

# EUMedRail Bulletin

October 2019

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## Dear reader,

Welcome to the third newsletter of EUMedRail project, which aims to strengthen railway safety and interoperability in the Southern Mediterranean through the exchange of best practices, training and networking.

The EUMedRail bulletin focuses on the project's progress, results and activities and gives you a glimpse into upcoming seminars and conferences. If you have any news or would like to promote an event or conference, please contact us via [EUMedRail@era.europa.eu](mailto:EUMedRail@era.europa.eu). Enjoy!

## Seminar on the tasks of NSAs in Amiens and The Hague



The EUMedRail project was launched with a clear objective to promote the safety framework and EU best



practices in the beneficiaries. The National Safety Authorities, whose objective is to uphold and disseminate the safety and regulatory framework, have partnered with the EUMedRail project on multiple occasions. Aware of the importance of this goal, and to stimulate the exchange of experience and knowledge between Member States and beneficiaries, EUMedRail organised a seminar for Maghreb and Lebanon on 10 and 11 December hosted by the EPSF, the French NSA. A second seminar for Mashreq delegations and Israel followed on 20 and 21 March 2019 in The Hague, with the support of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of The Netherlands and the ILT (National Safety Authority of The Netherlands). Both seminars aimed to discuss the main activities of the NSAs, including issuing safety certificates and supervising the compliance of the railway undertaking to safety regulations. The experts underlined that the NSA will issue authorisations for railway vehicles and licences for train drivers if compliant with defined criteria to ensure safe operation. European experts explained the need for every vehicle to have a specific organisation responsible for its maintenance before the start of operations. These experts also highlighted their supervision role to verify that the applicant meets the requirements to keep the safety certificate and vehicle authorisation. The consequences of failing to meet these obligations could result in the removal of the safety certificate, vehicle authorisation and/ or train driver licences. The EU Agency for Railways would like to thank the EPSF, ILT and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of The Netherlands for hosting these meetings and for

contributing to the exchange of best practices with the EUMedRail partners.



## Workshop on Safety Management System and Safety Culture in Belgrade (Serbia)

The European Union Agency for Railways, in the scope of the EUMedRail and IPA projects, organised a three-day workshop in collaboration with the Directorate for Railways, the Serbian National Safety Authority. The workshop took place in Belgrade, Serbia from 12 to 14 February 2019 and focused on [Safety Management System \(SMS\)](#) and [Safety Culture](#). Around 70 participants took part in the discussions regarding the development, implementation and supervision of the SMS by the Infrastructure Managers and Railway Undertakings. During the seminar, ERA experts introduced the [mobile application](#), an informative tool to understand and follow safety requirements.



ERA presented the SMS as a living system of linked processes and procedures to ensure safe rail operation. ERA additionally presented the European Railway Safety Culture Model. Composed of safety fundamentals and objectives together with cultural enablers, Safety Culture will lead to sustainable and safe railway operations. ERA experts presented the Safety Culture Declaration as an important milestone towards a commitment of European railway leaders and authorities to raise awareness of railway managers and staff to establish and promote a positive safety culture. We would like to thank the

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia who hosted the event.

## Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity



Union pour la Méditerranée  
Union for the Mediterranean  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

From 11 to 13 June 2019, the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity and its thematic Working Groups on Land, Air, Maritime Transport and Logistics convened in Barcelona. The objective of the meeting was to continue the preparatory work on the deliverables in view of the next UfM Transport Ministerial Conference, including the evaluation of the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) 2014-2020 and the new RTAP for the period 2021 to 2027. The EUMedRail project manager, Mr Peter Mihm, presented the EUMedRail Action Plan, which included project achievements, events and activities foreseen for the last quarter of 2019 and 2020. The EuroMed Transport Support Project (ETSP) presented the first draft of the evaluation report on the implementation of the RTAP, distributed to the delegations for comments. Following this meeting, participants exchanged views with international financial institutions on innovative coordinated financing mechanisms, multi-donor strategies and partnerships at the regional level.

## EUMedRail regional activities

### ONCF/EMI workshop “Inventing tomorrow’s railways” – 17/18 June – Rabat (Morocco)

In the framework of its research and development activities, the Moroccan National Railways Office (ONCF) and the Mohammadia School of Engineering (EMI) organised a workshop focusing on the development of Morocco’s rail signalling system which includes ERTMS development plans, energy efficiency, rail infrastructure and the integration of Human and Organisational Factors (HOF) in the railway sector. In this context, the Agency was invited to introduce the HOF and Safety Culture definitions, as developed by its dedicated HOF network. First, the Agency referred to the EU policy and regulatory framework as set in the Rail Safety Directive and the [Common Safety Methods for SMS requirements](#). The Agency provided recommendations from its [guidance document on SMS requirements for safety certification and safety authorisation](#). ERA finalised its intervention with the presentation of deliverables and tools developed under the aegis of the HOF network and its task forces: the [European Railway Safety Culture Model](#) and the [Safety Declaration](#). The event was finalised with a technical visit of the Agdal Railway Station (LGV).

### Technical visit to ÖBB for Israel delegation on ETCS 17-19 June in Vienna (Austria)



In close cooperation with ÖBB, the EU Agency for Railways organised a technical visit for a delegation from the Israel Ministries of Transport. This visit took place from 17 to 19 June 2019 at ÖBB headquarters in Vienna. As Israel railways currently applies the train control system Indusi (under similar conditions as ÖBB), the technical visit aimed to enhance the exchange of experiences between ÖBB and Israel regarding the transition from Indusi to ETCS. ÖBB informed about its current experiences and future plans for ETCS application in Austria. Topics included also certification and authorisation of ETCS, distribution of responsibilities between stakeholders, installation of ETCS and testing of equipment, rules and regulations implemented and training of staff, among others. Israel invited ÖBB to a site visit in Israel and thanked ÖBB for the reception and information received, looking forward to continuing exchange in the future.

### Railway Safety Workshop 16th of June in Cairo (Egypt)

The World Bank together with the Ministry of Transport and the Egyptian National Railways organised a workshop on railway safety on 16 June in Cairo, Egypt. The objective of the event was to introduce the twinning project between ENR and SNCF, to assess the current safety framework and to examine the coordinated approach between different initiatives and projects aiming to assist ongoing reforms to improve safety policies and processes. Mr Mihm represented the EUMedRail project at this meeting and discussed the goals and activities of the project. We are looking forward to working together with MoT, ENR and other parties to the benefit of improved railway safety for the population and the industries of Egypt.

### EUMedRail participates in the ETCR in Bruges (Belgium)

The EU Agency for Railways co-organised the 57th ETCR Seminar on EU Transport and Railway affairs with the European Training Centre for Railways (ETCR) and the College of Europe. The EUMedRail project facilitated the participation of beneficiaries to the seminar. In 2018, participants from Egypt, Israel, Palestine<sup>1</sup> and Tunisia joined the 56th edition while in 2019 participants from, Israel, Algeria, Jordan and Tunisia attended the seminar.



During this two-week seminar, participants had the chance to enhance their knowledge on European transport legislation as well as to improve their understanding of the latest trends and developments in the railway sector. Presentations focused on the rail industry and passengers, the Fourth Railway Package and the insights from operators and infrastructure managers. Experts also took part in simulation exercises on rail financing and Public Service Obligation (PSO). Participants integrated working groups on interoperability, digitalisation and multimodality, implementation of railway services and future solutions and developed a general project assignment. Landmark activities included the visit to Antwerp-Central railway station, the Belgian Railways Locomotive Workshop, the Port of Antwerp and a guided visit to the Docks. Participants also benefited from a visit to the EU institutions in Brussels.



<sup>1</sup> **Legal disclaimer:** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individuals positions of the Member States on this issue.

## Traineeship/Secondment Programme in ERA

The EUMedRail invited beneficiaries to nominate one expert to participate in the Traineeship/Secondment Programme. The objective of this Secondment is to develop expertise and increase the knowledge of the EU railway administrations while gaining practical experience in an International organisation. Experts are involved in the work of the ERA units, in charge of the Safety Management System, National Investigation Bodies, National Safety Authorities, authorisation of railway vehicles, safety certificates and the ERTMS. The EU Agency for Railways is looking forward to exchanging experience in the framework of the EUMedRail project. EUMedRail partners interested in gaining in-house experience from ERA should inform the EUMedRail team indicating the areas of interest.

**#CCRCC2019 – The ERTMS conference on 15-17 October**



The EU Agency for Railways invited EUMedRail beneficiaries to participate to a specific seminar for IPA and EUMedRail experts on ETCS on the 15th of October followed by the [ERTMS 2019 Conference](#) from 15 to 17 October 2019 in Valenciennes, organised by ERA in its role as system authority of ERTMS. The ERTMS conference provided a platform for discussion on the latest technological developments and an attractive forum for experts from around the world to discuss latest developments in rail signalling. The main focus of the 2019 edition of this landmark event was on the role of ERTMS in the digitalisation process of railways. It also offered the opportunity to reflect on the standards that will contribute to the evolution of the control command

and signalling Technical Specifications for Interoperability and to discuss the state of ERTMS projects in Europe. The conference stimulated the debate during workshops, technical forums and political panels.

## Next activities

**EUMedRail annual Steering committee 6 November 2019 in Brussels (Belgium)**

The Annual Conference will bring together EUMedRail contributors as well as experts from the EU Agency for Railways on 6 November in Brussels, prior to the 3rd UfM Land Transport WG 7-8 of November. The agenda includes discussing annual achievements and planning future project activities in 2020, especially at bilateral and regional levels.

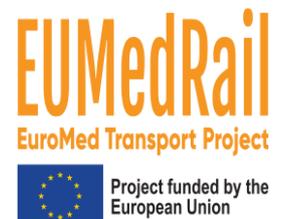
## ERA news in short



On 16 June 2019, The EU Agency for Railways became the railway authority responsible for issuing authorisation for

placing vehicles into the market, issuing safety certificates for railway operators and approving ERTMS trackside systems. These are the new tasks granted to the Agency by the EU's Fourth Railway Package of legislation. In the first two weeks, ERA received more than 30 valid applications for vehicle authorisations and two applications for single safety certificates. On 5 July, the Agency released the first vehicle authorisation while on 16 September it approved the first Single Safety Certificate valid for all European countries.

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Making the railway system work better for society.

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