Cargo Tracking System for containers

Funded by the European Union
NextGenerationEU
Each terminal keeps its own so-called RTO (temporary storage facility) records for each of the millions of containers that arrive from or depart for countries outside the European Union annually. This is also done for containers moving between different terminals at the port, which is known as exchanging.
Every month, customs compares all RTO records against its own data from shipping companies' declarations for temporary storage. Based on that, it checks that no goods have escaped customs surveillance.
Now - challenge

Significant administrative burden for terminals and customs, whereas green is not always green in retrospect.

Each terminal uses its own RTO administration and must ensure compliance with the (changing) formalities itself. Customs has to maintain different arrangements and know the different systems. Hardly any data is reused.

With the current RTO regime, exchanging containers between terminals creates additional administrative burdens for both terminals and shipping companies, and it is not clear from the customs data what the previous history of a container is when exchanging.

Customs monitoring and enforcement takes place retrospectively and monthly. As a result, fines can only be issued after the fact; real-time intervention in high-risk situations is not possible.

The green light may prove to be unjustified in retrospect, but no further action can be taken if it turns out the wrong procedures were followed.
With a single port-wide system, containers move through the port faster, the administrative burden is reduced and supervision & enforcement are improved.

With a Cargo Tracking System for containers, goods can be easily and digitally transferred and tracked in different RTO customs regimes to, from and through port terminals, greatly improving the Netherlands’ competitive position for maritime flows.
a single truth is created, with a substantial reduction in the burden on business and customs (separate RTOs -> 1 central RTO)
Transfer module

greatly improved ease-of-doing business (exchange module, reuse of data and more)

Information about the container is in the system and is reused for exchanging.
New (real-time) insights can be gained by smartly aggregating data.
Customs dashboard

This creates a real-time and complete picture about the status of the cargo for customs, offering opportunities for better enforcement.