

OSCE-UNECE

Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective

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Module I: Introduction
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Outline of the presentation

- OSCE rationale and scope of action
- The OSCE's mandate in Customs, trade and transport
- The Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings



OSCE rationale and scope of action

- **Regional security organization** (56 OSCE pS + 12 Partners for Co-operation)
- **Political dialogue and practical work**
- **Three dimensions of activities**, a network of 15 field operations



OSCE Trade, Transport & Customs mandate

- Ministerial Council Decision on **Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE** (Brussels, 2006)
- Ministerial Council Decision on **Strengthening Transport Dialogue in the OSCE** (Vilnius, 2011)
- **OSCE Border Management and Security Concept** (Ljubljana, 2005)



OSCE/UNECE Landlocked Countries

- Out of **31 landlocked developing countries globally**, 9 are OSCE participating States/ UNECE Members

Closest distance from the sea: Kazakhstan (3,750 km), Kyrgyz Republic (3,600 km), Tajikistan (3,100 km), Turkmenistan (1,700), Uzbekistan (2,950 km)

- According to IRU NELTI: **40% of inland transport time** is lost at borders and in customs procedures



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Examples of OSCE engagement

- **Regional & national capacity-building/awareness raising activities** on the UNECE Harmonization Convention, WCO SAFE Framework of Standards and Revised Kyoto Convention: Moscow, Belgrade (2006), Almaty, Tbilisi, Kyiv (2007), Astana, Balkanabat, Ashgabat, Tashkent (2009), Skopje (2011)
- **EATL, TEM & TER Meetings:** Tashkent and Turkmenbashy (2010), Almaty and Astrakhan (2011)
- **OSCE Border Management Staff College** in Dushanbe (2009)

OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Borders



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



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Inception, fundraising, preparatory process

- **Idea emerged in 2007**, following the Belgian Chairmanship of the OSCE
- **Extrabudgetary project** was developed
- Received funding from the Governments of **Belgium, Finland, France, Kazakhstan and the U.S.**
- **Stakeholders meetings and assessment visits** in autumn 2008 (Minsk & Bishkek)

On-site assessment visits



Overarching goals

- Allowing for the exchange of experiences, expertise and good practices among the OSCE pS + Partners/ UNECE members and beyond
- To become a reference document for national policy makers when drafting and implementing their border and transit transport facilitation policies



Audience

- High and mid-level officials from transport, trade and finance ministries, customs agencies, as well as senior BCP staff
- Transport, freight and logistics communities as well as business associations
- Civil society, academia and researchers



Important considerations

- **Balance** (security and facilitation; between concepts; geographical)
- **Focussed** (on trade and transport)
- **Innovative** (benchmarking)
- **Challenges:** diversity of the contents, vast amount of references



Handbook content

- **9 chapters** and **2 Annexes**
- **265 pages** in total
- More than **120** international best practice examples and case studies
- Original version in **English, Russian translation** under preparation



Chapter 1

“Trade and Customs: The International Legal Framework”

- Overview of key conventions, tools and standards (incl. the WTO Agreements, the UNECE Harmonization Convention and the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention)



Chapter 2

“From Domestic to International Co-operation”

- Inter-agency co-operation both domestically and internationally
- Presents concepts such as: IBM, Coordinated Border Management, Collaborative Border Management, Single Window and One-Stop Border Crossings



Chapter 3

“Balancing Security with Trade Facilitation and Developing Partnerships with Private Industry”

- Border security measures
- Methods to facilitate trade and establishing partnerships between trade and government
- Need to adopt a balanced approach!



Chapter 4

“Processing of Freight: Policies for Control, Clearance and Transit”

- Examines border and customs control policies
- Introduces concepts such as inland clearance, pre-registration and advance information programmes, customs transit regimes etc.
- A key chapter particularly for LLDCs



Chapter 5

“Risk Management and Selectivity”

- Need to step away from traditional transaction per transaction checks and physical inspection techniques
- Introduce instead **risk-based management approaches** allowing to distinguish compliant and legitimate business from potentially non-compliant ones



Chapter 6

“Options for the Design of Border Crossing Points”

- Presents lay-out, construction, renovation, repair and maintenance practices
- Distinguishes between requirements for large and small BCPs and explores options for PPPs



Chapter 7

“ICT and Non-Intrusive Inspection”

- Looks at the role of ICT in border management and the international regulatory environment
- Introduces WCO Data Model, the E-Single Window and other data technologies
- Highlights the importance of non-intrusive inspection methods



Chapter 8

“Human Resources Management”

- Overview of complexity of tasks that need to be performed by Customs and other agencies
- Increased focus on the use of IT
- Emphasizes the importance of ethical standards in the work of border personnel and the necessity to provide training on a permanent basis



Chapter 9

“Measuring Border Agency Performance: Options for Benchmarking”

- What gets measured gets managed!
- Overview of best practices in the implementation of performance management and benchmarking



Road ahead

- High-level **launch, awareness raising and promotional activities** are foreseen for 2012
- A **regional in-depth training seminar** (technical level) at the **OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe in July 2012**
- Upon request, **national tailor-made seminars** can be organized on specific aspects of the publication



Accessing the Handbook

- Access the **OSCE** or **UNECE** websites
- Contact **OCEEA** or the **UNECE Transport Division** to obtain hard copies or CD-ROMs
- Copies will be distributed through the **15 OSCE field operations**

Web-Access



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www.osce.org/eea/88200

http://www.unece.org/trans/publications/wp30/best_practices.html

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Thank you for your attention!

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