

Strengthening sustainable and digital trade routes and logistics concepts between Eastern Partnership countries and with the EU

EasTnT

Context

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a joint initiative of the European Union, and it includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. One aspect of this involves integrating these countries into the EU's internal market. To achieve this objective, the countries need to introduce and implement digital, sustainable and climate-friendly concepts for logistics and transport. Up to now, for example, it has been made little use of renewable energies and rail transport for logistics and transport. There is a need for structural changes, better cooperation between all interest groups and increased capacities among the actors responsible for trade routes and logistics concepts in the countries.

Improved coordination and cooperation between those responsible are also required in order to boost convergence among the EaP countries, to ensure that goods are processed efficiently at borders, to improve logistics within the countries and to harness the potential of digital trade. The countries need to link their technical solutions and build capacities in transport and logistics and within customs and the ministries.

Objective

The project targets closer economic integration of Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries with each other and the EU, leveraging strengthened cooperation among key stakeholders in trade routes and logistics. The approach is built on enhancing

digital and sustainable practices within the transport and logistics sectors, aligning with EU standards and fostering regional collaboration.

Project name	Strengthening sustainable and digital trade routes and logistics concepts between Eastern Partnership countries and with the EU (EasTnT)
Commissioned by	Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation Development (BMZ)
Project region	Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine.
Implementing Organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	01.02.2024 – 31.01.2028

Approach

The project operates in three areas:

- (1) **Green transport and logistics:** It selects, plans and implements demonstration projects that focus on climate-friendly transport solutions. This supports the development of climate and environmentally friendly logistics and thus makes a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Container ship Reecon Whale on Black Sea

(2) **Cross - border transport:** For the cross-border movement of goods in the EaP countries, the project supports digital solutions in customs authorities as well as cooperation between customs authorities through the mutual exchange of experience between the countries and EU member states.

(3) **Strong SMEs:** The project also promotes small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in transport, trade and logistics through training, further education and training in the use of digital and climate-friendly solutions.

Strategy

The strategy of the EasTnT project entails a comprehensive and multi-level approach aimed at fostering economic integration, enhancing sustainability, and driving digital transformation across the Eastern Partnership countries, through targeted actions and collaborative efforts with the key stakeholders.

One of the project's goals is to strengthen the capacities of ministries and institutions and develop strategies for reducing transport-induced CO2 emissions by offering support for legal and regulatory adjustments needed for efficient cross border and transport management. Additionally, the project encourages cooperation between private and public sector institutions, as well as shared use of working groups to bolster sustainable and digital logistics planning and implementation.

The project activities also aim to foster competence development in SMEs within the logistics and transport sector, targeting digital and sustainable transformation. Specifically, the objective is to draft a transformation strategy and train customs and border authority personnel in digital and sustainable practices. Moreover, the project ensure gender-responsive planning and is supporting female leadership and economic participation.

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