Project Fact Sheet

Stargate
within EU Green Deal

Inspection Management App (IMA)

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement GA101037053

01 BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Project name	Inspection Management App (IMA)
Partners involved	ACB with the BRUcargo community, including freight forwarders and The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) inspection authority.
Implementing airport / site	BRUcargo at Brussels Airport, Perishable shipments.
Period tested	Entire Stargate project period (2022–2026); results based on interviews with forwarders and FASFC.
Project lead / contact	ACB

02 OBJECTIVE

What are we trying to solve or tackle with this project?

Digitise and streamline the declaration and inspection flow for perishable goods subject to FASFC control. The app addresses manual communication, paper documents, limited transparency on shipment readiness and inefficient planning that can have an impact on the speed of the process and on the quality of the goods

Success criteria

Improve transparency collaboration between operators and authorities, faster handling of the goods, avoid not-completed inspections and reduce paper use by enabling digital documents and readiness information.

03 APPROACH (HOW WE TESTED)

Test set-up & method

IMA provides a centralised and digitalised flow for inspections by authorities, which smoothens and speeds up the collaboration between the operators and FASFC for perishable import shipments.

Forwarders can indicate when goods are ready for inspection, creating an optimze workflow with FASFC and allowing faster through-put times.

Additional info can be consulted in the app such as flight times or flight delays. Interviews with freight forwarders and FASFC were used to assess operational impact.

Data & measurement

KPIs: avoided not-completed inspections and paper reduction.

Evidence is qualitative: interviews report:

- streamlined Inspections:
- faster handling of perishable goods
- better communication
- increased transparency through real-time visibility of shipments
- improved inspection planning
- paperless Workflow and digital document sharing

Risks & mitigations

Risks include:

- limited integration with TRACES NT,
- double data entry, restricted cargo scope,
- incomplete community adoption,
- forwarder-only usage and limited handler involvement, which reduces the impact of readiness information.

Limitations

IMA cannot be mandated for all operators, so adoption remains fragmented.

It does not yet cover all cargo types, such as animal products, and handler-level integration is still missing, limiting end-to-end operational impact.

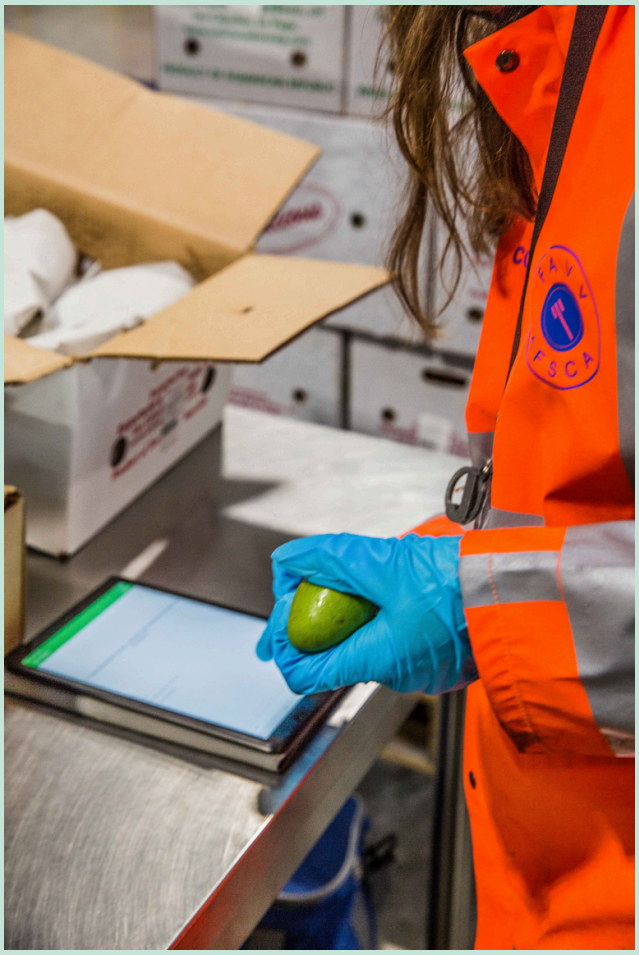
04 RESULTS & IMPACT

Key results

The Inspection Management App (IMA) delivers a more transparent and digitised import workflow for perishable cargo at BRUcargo. By replacing manual updates with real-time status tracking, the application optimises inspection scheduling and accelerates overall throughput times for time-sensitive goods. A key driver of this efficiency is the "ready for inspection" status, which ensures shipments are physically prepared before officers arrive, directly reducing aborted or uncompleted inspections.

Key benefits include:

- Digitalisation: Substantially reduces paper handling and manual back-and-forth communication through central document sharing.
- Improved planning: Provides authorities and operators with real-time visibility to better align inspection capacity.



05 RATINGS (QUICK ASSESSMENT)

Deployment Approach

How standardised is the solution: can it be deployed off the shelf, or does it require extensive customization?

Off The Shelf — Custom-Built

Investment Magnitude

From low-cost deployment to major investment.

Low Investment (less than €10k) — High Investment (more than €15mio)

OPEX ☐ ☐ CAPEX

Sector Readiness

From non-existing or emerging standards, regulations, and certification pathways to fully established industry practices.

Emerging Framework — Established Framework

Innovation Maturity

How does the solution score in terms of maturity, from low TRL experimental/pilot-stage to high TRL market-ready.

Experimental — Market-Ready

Operational Impact

Does the innovation deliver targeted improvements or rather drastically transform processes and/or operations.

Incremental Improvement — Transformational Change

Notes

For other airports, IMA shows that authority inspections can be improved through shared digital status, document exchange and readiness signals.

Benefits depend on authority integration, broad community adoption and inclusion of handlers in the workflow.

06 NEXT STEPS / RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation:

Scale with integration: continue IMA, but prioritise TRACES and FASFC integration, wider cargo scope and handler onboarding.

Next steps:

1) Build further data exchange with TRACES and FASFC systems.

2) Expand scope to more cargo types, including animal products.

3) Onboard handlers so readiness information is operationally used.

4) Review pricing/adoption model to encourage wider community uptake.

Links: https://brucloud.com/about/inspection-management