

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

EasTnT – Eastern Partnership for Trade and Transport

## 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 EasTnT project adopts a comprehensive, multi-level strategy to support economic integration, sustainable development, and digital transformation across the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region.



Container ship Reecon Whale on Black Sea

The project operates in the following areas:

- **Green transport and logistics:** The project identifies, designs, and implements pilot initiatives that showcase climate-friendly and digital transport solutions. A central strategic priority is to build the institutional capacities of ministries and border authorities, while also facilitating the exchange of best practices both among Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries and between the EaP and the European Union. This includes the development of targeted strategies to reduce transport-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, along with legal and regulatory support aimed at enhancing cross-border and transport management. These efforts contribute to the advancement of environmentally sustainable logistics and play a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the region.
- **Cross - border transport:** To enhance the cross-border movement of goods in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region, the EasTnT project supports the digitalization of customs procedures and fosters cooperation between customs authorities through structured exchanges of experience with EU Member States. The project promotes sustainable development across road, maritime, and rail sectors, while advancing the integration of EaP countries into international systems. Key initiatives include the implementation of electronic Freight Transport Information (eFTI) regulations, and support in the implementation of digital tools, such as New Computerised Transit System (NCTS), which contribute to harmonized, efficient, and transparent customs data exchange, ultimately strengthening regional connectivity and trade facilitation.

- **Strong SMEs:** The project also supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the transport, trade, and logistics sectors by providing training and capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing the adoption of digital and environmentally sustainable solutions. In addition, it fosters active collaboration between public institutions and private sector stakeholders by facilitating joint planning processes through dedicated working groups focused on promoting sustainable and digital logistics practices.
- **Alignment with the EU Enlargement Process :** EasTnT plays an important role in supporting Ukraine and Moldova in aligning their national frameworks with the EU acquis within the context of the EU enlargement process. The project places particular emphasis on key chapters, including Chapter 14 (Transport Policy), Chapter 21 (Trans-European Networks), and Chapter 29 (Customs Union). Through the provision of targeted legal and technical assistance and the facilitation of knowledge exchange with EU stakeholders, EasTnT contributes to the gradual integration of these countries into the EU's transport and trade systems.
- **Promoting Gender Equality:** EasTnT places a strong emphasis on gender equality as a cross-cutting priority, integrating gender-responsive approaches across its activities in transport and trade. The project promotes the inclusion and empowerment of women through targeted awareness-raising initiatives and the encouragement of female participation in sectors traditionally dominated by men. By supporting inclusive planning and fostering equal opportunities, EasTnT contributes to more balanced and equitable sector development.

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