Beyond the EU

Connecting Third Countries & Future Expansion

Dr. Tanja Bošković, Head of the Project, GIZ



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Western Balkan Regional Sustainable Economic Development

Long-term objective/Vision: Regional Economic Integration & Access to the EU Single Market

CEFTA

Berlin Process









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Project Overview

Key Facts about eFTI4WB

Title

EU4Digital - An accelerated digital transition for the Western Balkans economies

Duration

9/2024 – 08/2027 | 36 months - **Phase 1**

Funding source and responsibilities:

Co-funded by European Commission - DG ENEST and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Beneficiaries

Western Balkan (WB) economies

Project components

1. Secure and sustainable digital and telecom infrastructure across the region
2. Interoperability and e-Governance of public services
3. Digitalisation of businesses in the Western Balkans

   3.1 Support the introduction of an electronic Freight Transportation Information System (eFTI) in WB

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Mission

Joining EU eFTI Network

Make freight transport and logistics in Western Balkans more efficient and cost effective by implementing the Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic Freight Transport Information.

Support the region to develop a **harmonised and interoperable WB and EU-wide eFTI exchange environment**



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Approach

WB Roadmap implementation: MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

Organisational:

- Assign a coordinating authority
- Map the ecosystem & Establish a working group
- Consider regional and EU work and best practice exchange groups
- Learn from peers
- …



Legal:

- Transposition of the Regulation (EU) 2020/1056
- Carry out remaining legal work
- …

Information technology:

- Evaluate existing agencies and ICT systems that could be used to host the eFTI gates, select solutions
- Plan financing for procuring the necessary IT work, legal work, AAP connection work
- Assigning the institution to own the gate
- ….

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Current Status

Organisational aspect

	National level	Regional level	Impact on harmonisation and interoperability
Coordinating authority and working groups	■	■	✓
Capacity development	■	■	✓
Close cooperation and regular exchanges	■	■	✓
Sharing EU work and best practices	■	■	✓
Joint testing / piloting initiatives	■	■	✓

■ Achieved ■ On-going

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Current Status

Legal aspect · National eFTI legislation

Steps	Albania	BiH	Kosovo*	Montenegro	N. Macedonia	Serbia
Transposition of Regulation (EU) 2020/1056	■	■	■	■	■	■
eCMR Ratification	■	■	□	■	■	■
Adoption of IA and DA	■	□	□	■	□	□
National legal amendments	□	□	□	□	□	□

■ Achieved ■ On-going □ Planned

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Current Status

Information technology · eFTI architecture

Steps	Albania	BiH	Kosovo*	Montenegro	N. Macedonia	Serbia
Assessment based on AS-IS processes, ICT Landscape, reuse potential	■	■	■	■	■	■
Gate ownership & AAP/UAP options	■	■	■	■	■	■
Key gaps and prerequisites	■	■	■	■	■	■
Architecture selection by WB partner	□	□	□	□	□	□

■ Achieved ■ On-going □ Planned

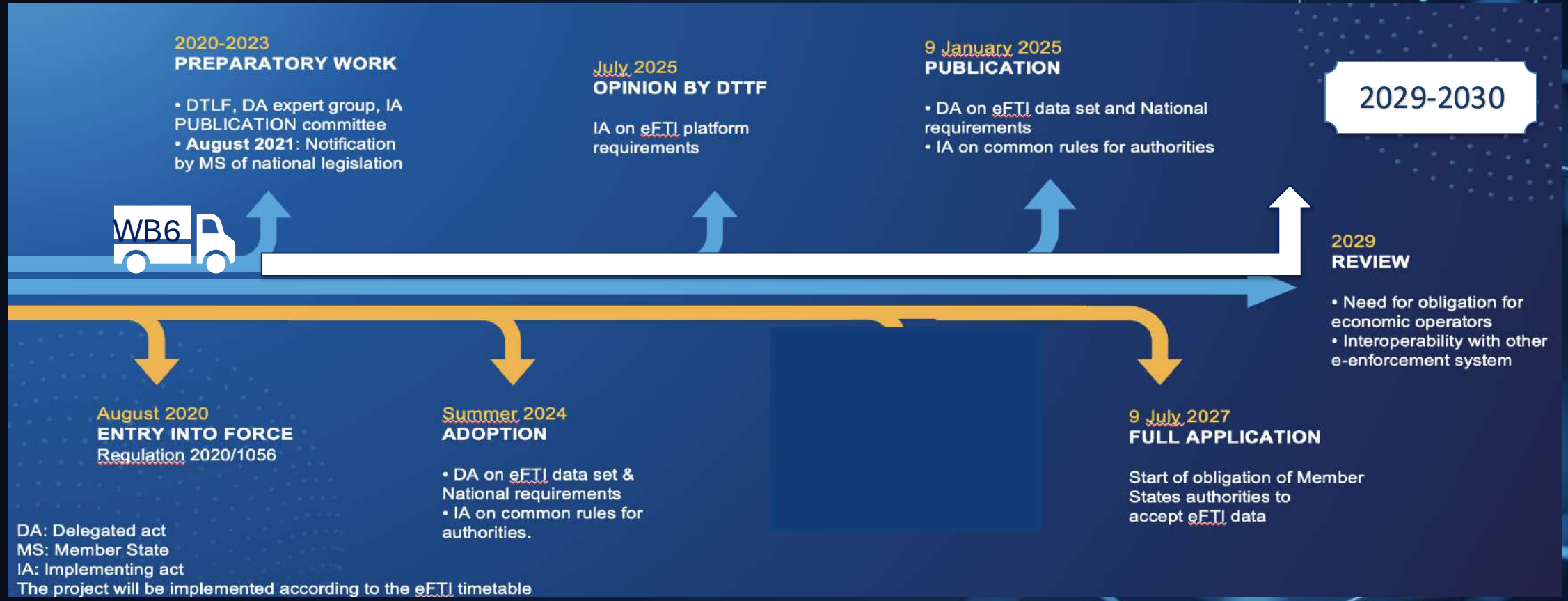
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Timeline

EU vs WB Timeline of Implementation



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Challenges

Third countries and future expansion

- Legal alignments, as the EC Regulations and acts are not immediately applicable in WB6
- Regional and „WB – EU“ agreements for data exchange and/or mutual recognition of e.g. electronic signatures may be needed.
- Use of eFTI platforms by WB economic operators?
- Full integration of WB6 in the EU eFTI Network – only after accession to the EU or as soon as the full interoperability is ensured?

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THANK YOU!

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