



Technical Workshop on the Transport GIS approach Harmonization

between ESCWA, UNECE, and IDB

Beirut, UN House, 9-11 July 2019

(ESCWA Library, 2nd floor, Room F-201)

Information Note

1. Background

The fifteenth session of ESCWA Intergovernmental Committee on Transport and Logistics, held in Rabat on 27 and 28 January 2015 requested the development of a web portal for the follow up of the implementation of ESCWA agreements on international roads and railways in the Arab States.

At its sixteenth session, held in Cairo on 23 and 24 November 2016 the Intergovernmental Committee on Transport endorsed ESCWA project proposal for the development of a GIS Platform for the follow up of the implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab States (ITSAS).

In Cooperation between ESCWA and UNIFIL, a prototype web-based GIS was developed for this purpose, which was tested by focal points from seven ESCWA member states in a workshop held in Cairo on 22 January 2017.

With the support of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), ESCWA organized a consultation meeting on “Corridors for vital connectivity in the Arab region”, held in Beirut on 23 April 2018, with the participation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the League of Arab States (LAS), the Centre for Transportation Studies for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO), and many other regional and international organizations and experts. The meeting revealed the importance of transport GIS to address connectivity and complementarity of transport networks and facilities at the supra-regional dimension of transport and trade corridors linking between Asia, Africa and Europe.

The consultation meeting was followed by an inter-agency coordination meeting between ESCWA, IDB, UNECE, and CETMO, which revealed the role of ESCWA Transport GIS bridging other transport GIS initiatives spread among the three continents, like the European Transport GIS and the GIS under preparation thanks to the cooperation between IDB and UNECE.

IDB, ESCWA and UNECE acknowledged the potential of IDB support to enhance the connectivity between the different GIS tools under development to support the analysis of transport and trade flows exchanged between Asia, Europe and Africa in order to detect bottlenecks and to explore priority initiatives and infrastructure projects that would enhance regional and global integration of transport networks.

Within this context, ESCWA, IDB, and UNECE are cooperating for the implementation of a technical workshop to address the harmonization between ESCWA Open GIS tool underdevelopment and the similar IDB-UNECE-ECO tool that is implemented for the common IDB, ECO and UNECE Member States. The workshop will also test the applicability and the maneuverability of the GIS tool towards officials representing the Ministries of Transport in the Arab region in terms of data filling, updating and analyzing and displays of query results, and seek the feedback of the participants on the feasibility of the approach.

2. Workshop Objectives

The technical workshop aims at achieving the following objectives:

1. To test and agree on a common mega template to be used for the development of the GIS projects for the transport networks and facilities in the respective regions.
2. To discuss technicalities of data exchange across systems
3. To introduce participants from the Arab region to the Transport GIS Platform and its advantages for the analysis and queries of regional issues related to transport.
4. To train participants on GIS tools to fill and update data online.
5. To obtain participants' comments and feedback on the suggested common mega template for the GIS attributes and the levels of accessibility of the information for officials and the general public.
6. To obtain feedback from participants on the applicability and maneuverability of the approach to develop full featured GIS tools apt to be interconnected in the future.

3. Activities during the workshop

- Power point Presentations
- Online handling of GIS tools under supervision of trainers
- Rounds of discussion

4. Outputs of the workshop

- A common agreed upon mega template will be produced to develop regional Transport GIS tools that could be interconnected and supports data sharing to form a common platform for the analysis of transport infrastructures and transport flows characteristics and performances among Asia, Europe and the Arab region.

- Twenty-six participants will attend the workshop representing the thirteen ministries of transport in ESCWA member states committed with the related agreements of ISTSAS framework, two from each ministry, at the level of directors of planning and strategy development.
- Participants will be able to enter and updates data attributes of GIS networks in the relevant countries, and to make queries and analysis on the status of transport networks components in the ESCWA region.
- Lessons will be learned, and recommendations will be addressed for the development of the regional GIS tools in a communicable way.

5. Venue and duration

The technical workshop will be held at the UN House in Beirut during three days from 9 to 11 July 2019.

6. Contacts

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