

EUMedRail Bulletin

May 2019

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Dear reader,

Welcome to the second newsletter of the EUMedRail project aiming to strengthen railway safety and interoperability in the 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 publish an event or conference, please contact us via EUMedRail@era.europa.eu.

Enjoy!

The EUMedRail project

The EUMedRail project, funded by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement (DG NEAR) of the European Commission, has a budget of 2 million euros for the period of 2017-2020. This budget will be used to impart technical assistance in Neighbour Partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine¹ and Tunisia. The project supports the implementation of Action 12 of the Regional Transport Action Plan on safety and interoperability.

Seminar on NIBs in Lisbon



On 11 and 12 September 2018, beneficiaries of the EUMedRail project and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) took part in a seminar in Lisbon to gain understanding on the tasks of independent National Investigation Bodies (NIBs) and the procedures for the investigation of rail accidents in Europe.

European experts discussed the main requirements of NIBs, including independence, organisation, resources and the keys to a successful rail investigation to avoid recurrence, including communication with other bodies of the rail sector (e.g. National Safety Authorities or NSAs).

The topic was supported by practical examples from the multimodal Croatian NIB, the Portuguese NIB, the Serbian Centre for Investigation of Accidents in Transport and the experience of setting up an NIB in Albania.

The beneficiaries discussed the process of accident investigation in practice, including the collection of evidence and on-site examination management. The

¹ 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.

Croatian NIB and the Albanian NIB explained challenges encountered in the accident investigation process and the solutions identified. The Serbian NIB explained the steps followed in the investigation of the derailment of a shunting composition between the Rakovica station and the 'K1' junction.

The Portuguese NIB presented the conclusions of an investigation on level crossings accidents related to the disturbance of low sun, which may result in an obstructed view of barriers and flashing lights. Drivers of a certain age are sensitive to sunlight angles during some months of the year, which can negatively impact vision and concentration. They discussed the measures taken to improve including recommendations addressed to the National Safety Authority, a proposal for design standards of level crossings, supervision in the application of the Infrastructure Manager's (IM) Safety Management System (SMS), risk analysis of level crossings and internal auditing of the SMS. They also released a recommendation to the municipality.



EUMedRail and IPA delegations also enjoyed a technical visit to the Rossio Railway Station, one of the landmarks of Lisbon. The station, which opened at the end of the 19th century, serves the railway connection between Lisbon and Sintra.

Please find more information on [Rail Accident Investigation and NIBs](#).

EUMedRail Annual Conference

Over 50 experts participated at the EUMedRail Annual Conference on 9 and 10 October 2018 in Brussels. The purpose of the event was to comment on the progress and evolution towards the implementation of Action 12 of the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) 2014-2020.

Karima Delli, chair of the Transport and Tourism (TRAN) Committee, hosted the first day of the conference in the European Parliament.

By expressing the need to have uniform contracts for freight and passengers, the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) conveyed an ambition to connect EUMedRail beneficiaries.

The Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) featured the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) which combines grants from EU funds with funds from the private sector to accelerate investment projects.



Following the presentations of the EUMedRail beneficiaries, Josef Doppelbauer, Executive Director of the EU Agency for Railways, presented the Report on Railway Safety and Interoperability in the EU 2018, which highlights the progress made on safety and interoperability. Mr Doppelbauer voiced that level crossing accidents make up a significant proportion of total rail accidents including fatalities and seriously injured people, excluding suicides; he was pleased to announce that there has been an overall improvement in safety performance during the last 8 years. The report encourages the industry to make railway a safer working environment.

The following day, the beneficiaries gathered at the seat of the Community of European Railways. European experts outlined the vision of the rail industry included in 'Challenge 2050' strategy, and highlighted the role of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS), which creates a single standard for railway signaling, to support railway developments and safe operations.

The conference finished with a technical visit to the Multitel Test Lab where the beneficiaries participated in a technical debriefing on ERTMS.

First meeting of the UfM Working Group on Land Transport

The meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Working Group on Land Transport took place in Brussels on 8 October. It brought together UfM, National Transport Coordinators and EUMedRail experts. The meeting highlighted the implementation of the RTAP 2014-2020 in different UfM member states and the strategy for the UfM transport agenda.

DG NEAR presented the methodology to evaluate the RTAP's state of implementation based on information collected on project achievements and success stories. The methodology consists of a consultation phase followed by a sectorial diagnosis, which provides for the

evaluation report. From this report, they will extract recommendations in preparation for the future RTAP.

The UfM 2030 Transport Agenda will explore the promotion of interoperability, advanced IT systems, intermodality and co-modality as well as climate change, particularly concerning mitigation and sectoral adaptation. Enhancing Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and the ratification and implementation of international transport conventions will remain top priorities.

EUMedRail regional activities

Seminar on rail accidents investigations and safety culture on 22 and 23 January 2019 in Cairo (Egypt)



The European Union Agency for Railways, in the scope of the EUMedRail project, co-organised a seminar on rail accidents investigations and safety culture with the Egyptian Ministry of Transport and Egyptian National Railways on 22 and 23 January 2019 in Cairo (Egypt). The main objective was to reinforce the exchange of views between EU and Egyptian authorities and to promote the understanding of the issue of human error in railway accident investigations. Technical discussions on how to improve safety culture throughout the railway sector also took place.

ERTMS integration workshop on 12 and 13 March 2019 in Israel Railways offices in Lod (Israel)



The main goal of the workshop was to discuss the implementation of ERTMS in Israel and to give suppliers the opportunity to present their experiences. Participants discussed the problems which might be faced during the implementation and possible mitigations.

Traineeship/Secondment Programme

To facilitate the exchange of experiences on the implementation of EU railway regulations, EUMedRail beneficiaries are offered to participate in a Traineeship/Secondment Programme, which aims to bring expertise and practical knowledge to beneficiary administrations.

The EUMedRail team will continue to promote these opportunities to experts of rail administrations or national railway companies in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine¹ and Tunisia. Experts from Jordan, Egypt and Algeria have already participated in the Secondment Programme and had the opportunity to share their knowledge on the Safety Management System (SMS), reporting of accident data and statistics and National Investigation Reports (NIR) with ERA experts.

Bilateral meetings

In 2018, EUMedRail organised bilateral meetings with beneficiaries to discuss railway developments and to invite beneficiaries to upcoming events in the project framework. These events notably included the EUMedRail Action Plan Conference, the Trans-European Network of Transport (TEN-T) Days in Ljubljana, the ETCR Seminar, the Seminar on the National Investigation Bodies and the Seminar on the National Safety Authorities.

Announcements

The EUMedRail project seeks expertise for Euromed beneficiaries



The EUMedRail project is currently looking for independent experts with relevant expertise to provide technical assistance to the Euromed beneficiaries. EUMedRail launched a call for independent experts in support of this project, which aims to build a database of experts that will promote European railway regulation in the EUMedRail beneficiaries. Experts will disseminate European best practices, regulation and standards to the project beneficiaries and support railway regulatory reforms in the field of ERTMS, safety and interoperability.

Should you wish to take part and contribute to the railway safety and interoperability in North Africa and Middle East Region, please follow this [link](#).

The EUMedRail Action Plan 2019-2020

Mr Peter Mihm, the EUMedRail project manager, shared the EUMedRail Action Plan with National Transport Coordinators at the end of 2018. It is focused on encouraging beneficiaries to adopt new measures on railway safety and interoperability.

Topics include regulatory framework, railway safety including safety management system and safety culture, authorisation of railway vehicles and subsystems, ETCS, licencing for train drivers and transport of dangerous goods. Technical visits to various EU countries are foreseen as part of the Action Plan.

The promotion of traineeship opportunities in the Agency also represents a major component in the exchange of expertise. We look forward to hearing your comments on the planned actions via email at EUMedRail@era.europa.eu. We will be glad to discuss these actions with you on a bilateral basis or at EUMedRail events.

ERTMS2019 conference: 15-17 October in Valenciennes (France)



The EU Agency for Railways is pleased to invite experts from EUMedRail beneficiaries to the Control Command and Railway Communication Conference (CCRCC) in 2019 in Valenciennes (France).

Topics of the conference will include:

- Technical specifications for interoperability on Control and Command Systems (CCS) expected in 2022/2023
- The development of the Future Railway Mobile Communication System (FRMCS) and GSM-R migration
- Authorisation of ETCS on-board equipment and ETCS trackside equipment
- ERTMS deployment following the European Commission plan and the entry into force of the Fourth Railway Package (4RP)
- Digitalisation combined with the development of big data will feed the subject on the CCS long term strategy.

Please [see the event page](#) and the [draft agenda](#).

ERA news in short



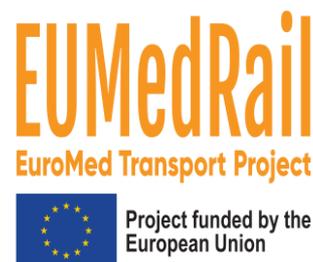
EU Member States voted in favour of the revision on the common specifications for the register of railway infrastructure and [the Technical Specifications for Interoperability \(TSI\)](#) relating to the subsystem 'rolling stock noise' in existing freight wagons. The vote was passed in the Railway Interoperability and Safety Committee from 29 to 31 January 2019. This is a step forward in improving the [4th Railway Package](#) implementation.

ERA organised the seminar Rail Human and Organisational Factors on 14 and 15 November 2018 in Valenciennes (France)



The aim of this workshop was to exchange knowledge on the integration of the human and organisational factors across European railways. Presentations of this event are available [here](#).

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The next issue of the EUMedRail Bulletin will review the discussions held in the seminars on the role of National Safety Authorities with examples provided by the French NSA, EPSF, and the Dutch NSA, ILT.

Making the railway system work better for society.

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European Union Agency for Railways
120 rue Marc Lefrancq
FR-59307 Valenciennes Cedex
Tel. +33 (0) 327 09 65 00
e-mail: communication@era.europa.eu

