



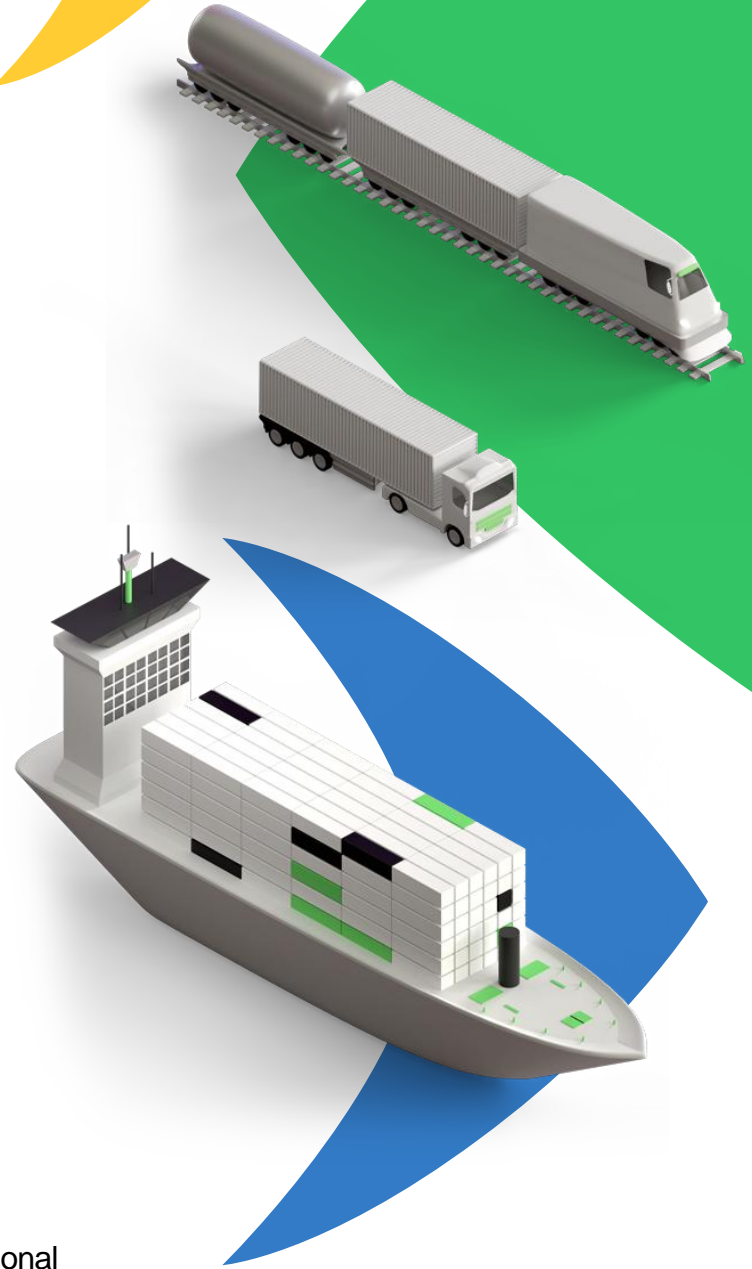
**EasTnT**  
Eastern Partnership for Trade and Transport

# EasTnT News

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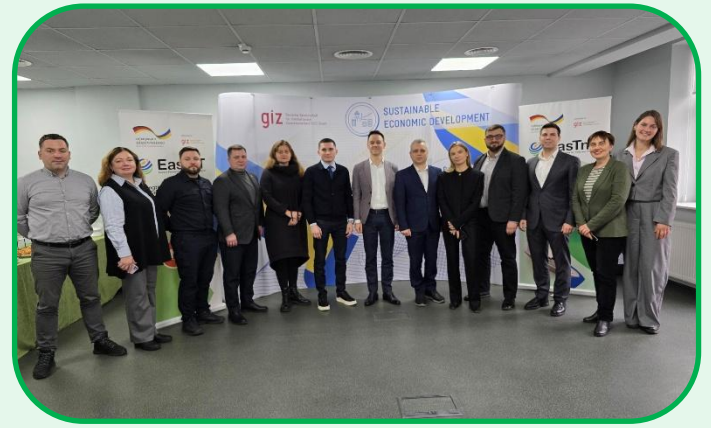
## SUMMARY

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- › International Winter Academy “Sustainable Transport and Trade”
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- › Ukraine: International Trade Forum Participation



# EasTnT Kick-off Meeting in Ukraine

On 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, the EasTnT project was officially launched in Ukraine with a kick-off event that gathered key stakeholders and partners to discuss the project's vision and objectives. The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, the State Customs Service of Ukraine, the Institute of Analytics and Advocacy, the Central Ukrainian EDIH, the Chamber of Commerce of Ukraine, CDTO, and the Institute of Economic Research and Policy Consulting. This event marked a significant milestone in advancing regional trade, promoting sustainable logistics, and implementing cross-border digital solutions within the framework of the EasTnT project.



During the event, **Igor Blinov, the National Coordinator for Ukraine**, delivered a presentation outlining the EasTnT focus, as well as plans for 2025. Furthermore, **Nataliia Kozachuk, Legal Advisor**, presented the legal aspects of the EasTnT project, as well as the significance of law and policy alignment of Ukrainian national legislation with the EU acquis in the areas of transport, logistics and customs.



# EasTnT Webinars

The EasTnT project launched a series of webinars focused on the latest trends in digitalization and decarbonization within the transport, logistics, and customs sectors. The initiative began with a **kick-off session on January 29th**, designed to acquaint participants with the workshop's objectives, guiding principles, and methodologies **presented by the Transport Innovation Association (TIA)**. Additionally, the session provided an opportunity to gather valuable feedback on participants' needs and expectations.



The second session, held on March 12th, focused on **the role of umbrella organizations in advancing the digitalization of logistics**. It highlighted the importance of associations in ecosystem development and best practices in capacity-building efforts. The webinar also featured a presentation by **Enrika Naujokė on "The Role of the Customs Practitioners Association"** where she shared Lithuania's experience in leveraging **AI tools for customs operations**. The sessions attracted around 40 participants from **Eastern Partnership countries**, offering them an opportunity to engage with the content and pose questions.



## Overview:

The EasTnT project provides partners with **a series of 12 webinars**, offering participants continuous learning opportunities on the latest trends in digitalization and decarbonization. These sessions are specifically designed to meet the needs of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. The workshops act as a crucial platform for exploring practical applications, innovative tools, and funding opportunities.

The next webinar is scheduled for **April 2nd and will focus on the topic: "Case Study of Digital Data Exchange Journey in Lithuania"**. This session will cover an overview of the legal requirements and amendments Lithuania has implemented, the EU directives that govern the transition to digital data exchange, the architecture of the system, and the roles played by NGOs, associations, and businesses in this process. **Registration form:** [Registration for the Online Workshops](#)

## Customs Reform in the European Context: Current Achievements and Plans

### “Customs reform in the European Context: Current Achievements and Plans” Meeting

On January 31st, 2025, the **EasTnT project** participated in the online event "**Customs Reform in the European Context: Current Achievements and Plans**" organized by the State Customs Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, the Institute of Analytics and Advocacy, Technology of Progress, and international partners. The discussion centered on **Ukraine's progress in aligning with Chapter 29 of the EU acquis**, with a specific focus on customs reforms and digitalization activities. Key achievements highlighted during the event included the successful implementation of **NCTS Phase 5** in Ukraine, although challenges persist in information exchange with the EU. Several speakers emphasized the need to strengthen law enforcement and update regulations to enhance efficiency and transparency in customs operations.

During the event, **Torben Heinemann, Commission Manager of the EasTnT project**, introduced the objectives of the EasTnT project, emphasizing its **regional scope and its goal to enhance regional collaboration and capacity-building among customs authorities in Eastern Partnership countries**. He noted that the EasTnT project facilitates the exchange of best practices and encourages direct engagement, citing activities such as a **planned study visit for the Customs Service to Germany**. The meeting ultimately reinforced the importance of collaboration, transparency, and continued reforms to align with EU standards in customs and trade management.



# EasTnT Project presentation at EU-Ukraine Business Matchmaking Platform Conference

On 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, Igor Blinov, National Coordinator for Ukraine, presented the EasTnT project at the online conference "Intelligent and Digital Solutions for Transport and Logistics to Increase Trade Between Ukraine and the EU".

The event was organized within the **EU-Ukraine Business Matchmaking Platform**, an international initiative launched by the European Commission and operated by the **Enterprise Europe Network** to foster cooperation between EU and Ukrainian businesses in the transport and logistics sector. The event brought together representatives from the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, businesses from the transport, logistics, and IT sectors, and other stakeholders.

The presentation provided an **overview of the EasTnT Project, outlining its key fields of action and planned activities, with a particular focus on supporting SMEs**. Igor Blinov emphasized the project's role in competency development, digitalization, and fostering effective cooperation with state authorities—all essential for strengthening trade and logistics ties between Ukraine, Eastern Partnership countries and the EU.

Igor Blinov invited all stakeholders and businesses to engage with the EasTnT Project, highlighting the opportunities it offers for enhancing regional cooperation and improving logistics processes through digital innovation.



# International Winter Academy "Sustainable Transport and Trade"

The first edition of the **International Winter Academy "Sustainable Transport and Trade"** took place in Chisinau from February 25-28, 2025, organized by the EasTnT project. The conference attracted around 200 participants from over 20 countries, reflecting the growing global interest in sustainable transport and the need for international collaboration to tackle shared challenges.

**Digitalization in Transport:** The first two days focused on EU regulations driving the digital transformation of transport and logistics, data exchange systems, such as eFTI and eCMR, digital customs solutions, and key success factors in digitalizing the sector, with expert insights from the Transport Innovation Association (TIA).

**Maritime and Multimodal Transport:** On February 27, co-organized with the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community, the conference focused on the port decarbonization, digitalization in maritime trade, and strategies to enhance trade flows, emphasizing innovation and sustainability in reshaping trade routes through digital and green initiatives.

**eATA Workshop:** On February 27-28, the EasTnT project, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova (CCI Moldova), hosted the "eATA: Digitization of ATA Carnets as a Trade Facilitation Tool" workshop. Experts from the World Chambers Federation presented solutions for enabling electronic access to ATA Carnets, streamlining global customs procedures, and reducing paper reliance—marking a significant step in modernizing customs operations worldwide. Check this video for more information about the workshop: [International Winter Academy "Sustainable Transport and Trade" - EasTnT project](#)



# International Winter Academy Maritime and Multimodal Transport Day

On 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, the International Winter Academy “Sustainable Transport and Trade” focused on Maritime and Multimodal Transport, bringing together key industry experts and policymakers to discuss the future of sustainable transport and trade.

Co-organised by the **Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community**, the Academy’s third day focused on how digital innovation and green initiatives can reshape trade routes between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries. The day featured high-level discussions on port decarbonization, maritime digitalization, and multimodal transport, with contributions from leading ports, freight operators, and logistics experts across Europe.

Welcoming the participants, Director of the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community, **Matej Zakonjšek**, emphasized that **maritime and multimodal transport only make sense when seamlessly connected within the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)**. “Modern railways, modern ports, and modern multimodal terminals are the backbone of this vision. This is why we are here – to discuss and create a truly integrated network,” he pointed out.

The three panel discussions were focusing on maritime decarbonization by exploring strategies for reducing emissions and making ports more sustainable, digitalization in maritime trade by examining smart solutions that streamline port operations and cargo movement and enhancing multimodal transport by discussing ways to integrate road, rail, and water transport for more efficient trade flows.



## Moldova and Uzbekistan Forge New Partnership at the International Winter Academy

During the International Winter Academy "Sustainable Transport and Trade" held from February 25 - 28, 2025, a significant milestone was achieved between the **Association of Forwarders and Customs Brokers of the Republic of Moldova and the Association of Brokers of the Republic of Uzbekistan**. In bilateral discussions, the two associations agreed to **sign a Cooperation Agreement** aimed at fostering closer business ties and enhancing trade relations.



The agreement was officially signed by **Oleg Lipskii, President of the Association of Forwarders and Custom Brokers of the Republic of Moldova**, and **Enver Khalilov, Vice-President of the Association of Brokers of the Republic of Uzbekistan**. The collaboration focuses on promoting the development of import and export activities, facilitating information exchange, and encouraging legislative initiatives to improve the business and investment climate between the two countries.

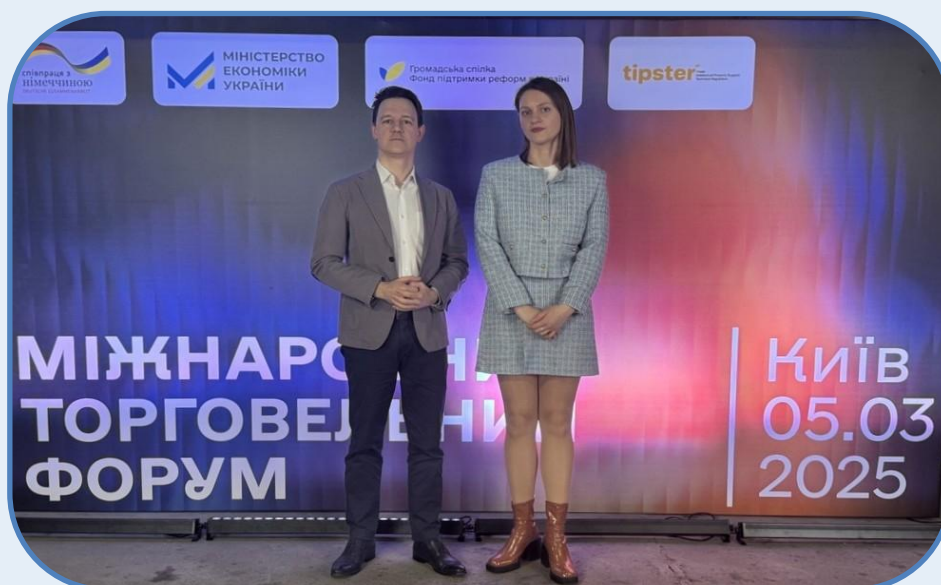


This partnership is designed to **strengthen transportation links and goods exchange between Moldova and Uzbekistan**, with the goal of creating a more efficient and integrated trade environment, benefiting both countries.

# Ukraine: International Trade Forum Participation

On March 5th, 2025, the National Coordinator and Legal Advisor from Ukraine's EasTnT team participated in the International Trade Forum, supported by the German government under the GIZ ReACTUA ("Utilization and Implementation of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine in the field of trade") international cooperation project. The Forum focused on key issues surrounding Ukraine's trade strategies, sustainability, and digitalization within the context of European integration. **Ukraine's Trade Representative, Taras Kachka, emphasized the importance of EU support for Ukraine's technological development, describing the country as the EU's "food shield"**. Discussions highlighted the need to remove trade barriers and improve logistics to access premium markets, including the EU, Saudi Arabia, and the UK. Digitalization and automation were identified as crucial for enhancing industrial competitiveness, with companies investing in energy independence, particularly in solar and gas power, in response to the ongoing war with Russia.

The Forum also addressed the challenges posed by the war, emphasizing the need to adapt to new supply chains and strengthen public-private partnerships. Experts called for closer collaboration between businesses and universities to foster innovation and develop a skilled workforce. Furthermore, the Forum underscored **the importance of investing in energy-efficient technologies and developing global value chains to sustain economic growth and enhance Ukraine's export potential.**



# EasTnT Timeline Overview

## April 2025

- **02 April 2025** – Webinar: “Case study of digital data exchange journey in Lithuania.”
- **16 April 2025** – Webinar: “eFTI and other EU initiatives to consolidate transport information data and exchange it among states and economic operators.”
- **30 April 2025** – Webinar: “Demonstration of digital tools used in logistics and transportation, show-case analysis of existing business models.”

## May 2025

- **14 May 2025** - Webinar: “Opportunities for R&D and innovation funding for associations, NGOs and businesses of accession countries.”
- **20 May 2025** – Eastern Partnership for Trade and Transport Evening Reception
- **21 – 23 May 2025** - International Transport Forum (ITF)
- **28 May 2025** - Webinar: “Analysis of the activities how to digitise customs operations, overview of the European regulation towards digital customs operations.”
- **30 May – 1 June 2025** - E-Logi Fest Armenia


## June 2025


- **05 – 07 June 2025** – Moldova Digital Summit

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