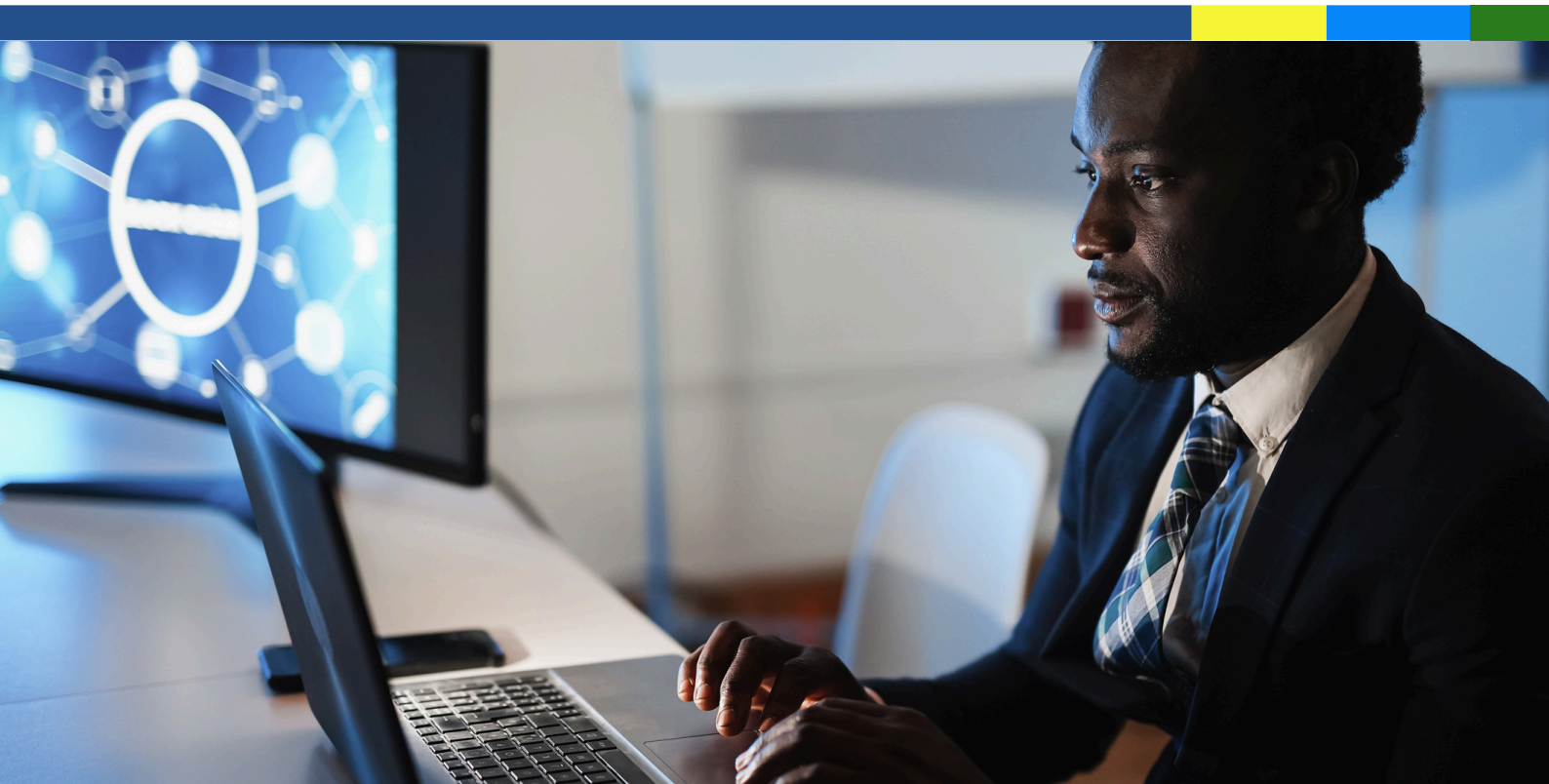


## **Bridging Borders with Data: How the EU-EAC CORE Programme is Supporting EAC Customs Interoperability.**



In an era of increasing digital trade, the East African Community (EAC), through the EU-EAC CORE Programme, is taking bold strides toward seamless regional integration by strengthening the Customs Union through data-driven collaboration, transforming how goods, information, and institutions connect across borders.

### **From Vision to Digital Connectivity**

Since establishing the EAC Customs Union in 2005, Partner States have made significant progress in reducing border delays, harmonising procedures, and fostering a single customs territory SCT. Building on these achievements, the Regional Customs Information Integration System (RCIIS) is being developed under the Programme, which marks a significant leap forward.

This system aims to interconnect Customs administrations, ports, and regulatory agencies through a unified ICT platform, enabling real-time trade and customs data exchange. With this intervention, RCIIS will be the backbone of a truly interoperable customs environment linking valuation, risk management, and cargo tracking once fully operational. It will reinforce East Africa's position as a digitally connected and competitive trading bloc.

By bridging borders with data, the EAC lays the foundation for a more connected, efficient, and secure regional economy; it's trading brighter, fairer, and stronger together.