



# Port Community System

The Port Community System (PCS) is an ICT platform that can play a key role to integrate the electronic flow of information between all the port community partners involved in maritime transport chain, including Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Customs Brokers, Terminal Operators, Health and Safety Authorities, Inland Transport Operators, etc. The main purpose of the PCS is sharing information

between all actors involved in port operations, facilitating the streamlining of goods import/export processes and offering instant access to information that can be used to handle port operations in a more efficient way.

The AlmvivA PCS solution is based on a framework that constitutes the foundation on which all the common features are built, and customisations

are made for each specific port context. The PCS framework defines a common reference model for data, documents, and events, facilitating interfacing and information exchange between all actors without resorting to point-to-point integration. The system supports several types of data/file format, common in the shipping industry, such as EDIFACT and XML. Stakeholders can keep operating with their own usual back-end applications, while the PCS will receive, manage, translate and send documents in the needed formats, as per the requirements of the stakeholders. As an alternative, the PCS provides a web user interface to fill in or edit forms, in case such documents cannot be automatically acquired from existing information systems.

Sharing information electronical-

ly provides outstanding benefits in reducing costs and errors of paper documents delivery and processing, increasing productivity thanks to the elimination of delays. Most importantly, the collection and centralization of all information allows the PCS to reconstruct the state of all import / export processes for all goods going through the port. Such information is made available to all stakeholders in a controlled manner, on the basis of confidentiality constraints according to the role and profile of each user. This essential information asset also allows to easily integrate systematic innovations into the process model to optimize and speed up the transit of goods within ports (for example customs pre-clearance while the ship is still sailing, customs fast corridors to inland terminals, etc.).