

Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation

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Project Identifier (PID)	Project Proposal	Project Status
p1017	Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation	Completed

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Yan ZHANG , Abdelwahab Zramdini , Abdul Fattah Mohamed Yatim , Afra Guo , Ahmed abdulla , Akio Suzuki , Alejandro Rinaldi , Aleksei Bondarenko , Alessandro Vaglini , Alex IVANCO , Aminu Lawal Bakin-Kasuwa , Andrea Tang , Andreas Petrilli , Andrew Grainger , Andrey Yemets , Anjum KHAN , AnneMarie StLaurent Thibault , Anurag BANA , Armen Manukyan , Bill Luddy , Bonface Asiligwa , Brook Kidane , Bryan Scott , Bryce Carson , Chellam Perinpanayagam , Cheryl Wong , Christer Andersson , Christophe JOUBERT , Constantin CIUTA , Daniele TUMIETTO , Dapeng Liu , David Roff , David Turney , Dean Rakic , Dr. Tali Režun , Edmund Gray , Eduardo Nogueira Barbosa Leite , Emanuele BERTOLI , Eric DaVersa , Erwan Gamber , Evgeniy Yakushkin , Farid Jahedi , Fatou Ndiaye , Frank Janssens , Galina Monich , Gerhard Heemskerk , Gianguglielmo Calvi , Gilles Schlessler , Giordano Bruno Guerrini , Glauco Bertoldo , Hakki Gurkan , Hemali Shah , Heng Yeong Chiam , Huibert Alblas , Ian Thomas , Jaco Voorspuij , Jake Schostag , Jeremmy Odhiambo OKONJO , Joaquín Eugenio González Galván , Jose Saiz de Omeñaca Monzon , Josip Maricevic , Jost Mueller , Juan de Dios Sanz Bobi , Jun YANG , Karina Duvinger , Katherine Meck , Kaushik SRINIVASAN , Kenneth Bengtsson , Kevin Latner , Kimberley Botwright , Kjartan Sorensen , Laurence SANDRAL , Lissa Rose D'Arcy , Luc Terral , Luca Boniolo , Luciano Pugliatti , Manuel Alba Fernández , Marek Termanowski , Maria CECCARELLI , Maris Berzins , Matjaz AUFLIC , Maurizio Morabito , Meera KUMAR , Michel Bormans , Mikael Lind , Mikael Renz , Mombert Hoppe , Mouhamed Diouf , Natthaphat Rojanasupamit , Nicolas Jouannaux , Niki Dieckmann , Nita Sharma , Oleksandr Fedorov , Omowumi Kayode , Paul Donohoe , Peter Carter , Peter Lunenborg , Peter Potgieser , Phill Norley , Piergiorgio Licciardello , Raj Kumar Arora , Ravi Chandrasekaran , Ray Schraff , Reinaldo Figueiredo , Richard Morton , Rob Exell , Robert Willis , Rolf Wessel , Rudrajeet Pal , Rudy Hemeleers , SALOMONE Carlo , Serena Koh , Simon George , Simon Rickards , Somnuk Keretho , Stefan Olsson , Stefano Sabatini , Stephane Gaudechon , Stephanie Noll , STEVEN HILL , Stewart JEACOCKE , Sunho Park , Svante Schubert , Sylvia Webb , Thor Baunsgaard , Tiago Barbosa , Todd Frazier , UN/CEFACT Service Desk , Uwe Liebschner , Viboon Chaojirapant , Vinod Kashyap , Virginia Cram-Martos , Vishal Shrivastava , Vladimir Abramytchev , Vo

Project Deliverables

Deliverable	ODP1	ODP2	ODP3	ODP4	ODP5	ODP6	ODP7	Notes
Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation (Recommendation, Guidelines, Case Study)								Project delayed at ODP3 level

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Project Leadership

Role	Member
Project Chair	Maurice Diamond
Editor	Paloma Bernal

Projects Activities

Team Calendars

Heads of Delegation

Finland	Italy	Sweden
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Executive Summary

Project purpose

This project's purpose is to formulate a recommendation regarding Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in Trade Facilitation.

A large number of trade facilitating initiatives are today made as Public Private Partnerships (PPP), often constructed as Build Operate Train and Transfer. The PPPs for Trade Facilitation can concern border crossing infrastructure, automation of trade documentation exchange, scanning equipment, Single Windows and many more. Some experience suggests that the cost of using such facilities can become very high for the end users.

A lot of resources on PPP are devoted to infrastructure development (hospitals, toll roads, energy, etc.), but there has as yet been no substantive work put together on PPP in the domain of Trade Facilitation. These types of PPP can include technology (Single Window, Port community, scanners, e-procurement) as well as infrastructure (One Stop Border Posts, Toll roads, bridges, railways, ports, airports).

Project scope

The scope of this project is limited to Public Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation. The background paper provides examples of Trade Facilitation mechanisms which can and / or have used PPP as a means of financing and / or implementation. This background paper is the result of a five month study project within the framework of UN/CEFACT.

A good deal of work has been conducted in other branches of the UN concerning PPP. In almost all cases, these concern infrastructure PPPs.

The UNECE PPP Programme has been active in promoting a better understanding of PPPs among government officials for the past 15 years through lesson sharing, capacity-building and training activities and elaboration of guides on best practices in PPPs. Under the auspices of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, the UNECE has a mandate to build the capacity of governments to undertake PPPs. In 2007 the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships was established as the leading intergovernmental body within the UN system devoted to PPPs to facilitate information-sharing and exchange practical experience in Public-Private Partnerships and contribute to the implementation of a capacity-

building program for public and private sector officials from transition economies and developing countries on this topic. In February 2012, the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence (ICoE) was established to develop and disseminate PPP best practice. In June 2013, the ICoE decided to work on international PPP standards.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) has also studied the issue. The Commission considered possible work to be undertaken in the field of privately financed infrastructure projects in 1996, in the light of a note by the Secretariat on build-operate-transfer (BOT) projects. The Commission decided to prepare a legislative guide and requested the Secretariat to prepare draft chapters of such a guide. The Commission reviewed the draft's chapters from its thirtieth to its thirty-third sessions and adopted the Legislative Guide at its thirty-third session, held in New York from 12 June to 7 July 2000, subject to editorial modifications left to the Secretariat, and requested the UNCITRAL Secretariat to ensure its widest possible dissemination. UNCITRAL held a colloquium on the subject in May 2013 which resulted in a mandate to work on the revision of UNCITRAL PFIF Instruments (Legislative Guide, Legislative Recommendations and Model Legislation Provisions).

During the 21st Forum of UN/CEFACT¹, the ITPD organized a mini-conference on the subject which underlined not only the interest of experts in this domain, but also some of the key considerations to be taken into account. Both UNCITRAL and the UNECE PPP Programme participated in this mini-conference and both agreed on the interest of pursuing the topic of PPPs in Trade Facilitation within the UN/CEFACT structure.

The work of a UN/CEFACT project in PPPs in Trade Facilitation will need to work in close collaboration with both of these UN organs (UNCITRAL and the UNECE PPP Programme) in order to ensure harmonization of terms, concepts, standards and recommended practices.

Project Overview

