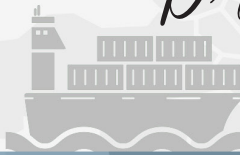


Sustainable Transport and Trade Matchmaking Platform

Digest



The Middle Corridor: New Opportunities for Partnership

Digest #5
June 2026



Dear colleagues,

This is the fifth edition of the STaTMP Digest, published regularly on the STaTMP Platform. Each issue highlights key developments in transport, logistics, trade facilitation and economic cooperation across the Eastern Partnership region.

Previous editions focused on customs digitalisation, green transport and sustainable logistics, and strengthening SMEs' export capabilities.

This edition focuses on the growing importance of the Middle Corridor as an alternative trade and transport route connecting Europe, the South Caucasus, Central Asia and wider Asian markets. Particular attention is given to the transit potential of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Türkiye, the development of strategic Black Sea and Caspian ports, and practical opportunities for Ukrainian exporters using alternative routes.

This edition focuses in particular on:

- Azerbaijan–Georgia–Türkiye transit potential;
- Ports of Batumi, Baku and Constanța – new development;
- Opportunities for Ukrainian exporters using alternative routes;
- Multimodal solutions via the Black Sea and the Middle Corridor.

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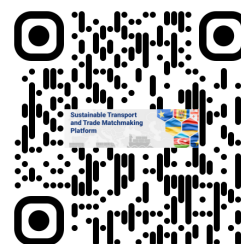
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If you want to find partners and investors and promote your products/services on the European market, register on the STaTM Platform.

Registration and participation is free of charge!

Register on the Platform:
www.b2match.com/e/statmp

Contact us:
 **EEN Ukraine Foundation**
✉ foundation@eenukraine.com
✉ statm_platform@eenukraine.com



NEWS | Ukraine

Alternative Export Routes and Danube Logistics

Ukraine and the European Commission discuss port security and logistics resilience

The discussion focused on security threats, energy constraints, restrictions affecting transport movement and possible short- and long-term solutions to ensure logistics stability. For Ukrainian exporters, the Danube cluster remains an important resilience mechanism, especially when Black Sea routes face security risks. Stable operations of Danube ports, road and rail connections, and related river logistics can support export continuity and reduce dependency on single-route logistics...

EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes continue to support imports and exports

The European Commission's latest update on the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes confirms their continuing role in keeping Ukraine's imports and exports moving via rail, road and inland waterways. The initiative remains particularly important for Ukrainian exporters looking for alternative routes through Moldova, Romania, Poland and other EU neighbours. For SMEs and exporters, this means more predictable access to EU markets and greater flexibility in route planning...

NEWS | Moldova

Giurgiulești Port and EU-Ukraine-Moldova Connectivity

Giurgiulești International Free Port becomes a strategic asset



Moldova adopted amendments to the legal framework governing Giurgiulești International Free Port, declaring it a strategic port infrastructure asset and strengthening conditions for the port's development, investment attraction and logistics capacity expansion. Giurgiulești is Moldova's only port with access to international waterways. Its development is important for Moldova's own trade, but also for regional logistics involving Ukraine, Romania and the Danube-Black Sea system...

Port of Constanța completes acquisition of Giurgiulești port operator



Romania's National Company Maritime Ports Administration SA Constanța completed the acquisition of the operator of Giurgiulești International Free Port. According to the Government of Romania, the investment will support the port's long-term development, increase capacity, modernise infrastructure and strengthen its position in the Black Sea region and the Danube basin. This creates a stronger logistics link between Constanța and Giurgiulești and may improve regional multimodal options for Moldova, Ukraine and exporters using the Danube-Black Sea route...

NEWS | Georgia

Batumi, Anaklia and the Middle Corridor

Batumi Sea Port strengthens cooperation with Azerbaijan and Georgian railways

The parties discussed practical measures to attract additional cargo flows, synchronise port operations with railway operators and improve the reliability of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars route. Batumi is one of Georgia's key Black Sea maritime gateways. Better coordination between ports and railways can improve the competitiveness of the Middle Corridor and support multimodal cargo flows between the Caspian Sea, Georgia, Türkiye and Europe...

Georgia moves forward with Anaklia deep-sea port construction phase

The project is positioned as a strategic infrastructure initiative that may strengthen Georgia's transit role and support the development of the Middle Corridor. Anaklia is still under implementation, but its development could become important for future Black Sea connectivity, larger vessel handling and Georgia's long-term role as a transit country between Central Asia, the Caspian Sea, the South Caucasus and Europe...

NEWS | Armenia

Connectivity Partnership and Regional Transit Potential

EU and Armenia announce Connectivity Partnership

The initiative focuses on strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing regional cooperation through improved transport, energy and digital connectivity. Although Armenia is not yet a central operational node of the Middle Corridor, improved connectivity may strengthen its role in future regional transport links and create new opportunities for trade diversification, logistics services and infrastructure development...

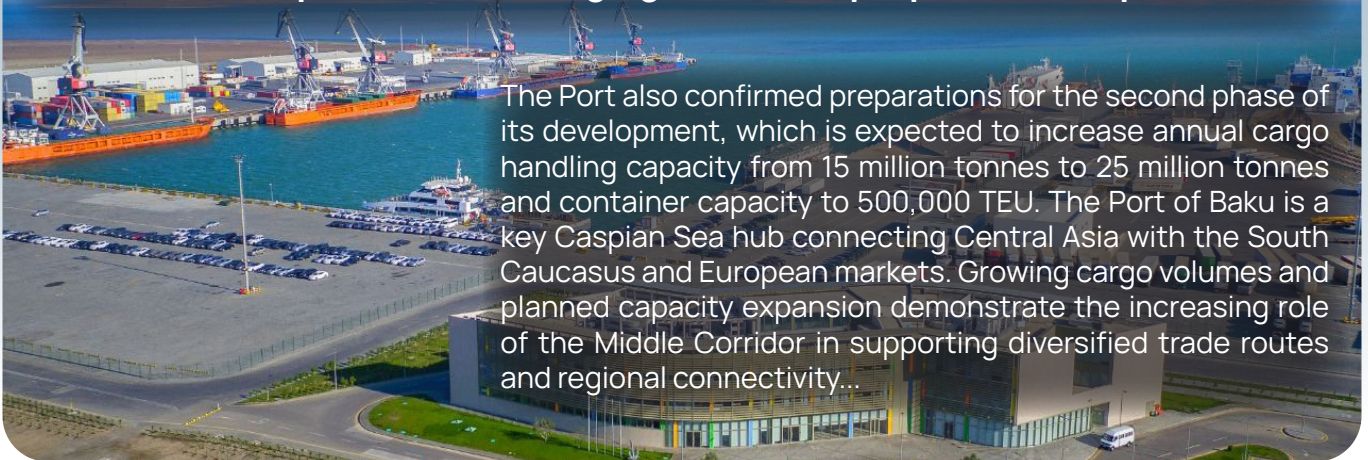
Armenia's Resilience and Growth Plan supports connectivity and business development

In May 2026, the European Commission published an updated factsheet on the Resilience and Growth Plan for Armenia. The plan is linked to the new EU-Armenia Strategic Agenda and includes support for connectivity, business development and economic resilience. For Armenian SMEs and transport-related stakeholders, the plan provides a more current framework for EU-backed connectivity and business support than older policy references...

NEWS | Azerbaijan

Port of Baku and Middle Corridor Growth

Port of Baku reports record cargo growth and prepares for expansion



The Port also confirmed preparations for the second phase of its development, which is expected to increase annual cargo handling capacity from 15 million tonnes to 25 million tonnes and container capacity to 500,000 TEU. The Port of Baku is a key Caspian Sea hub connecting Central Asia with the South Caucasus and European markets. Growing cargo volumes and planned capacity expansion demonstrate the increasing role of the Middle Corridor in supporting diversified trade routes and regional connectivity...

Azerbaijan continues digitalisation of logistics and transport connectivity



Azerbaijan continues to develop digital tools for transport connectivity, including the Digital Logistics Platform and Single Window-related solutions. These initiatives aim to simplify procedures, improve data exchange and increase the efficiency of cargo movement. Digitalisation is critical for the Middle Corridor because the route involves several countries, modes of transport and border procedures. Faster data exchange and more transparent logistics processes can reduce delays and improve predictability for exporters...

CASE STUDIES

How Eastern Partnership Countries Contribute to the Middle Corridor

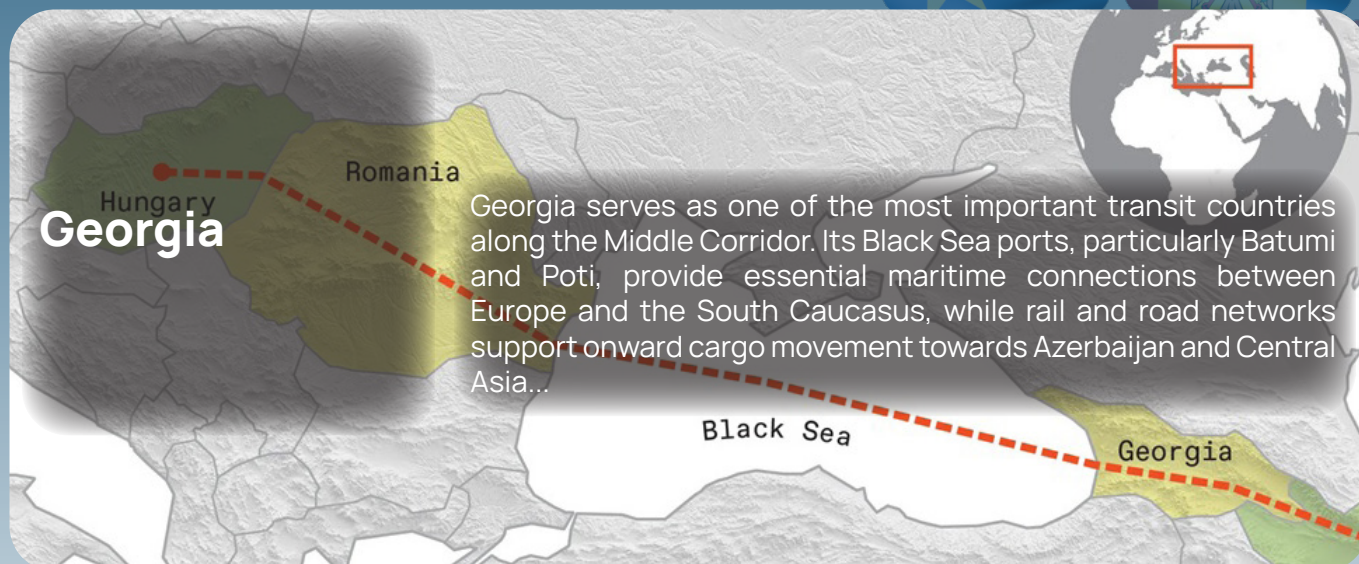
The Middle Corridor is becoming an increasingly important transport and trade route linking Europe with the South Caucasus, Central Asia and Asian markets. While each country participates in the corridor differently, together they contribute to the development of more resilient, diversified and interconnected regional supply chains. The following case studies illustrate how each Eastern Partnership country contributes to regional connectivity and what opportunities this creates for businesses and SMEs.

Ukraine

Since 2022, Ukraine has significantly expanded the use of alternative export routes to maintain trade flows and strengthen supply chain resilience. Alongside the restoration of maritime exports, the Danube ports of Reni, Izmail and Ust-Dunaisk have become important logistics hubs connecting Ukrainian exporters with European and global markets. Through the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes initiative, Ukrainian businesses have gained access to alternative rail, road and inland waterway routes linking Ukraine with neighbouring EU Member States and key maritime gateways such as the Port of Constanța...

Moldova

Moldova's contribution to regional connectivity is centred around the Giurgiulești International Free Port, the country's only port with direct access to international waterways. Located near the borders of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania, the port plays an important role in facilitating regional trade and multimodal transport operations. Recent efforts to strengthen the port's strategic importance and improve its integration with Black Sea logistics networks further reinforce Moldova's role in regional transport connectivity...



EU CONNECTIVITY, TRANSPORT CORRIDORS & TRADE FACILITATION CONTEXT

EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes

The EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes were launched to keep Ukraine's exports and imports moving through alternative rail, road and inland waterway routes. They remain highly relevant for Ukrainian exporters and for neighbouring countries, especially Moldova and Romania...

Global Gateway – Solidarity Lanes: Moldova and Ukraine

The Global Gateway flagship project supports the rehabilitation of priority transport axes connecting Ukraine and Moldova to the European Union. It focuses on railway rehabilitation and interconnectivity with neighbouring countries...

TEN-T Extension and Eastern Partnership Connectivity

The extension of the Trans-European Transport Network to Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia supports closer integration with EU transport standards and infrastructure planning. Through the EPIC facility, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine can benefit from advisory support and technical assistance for priority transport investments...

Middle Corridor and regional trade diversification

The Middle Corridor connects China and Central Asia with Europe through the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Türkiye or Black Sea routes. International organisations increasingly highlight its importance as a diversified alternative to northern routes...

SOURCES

FOR MONITORING MIDDLE CORRIDOR AND ALTERNATIVE LOGISTICS ROUTES

Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine

Updates on ports, Danube
logistics, transport infrastructure,
and EU integration...

Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization of Moldova

Trade, investment, logistics and
business environment updates...

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Transport, logistics, infrastructure
and investment policy updates...

Government of Armenia

Official updates on the
“Crossroads of Peace”,
regional connectivity
and infrastructure policy...

Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan

Transport connectivity,
logistics digitalisation
and corridor-related policy...

SOURCES

FOR MONITORING MIDDLE CORRIDOR AND ALTERNATIVE LOGISTICS ROUTES

Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company
Practical on Danube freight, river logistics and links with Constanța...

Giurgiulești International Free Port
Updates on Moldova's only international port, investment plans and port-related logistics...

Batumi Sea Port
Updates on port development, cargo flows and cooperation within the Middle Corridor...

EU-Armenia Connectivity Partnership
EU-supported connectivity priorities and regional cooperation initiatives...

Port of Baku
Caspian Sea port development, cargo capacity and Middle Corridor operations...

SOURCES

FOR MONITORING MIDDLE CORRIDOR AND ALTERNATIVE LOGISTICS ROUTES

Middle Corridor Multimodal
Middle Corridor
Route-level information and
corridor cooperation updates...

TRACECA
Regional transport corridor
cooperation across Europe,
the Caucasus and Asia...

**European Commission –
Mobility and Transport**
Solidarity Lanes, TEN-T,
transport agreements
and EU transport policy...

Transport Community
Transport reforms, EU alignment
and technical assistance for
Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia...

STaTM Platform

Regional cooperation updates,
matchmaking opportunities,
events and sectoral insights...

OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECTS / INITIATIVES

Horizon Europe. Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility



Donor/Provider: European Commission

Amount: Budgets vary by topic.

Description: Cluster 5 supports research and innovation projects in transport, logistics, multimodal mobility, digitalisation, smart infrastructure and sustainable supply chains. The programme is particularly relevant for organisations working on transport innovation, connectivity and logistics solutions.

Who can apply: Research institutions, universities, SMEs, clusters, business associations, innovation organisations and public bodies participating in international consortia.

Deadline: Depending on the call topic. Several 2026 calls are expected to close between September and December 2026...

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) – Transport



Donor/Provider: European Union

Amount: 25.8 billion under the 2021–2027 financial framework

Description: CEF supports investments in transport infrastructure, multimodal transport systems, TEN-T development, rail connectivity, port infrastructure, digital transport solutions and alternative fuel infrastructure.

Who can apply: Public authorities, infrastructure operators, transport institutions, logistics operators and eligible private entities depending on specific calls.

Deadline: Depends on individual calls...

#CEFTransport

ENEST Global Gateway Investment Hub

Donor/Provider: European Union

Amount: Project-specific financing and investment facilitation mechanisms

Description: The ENEST Global Gateway Investment Hub supports private sector participation in strategic infrastructure and connectivity projects across Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood countries.

Who can apply: Private companies, investors, business associations, infrastructure operators and project developers

Deadline: Ongoing...

Facility for Eastern Partnership Investment in Connectivity (EPIC)

Donor/Provider: European Investment Bank (EIB)

Amount: Technical assistance facility

Description: EPIC provides advisory support and technical assistance for transport connectivity projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The facility supports project preparation in road, rail, maritime, aviation and intermodal transport sectors.

Who can apply: Public authorities, infrastructure project promoters, transport institutions and organisations involved in connectivity and transport development projects

Deadline: Rolling basis...

EU4Business Initiative

Donor/Provider: European Union

Amount: A broad portfolio of financial and technical assistance instruments

Description: EU4Business supports SME development through improved access to finance, business development services, export promotion, digitalisation and business networking opportunities across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Who can apply: SMEs, business support organisations, chambers of commerce, entrepreneurs and export-oriented companies

Deadline: Ongoing...

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)

Donor/Provider: European Commission

Amount: Business support and international partnership services

Description: The EEN helps SMEs find international business partners, access foreign markets, identify technology cooperation opportunities and participate in EU-funded projects. The network operates in more than 60 countries and supports internationalisation and innovation activities.

Who can apply: SMEs, clusters, business associations, innovation organisations, start-ups and exporters.

Deadline: Ongoing...

#EENCanHelp

EBRD Access Business Advice

Donor/Provider: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Amount: Advisory support and co-financed consultancy services.

Description: The programme helps MSMEs access business advice in areas such as strategy, operations, quality management, financial reporting, energy efficiency, sustainability and digital transformation.

Who can apply: Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises operating in EBRD countries of operation.

Deadline: Ongoing...

Transport Community Technical Assistance Programmes



Donor/Provider: Transport Community / European Union

Amount: Technical assistance and expert support.

Description: The Transport Community supports transport reforms, regulatory approximation and connectivity improvements in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. Activities include rail interoperability, road transport reforms, maritime transport, transport safety and alignment with EU standards.

Who can apply: Transport ministries, regulators, infrastructure operators, transport institutions and sector stakeholders.

Deadline: Ongoing...

EVENTS



STaTM Platform Matchmaking and Cooperation Opportunities

Date: Ongoing (regular)

Location: Online

Description: The STaTMP Platform provides a space for companies and organisations to create profiles, identify partners, publish cooperation opportunities and arrange B2B meetings. It is relevant for all five Eastern Partnership countries covered in this digest and supports practical cooperation in transport, logistics and trade facilitation.

Who can attend: SMEs, logistics companies, exporters, chambers of commerce, business support organisations and international partners...



Trans EXPO 2026

Date: 4–6 September 2026

Location: Yerevan, Armenia

Description: The exhibition brings together companies and professionals involved in freight transport, logistics services, supply chain management, warehousing, transport technologies and related industries.

Who can attend: Transport operators, logistics providers, freight forwarders, infrastructure companies, technology providers, chambers of commerce, business support organisations and SMEs...



European Transport Conference 2026

Date: 9–11 September 2026

Location: Porto, Portugal

Description: A key European conference covering transport policy, logistics, and mobility trends, providing insights relevant for market access and infrastructure development.

Who can attend: Policymakers, researchers, transport professionals, SMEs...

InnoTrans



InnoTrans 2026

Date: 22–25 September 2026

Location: Berlin, Germany

Description: The world's leading trade fair for transport technology, infrastructure, and rail systems, with strong relevance for export-oriented industrial suppliers.

Who can attend: Transport technology companies, SMEs, infrastructure providers...

IN SKLAD

InSKLAD Expo 2026

Date: 28–30 October 2026

Location: Kyiv, Ukraine

Description: A specialised exhibition focused on warehouse logistics, packaging, automation, and supply chain solutions.

Who can attend: Logistics companies, warehouse operators, SMEs...



INTERMODAL EUROPE 2026

10-12 November, Rotterdam Ahoy

Intermodal Europe 2026

Date: 10-12 November 2026

Location: Rotterdam, Netherlands

Description: Major European event for container shipping and intermodal transport. It is highly relevant for companies interested in multimodal logistics, port connections, container flows and resilient supply chains.

Who can attend: Shipping companies, freight forwarders, container logistics providers, port operators and intermodal transport SMEs...



tl transport logistic

Transport Logistic 2027

Date: 2-4 March 2027

Location: Munich, Germany

Description: The event brings together transport operators, freight forwarders, infrastructure providers, port representatives, technology companies and logistics experts from across Europe and beyond.

Who can attend: Logistics providers, freight forwarders, transport operators, infrastructure companies, port authorities, technology providers, chambers of commerce, business support organisations and SMEs...



LogiMAT

LogiMAT 2027

Date: 16-18 March 2027

Location: Stuttgart, Germany

Description: International trade fair for intralogistics, distribution, materials handling and information flow. Relevant for exporters and logistics companies seeking warehouse automation, digital logistics and supply chain efficiency solutions.

Who can attend: Transport and logistics SMEs, exporters, freight forwarders, carriers, supply chain professionals and business support organisations...