transport-related processes of the cross-border supply chain, the main parties and the information involved.
- Links the BSP, SCRDM and MMT RDM with existing customs standards based on the developing (EUCDM) standard, sharing a base of components the UN Core Component Library (UN CCL).
- Creates a subset of the UN CCL showing the shared aspects between the international supply chain and transport-logistics chains and the agency driven data models (EUCDM).
- UN/CEFACT Reference Data Models (RDMs) provide a comprehensive subset of the UN/CCL and Code Lists.
- CBM-RDM will expand/link to data models based in well established:
 - O Buy-Ship-Pay (BSP) which is the top level;
 - Supply Chain Management (SCRDM);
 - o Multimodal Transport (MMT RDM).

Figure 2: UN/CEFACT models' hierarchy



Source: UN/CEFACT

4.1. Mapping to the UN/CEFACT MMT

4.1.1. Maritime Bill of Lading

- a) The mapping was performed using real business cases documents:
 - Maritime Transport BoL;
- b) The original documents used for the mappings are demonstrated in Annex I.
 - Maritime Transport BoL;
- c) The results of the mapping are demonstrated in Annex II.
- d) General considerations

The maritime bill of lading was already thoroughly analyzed in the series of previous assessments³. All considerations made in those reports are valid for the present assessment. As a common recommendation, we propose to harmonize the structure of classes for all parties involved in the shipment process and to use the same list of arguments and attributes, especially the structure of address, country subdivision codes and names, mobile phone numbers.

In addition, during the test, in the data model there were inaccessible entities for goods description in plain text form, inside the class Included Consignment Item. Only the code was accessible. Consequently, it is recommended to include both code and description

³ https://unttc.org/documents/report-standardized-digitalization-multimodal-transport-ua
https://unttc.org/documents/alignment-documents-used-multimodal-transportation-along-guam-transport-corridor-uncefact

to keep the information in the exchanged document readable both for a machine and for a human.

Even if the quantity of consignment items (pieces and weight) is available, it is possible to add also corresponding totals to the consignment entity entry, and to provide both numeric and plain text descriptions of totals to guarantee consistency of the document exchanged (instead of generating the textual representation of amount programmatically on both sides – sender and recipient).

4.1.2. CMR

- a) The mapping was performed using real business case documents:
 - Iran- Azerbaijan;
 - Georgia- Azerbaijan;
 - Russia- Azerbaijan;
- b) The original documents used for mappings are demonstrated in Annex I.
 - Iran- Azerbaijan;
 - Georgia- Azerbaijan;
 - Russia- Azerbaijan;
- c) The results of the mapping are demonstrated in Annex II.
- d) General considerations

CMR is the main document for international road transport. In this assessment, the CMR assessed while crossing the borders with Iran, Georgia and Russia.

For the present time neither Georgia nor Azerbaijan have joined the amendment protocol to the Convention (e-CMR). Such an accession could simplify the application of electronic documents throughout the entire route of transportation, given the fact that most of the neighbors, including Ukraine, Russia, Turkey and Iran, have already acceded to this protocol.

Comparing CMR documents with the MMT RDM, we see that this document is well formalized from the point of view of a paper document (in accordance with the requirements of the CMR Convention⁴) and, accordingly, is implemented in the form of a data model profile.

As for the common practice, it is not used to fulfill the contract information in the paper CMR consignment note. Nevertheless, the entities for such information are foreseen in MMT RDM.

4.1.3. SMGS

- a) The mapping was performed using real business case documents:
 - Iran- Azerbaijan;
 - Georgia- Azerbaijan;
 - Russia- Azerbaijan;
- b) The original documents used for mappings are demonstrated in Annex I.
 - Iran-Azerbaijan;
 - Georgia-Azerbaijan;
 - Russia-Azerbaijan;
- c) The results of the mapping are demonstrated in Annex II.

⁴ https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XI-B-11&chapter=11&clang=_en_

d) General considerations

In this assessment, the railway consignment note was assessed while crossing the borders with Iran, Georgia and Russia. It should be mentioned, that direction from Georgia also includes shipments from other countries on the GUAM transport corridor, particularly Ukraine. The shipment between Azerbaijan and Ukraine is performed with the SMGS railway consignment note that is used also as a maritime way bill during ferry transportation from port Poti (Georgia) to port Chornomorsk (Ukraine). Thus, the railway consignment note could be used as a single document for multimodal shipment.

The SMGS consignment note has been mapped to the MMT RDM in the previous assessment on Black Sea – Baltic Sea transport corridor done by the experts from Belarus⁵ and in other projects. All considerations mentioned in their report are valid for the current assessment. In this assessment mapping was done on the basis of the latest version of the SMGS profile of the MMT RDM that was updated by the UN/CEFACT experts in cooperation with Organization for cooperation between railways (OSJD⁶). Additionally, there are some attributes that can also be reviewed from the data modeling point of view. Specifically:

- Information about cargo after reloading weight (box #13) and pieces (box#14) is not available in the present version of the SMGS profile of MMT RDM, but is available in MMT RDM itself as an ABIE Transport_ Event. Value. Measure of the Supply Chain_ Consignment. Examination. Transport_ Event class;
- Information about the kind of package box#16 is also available in MMT RDM but not in the profile, ABIE Logistics_ Package. Type. Text of the Supply Chain_ Consignment. Related. Supply Chain_ Trade Transaction class;
- Information about the list of railway stations where the borders were crossed ABIE Logistics_ Location of the Logistics_ Transport Movement. Transshipment_ Intermediate. Transport_ Event class.

4.1.4. Invoice (for Customs use)

- a) The mapping was performed using real business case documents:
 - Invoice issued in Ukraine for Azerbaijan;
 - Invoice issued in Kazakhstan for Azerbaijan;
 - Invoice issued in Turkmenistan for Azerbaijan;
 - Invoice issued in China for Azerbaijan;
- b) The original documents used for mappings are demonstrated in Annex I.
- c) The results of the mapping are demonstrated in Annex II.
- d) General considerations

The invoice is much better formalized in electronic form than in paper. Actually, the common practice is to issue an invoice in a free form with information, related to the details of the specific contract. Consequently, the mappings of invoices issued in different countries and in different contract conditions differ. However, it is possible to specify some common issues.

6 https://en.osjd.org/

 $[\]frac{5}{\text{https://unttc.org/documents/standardized-dataset-aligned-international-standards-and-uncefact-reference-data-models}}$

There are differences in the usage of the entities with common roles in different jurisdictions, specially:

Seller. Trade_ Party:

- Consignor
- Seller
- Shipper.

We should also mention a difference in the bank qualification. Some information from the real-world documents were not present in the current version of RDM and their inclusion should be considered:

- Referenced documents
- Country of destination
- Producer
- Contract number
- Contract date
- Place of delivery by the terms
- Marks and notes
- Totals for sub-packages
- Totals for goods characteristics (ADMT)

4.2. Mapping to the UN/CEFACT CBM – WCO DM

As were described earlier in this section, the hierarchy of the UN/CEFACT data models allows us to build a bridge between transport and Customs data sets. On the previous step all real-world transport documents were mapped with the MMT RDM. On this step we will map these datasets to the WCO DM via the UN/CEFACT CBM DM.

4.2.1. Approach

Main principles and steps:

- The technical structure of the MMTRDM is used as the baseline the matching between the lowest level of the data elements.
- When differences related to:
 - the business content no mapping proposed
 - o format, and/or technical characteristics a mapping is proposed.
- With regards to the format, agreements will need to be reached whether differences are to be reconciled via transformation through the IT system itself or ex ante, through consensus of the parties.

4.2.2. *eCMR dataset mapping*

The table attached in Annex II was prepared based on:

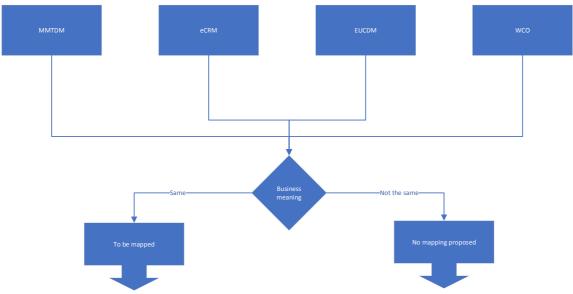
- 1. MMT RDM
- 2. eCRM (proposal based on paper CRM form)
- 3. EUCDM (version 6.2, as published on EUCDM 6.2^{7})
- 4. WCO (version 3.11.0, as per the publication WCO Data Model App⁸)

The mapping has been carried out by comparing data elements from eCMR and MMT RDM and the set of data of Entry summary declaration – Road mode of transport, column F50, Annex B of UCC and, respectively, WCO Consignment view.

⁷ https://eucdm.softdev.eu.com

⁸ https://datamodel.wcoomd.org/#/infopack/scope/global

Figure 3: Data mapping Process flow



4.2.3. Considerations

For that DE⁹s from eCRM that a proper mapping was not found, the proposal is to create new ones with the same format as similar DEs, i.e.:

- Box 18 Carriers reservations and observations
- Box 21 Established in

The proposal is not to use the DG¹⁰ BSP Master/Exchanged_ Document but BSP Master/Exchanged_Declaration as the mapping is from the perspective of the document as such (to be used for automated check versus Entry summary declaration or to fill in the declaration DEs (as a re-use of the available data)

For some of the DEs and DGs (see Figure 4 below) mapping is not provided, as those DEs/DGs are not applicable for the particular customs procedure

Figure 4: Example of the notation for non-mapped elements



Source: The authors

DEs, related to take-over and delivery places and dates and dates are not mapped (Figure 5), as there is no unambiguous mapping. If the mapping will be to loading or acceptance and unloading or delivery, it depends on who submit the information and on which level.

¹⁰ DG – Data Group

⁹ DE – Data Element

Figure 5: Examples of mapping collisions

RDM Path		ABI	-	CCL DEN (Dictionary Entry Name)	Definition	Business name	Section 2	WCO name	WCO XML Name	WCO Path	WCO formal	t name	Format
											-		
Supply Chain_ Consignment/Delivery. ransport_ Event		E	Event	Supply Chain_ Consignment. Delivery, Transport_ Event	The delivery event for this supply chain consignment.	Place and date of taking over the goods (address, country, date)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SP Master/Specified. Supply Chain_ Consignment/Delivery. ransport_ vent/Actual_ Occurrence. Date Time	UN01004796		Actual Occurrence Date Time	Transport_Event. Actual_Occurrence. Date Time	The actual date, time, date time, or other date time value of the occurrence of this transport event.	Date	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SP Master/Specified. supply Chain_ consignment/Delivery. ransport_ cvent/Occurrence, ogistics_ ocation/Name, Text	UN01003681	BBI E	Name	Logistics_Location. Name. Text	A name, expressed as text, of this logistics related location.	Place	nfa	n/a	n/a	nfa	n/a	n/a	n/a
Supply Chain_ Consignment/Pick-Up_ ransport_ Event		E	Carrier Pick-Up Event	Supply Chain_ Consignment. Pick-Up. Transport_ Event	The pick-up event for this supply chain consignment.	Place of delivery of the goods (address, country)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SP Master/Specified. Supply Chain_ Consignment/Pick-Up. ransport_ Event/Actual_ Occurrence. Date Time		Е	Date Time	Transport_Event. Actual_Occurrence. Date Time	The actual date, time, date time, or other date time value of the occurrence of this transport event.	Date	nfa	n/a	n/u	nfa	n/a	n/a	ı√a
SP Master/Specified. Supply Chain_ Consignment/Pick-Up. ransport_ vent/Occurrence. ogistics_ ocation/Name. Text	UN01003681	BBI	Name	Logistics_Location. Name. Text	A name, expressed as text, of this logistics related location.	Place	nfa	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

The results of such mapping are in the Annex II.

4.2.4. Mapping to the EU CDM

As an optional exercise during the current assessment, besides WCO DM the EU CDM was also used for mapping. It should be mentioned that EU CDM is well linked to the WCO DM, so the mapping results are not surprising, but could be used by the Azerbaijan Customs in the context of regional cooperation and in particular for the transit procedures (NCTS).

5. Description of the approach for facilitation

In Section 2 there were described the result of the assessment that was done during the project. These results show the present situation in the document flow between participants of the shipment process and the Customs Authorities ("AS IS").

On the basis of the UN/CEFACT key artifacts, particularly - hierarchy of data models, XML schemas and trade facilitation recommendations, there are several points of optimization highlighted.

5.1. Point of the facilitation

5.1.1. Railway transport documents

Due to specific requirements for the data and documents provided to Custom, in general carriers or representatives of the cargo owner acting as a "converter" of the documents to comply with such requirements. In case of the railway transport the state enterprise "Azerbaijan Railways" is doing this function.

To facilitate the conversion of the documents, provided by the foreign railway administrations to the unified form, it is recommended to consider using the UN/CEFACT standards for railway consignment note (SMGS and CIM/SMGS). According to this, 3 points of application are available:

- O Data exchange between Azerbaijan Railways and Customs;
- O Data exchange between foreign and Azerbaijan Railways;
- O Data exchange between end-users (customers) and Azerbaijan Railways.

5.1.2. Road transport documents

For the road transport case there is no single point of contact between Customs and the carriers. To facilitate the process of providing data to the Customs it is recommended to consider using the UN/CEFACT standard for the road consignment note (CMR). This also could be a basis for the further accession to the additional protocol for the CMR Convention¹². According to this, 2 points of application are available:

- Data exchange between road carriers (or their representatives) and Customs;
- Establishing a link between preliminary Customs declaration and the consignment in the CMR;

5.1.3. Maritime transport documents

In the case of maritime transportation, ports traditionally act as a hub (or single point of contact) for other modes of transport and authorities. To facilitate both the process of the information exchange between parties involved in maritime transportation and the Customs, as a process of cargo clearance in the ports, it is recommended to consider using the preliminary information in the form of entry/exit summary declaration (ENS/EXS).

Another point of optimization for maritime transportation - harmonization of the documents and requirements for port clearance in accordance with IMO regulations.

5.1.4. Trade documents

When it is about trade documents for presenting to the Customs, the first one is invoice. To facilitate the process of providing such a document and for processing it by

¹¹ http://www.railway.gov.az/

¹² https://unece.org/DAM/trans/conventn/e-CMRe.pdf

Customs it is recommended to consider using the UN/CEFACT standard for the invoice for Customs.

As another point of facilitation, accompanying documents should also be considered to process in accordance with UN/CEFACT standards. This is for:

- Certificate of origin;
- Phytosanitary certificate;
- Veterinary certificate.

5.2. Approach for facilitation

The approach for facilitation of the data and document exchange using UN/CEFACT standards and reference data models is based on long-term work, executed by UN/CEFACT first of all for facilitating multimodal shipment.

The transport documents of different models of transport were assessed by the authors in a series of previous projects that are published on the unttc.org site. The key focus of the present work is mapping of the transport data models to Customs data models. Thanks to the hierarchical structure of the UN/CEFACT data models (see Figure 2), it is possible to reuse data from the documents of different modes of transport to produce dataset required by Customs authorities. Moreover, the conversion of the data between such datasets could be also implemented as a unified solution.

As an example of the practical implementation of such an approach, two prototypes of the data processing applications were used in the framework of the project.

5.2.1. Maritime Single Window Prototype

First prototype is focused on the maritime transport and implement a maritime single window solution in accordance with the requirements of the Annex to the Convention on the Facilitation of International Navigation of 1965, approved by the International Maritime Organization Resolution FAL.12(40) Standard 1.3bis, based on the UN/CEFACT MMR reference data model and refers to the European Union's Maritime Single Window environment from the European Maritime Safety Agency) requirements.

The prototype is described in more details in the report "Assessment of the use of electronic documents based on the UN/CEFACT Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT RDM) in the execution of formalities for the registration of the arrival and departure of ships in the seaports of Ukraine" that is available on the UNTTC ¹³site, here is only a short information to illustrate the concept.

Vessel calls

This view represents the list of vessel calls.

 $[\]underline{https://unttc.org/documents/assessment-use-electronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-reference-lectronic-documents-based-uncefact-multimodal-transport-multimodal-tr$ <u>data</u>

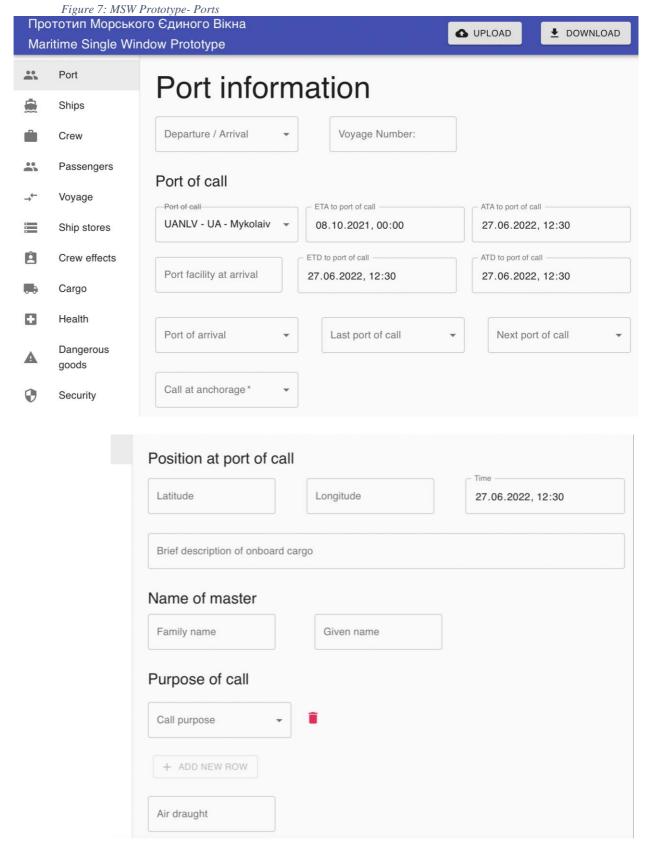


For each vessel call the information is represented by the following blocks. The list and structure of the blocks are similar to the EMSA prototype logic:

- Port Port information
- Ships Ship information
- Crew Crew list
- Passengers Passenger list
- Voyage Voyage information
- Ship stores Ship stores declaration
- Crew effects Crew effects
- Cargo Cargo declaration
- Health Maritime Declaration of Health
- Dangerous goods Dangerous goods declaration
- Security Security information
- Waste Waste information

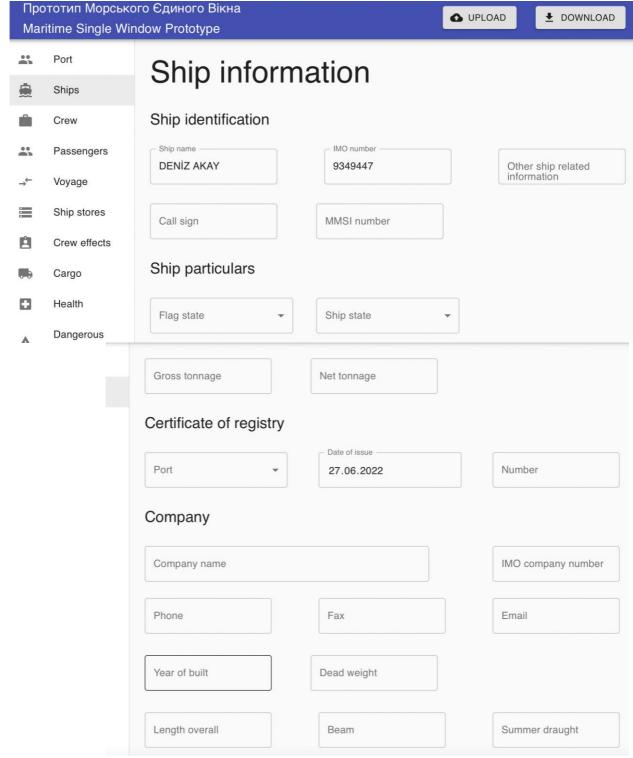
Each block contains the necessary fields for providing the information. More details about each block are presented in the next section below.

Port



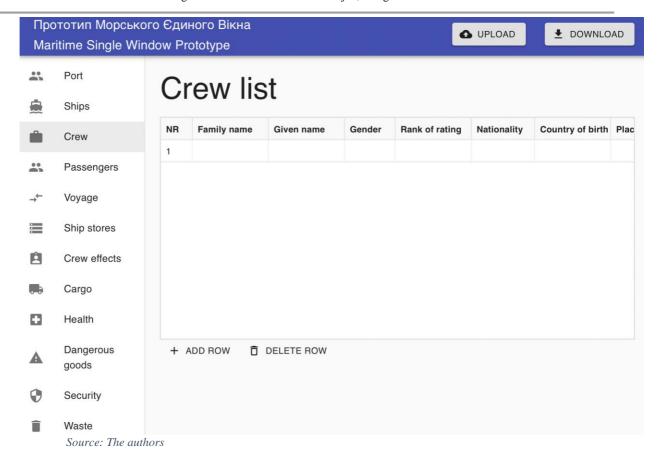
Ship

Figure 8: MSW Prototype - Ship information



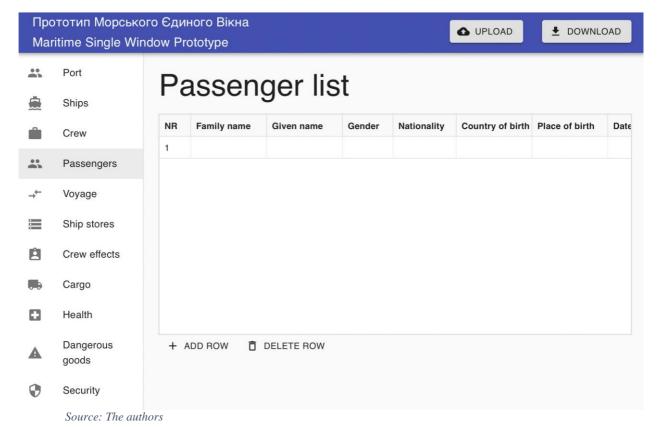
Crew

Figure 9: MSW Prototype - Crew list



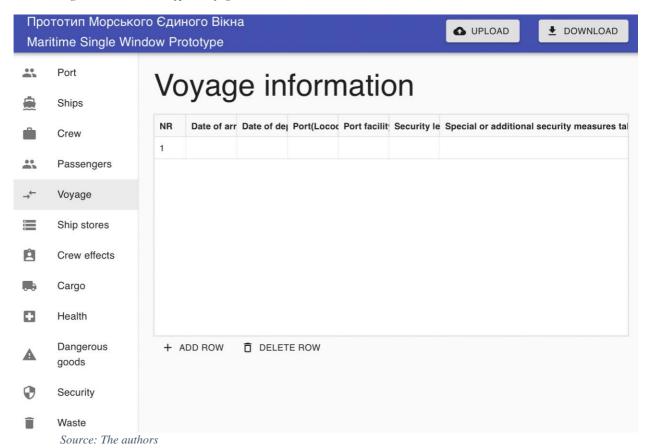
Passenger

Figure 10: MSW Prototype - Passenger list



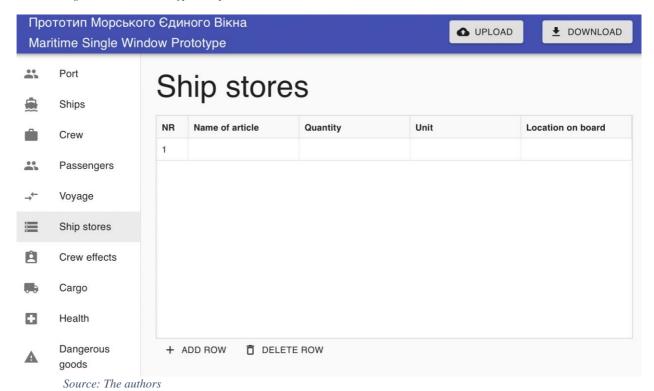
Voyage

Figure 11: MSW Prototype - Voyage



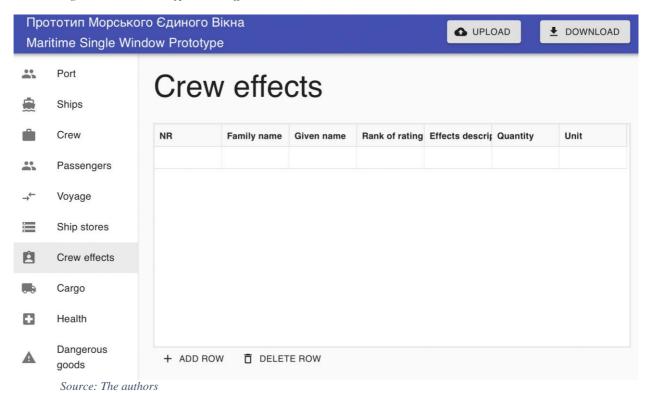
Ship stores

Figure 12: MSW Prototype - Ship stores



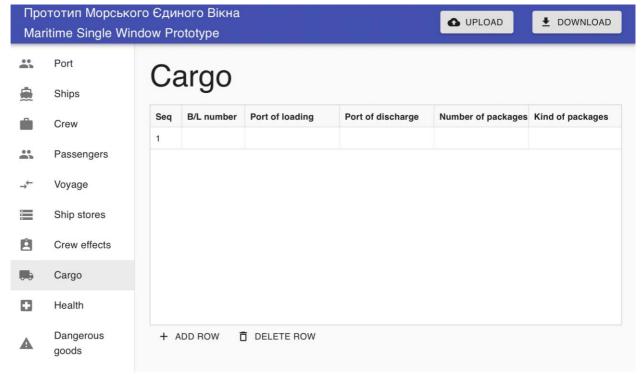
Crew effects

Figure 13: MSW Prototype - Crew effects



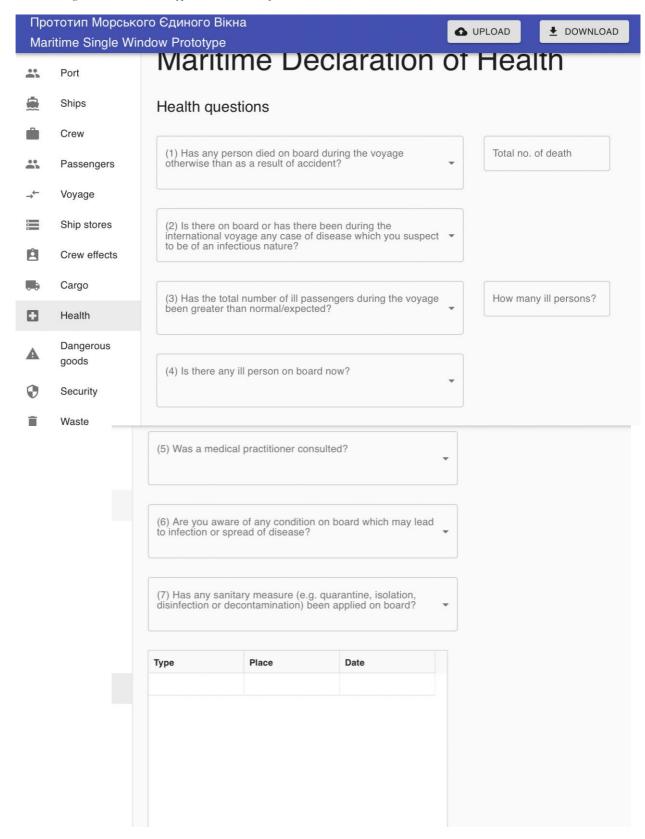
Cargo

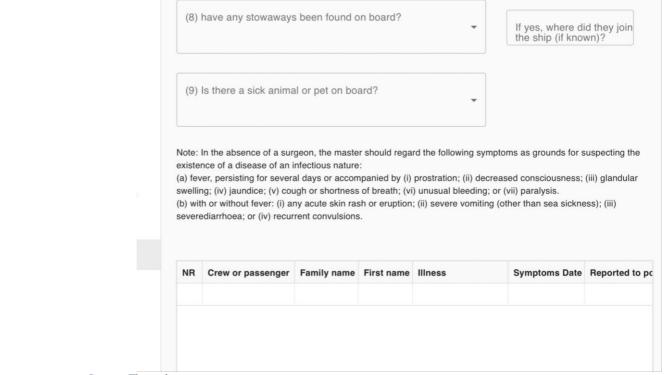
Figure 14: MSW Prototype - Cargo



Health

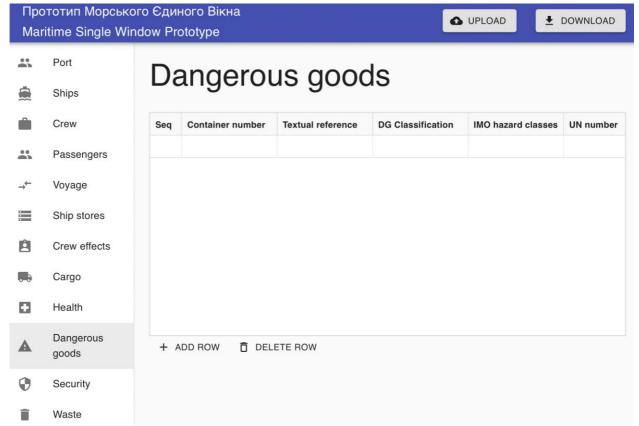
Figure 15: MSW Prototype - Declaration of Health





Dangerous goods

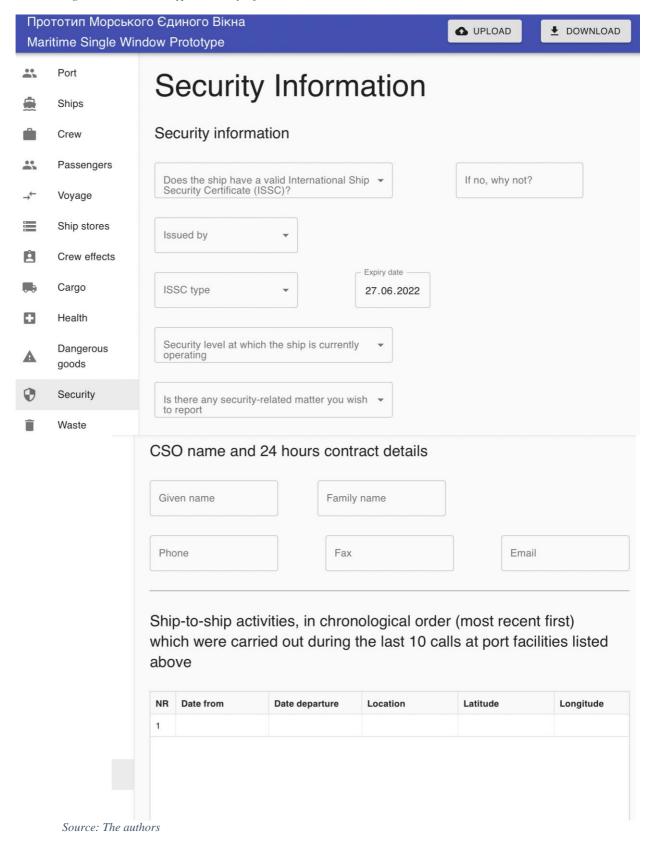
Figure 16: MSW Prototype - Dangerous goods



Source: The authors

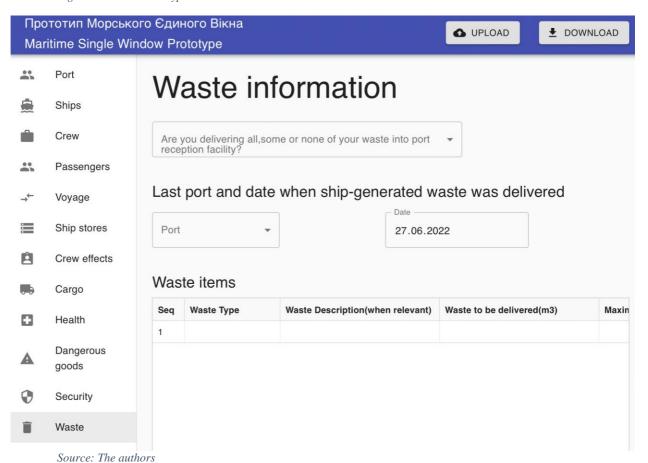
Security

Figure 17: MSW Prototype - Security information



Waste

Figure 18: MSW Prototype - Waste

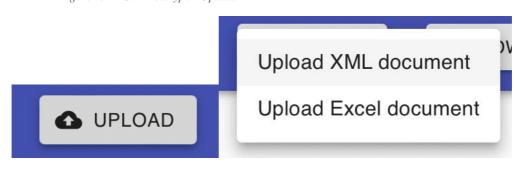


Information integration

Uploading documents

In addition to the possibility of directly entering information into the Prototype in an interactive mode, two integration possibilities were tested, as shown on Figure 16.

Figure 19: MSW Prototype - Upload



Source: The authors

- Upload XML document
 This option allows users to upload information into the prototype from the XML files, created in the prototype earlier or in the external system for integration.
- Upload Excel document

This option allows users to upload information into the prototype from the spreadsheets, based on the EMSA templates¹⁴.

Creation of XML document

There is an option to generate XML documents from the information provided to the prototype. For the purposes of this study, we tested the possibility to generate electronic documents in both data models - UN/CEFACT and EMSA.

5.2.2. Cross Border Management Convertor Prototype

Second prototype is focused on converting transport documents, harmonized with the UN/CEFACT MMT RDM, to the Customs data model. Prototype is aimed to help public authorities implement electronic information exchange systems. It implements transformation of the trade and transport documents, harmonized with UN/CEFACT ISCDM and MMT RDM to the WCO DM and EU CDM datasets based on the UN/CEFACT CBM RDM.

The prototype consists from the list of shipments (for example there were road transport shipment used):

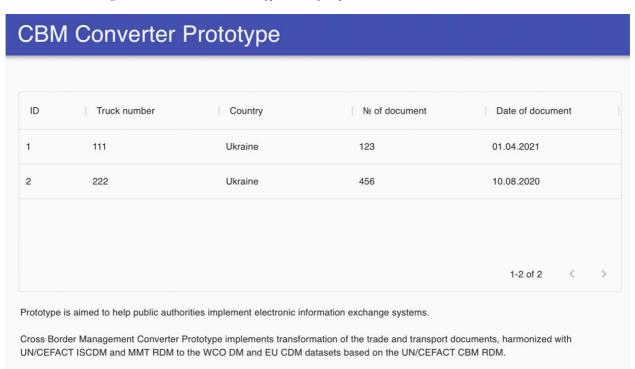


Figure 20: CBM Converter Prototype - List of shipments

Source: The authors

For each shipment several views (datasets) are available. For task of current assessment there are next datasets:

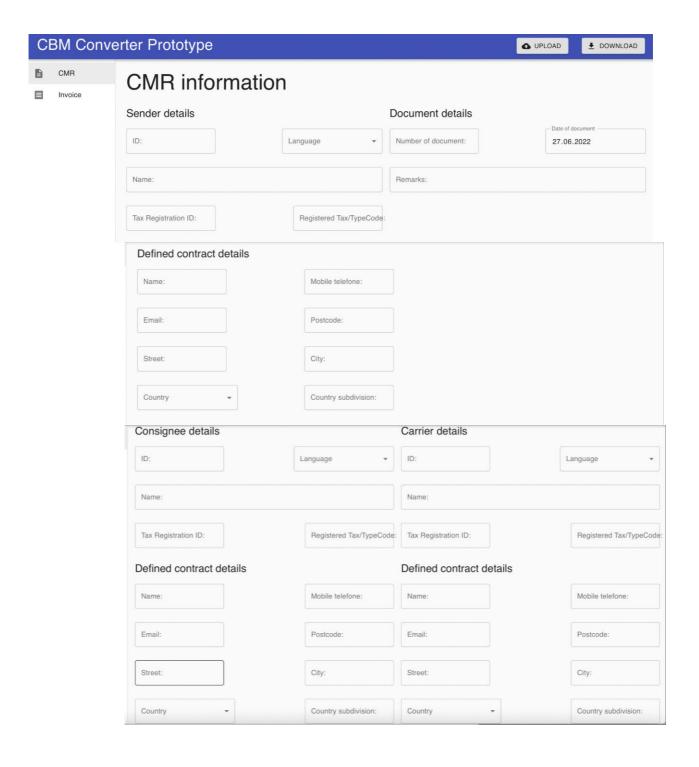
- CMR
- Invoice

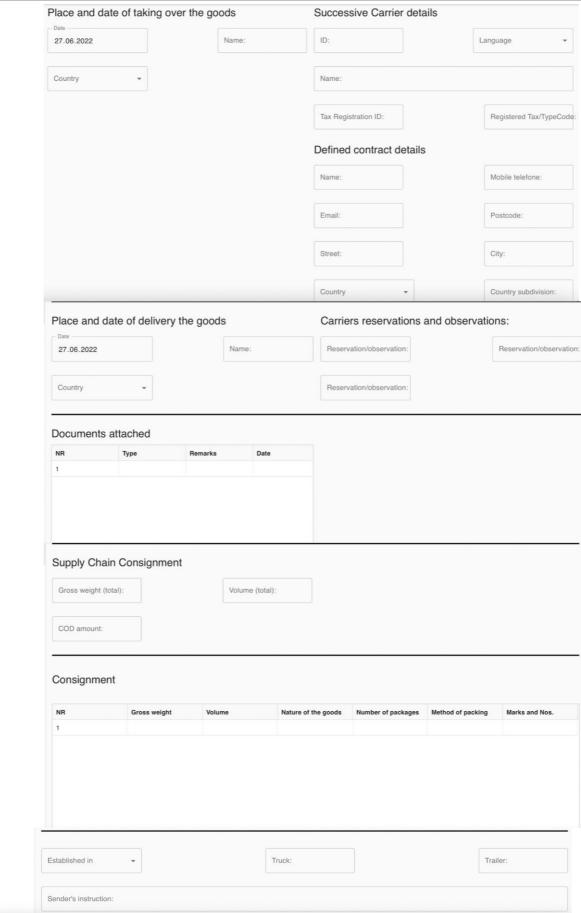
-

http://www.emsa.europa.eu/emsw2/emsw-manuals.html

CMR

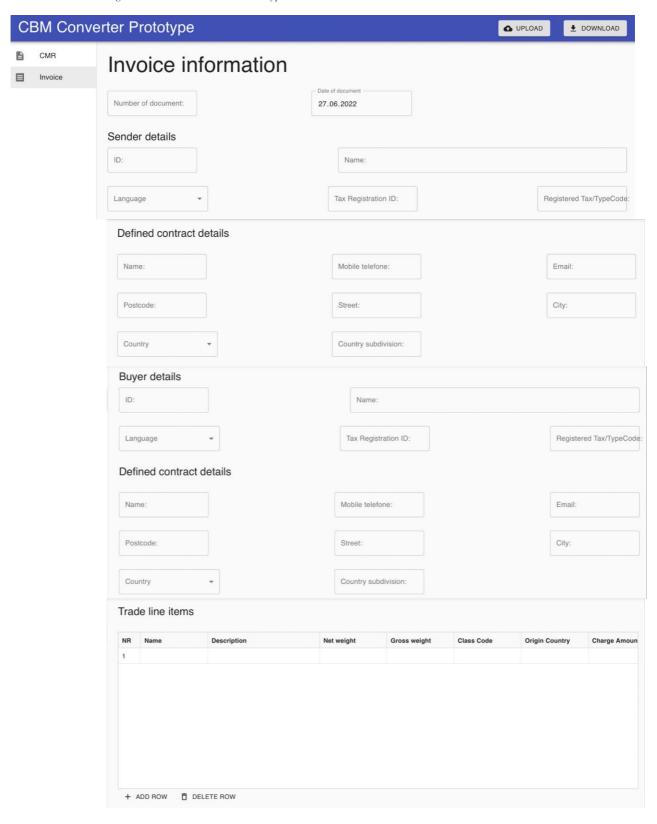
Figure 21: CBM Converter Prototype – CMR

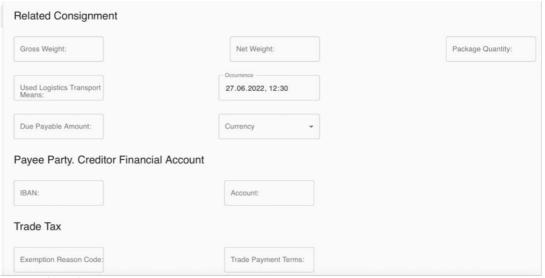




Invoice

Figure 22: CBM Converter Prototype - Invoice





Information integration

Uploading documents

In addition to the possibility of directly entering information into the Prototype in an interactive mode, it is possible to upload information into the prototype from the XML files, created in the prototype earlier or in the external system for integration. The documents should comply with the UN/CEFACT schema for particular documents.

Creation of XML document

There is an option to generate XML documents from the information provided to the prototype. For the purposes of this study, we tested the possibility to generate electronic documents in both data models - UN/CEFACT and WCO.

6. Examples of documents implemented

Documents used for the assessment were implemented in electronic form (XML), based on the mapping, performed on the previous step and UN/CEFACT guidelines for XML naming and design rules.

Examples of the documents in XML are provided in Annex III.

7. Conclusions and project propositions

Current assessment is one in the series of projects, focused on providing semantic interoperability through the whole supply chain. Current project focuses on the bridge between transport and Customs worlds to provide a way for seamless one-stop data sharing during the shipment stage of the Buy-Ship-Pay process.

The deliverables of the project show the clear way forward to provide the possibility of transforming data from the transport data sets into the Customs dataset based on the UN/CEFACT data models hierarchy.

As a result, set of recommendation for the practical application of the approach proposed is prepared:

7.1. Technical recommendations

- 1. The Central Customs Authority of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AR) is recommended to develop and provide electronic services for receiving and processing information based on transport documents within the framework of international standards (WCO and UNCEFACT data models).
- 2. It is recommended to harmonize the code lists and representations of international standards (WCO and UNCEFACT data models) with the data of the Customs system of the Azerbaijan Republic.
- 3. It is recommended that the data obtained through these services be adapted for use in Customs systems and as an alternative to import summary declarations.
- 4. It is recommended to determine the rules for the exchange of information between the Customs service and representatives of transport companies/associations/Government structures, depending on the type of transport and the conditions for passing through Customs procedures.
- 5. It is recommended to develop mechanisms for verifying the compliance of the data provided by transport companies and ensure that these data are authenticated with Electronic Digital Signature (EDS) or in another way to give it legal significance.

7.2. Legislative recommendations

- 1. It is recommended to eliminate legal and regulatory barriers to accept information based on transport documents within the framework of international standards (WCO and UNCEFACT data models) and use this information as legally significant documents to promote electronic (paperless) exchange of information.
- 2. It is recommended to develop rules for providing, changing and deleting information within the framework of the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including formats and cardinalities.
- 3. It is recommended to remove the sanctions provided for in case of non-submission of summary import declarations for cargo owners in case of submission of information based on transport documents within the framework of international standards (WCO and UNCEFACT data models).
- 4. Joining the amendment protocol to the Convention On Road Transport (e-CMR) is recommended.

7.3. Organizational recommendations

- 1. It is recommended to organize interaction between the Customs service of the Azerbaijan Republic with the Government structures, agencies and associations responsible for the movement of goods on a particular mode of transport.
- 2. It is recommended to optimize the internal procedures in these structures on the basis of the global international standards for ensuring interoperability both between modes of transport as with the Customs. In particular, for maritime transport the prototype of the Maritime Single Window can be used as a template.
- 3. It is recommended to carry out work on informing and organizing the work of representatives of foreign transport companies that are not members of resident associations of the AR, but carry out transportation activities in the territory of the AR. It is also recommended to develop a simplified mechanism for providing trusted cross border information for such companies (the reason is the lack of an EDS).
- 4. As one of the lessons learned, it is strongly recommended to have a leading organization (in most of the cases it can be the Customs) in the entire process.

7.4. Remark on legally trusted cross border document exchange

The application of the data sharing approach in a real-world environment requires answers on the stack of questions, where semantic interoperability is the only one. These are:

- technical interoperability
- process interoperability
- trust

The technical interoperability is regulated by the W3C, IETF, regional and national authorities.

The process interoperability is covered by the information models, widely developed by the industries. Well known examples of such models are DCSA, IATA, FIATA FBL, and also European data models - EU CDM for Customs and EMSWe for maritime.

Trust is the most complex question when there is about the cross border interaction. The high-level regulations are provided by the United Nations Commission On International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as a Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records ¹⁵. The Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR) aims to enable the legal use of electronic transferable records both domestically and across borders. The MLETR applies to electronic transferable records that are functionally equivalent to transferable (paper-based) documents.

At the same time the MLETR is rather framework rather than an implementation guide. Traditional solutions based on the electronic digital signatures with national certification authorities don't work well in international trade. Moreover, they produce a new set of issues due to technical, semantic and trust interoperability of the signatures itself.

The solution proposed by the leading international organizations is Verifiable Credentials and Distributed Identifiers 16 . This approach is actively supported by the UN/CEFACT 17 , and also by other - The European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI 18), Inter-American Development Bank 19 and so on.

¹⁵ https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/ecommerce/modellaw/electronic_transferable_records

¹⁶ https://www.w3.org/TR/vc-data-model/

¹⁷ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/010 Verifiable-Credentials-CBT.pdf

¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/digital-building-blocks/wikis/display/EBSIDOC/EBSI+Verifiable+Credentials+Playbook

Such an approach could be the silver bullet in the cross-border interaction in situations of the lack of trust between parties. The outcomes are:

- Full and rapid digitization of all exports without any dependency on trading partner readiness.
- Traceability through the supply chain.
- Automated compliance and risk.

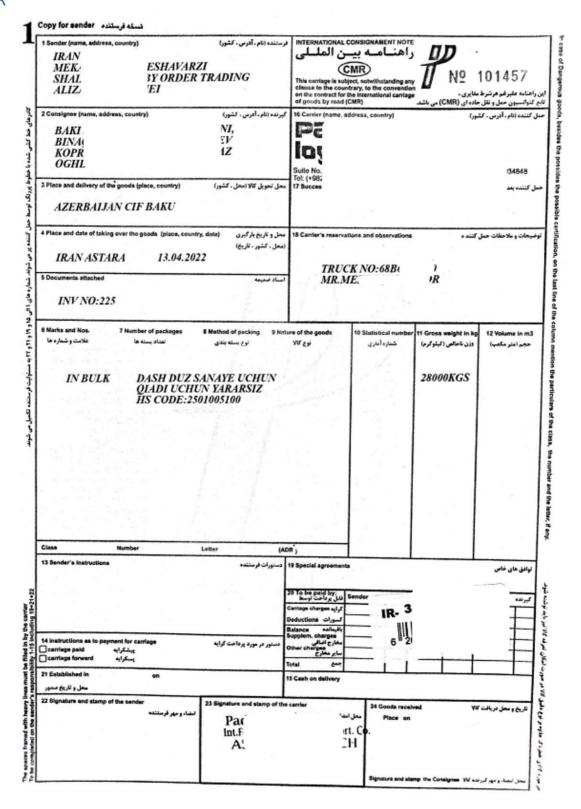
At the same time, the national authorities keep the hole control on the process and become so called Trust Anchors, that serve like a transparent roots of trust hierarchy for data, documents and processes they are responsible for.

 $[\]underline{https://publications.iadb.org/en/lacchain-id-framework-set-recommendations-blockchain-based-interoperable-blockchain-blockc$ privacy-preserving

Annexes

8. Annex I. Original documents used for mappings and conversions

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YIWU H. RM301 3RD FLOO .,LTD. WU ZHEJIANG

COMMERCIAL INVOICE

TO:VE MC INVOICE:2022V-XJQT-F0055

ADD:AZ1009,BAKU CITY 14

TAX ID:140 DATE: FEB.28.2022

CONTAINER.NO:SL

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SMGS



10. Annex II. Results of the mapping

Invoice for Customs_AZ.xlsx eCMR_AZ.xlsx Maritime BL_AZ.xlsx eCMR_AZ_EUCDM_WCO1.xlsx SMGS Consignment Note_EEU.xlsx

11. Annex III. XML documents examples

CMR_example.xml Invoice_example.xml