



In the scope of Europe as a single market, the movement of goods within the Union still generates a heavy workload of administrative procedures and document interchange.

# Information Flow

Companies must integrate this **flow of information** with their own corporate IT systems. In most cases, this involves different facilities in **different countries and transactions with the corresponding Administrative and Customs offices.**

**Multiplicity of protocols. Diversity of applications.** Every country is a world. Take our word for that.

**EurTradeNet** is a logical network of Customs-Related Service Providers (CRSP) that has developed a **common framework for transits and foreign trade information flow.**

The ETN network.

# The UIDS space



**EurTradeNet**

[www.eurtradenet.com](http://www.eurtradenet.com)

# Common Language: UIDS

The ETN services are founded in the use of a **common language** that allows to overcome the barrier formed by the different protocols and messages formats used in customers countries.

**UIDS** is the acronym for **Unified Interchange Data Structure**, the language defined by ETN to manage the information flow between your company and the national Customs administration, in every country.

UIDS is a module extension to your own information systems (enterprise or warehouse) capable of work with NCTS (New Computerised Transit System). UIDS components can **send and receive NCTS messages to interact with Customs offices**.

Each ETN partner bridges between the local, national, network and the UIDS space in your company and the ETN network backbone, **translating messages and adapting data** to the format of the addressee country specifics.

**Unicity of language. Integration of applications.** Real European single space. **The UIDS space.**

This distributed architecture assures the most efficient operation and a wide coverage of the European territories, benefiting from the **local knowledge and trade related expertise of the ETN partners**.

# Wide Adaptability

The UIDS specification is **designed to support the ETN services**, those actually offered by the ETN partners and those to be implemented in the future.

For this purpose, UIDS is built with **XML (eXtensible Markup Language) technologies** and Internet standards that make extensions possible with cost-contained effort.

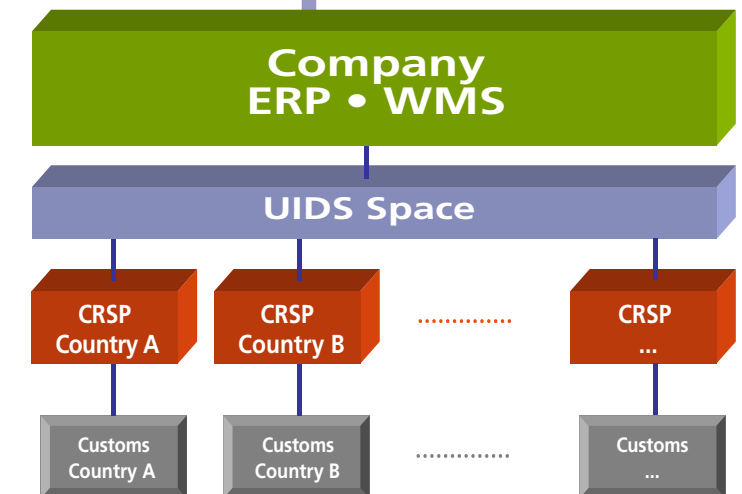
UIDS is designed **independent of the national transport protocol** used, focusing on the data model and information exchange functions needed between European users.

Hence, the UIDS space of your company is your common interface to customs and transit proceedings regardless the country your facilities are established. This is a key advantage for multinational companies so they just use UIDS (and the local CRSP services) to connect with Customs in several countries.

This also makes possible to **integrate applications and telecommunications from other non-ETN providers**. The third-party systems have only to interface its internal data model to UIDS to access to the ETN services in each territory.

The UIDS XML implementation is **aware of language differences** between European countries assuring character interpretation and local alphabet representation.

# UIDS Space



# Architecture

The ETN gateways (and the corporate systems modules) implement the protocols stacks used in each kind of connection. The data arriving through a connection is **extracted and configured in the adequate format to fulfil the rules of the receiving party**, whether an ETN partner or a user's corporate facility system.

The kinds of **connections already covered** spans a wide diversity from VAN and X.400 with EDIFACT, to HTML pages with HTTP over TCP/IP and the proper ETN backbone connection based on TCP/IP, SMTP, SOAP and the UIDS.

The ETN network employs the **SMTP protocol** for message exchanging, with an **encapsulation of a SOAP structure for additional features** like internal addressing and multi-language.

UIDS defines **two interchange structures**, one for the departure procedure and one for the arrival procedure. Each structure consists of a set of messages suitable to support NCTS communications through ETN.