



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



The Handbook offers 265 pages of reference material and over 120 best practice examples at border crossings on the basis of which countries can develop new, innovative policies that both increase security and more efficiently facilitate international trade and transport.

Introduction

Growing cross-border trade and transportation in the globalized world economy are compelling governments to develop more efficient border management procedures. Cumbersome procedures at borders increase the cost of transport operations, hampering international trade and foreign investment. With this in mind, the Handbook provides tools that can be used to harmonize and simplify existing procedures and regulations and to improve inter-agency co-operation. It also draws attention to the need to apply best practices and internationally accepted norms and standards.

Target audience

The Handbook is a reference document containing key information for the following groups:

- High and mid-level officials from transport, trade and finance ministries, customs agencies as well as senior staff of border crossing points;
- Transport, freight and logistics communities as well as business associations seeking an improved operating environment; and
- Civil society, academia and researchers.

The Handbook aims to raise awareness among the abovementioned groups of the range of instruments at their disposal for developing and implementing better trade, transport, border and customs policies. Drawing upon operational evidence and case studies, it offers best practices from both the public and private perspectives. The publication primarily focuses on road border crossing points, but also touches on rail and sea crossings.





Content

In recent years, a number of OSCE participating States and UNECE member States have made significant and tangible progress in facilitating border crossing for legitimate cargo, implementing comprehensive border management measures, and making procedures more efficient and less time consuming – while at the same time increasing the security of their borders. The Handbook contributes to the wider dissemination of this knowledge and expertise, offering an opportunity for countries to learn from each other's experiences in overcoming border crossing challenges.

Throughout the Handbook, pragmatic advice regarding the development of new border-related policies and the introduction of new best practice procedures and technologies is complemented with operational examples. The publication contains a number of recommendations that readers (regardless of their background and profile) can consider to further facilitate legitimate trade and cross-border transport, contributing in turn to regional economic development, stability and security.

The Handbook includes the following chapters:

1. Trade and Customs: The International Legal Framework
2. From Domestic to International Co-operation
3. Balancing Security with Trade and Transport Facilitation and Developing Partnerships with Private Industry
4. Processing of Freight: Policies for Control, Clearance and Transit
5. Risk Management and Selectivity
6. Options for the Design of Border Crossing Points
7. Information and Communications Technology and Non-Intrusive Inspection
8. Human Resource Management
9. Measuring Border Agency Performance: Possibilities for Benchmarking

The Handbook will be made available and promoted through a series of capacity building and training events.

Accessing the Handbook

E-copies are available online:

<http://www.osce.org/eea/88200>

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

Hard copies can be ordered by contacting the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) or the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Transport Division.

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