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# Technical Assistance to Connectivity in the Western Balkans

CONNECTA TA on BCPs capacity improvements

- CONNECTA as an implementation “tool” in the Western Balkans
- Potential Border Crossing Point (BCP) projects within the CONNECTA TA framework
- Instance: Freight forwarders and road transport companies are suffering from lengthy waiting times (bottlenecks)
- Context: Decisions taken to improve the situation in the existing BCPs
- **Principal overarching objective:** Assist WB6 Regional Participants in identifying suitable systems to manage and facilitate the movement of cross-border road traffic resulting in simpler, more efficient border controls, reduced waiting and processing times → reduced trade and logistic costs, improved mobility

- CONNECTA's involvement with BCPs started with the "Feasibility Study for Border Crossing Facilitation and Improvement of Cross-border Road Transport on TEN-T Road Core/Comprehensive Network in the WB6" (10/2017-7/2019)

The main task was to conduct a viability assessment in One-Stop Shops and e-QMS on BCPs on the Core and Comprehensive Road Network in the Western Balkans as well as the options of One-Stop- Shops and e-QMS on BCPs on the Core and Comprehensive Road Network in the Western Balkans

# Study Area

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32 pairs of BCPs have been assessed in study area

-14 intra-WB6

-18 WB6-EU

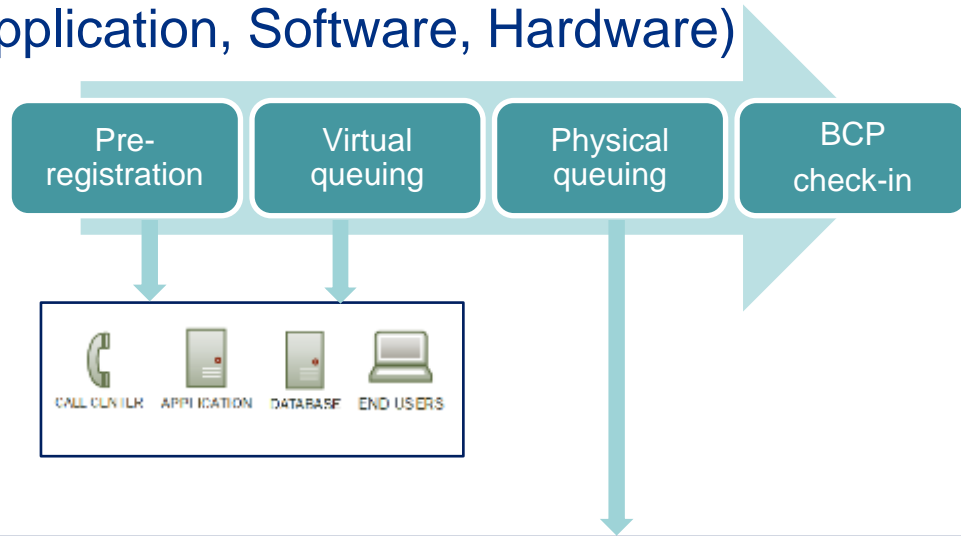
Of the 32 BCPs, 5 have been assessed also for e-QMS

- Facility areas where all cross-border formalities will be occurring in one place (i.e. joint controls from the two border sides) e.g. issuance of documents, permits and certificates to citizens. It can also be applied to export, import and transit processes.
- OSS requires that all Border Agencies – primarily Customs and Border Police – operate from a single office.

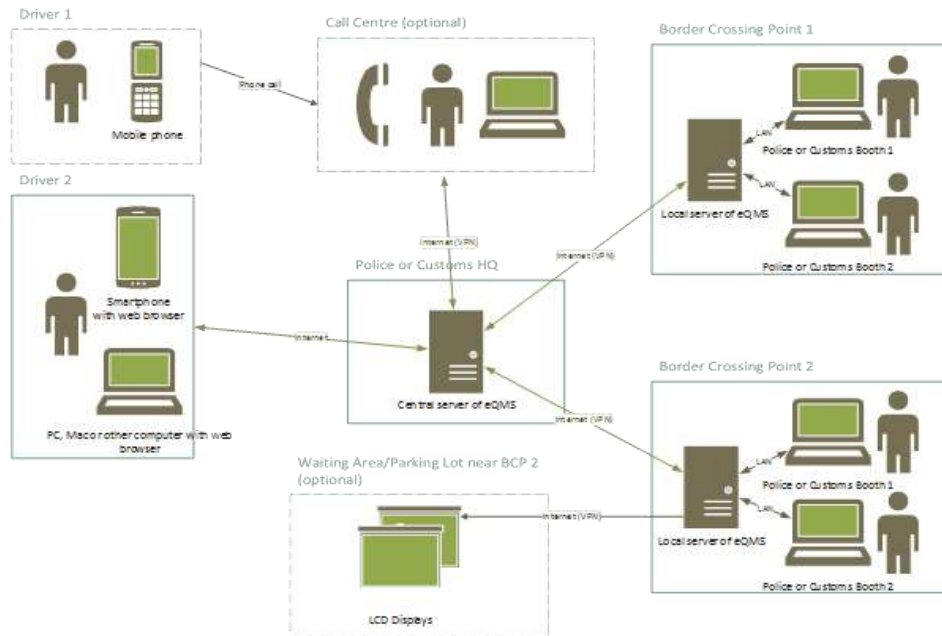


**Electronic Queue Management System (e-QMS)** consists of:

- e-QMS IT system (Application, Software, Hardware)
- Waiting area(s)
- BCP(s)
- Traffic Management along the Corridor X



- Software is used for pre-booking time slots via an online portal, which provides users with clear step-by-step information starting with a virtual waiting process, arrival and check-in at the waiting area, the actual (physical or in-presence) queuing, and, finally, exit from the waiting area (using licence plate recognition cameras).



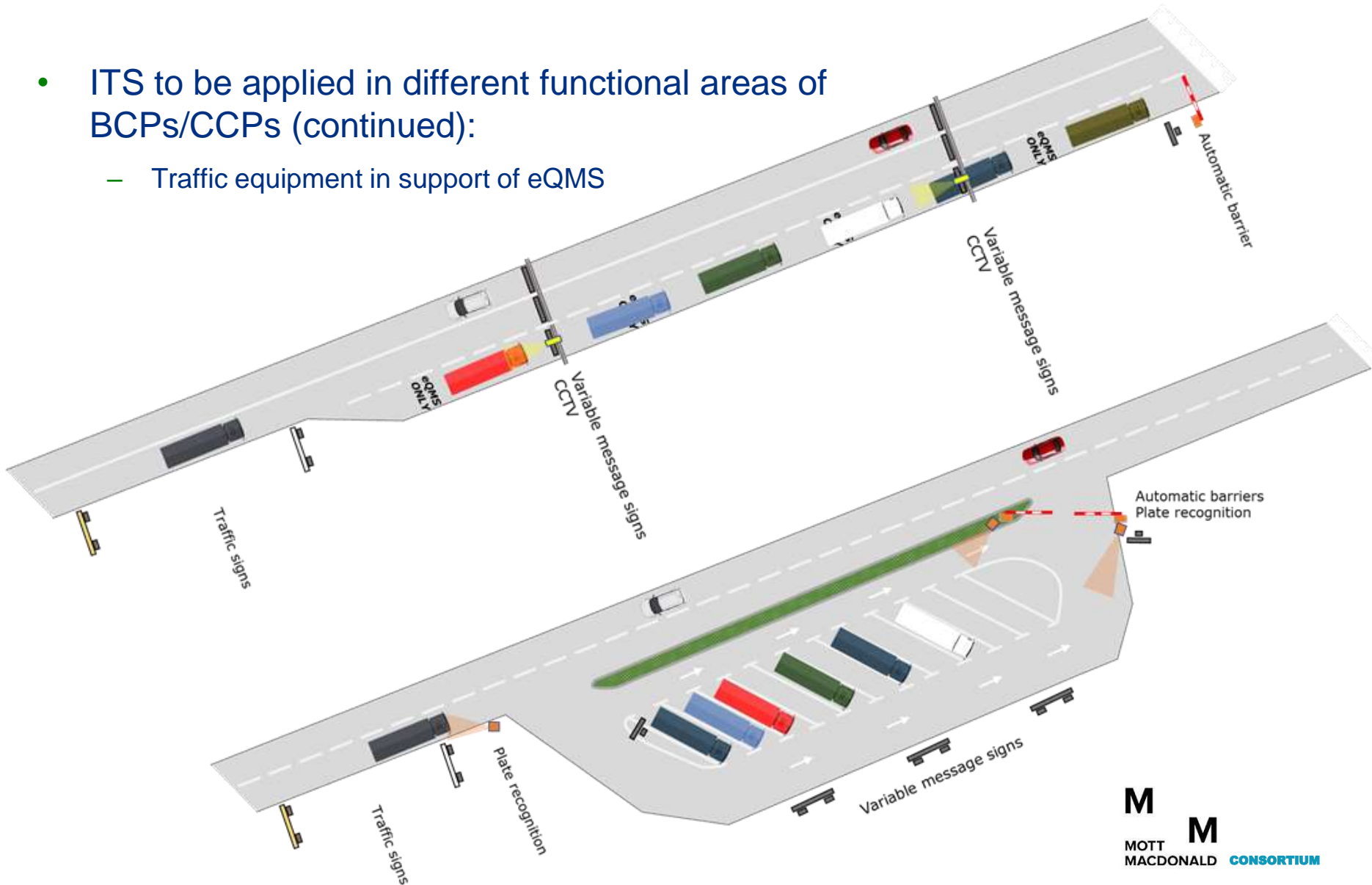
- Proposed improvements to BCPs /CCPs focused on two strands:
  - Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) measures
  - Physical measures
- ITS to be applied in different functional areas of BCPs /CCPs :
  - Segregation of users/traffic e.g. HGVs separated from coaches and cars, with dual-purpose lanes for spare capacity; border crossing functions separate from rest and parking areas
  - Traffic and lane management e.g. traffic counters, variable message signs (VMS), info boards, jersey barriers, etc.
  - Automatisation of procedures e.g. ANPR, Weigh-in-Motion, X-ray scanners
  - Enhanced information systems e.g. estimated waiting times on VMS as well as pre-arrival info at waiting areas
  - Real-time data collection (upstream of BCPs /CCPs ) e.g. SEED





# Proposed Improvements

- ITS to be applied in different functional areas of BCPs/CCPs (continued):
  - Traffic equipment in support of eQMS



- Figure below depicts typical BCP linear design with three lanes in and three lanes out i.e. 'first-in first-out' management method, which results in traffic queues and time delays.



- Figure below illustrates improved herringbone angled parking spaces where trucks will not impede other trucks, and the central reservation is small enough to allow lane switching.

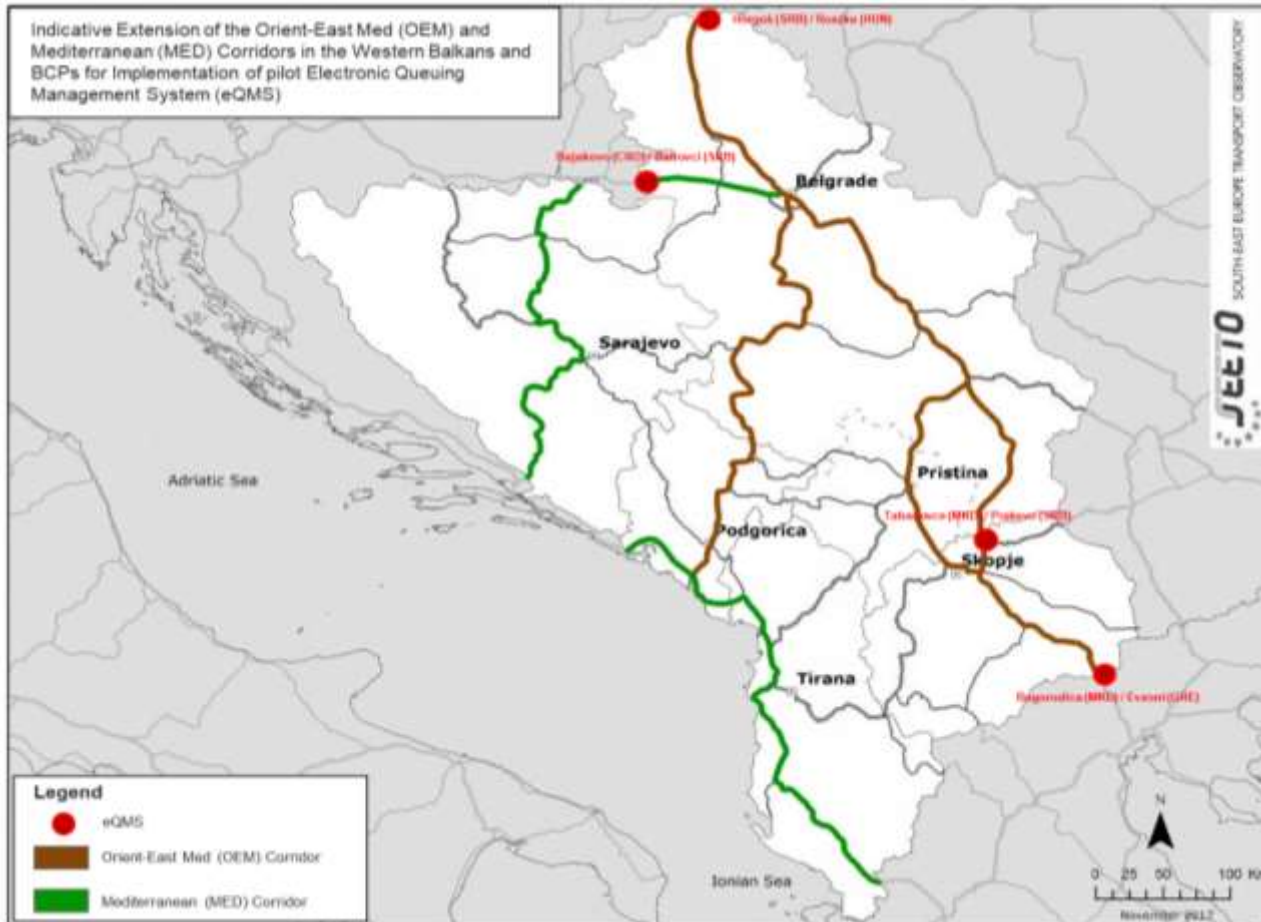


- The following BCPs have been identified for further elaboration and implementation since there were clear and supportive business cases:
  - Hani i Elezit/Blace (KOS/MKD; Route 6a - Orient-East/Med Corridor);
  - Bijača/Prud (BIH/CRO; Corridor Vc - MED Corridor);
  - Dobrakovo/Gostun (MNE/SER; Route 4 - Orient-East/MED Corridor);
  - Qafe Thane/Kjafasan (ALB/MKD; Corridor VIII);
  - Corridor X eQMS cluster:
    - Horgoš/Roszke
    - Batrovci/Bajakovo (OSS cluster too)
    - Preševo/Tabanovci;
    - Bogorodica/Evzoni.

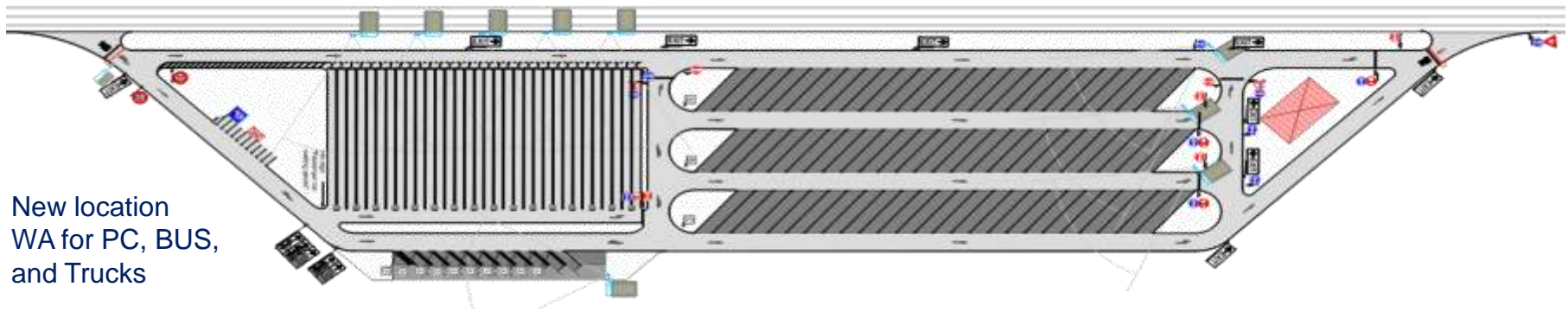
- As a result of the above study a “Technical Assistance for establishing electronic queuing management system (e-QMS) on selected road border crossing points (BCPs) on the indicative extension of TEN-T network in the Western Balkans (Corridor X)” (2/2021-2/2021)

The main task was the development of mature documentation for further tendering (as design-build or similar contract) of e-QMS implementation along Corridor X (as a pilot) to the following BCPs:

- Horgos/Roszke (SER/HUN)
- Batrovci/Bajakovo (SER/CRO)
- Presevo/Tabanovci (SER/MKD)
- Bogorodica/Evzoni (MKD/GR)



# WA Layout in MKD



New location  
WA for PC, BUS,  
and Trucks





# WA (Sillamae & Narva EST)

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- To implement pilot e-QMS (full involvement of the RPs is mandatory).
- Provided designs and system architecture during this assignment need to be tailored based on the agreed implementation and operation model between the RPs.
- Modification of the main legislation is needed, as well as the development of secondary legislation (draft Decree/Rulebook on the organisation of entry of vehicles in BCP and general technical requirements for WAs is presented in the Annex I of Interim Report 1 – Proposal on technical, organisational, institutional, legal and financial arrangements.
- Estimated maximum budget for the implementation of the pilot e-QMS system along Corridor X is approximately 33 million EUR. This cost could be reduced once the implementation model and WA locations are entirely known and confirmed by the RPs.
- DG NEAR and the TCPS consider providing technical assistance to the RPs in the form of PIU establishment for the implementation of the e-QMS system, including representatives of all RPs within the PIU unit.
- The system could be easily replicated on other regional TEN-T corridors and routes, but also on a stand-alone BCP.

- TCPS in coordination with DG NEAR and following the Feasibility Study of 2019 is planning to launch a project titled “Technical assistance for preparation of technical documentation for modernisation and infrastructure’s capacity improvements of selected road border crossing points (BCPs) on the extended TEN-T network in the Western Balkans”

The main task will be the development of mature documentation for tendering/construction of OSSs in the following road BCPs:

- Hani i Elezit/Blace (Kosovo/North Macedonia)- Route 6a
  - Hani i Hotit/Bozaj (Route 2b)
  - Batrovci/Bajakovo (Serbia/ Croatia)
- A Technical Assistance application is being prepared and shortly is going to be finalised and sent to DG NEAR for approval.
  - After the approval of the TA application, an RFA is going to be prepared in order to be sent to DG NEAR for a final approval (as per the procedures defined).
  - The project is estimated to start within November 2021.

# Thank You

**CONNECTA Project team**

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