

## **Monitoring, Analysis, Research and Stakeholders Unit (MARS):**

**The Monitoring, Analysis, Research and Stakeholders (MARS) Unit** monitors the railway system and its bodies and liaises with European external stakeholders, including research institutions and international partners. Its fact-based analyses, studies and reports are distributed both internally and externally to enable a factual decision-making for stakeholders, the Agency and the European Commission. The Unit arranges and uses all means and channels for external communication. Furthermore, the MARS Unit manages the conferences and training centre of the Agency for a wide dissemination of the railway knowledge.

More specifically, the MARS Unit is active in the following areas:

- › **Monitoring railway bodies:** monitoring of National Safety Authorities (NSAs) and Notified Bodies (NoBos) through audits and inspections, and National Investigation Bodies (NIBs) through participation in the peer-review process;
- › **Analysis and economic evaluation:** analytical support throughout the Agency and its stakeholders in order to deliver objective and credible evidence for decision-making. In particular, this covers ex-post and ex-ante impact assessments, monitoring and (statutory) reporting on the railway system, targeted studies and data analyses;
- › **Research:** coordination of rail research activities to support the technical progress of the Single European Railway Area;
- › **Stakeholder relations, Academy and Communication (SAC):** cooperation with stakeholders within and outside EU, running the formal Networks for EU stakeholders (NSAs, NIBs and representative bodies), internal and external communication, including institutional publications, relations with the press, and presence on the web and social media. ERA Academy organises the Agency's events, trainings and conferences, and it further develops the new Knowledge HUB and promotes more dedicated railway education in Europe.