

Moving Europe towards a sustainable a
safe railway system without frontiers.

European Union Agency for Railways

Single Programming Document 2024-2026

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Foreword



2024 marks the **20th anniversary of the creation of the European Union Agency for Railways**. Since its foundation, ERA has been at the side of the European railway stakeholders, carrying out an ever-increasing set of crucial tasks for railways. I am proud of all the achievements the Agency has accomplished during the last 20 years and I am confident the Agency will bring even more added value to the railway sector in the future, especially with the progressive development of the Single European Railways Area.

In the recent years, we have witnessed many worrying trends, such as the resurgence of war on the European continent, certain macroeconomic challenges, as well as increasingly serious climate change impacts across the world. In such worrying environment, transport has a crucial role to play, not only in ensuring the safe transport of people and goods, but as well in the decarbonisation of the sector and its adaptability to a changing climate. Safety is also a crucial element for railways. Following the tragic rail accident which took place in February 2023 near Larissa in Greece, we need to ensure that the right measures and checks are put in place to prevent such accidents from happening again. “A sustainable, safe European transport system without frontiers” does therefore not only represent our Agency’s vision statement, but also reflects the ambition of the rail sector at large.

In line with its mandate, the European Union Agency for Railways aims at covering a wide range of areas of work, involving actions to drive the continuation of the progress with railway safety and interoperability, together with its role of EU-wide authority for Vehicle Authorisation, Single Safety Certification, and ERTMS Trackside Approval.

The multi-annual work programme 2024-2026, together with the annual programme 2024 have been planned and prepared following the principles of the **intervention logic**. In addition, the work programme was prepared reflecting the conclusions of the SPD 2024 Workshop held with the Management Board in June 2022.

The year 2024 will be an important milestone for our Authority activities, as also it marks the fifth year since the start of the Agency’s Authority activities according to the **technical pillar of the 4th Railway Package**. The Agency has now gained significant experience in running the tasks related to its Authority role, as well as in forecasting their volume to the best extent possible, considering the challenges of a moving macroeconomic context. However, the volatility of the applications and their volumes can still greatly differ from one year to the other, which renders the planning of activities and the detailed forecast of revenues somewhat complex. The Agency will continue to monitor this aspect closely and to apply its agile management of these tasks. In addition, it is important to note that the Agency has reached an increasingly higher maturity level with the processing of authorisation and certification tasks, which provides for a higher efficiency in their delivery.

The Agency will also continue to reinforce its efficiency and effectiveness for this multiannual work programme. In 2022 already, the Agency’s Management Board adopted the **Strengthening Plan** and its subsequent action plan prepared by the Agency in close cooperation with the European Commission, highlighting the critical importance of areas of works such as: TSIs and national rules clean up, ERTMS, CSM ASLP, the monitoring of NSAs and NoBos, as well as data and digitalization. As a result, the Agency received an increase of 12 temporary agent posts (TAs) starting in 2023, which should be entirely covered through the Agency’s existing stream of revenues. The latter represents a **significant challenge**, especially in the context of a volatile pattern of inflation. Continuously, the Agency is making a thorough assessment of its capacity to cover these costs in a sustainable manner until the end of MFF 2021-2027. Additionally, the Agency is making sustained efforts for a combined

response to the resourcing challenge by increasing the direct utilisation of its resources, both in terms of budget and FTEs.

The Agency keeps a **strong commitment** to deploying the necessary resources to meet the legal deadlines related to issuing of VA, SSC and ERTMS Trackside approvals, while also respecting the deadlines for its safety and interoperability related activities, all of which contribute to the achievement of the high-level policy objectives of the 4th Railway Package. The decision time linked to the authority tasks has undeniably a tremendous impact on the rail stakeholders and on the competitiveness of rail compared with other sectors. The Agency therefore strives for an increasingly higher level of efficiency in its authority tasks, as for its other activities.

The Agency has based the 2024 budget envelope on the draft budget proposal of the European Commission and is hopeful that this envelope will be confirmed as the final result of the EU budget negotiation procedure for 2024. Any cut applied to this envelope would affect the level of ambition and commitment for the proposed activities in 2024.

The Agency would also like to bring forward **interesting and new projects** that could benefit the entire rail sector. Separately to the Single Programming Document, the Agency has put forward a proposal on its resource needs to develop the Information Sharing System (ISS), which is crucial for the successful implementation of CSM ASLP. The Agency will continue to work intensely on its NSA monitoring activities, as it is one of the policy priorities highlighted in the Strengthening Action Plan. In addition, there is a need to develop, together with Member States, a new Priority Countries Programme (PCP) at EU level, with a broader approach which goes beyond the scope of current monitoring activities of the Agency (e.g. NSA, NoBo, Peer review NIB, etc). The PCP has the potential to provide a more holistic picture of railway safety and interoperability in the Member States, and to bring further changes to improve safety across the EU through capacity building and mutual exchanges. These tasks would need to receive an additional dedicated resource envelope. The legal framework (current and any potential new evolution) is to be defined.

I would like to assure the members of the Management Board that the Agency will continue to implement the mechanism already put in place for a **regular monitoring of the SPD implementation** in terms of outputs delivery and resource consumption, as well as of **the Strengthening Action Plan**. The Agency will also continue to improve the set of budget execution monitoring actions already established to make best use of the available budget appropriations. The Agency will strengthen its tools to better plan, monitor, and report so as to continuously increase its data-driven, transparent working culture. In addition, more efforts will be produced to achieve more with less resources, as well as ensuring that the processes within the Agency are streamlined to deliver high-quality results to all our stakeholders, in line with the Strengthening Action Plan 2023-2027.

The Agency will also continue to work closely with its stakeholders in order to ensure the successful implementation of this challenging multi-annual programme. These activities of the Agency are crucial for contributing to the achievement of a significant modal shift to rail, in particular by helping to create and manage a Single European Rail Area, and to continuously improve railway safety in Europe. At the same time, we will continue our efforts to progress towards a culture of collaboration in the Agency. I would like to thank the ERA staff and all our stakeholders for their dedication and support, that I am sure will continue for the years to come, as we will work towards an improved European transport system, multimodal in nature, with rail as its backbone, eventually benefitting from a fully functioning Single European Railway Area.

Josef Doppelbauer

List of acronyms

AD	Administrator
AMOCs	Acceptable Means of Compliance
AO	Authorising Officer
AOD	Authorising Officer by Delegation
AR	Agency Regulation
ASLP	Assessment of Safety Level and Performance
AST	Assistant
ATO	Automatic Train Operations
BoA	Board of Appeal
CA	Contract Agent
CAAR	Consolidated Annual Activity Report
CCM	Change Control Management
CCS	Control Command and Signalling
CEOS	Conditions of Employment of Other Servants
COR	Common Occurrence Reporting
COVID-19	Coronavirus pandemic (SARS-CoV-2)
CSIs	Common Safety Indicators
CSMs	Common Safety Methods
CSTs	Common Safety Targets
CUI	Common User Interface
DAC	Digital Automatic Coupler
DG BUDG	Directorate-General for Budget
DG DIGIT	Directorate-General for Informatics
DG MOVE	Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DoI	Declaration of Interest
EASA	European Union Aviation Safety Agency
EB	Executive Board
EC	European Commission
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECM	Entity in Charge of Maintenance
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency
EPSO	European Personnel Selection Office
ERA	European Union Agency for Railways
ERADIS	ERA Database on Interoperability and Safety
ERATV	European Register of Authorised Types of Vehicles
EU Rail JU	Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking
ERSAD	European Railway Stations Accessibility Database
ERTMS	European Rail Traffic Management System
ESG	Economic Steering Group
ESO	European Standardisation Organisation
ETCS	European Train Control System
EU	European Union
EUAN	EU Agencies Network
EVR	European Vehicle Register
FFR	Framework Financial Regulation
FM	Facility Management
FRMCS	Future Railway Mobile Communication System
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FWC	Framework Contract
GSM R	Global System for Mobile Communications (Railway)
HOF	Human and Organisational Factors
HQ	Headquarters
HR	Human Resources
IAS	Internal Audit Service of the Commission
ICC	Internal Control Coordinator
ICF	Internal Control Framework
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IM	Infrastructure Manager
IMS	Integrated Management System
INEA	The Innovation and Networks Executive Agency
IoA	Inventory of Assets
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
IRSC	International Railway Safety Council

ISO	International Organisation for Standardization
ISS	Information Sharing System
IT	Information Technology
JNS	Joint Network Secretariat
JU	Joint Undertaking
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LaaS	Logistic as a Service
MaaS	Mobility as a Service
MB	Management Board
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union
MS	Member State of the European Union
MT	Management Team
NIB	National Investigation Body
NOBO	Notified Body
NSA	National Safety Authority
NTRs	National Technical Rules
NVR	National Vehicle Register
OSJD	Organization for Co-operation between Railways
OSS	One-Stop Shop
OTIF	Organisation for International Carriage by Rail
PCP	Priority Countries Programme
PoE	Pool of Experts
PM	Project Manager
PO	Project Owner
PR	Public Relation
PRM	Persons with reduced mobility
RASCOP	Rail Standardisation Coordination Platform
RBs	Recognition Bodies
RDD	Reference Document Database
Reg.	EC Regulation
RFC	Rail Freight Corridors
RINF	Register of Infrastructures
RISC	Railway Interoperability and Safety Committee
RSD	Railway Safety Directive
RSG	Research Steering Group
RU	Railway Undertaking
SAIT	Safety Alert IT Tool
SAP	Strengthening Action Plan 2023-2027
SCS	Safety Culture Survey
SERA	Single European Railway Area
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SM	Service Manager
SMS	Safety Management System
SNE	Seconded National Expert
SO	Service Owner
SOS	<i>Strengthening ERA's role in Operational Safety in the EU, Concept paper submitted to the MB</i>
SP	Safety Performance
SPD	Single Programming Document
SRD	Single Rules Database
SSC	Single Safety Certificate
TA	Temporary Agent
TA	Trackside Approvals
TAF	Telematics Applications for Freight
TAP	Telematics Applications for Passenger Services
TDG	Transport of Dangerous Goods
TSI	Technical Specifications for Interoperability
UIC	International Union of Railways
VA	Vehicle Authorisation
VKM	Vehicle Keeper Marking
WP	Work Programme
4RP	Fourth Railway Package

Mission statement

The vision and mission statements of the Agency (“A sustainable, safe European transport system without frontiers” and “Moving Europe towards a sustainable and safe railway system without frontiers”, respectively) were defined in 2021. They reflect its current position and role, while of course remaining fully in line with the legal mandate of the Agency.

The Agency contributes to the further development and effective functioning of a Single European Railway Area without frontiers, by guaranteeing **a high level of railway safety and interoperability**, while improving the competitive position of the railway sector, as envisaged by the Agency Regulation 2016/796. In particular, the Agency shall contribute, on technical matters, to the implementation of Union legislation by developing a common approach to safety on the Union rail system and by enhancing the level of interoperability on the Union rail system and associated data, with a specific focus on facilitating the interoperable deployment of ERTMS and on access to data for pushing rail modernisation and digitalisation. By working in close cooperation with the national authorities acting in the fields of railway safety and interoperability, the Agency will substantially contribute to an increased competitiveness of rail and to the seamless cross-border traffic in the EU. Moreover, through timely delivery of appropriate regulation that reflects the harmonised and validated solution proposals from the Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking, the Agency contributes significantly to the coordinated and rapid deployment of such solutions, thus strengthening the competitiveness of rail in the transport mix. All these elements are translated into rail becoming more attractive and affordable for passengers and freight, with the Agency playing an active role in supporting the delivery of the European Green Deal for the EU citizens and businesses.

Vision statement

A sustainable, safe European
transport system without frontiers

Mission statement

Moving Europe towards a
sustainable and safe railway system
without frontiers

To foster its mission, the Agency has identified the following fundamentals (F) and enablers (E):



Through its mission and actions, the Agency is committed to contribute to the EC Political guidelines:

- › a European Green Deal
- › an economy that works for people
- › a Europe fit for the digital age
- › a stronger Europe in the world

The Agency will support the EC agenda to ensure sustainable, safe, affordable, and accessible transport and to strengthen railways' role in the transport mix, in line with its mission and mandate.

I. General context

Transport is an essential part of the European integration, especially given its contribution to the functioning of the free movement of services, goods, and people. Transport also represents around 9% of the EU gross added value and directly employs around 11 million workers¹, therefore representing an important sector for society at large. EU transport policies have been developed according to the key principles of safety, sustainability, resilience, connectivity, and efficiency.

Through its long-term vision for the transport sector and European society, the European Commission published in 2020 the *Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy* with a detailed action plan of 82 initiatives. With this strategy, the Commission presents how the EU transport system will achieve its needed green and digital transformation and become more resilient. As outlined in the European Green Deal, the result will be a 90% cut in carbon emissions by 2050. Regarding the rail sector, the following targets have been set:

- Traffic on high-speed rail will double by 2030
- Rail freight traffic will increase by 50% by 2030 and double by 2050
- By 2030, rail and waterborne-based intermodal transport will be able to compete on equal footing with road-only transport in the EU

The European Union Agency for Railways will support the European Commission, in line with its accountability ceiling, in achieving these goals, in particular through the further development and effective functioning of a Single European Railway Area without frontiers.

The 2024-2026 programming period for the Agency involves two different types of activities:

- The **policy tasks** contributing to the implementation of Union legislation by developing a common approach to safety on the Union rail system and by enhancing the level of interoperability on the Union rail system, taking into account the policy priorities identified in the Strengthening Plan and implemented through the Strengthening Action Plan 2023-2027.
- The **fully fledged performance of the Agency's tasks** as EU-wide authority for safety certification, vehicle authorisation and ERTMS trackside approval, along with other tasks in the field of railway safety and interoperability as foreseen in the Technical Pillar of the Fourth Railway Package.

The Agency continues to implement its work programme following the principles of the **intervention logic**, in line with the guidelines provided by the Network of EU Agencies. The intervention logic supports the Agency by emphasising the desired changes and the road to its achievement. It is also a thinking process supporting the Agency to design, reconsider, and adapt its outputs to the most effective one for a determined outcome.

The Agency also strives to increase its efficiency in delivering the outcomes and impacts expected by EU citizens. In light of the above, the work programme of the Agency (in its multi-annual and annual planning) is organised around seven strategic statements, which project the Agency's role in relation to its stakeholders, complemented by two transversal strategic statements, which capture the Agency's governance and support functions. These strategic statements have been in place since the adoption of SPD 2022-2024 and are extremely important, as they show the direction of travel on which the Agency plans to embark in order to make railways work better for society, subject of course to its remit and accountability ceiling. The concrete Agency work, represented by projects and services with concrete outputs, is organised by grouping the projects and services which together can contribute to the outcomes and impacts stated in a particular strategic statement.

¹https://european-union.europa.eu/priorities-and-actions/actions-topic/transport_en

In addition, SPD 2024-2026 will follow and align itself with the actions and resource allocations detailed in the Strengthening Action Plan adopted by the MB in November 2022. The seven priority areas will be highlighted in the annual section and their importance will be reflected both in terms of FTE and budget allocation. Of course, the Agency will remain flexible and redeploy resources if needed but this innovative approach provides a roadmap for all stakeholders regarding the areas on which the Agency will focus in the coming years.

Thanks to a joint effort with the European Commission and the support from the Management Board, the Agency was granted 12 additional TAs to its establishment plan to implement the Strengthening Plan. However, these additional resources must be financed within the existing budget envelope, with no additional subsidy allocation, which creates a budgetary pressure on the Agency. The Agency proposes in SPD 2024-2026 a robust budget allocation, which copes with this pressure and provides resources for different essential activities. However, the budget is based on the assumption that the EC draft budget proposal will be confirmed at the end of the EU budget negotiation cycle. Any cut applied to this envelope would jeopardize the basic business continuity for the Agency's functions and will affect the level of ambition and commitment for the proposed activities in 2024.

The Agency will pay significant attention to a regular monitoring of the SPD implementation in terms of outputs, resource consumption and revenues, which can allow for agile responses and possible adaptation of its work programme. The Agency will continue to work together with the pool of experts for the mutual benefit of the cooperation between the Agency and the NSAs. This cooperation may also help the Agency to tackle capacity shortages, as well as language skills gaps. In addition, the Agency will strive for continuously improving its efficiency in delivering the expected outputs, as well as its overall performance in contributing to the expected outcomes and impacts.

II. Multi-annual programming 2024-2026

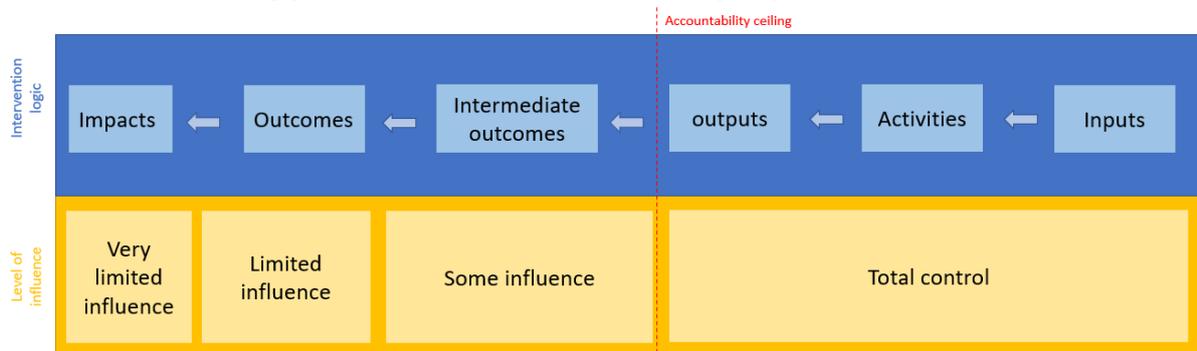
Multi-annual work programme 2024-2026

Structure of the multi-annual programme 2024-2026

The structure of the Agency’s multi-annual work programme is organised according to 9 strategic statements:

- › **Strategic Statement 1** - There will no longer be any technical and operational barriers to the free movement of people and goods by rail, assets can be reused throughout Europe.
- › **Strategic Statement 2** - Rail will become the backbone that supports an environmentally sustainable multimodal transport system and will be favoured as a transport mode by the new generations.
- › **Strategic Statement 3** - Rail traffic will become seamless and MaaS (Mobility as a Service) and LaaS (Logistic as a Service) will be ensured, including multi-leg ticketing.
- › **Strategic Statement 4** - Rail will be an increasingly safe and secure mode of transport for its users and workers.
- › **Strategic Statement 5** - Rail will be resilient and agile in responding to emergency situations.
- › **Strategic Statement 6** - Rail will become increasingly economically competitive as a mode and as a sector.
- › **Strategic Statement 7** - The EU will become the global reference for rail and ERA authorisations will be globally recognised.
- › **Strategic Statement 8** – The Agency will ensure an effective and efficient governance of its portfolio of activities in order to offer the best value for money to citizens and business in the EU
- › **Strategic Statement 9** – The Agency will ensure a performant working environment, based on high quality motivated resources and a collaborative behaviour.

Following guidance from the EU Agencies’ network on the SPD, the Agency proposed for SPD 2023-2025 to use the intervention logic on these strategic statements to identify impact and outcomes. With SPD 2024-2026, the Agency proposes to look at a new concept: *intermediate outcome*. Given that outcomes are quite difficult to influence directly from outputs, the concept of intermediate outcomes is interesting given its more direct link with the Agency and its influence on outcomes.



The Agency has therefore started to develop intermediate outcomes in each strategic statement. For intermediate outcomes, a set of common interventions was defined by the Agency:

**Building knowledge**

ERA /sector builds non-existing knowledge

**Monitoring and analysing**

ERA monitors the sector and its progress

**Regulating**

EU laws and regulations are put in place to achieve the desired outcome

**Reinforcing**

Possibilities to enforce / reinforce measures to improve the current status in the railway sector

**Knowledge sharing**

ERA shares knowledge with the sector (i.e. training, reports, etc).

These types of interventions will help structure the multiannual work programme and assess where additional work is most needed to achieve the desired outcomes. The multiannual section will also reflect the results of the MB workshop on SPD 2024-2026 which took place in June 2022.

In addition, it should be noted that the arbitration exercise for the year 2024 was further developed and intensified. Indeed, it followed the key principles and areas of priorities detailed in the Strengthening Action Plan. In addition, the Agency prioritised through the identification of the anticipated added value of activities, as well as their potential contribution towards the desired outcomes. The Agency followed a data-driven approach, looking at previous year's resource consumption, as well as the deliverables description for each project / service.

Content of the multi-annual programme 2024-2026

For its 2024-2026 work programme, the Agency considers the possible ways of balancing the demand for its authority work on one hand and the ambition level for the priority areas detailed in the Strengthening Plan, on the other hand. The authorisations, certificates and approvals issued by the Agency have a direct impact on the functioning of the rail sector and bring much added value in terms of safety and interoperability.

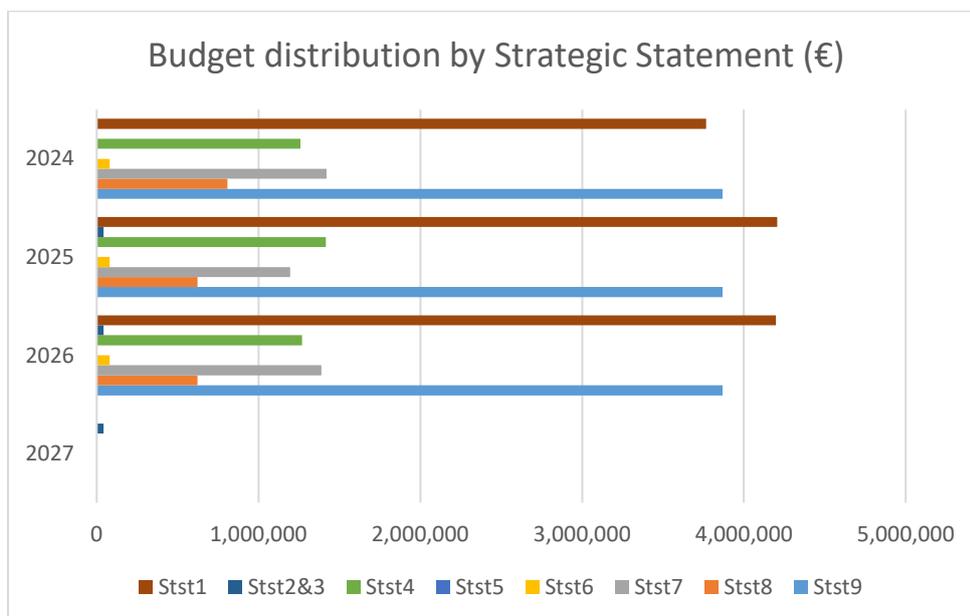
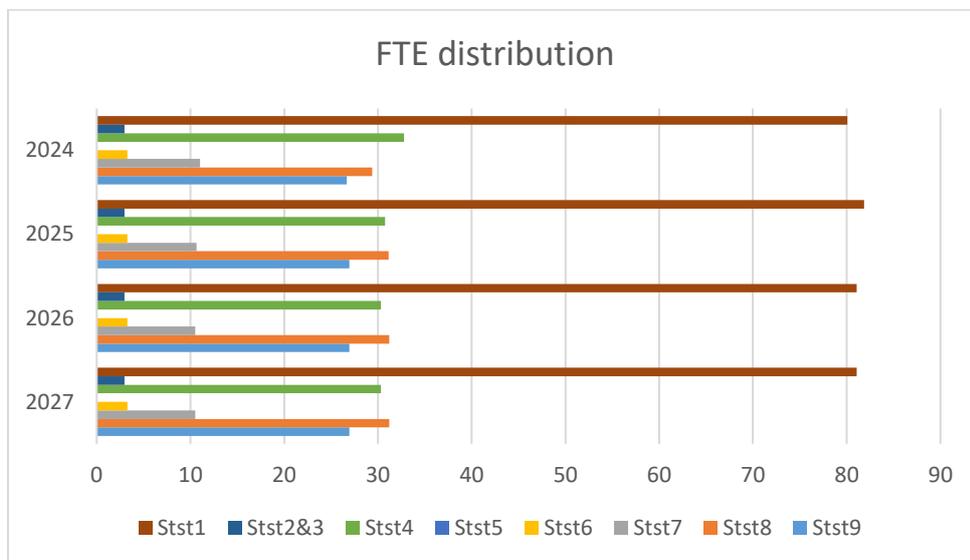
Furthermore, subject to additional resources, the Agency intends to implement, together with Member States, a Priority Country Programme (PCP) which is a strategic initiative that aims to assess and monitor the state of railway safety and interoperability legislation implementation in Member States providing a comprehensive picture of railway safety and helping the MS to identify areas for improvement. The focus of this programme will be on the legal set-up and the capability of the organisations within the Member States to take up the various responsibilities under railway safety and interoperability legislation, both at authority as well as operational level. Furthermore, also the Member State responsibility under EU legislation will be in the scope of the assessments.

In this perspective, the Agency has additionally developed a robust business case for the development of a supporting Information Sharing System (ISS) demonstrating the expected benefits, clarifying the additional resources needed to develop, deploy, and maintain the ISS as an IT solution and providing a detailed timetable for implementation spanning from 2024 to 2029. The objective of the ISS initiative is **to improve railway safety in the European Union through the sharing and analysis of relevant safety information, supported by a pro-active, performing and technology-proof system of data exchange.**

In addition, the strategic role in policy development, research and innovation, and advice provided by the Agency is recognised as highly important and should continue to be strengthened. The cooperation with the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking is a strategic long-term activity aimed at ensuring alignment between the EU regulatory framework on railways and efficient EU funding of rail research. Furthermore, this will continue paving the way for the inclusion of new technologies in the TSIs and, pending their adoption, in technical opinions of the Agency. It is equally important to highlight the

possible role of the Agency to monitor and support the adequate implementation of the existing legal framework through a harmonised level of maturity both at the levels of operators and national authorities. To make its operations always more efficient and effective, the Agency will continue to implement to its full extent the continuous improvement approach to its project management and make sure that its resources are deployed in those activities where it can have the highest impact and added value for the railway sector and the EU citizens. The Agency will also continue to develop its workstream on cybersecurity and will liaise with ENISA to explore future scope for cooperation. Following the cybersecurity regulation, the Agency will need to increase its resources spent on this item, which is reflected in the Annual Work Programme.

The breakdown of FTE and budget distribution by Strategic Statement over the 2023-2026 period are shown in the following charts.



The following table lists the main Key Performance Indicators for 2024:

Strategic Statement	Key Performance Indicator	Target
1	Inclusion in TSIs of requirements from NRs	33% of introduced CRs Closed
1	Dissemination on TSIs	4 workshops organised
1	CCS TSI – maintenance and operational activities	Publication of CCS TSI Application guide
1	No. of NoBo audits performed per year	15
1	Register's related service requests by customers processed (reply provided to customer)	Within 10 working days, as determined in the service level agreement
1	Issuing SSC / VA/ ERTMS TA - Proportion of decisions taken according to the legal framework deadlines	100%
2&3	ERA Technical Opinion(s) addressing future development of RINF Regulation and associated references to the ERA Vocabulary further ensuring IMs' implementation of new parameters	T1 2024
4	No. of NSA audit performed	9
4	Management of the Group of Analysts	Implementation of GoA workplan during CSM ASLP phase I
7	Delivery of the activities as planned in the Communication & Dissemination Plan and at least annually report on those activities to MB.	Delivered as planned
8	% Of the annual appropriations committed	98%
8	% Execution of carry over payment appropriations	>95%
8	% Payments made by contractual deadline	95%
8	Output achievement rate	Increase of achievement rate to the previous year
8	Implementation of the Strengthening Action Plan	Implemented following the SAP deadlines
8	Staff engagement survey	Odd years: SES organised, action plan developed and approved/ Even years: closing of at least 70% of the follow-up actions from the action plan
9	% Implementation of the establishment plan	>98%
9	% Implementation of the external personnel ² plan	>98%
9	Staff turnover	Less than 5%
9	% Availability of the core ICT systems	95%
9	Service Desk users' satisfaction feedback "Good/Excellent" rate	>70%

² CA + SNE combined

Strategic Statement 1

There will no longer be any technical and operational barriers to the free movement of people and goods by rail, assets can be reused throughout Europe.

In the field of Railway Interoperability, the Agency has identified so far six intermediate outcomes that it can actively influence through its portfolio of TSIs, ERTMS, National rules, and Registers services. They are essential components, which will lead to the achievement of the strategic statement. The already identified intermediate outcomes are as follows:

1. ERTMS is fully implemented on rolling stock by all Railway Undertakings
2. ERTMS is fully implemented on railway infrastructure by all Infrastructure Managers
3. All railway rolling stock is TSI compliant by all RUs across the EU. (exc. TAP/TAF & OPE)
4. All railway infrastructure is TSI compliant by all IMs across the EU
5. National rules (rolling stock & fixed installation) are harmonised across the EU
6. All relevant railway-related data is shared in an open and transparent way so that it is utilisable and useful for the sector

Of course, this list will continue to evolve in the future to include additional intermediate outcomes, as the Agency continues to pursue its full implementation of the intervention logic.

Following the results of the MB workshop in June 2022 on SPD 2024-2026, where the Management Board expressed its desire for the Agency to propose more knowledge sharing activities, such as training, and other dissemination activities, the Agency will strengthen its activities in this domain. Such activities will be coordinated by the ERA Academy, being the established knowledge sharing vehicle of the Agency. While being part of Strategic Statement 7, the ERA Academy activities, by their nature, serve all strategic statements of the Agency.

The Agency will also continue to deliver on its role as sole body responsible for issuing multi-Member-State authorisations, certifications, and approvals. The Agency will continue performing its tasks in full partnership with the NSAs. In addition, the links between authorisation, certifications, and approvals by the Agency and the supervision by the NSAs will be strengthened. The Agency will also continue to drive further the harmonisation towards the Single European Railway Area, ensuring the path towards technical and operational interoperability. The advancement of the System Pillar and the Agency's inputs in the matter will further support harmonisation.

The lessons learnt through the issuing of VAs, ERTMS trackside approvals and from the monitoring of NoBos will be used to capture continuous improvement opportunities for the technical specifications and to the authorization procedures. The experience in issuing safety certificates will be used to better steer the safety related policy making, so railway safety will never be misused again as a barrier. More specifically, the work on NoBo monitoring will be reinforced in 2024, with additional resources dedicated to this activity, in line with the direction given in the Strengthening Plan.

The stability of the TSIs, together with a successful cleaning up of the remaining national rules are the **foundation of seamless operations across Europe** and for an increasingly effective authority function, reinforcing the added value of a **European mindset** in the EU railway system. In 2024, the Agency will

continue to work on the cleaning-up of national technical and safety rules, as well as those on fixed installation and ERTMS. This cleaning-up is an important step towards delivering a truly harmonised EU rail system. The Agency will continue to focus on the removal of redundant national rules (operational and technical), the harmonisation of the remaining rules and the development of AMOCs.

In 2023, the Agency has finalised the cleaning up of the national rules for vehicles. The Agency has further identified the national rules that should be transferred into the TSIs by means of further harmonisation, specific cases and closing of open points. This transfer will take place as of 2024 by means of Change Requests and will result in a significant reduction of the national rules.

- Close 33% of the change requests following the national technical rules which led to their inclusion in TSIs;
- Continue to assess NSR set-up in Member States.

When it comes to dissemination, the Agency agreed on a communication plan for the TSIs implementation. This plan consists of a Q&A set of information, available on the ERA website, the follow-up of the webinars already performed in 2023 and workshops. The Agency plans to organise 4 workshops in 2024.

As part of the next TSI revision, the Agency will work for reducing further the existing specific cases of Member States on top of the harmonised technical specification contained in TSI. Even if the transfer of the cleaned national rule into the TSIs will lead to potential increase of new specific cases, the Agency's priority remains to work on EU harmonisation of checks and tests. By end 2024, the Agency will deliver an impact assessment on the TSI specific cases and their temporary duration.

As part of the maintenance of the National Rules, the Agency will support the Member States in the review of their National Rules against the new requirements of the TSI Package 2023. In 2024 the Agency will introduce a CCM process that will control the addition of new National Specific Parameters (NSPs). In parallel we will seek to establish the complete list of current NSPs, use best efforts to start the clean-up/Validation of current NSPs and propose a timeline for cleaning the list that matches the resourcing and priorities of the Agency work programme.

Of course, seamless operations also mean exchanging data, a process on which the Agency will continue to contribute by facilitating the data exchange for, among various purposes, authorization, registration, and route compatibility checks, based on the linked data approach. The Agency acknowledges the clear, shared ambition to drive the development of the digital agenda and in 2024 will implement in full the requirements set out in the recent RINF regulation amendments, including the application guide that will support the implementation on the ground. In parallel the Agency is working on the proof of concept for a digital route book and in particular identifying the supporting infrastructure data needed for route books. The ISS tool to support the implementation of the CSM ASLP regulation will be built on the extension of the ERA Ontology. Whilst the funding to develop the application layer has not yet been secured the Agency is preparing the development of the Ontology for agreement in early 2024. The announced evolution of the Telematics TSIs is recognised as is the financial support of the Commission for this work. The work however is contingent on successful procurement in 2024 and in the absence of the required internal resources must be considered at risk, at least until the successful outcome of the procurement has been secured.

The Agency will also assess mature innovation products, with a clear potential for market uptake. In this context, the Agency will focus on exploring emerging needs such as:

- Better coordination of traffic management EU-wide, including, but not limited to, planning, capacity management, and emergency responses
- Increased and improved offer for passengers and freight in the railway sector
- Improved operations through the adoption of automatic translation systems and training for operators in their native language. This would enhance the railway system's resilience to interoperability issues and increase cross-border traffic.

The objective is to make the railway system more resilient to interoperability issues and increase the cross-border traffic.

When it comes to ERTMS, after the publication of the CCS TSI 2023/1695 including the new set of ERTMS specifications (being ETCS Baseline 4 Release 1, RMR GSM-R Baseline 1 Maintenance Release 1 + FRMCS Baseline 0; ATO Baseline 1 Release 1), the focus for 2024-2026 will be on the implementation of the new CCS framework. In addition, a further harmonisation through TSIs will focus on telematics, security aspects, national rules harmonisation and innovations such as new materials, new on-board sources of energy based on the results provided through the System Pillar work. A CCS TSI amendment will be required which mainly addresses the SUBSET-153 and the necessary testing specifications (SUBSET-076 for ETCS and SUBSET-151 for ATO). In addition, there will be a technical opinion providing the delivery of the FRMCS V2 specifications. A CCS TSI application guide will be drafted with the focus on the changes in the CCS TSI implementation framework, in particular the new transition and migration schemes included in the CCS TSI. In order to apply the specifications maintenance framework, the Agency will deliver an ERTMS Baseline Compatibility Analysis report which includes the answers of the ERA questionnaires.

The service 'Management of Innovation and long-term evolution of the Agency' will continue to steer the research & innovation policy of the Agency and its future development. It will also be in charge of coordinating the Agency's input to the work on the System Pillar. The Agency will ensure technical assistance to the Commission, as guardian of interoperability and safety, and as system authority for ERTMS & telematics. This will boost harmonisation of operations, subsystems, and components, leaving the practical aspects to the industry, assuming an appropriate level of oversight. The Agency will continue to identify related research needs and assess mature innovation products, with a clear potential for market uptake, in order to reflect them into the technical specifications.

#	Outcome indicators
1	Harmonisation and reduction of Member-State specific National rules (both national safety rules and national technical rules) via a Single Rules Database.
2	Number of international passenger/freight trains at selected border stations (interoperability reports)
3	Number of hours spent at cross-border operations
4	ERTMS trackside deployment in the EU
5	Vehicles equipped with ERTMs in the EU
6	Number of open type 3 issues when issuing VA and TA/ overall number of certificates issued
7	Number of VA and TA issued with reduced validity period/ overall no. of certificates issued
8	Number of data consumption of registers

Resource envelope

	2024	2025	2026
FTEs	80.08	81.87	81.08
Budget ³	€ 3,766,092	€ 4,205,967	€ 4,198,123

³ This number includes the PoE and NSA costs for fees and charges activities on ERTMS TA and Vehicle authorisations.

Strategic Statement 2 & 3

2 Rail will become the backbone that supports an environmentally sustainable multimodal transport system and will be favoured as a transport mode by the new generation

3 Rail traffic will become seamless and MaaS (Mobility as a

The Agency is playing a pivotal role in supporting the transformation of the European transport system towards decarbonised, interoperable, and safe transport modes based on multi-modal integration (MaaS).

In 2023, the Agency played a key role for driving the data and digitalisation agenda for railways, based on the linked data pilots and the revision of TAP/TAF TSI. Those elements are particularly relevant in a multi-modal context as they enable that integration in terms of ticketing and timetables which has been preventing the effective development of rail as the backbone of a multi-modal and international transport.

The Agency has identified for this Strategic Statement two intermediate outcomes, which will support the achievement of the overarching statement. There are the following ones:

1. TAP is implemented by all relevant railway actors (IMs, RUs, ticket vendors), it is actually used as the main channel of information exchange and the ticketing is integrated in the multimodal environment with other transport modes
2. TAF is implemented by all relevant railway actors (IMs, RUs, WKs, CTOs) and it is actually used as the main channel of information exchange

Of course, TAF and TAP TSI will also be in scope for some intermediate outcomes already identified under strategic statement 1. Additional intermediate outcomes will be identified in the future to further implement the intervention logic within the Agency.

For the period 2024-2026, the Agency will still be a top player in ensuring the right framework for the **data and information exchange related to assets and services** (including ticketing data), based on linked data, universal data identifiers and more and better data exchanged between operators and customers. This will ensure a seamless exchange of data with other modes of transport, thus allowing the customers to benefit from a comprehensive logistics chain or the mobility-as-a-service, respectively.

While specifications for infrastructure description related data used in the register of infrastructure (RINF), respectively for information exchange in telematics applications, were developed for different purposes, they now appear to be inconsistent between one another in the context of their integration into the European Mobility Data Space (EMDS) for which the ERA Vocabulary has been set as building block for rail. Corresponding alignment and linking of rail data for infrastructure description constitutes both an internal and external challenge for the Agency that will be addressed through the work of the Agency on the review of the governance of location coding in the context of the review of TSIs on telematics applications and development of the RINF Regulation and associated RINF application.

Moreover, the Agency is a publisher in the **open data portal**, with 13 datasets published. Currently, the Agency is developing the strategic direction for linked data under strategic statement 8, while exploring the mainstreaming of this approach to other registers and databases. Once moved from a strategic development concept to a mainstreamed approach, this stream of work will be covered under strategic statement 2 and 3. In addition, the **TAF TSI** will provide the data communication requirements for the transparent and efficient traffic management and train operations system of the future including also (i) first and last mile logistic segments involving intermodal actors (operators, terminals) and (ii) linkage to other modes of transport (road, waterborne). This will also contain the enhanced simple and smart tracking of trains, wagons and consignments. The same TSI will also include additional requirements for the setting up of LaaS starting from consignment order (intermodal compliant), train operation preparation and ending in well-predicted / efficient delivery of trains, wagons and consignments to the business partners.

Concerning the environmental sustainability of the railway system, the Agency will continue to deliver support and assistance to the EC on rail and sustainability with annual topical reports, as well as for **the coordination of transport of dangerous goods by rail**, recognising of course the supporting essence of the Agency's role in the matter.

#	Outcome indicators
1	The level of implementation of TAF and TAP TSI as monitored through the annual "Safety and Interoperability Progress Report"
2	Evolution in share of rail (both passenger and freight) in the EU's transport market compared to air, road or maritime transport
3	GHG emission from rail compared with other transport modes (shares %)

Resource envelope

	2024	2025	2026
FTEs	2.95	2.95	2.95
Budget	€ 42,538	€ 42,538	€42,538

Strategic Statement 4

Rail will be an increasingly safe and secure mode of transport for its users and workers

In the field of Railway Safety, the Agency has identified 3 categories of intermediate outcomes that it can actively influence through its portfolio of safety related projects and services and that are essential pre-conditions to achieve the strategic statement 4. The identified intermediate outcomes are as follows:

1. All railway operators – IM, RU, ECM - understand and accept their responsibility and actively implement an SMS to control the risks of operational activities;
2. An increased performance of and trust in the different safety related control levels in the system - ERA, MS, NSA, ASBO, ECM CB, accreditation, recognition, NIB;
3. Safety and safety management/performance related data is shared in an open and transparent way;

Up until now the Agency has invested most of its efforts in building knowledge and regulating, while not sufficiently supporting the railway sector in the actual implementation of the legislative framework. The following years of the Agency's work programme will focus more on the actual implementation by supporting the sector through knowledge sharing, by better understanding the issues the sector is facing when implementing the legislative framework, by reinforcing the expected outcome where possible and enforcing it where necessary. Within this framework of intermediate outcomes and interventions for statement 4 the Agency will continue to focus on:

1. Supporting Member States in developing, adopting and repealing **national legislation** and strengthening NSAs' and NIBs' capacity, in line with principles and legal acts promoted by the EU. (sharing knowledge/ monitoring/ reinforcing)
2. **Enhancing railway safety through positive safety culture and integration of human and organisational factors** and on the **harmonisation of the safety approach, partly through SSC applications**. (sharing knowledge/ monitoring/ reinforcing)
3. **Monitoring of NSAs** and the follow-up of issues emerged during the 1st cycle of audits (monitoring / reinforcing). By the end of the 2nd cycle, reflection as to whether changes to the current framework are needed will be made and appropriate proposals to the MB will be put forward in 2025.
4. **Learning lessons** through the issuing of SSCs, the monitoring of NSAs, the review of **NIB accident investigation reports** and the information exchanged during NSA and NIB meetings and meetings organised with the AsBos, this will be used to continuously improve the common safety methods, as well as the safety certification procedures (knowledge building/ sharing knowledge / monitoring)
5. Strengthening the **culture of risk management** to identify risks and mitigating measures but also opportunities to improve the efficiency of operations preserving the safety level. This shall cover well-known operational scenarios, including interfaces with other transport modes, and the adoption of emerging technology and related relevant risks (e.g. cyber security, etc.). (knowledge building/ sharing knowledge)
6. Improving the structure, quality, and availability of **safety relevant data** while making sure it is shared in an open and transparent way among all railway actors. (knowledge building/ monitoring).

#	Outcome indicator
1	Number of open type 3 issues when issuing SSC's/ overall number of certificates issued
2	Number of SSC's issued with reduced validity period/ overall number of certificates issued
3	Number of appeals made by operators in a year linked to SSC certification/ average number of SSC's issued per year
4	Percentage of NSA's audited with at least 1 deficiency (focused on deficiencies still open from the 1st cycle). <i>Note: this is a rolling indicator</i>
5	NSA Monitoring: number of deficiencies still open (follow-up of the 1st cycle) vs number of deficiencies of the 1st cycle (rolling indicator) <i>Note: this is a rolling indicator</i>
6	Number of peer reviewed NIB's
7	Number of volunteering NIBs to participate in the NIB peer review/ total number of NIB's (on a yearly basis)

Resource envelope

	2024	2025	2026
FTEs	32.78	30.75	30.31
Budget ⁴	€ 1,258,487	€ 1,416,204	€ 1,268,927

⁴ This number includes the PoE and NSA costs for fees and charges activities on SSC.

Strategic Statement 5

Rail will be resilient and agile in responding to emergency situations

The Agency is currently reviewing the strategic statement 5, especially as no projects has been identified yet for the next three years.

#	Outcome indicators
1	Under development

Resource envelope

	2024	2025	2026
FTEs	0	0	0
Budget	€ 0	€ 0	p.m.

Strategic Statement 6

Rail will become increasingly economically competitive as a mode and as a sector

The Agency will endeavour to make sure that the rules and system specifications are smart, proportionate and contribute to the competitiveness of the industry. It will also make sure that the SSC, VA, and ERTMS TA processes are cost and time efficient, fostering the entrance of new operators in the market.

As presented in previous strategic statements, the agency aims at **evaluating the economic impact of the vehicle authorisation and issuing of single safety certificate processes** on the railway sector, the impact of the **TsIs as a package**, of **market opening and competition** and of **modular interchangeability** in the ERTMS system specifications. The Agency will assess **interoperability and safety improvements from a cost-effectiveness perspective**, also considering efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's internal processes. The results of the assessments will be used to propose recommendations for improving the legal texts, as well as any non-regulatory instruments, in the spirit of the Better Regulation principles. Building on the IA work in the past years, particular attention will be given within the ESG on evaluating the IA practice and stakeholder feedback on the IAs. In addition, the Management Board, NSA and NRB networks will be regularly informed about the return of experience, lessons learnt and priorities for the IA practice. Furthermore, the important work on women in transport, which should lead to the strengthening of women's employment and equal opportunities for women and men in the transport sector will be pursued. Indeed, many studies have shown that gender parity in the workforce increases the productivity and the cohesion of staff. In addition, gender parity increases diversity of views, which in itself brings innovative solutions.

#	Outcome indicators
1	Evolution in rail traffic in absolute terms
2	Proportion of rail vs road and air transport, for passenger and freight rail in the EU
3	Number of pax-km per passenger train-km
4	Number of tonne-km per freight train-km
5	Average ERTMS costs (trackside and on-board)

Resource envelope

	2024	2025	2026
FTEs	3.28	3.28	3.28
Budget	€ 80,400	€ 80,400	€80,400

Strategic Statement 7

The EU will become the global reference for rail and ERA authorisations will be globally recognised

One of the objectives of the Agency is to become a global reference in the railway domain for technical matters and build its reputation of a solid, resilient, and trustworthy organization. To achieve that, the Agency will work on multiple fronts. It will support the EC in designing, implementing, and monitoring the EU transport foreign policy. The Agency will also contribute to international standardization by strengthening its **cooperation with European and international standardization organizations**. The Agency will also prepare dissemination contents and organise training sessions and other means of sharing the precious knowledge it has gathered. Furthermore, the Agency will **focus on the EC priorities in terms of technical and geographical areas** and will also **provide the requested analyses and support**. When it comes to its international workstream, the Agency will focus its international activities on the basis of broader strategic considerations and following general approaches.

Focussing on training and dissemination, in 2024-2026, the Agency will continue to strengthen its dissemination capabilities and tools, reflecting there the results of the MB workshop on SPD 2024-2026. In addition, the Agency will propose a range of webinars on a variety of topics under the expertise of the Agency and will continue to organise EU-wide railway events.

Finally, the Agency will continue supporting the NSA, NIB and NRB Networks and facilitating interfaces between them, the European Commission, and the Agency where appropriate.

#	Outcome indicator
1	Number of participants in ERA training sessions and other dissemination events

Resource envelope

	2024	2025	2026
FTEs	11.02	10.66	10.51
Budget	€ 1,419,298	€ 1,195,713	1,388,100

Strategic Statement 8

The Agency will ensure an effective and efficient governance of its portfolio of activities in order to offer the best value for money to citizens and business in the EU

In order to achieve the strategic statement 8, the Agency has identified six **intermediate outcomes** that it will actively work towards in the following years through the related portfolio of projects and services:

1. Digitalisation of the Agency (as strategic preparation work)
 - Single source of data for internal access
 - Single source of data for external access
 - Data is only introduced once
 - Data is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable & Reusable)
2. Staff understand the mission and vision of the Agency, internalise it and have the flexibility, the ownership/ autonomy with their activities, and a clear mutual understanding of their roles and responsibilities to actively contribute to the strategic direction of the Agency
3. The Agency has a sound and agile governance framework, whose processes and administration favour clarity, efficiency and decision making at the right level.
4. The SPD process steers the Agency' strategy and multi-annual work programme development in an integrated, evidence-based, and coordinated manner as well as the monitoring of its effectiveness. This can be achieved through interfacing with the internal stakeholders owning the strategies and the external stakeholders (EC, EB strategic calendar, etc).
5. SPD is the single reference (for internal and external stakeholders) for all critical tactical information providing the overarching view on the implementation of the projects and services.
6. The Agency is a learning, ethical, legally complying organisation where the decision-making, the strong financial control, the monitoring and reporting processes give the ED the assurance of best value for money.

As far as the **digitalisation aspect is concerned**, the Agency has acknowledged its importance to ensure a sustainable development of railways in Europe as a competitive mode of transport and has the ambition to become a reference for facilitating the **multi-modal data exchange and queries**, based on the data-centric architecture and the linked data technology. The Agency aims at exploiting the potential of digitalization of the sector to the largest extent in its operations and administration. The I&T strategy and the interoperable data roadmap will boost the performance level of internal processes and will allow to have modern systems such as OSS, Registers, etc. fully functioning according to schedule and completely interoperable with commercial software solutions currently adopted by the railway industry to support the operators in their daily business.

The other intermediate outcomes will be achieved also through the optimization of the ERA **planning, monitoring and reporting** capabilities, to enhance the Agency's programme, project, and service management framework together with the Single Programming Document and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report. This will lead to an allocation of resources based on impact and intended outcome, fostering the added value created for the railway sector and an overall better performance of the Agency. An Action Plan for the Strengthening Plan 2023-2027 is put in place, in close link to the

SPD implementation and monitoring. With the Agency's organisational culture change project 'Better together at ERA', the Agency will continue to invest resources and time to boost and refine the work environment and cooperation between staff members.

Through its **communication** activities, the Agency will design and implement actions to increase ERA awareness of the railway system and the dynamics of the railway industry. Moreover, the Agency will develop campaigns to provide EU citizens with relevant information and data demonstrating the added value brought by the Agency to society.

#	Outcome indicators
1	Budget discipline (% of deviation from annual budget)
2	Data is FAIR, measured on a scale

Resource envelope

	2024	2025	2026
FTEs	29.38	31.14	31.22
Budget	€ 808,416	€ 622,750	622,750

Strategic Statement 9

The Agency will ensure a performant working environment, based on high-quality motivated human resources and a collaborative behaviour

Clause 4 of the ERA Policy states that “People are our most valuable resource”. Coherently, the Agency will implement the new HR strategy 2023-2027, offering clear and transparent career paths to staff members, allocate enough resources to make sure that good performance and success stories are adequately rewarded, and that skills and competencies are appropriate for the Agency mission and kept up to date. Internal roles are not only defined but also accompanied by a proper competency management system and communicated externally so that interfaces are clear to the stakeholders. The Agency also acknowledges the added value of diversity by implementing solutions to improve the gender balance in management and operational roles and to widen the number of nationalities employed.

#	Outcome indicators
1	Staff satisfaction (evaluated through the Staff Engagement Survey or own survey with the same scope and questions) ⁵
2	Highly trained staff ⁶ (checked through dimensions training performance such as the evolution of hours recorded on training in MS Project, training budget, number of PIT requests)
3	HR strategy action plan progress
4	Overtime (% worked above the 40 hours/week on a monthly basis, over 110%)
5	Cloud migration – infrastructure migrated to the cloud
6	ICT strategy action plan progress

Resource envelope

	2024	2025	2026
FTEs	26.69	26.94	26.94
Budget	€ 3,867,625	€ 3,867,625	€ 3,867,625

⁵ Resource permitting

⁶ checked through dimensions training performance such as the evolution of hours recorded on training in MS Project, training budget, number of PIT requests

Human and financial resources – outlook for the years 2024 – 2026

Overview of the past and current situation

Staff population overview 2022-2024**Table 1 – Human resources 2022-2024⁷**

Human resources	2022		2023	2024
	Authorised under the EU Budget	Staff population at 31/12/2022	Authorised	Requested
Temporary Agents (TA)	154	150	166	166 ⁸
Contract Agents (CA)	36	36	36	36 ⁹
Seconded National Experts (SNE)	4	2	4	4 ¹⁰
Total staff	194	188	206	206
External staff financed from agreements	7	7	5	3
Structural service providers	14	11	8	9

Complete tables are provided in Annex IV & Annex V.

Revenues 2022-2024**Table 2 – Revenues 2022-2024**

Financial resources – Revenues (EUR)		2022 Budget ¹¹	2023 Authorised	2024 Requested
Revenues	1. Fees and charges	7,038,812	10,856,649	11,913,156
	2. EU contribution	26,278,423	27,418,274	28,645,912
	3. Third countries contribution (= EFTA)	656,721	801,315	1,022,594
	4. + 5. + 6. + 7. Other general revenues	10,000	-	-
Total		33,983,956	39,079,238	41,581,662

Complete tables are provided in Annex III.

⁷ Expressed in terms of number of posts (headcounts), except for “External staff financed from agreements” where FTE is used to ensure compliance with Table 17 - Additional external staff expected to be financed from grant, contribution or service-level agreements in Annex IV.

⁸ Of which 28 assigned to Fees and charges

⁹ Of which 8 assigned to Fees and charges

¹⁰ Of which 0 assigned to Fees and charges

¹¹ 2022 budget reflects the transfers and amendments as of November 2022 (comment valid for Annex II & III)

Expenditures 2022-2024**Table 3 – Expenditure 2022-2024**

Financial resources – Expenditure (EUR)		2022 Budget ¹²	2023 Authorised	2024 Requested
Expenditure	Title 1 – Staff expenditure	21,966,714	23,473,646	22,654,387
	Title 2 – Infrastructure and operating expenditure	1,862,438	2,096,800	2,146,913
	Title 3 – Operational expenditure	3,115,992	2,649,143	4,867,206
	Total EU contribution (Titles 1 + 2 + 3)	26,945,144	28,219,589	29,668,506
	Total Fees and charges	7,038,812	10,856,649	11,913,156
Total		33,983,956	39,079,238	41,581,662

Complete tables are provided in Annex III.

The Agency will need to constantly monitor the budget allocation for 2024 in line with its ambition of deploying the envelope of 12 TAs envisaged in the SAP. The 2024 budget can be further impacted by the evolution of inflation and salary indexation. Several precautions have been taken into account, including some cross-cutting decrease in operational expenses for all activities, which generate a very high pressure on the budget planning. The Agency will continuously inform the EC and the MB on the budget implementation in 2024 and on any potential pressures arising during the year.

¹² 2022 budget reflects the transfers and amendments as of November 2022 (comment valid for Annex II & III)

Outlook for the years 2024 – 2026

Growth of existing tasks:

In 2024, following the endorsement of the Strengthening Plan and the allocation of 12 additional Tas to the Agency to implement it, the Agency will dedicate these resources to the following priority domains, in line with the Strengthening Action Plan (SAP) 2023-2027:

- (a) NSA monitoring
- (b) NoBo Monitoring
- (c) ERTMS and radio communication evolution
- (d) TSIs
- (e) The cleaning of national rules (technical, operational and safety rules)
- (f) CSM ASLP¹³
- (g) Digitalisation of the Agency's registers

¹³ Up until now, CSM ASLP has been resourced by decreasing the allocation of other Safety projects. The Strengthening Plan foresees an additional allocation of staff to CSM ASLP, a section of which will be used to allow the aforementioned policy areas to recover their original staffing allocation.

Resource programming for the years 2024 – 2026

Financial resources**Table 4 – Financial resources – Outlook 2024-2026**

Financial resources (EUR)		2024 Requested	2025 Planned	2026 Planned
Revenues	1. Fees and charges	11,913,156	12,145,805	12,347,496
	2. EU contribution	28,645,912	29,218,830	29,803,207
	3. Third countries contribution (= EFTA)	1,022,594	1,043,046	1,063,907
	4. + 5. + 6. + 7. Other general revenues	-	-	-
Total		41,581,662	42,407,681	43,214,609
Expenditure	Title 1 – Staff expenditure	22,654,387	23,135,596	23,705,022
	Title 2 – Infrastructure and operating expenditure	2,146,913	2,149,600	2,149,600
	Title 3 – Operational expenditure	4,867,206	4,976,680	5,012,491
	Total EU contribution (Titles 1 + 2 + 3)	29,668,506	30,261,876	30,867,114
	Total Fees and charges	11,913,156	12,145,805	12,347,496
Total		41,581,662	42,407,681	43,214,609

Complete tables are provided in Annex III.

Human resources**Table 5 – Human resources – Outlook 2024-2026¹⁴**

Human resources	2024 Requested	2025 ERA estimates	2026 ERA estimates
Temporary Agents (TA)	166 ¹⁵	166	166
Contract Agents (CA)	36 ¹⁶	36	36
Seconded National Experts (SNE)	4 ¹⁷	4	4
Total staff	206	206	206
External staff financed from agreements	3	p.m.	p.m.
Structural service providers	9	9	9

Complete tables are provided in Annex IV & Annex V.

¹⁴ Expressed in terms of number of posts (headcounts), except for “External staff financed from agreements” where FTE is used to ensure compliance with Table 11 - Additional EU funding: grant, contribution and service-level agreements in Annex IV.

¹⁵ Of which 28 assigned to Fees and charges

¹⁶ Of which 8 assigned to Fees and charges

¹⁷ Of which 0 assigned to Fees and charges

Strategy for achieving efficiency gains

The Agency is committed to continuously improving its functioning, streamlining its processes, optimising the engagement of its staff, and allowing for the reallocation of resources to the most important priorities. In the course of 2021, the Agency worked quite intensively on efficiency gains. This work progressed until the end of 2021 and led to the drafting of the Strengthening Plan, finalised, and endorsed by the Management Board at the beginning of 2022. The purpose of the Strengthening Plan is to make the strongest possible case in order to strengthen the Agency with resources matching the level of ambition necessary for achieving the important EC policy objectives for rail, in an effective and efficient manner, and benefit from high levels of ambition and efficiency within ERA's structure and methods.

With the document serving as a basis for the internal EC budget negotiations in 2022, the Agency received a proposed increase of 12 TAs in 2022. While the additional TA allocation is lower compared to the request from the Strengthening Plan (12 TAs proposed out of the 22 TAs requested), it can offer a good basis for the Agency to proceed with the implementation of the Strengthening Plan.

Following the adoption of the aforementioned plan, the Agency prepared the Strengthening Action Plan (SAP) 2023-2027, which details the actions that will be carried out within the next five years to strengthen the Agency's efficiency. The SAP 2023-2027 is organised along the following components/objectives:

- a) Drive an optimal resourcing of the following policy priority areas, matched by proportional outputs and outcomes, including efficiency gains:
 - o NSA and Nobo monitoring
 - o ERTMS and radio communication evolution
 - o TSI related work
 - o Clean-up of national rules
 - o CSM ASLP
 - o Digitalisation of the Agency's registers
- b) Maintain proper resourcing and further efficiency gains for the authority tasks,
- c) Ensure a reduction in the Agency's administrative FTE allocation while maintaining regularity and legality. This will be possible thanks to but not limited to:
 - o A workload analysis
 - o The Leaning of processes
 - o A training programme to facilitate the transition and provide the required technical skills to staff moving from administrative tasks to operational ones
- d) Ensure the overall projected FTE evolution by 2027
- e) Ensure effective and efficient budget management (planning and execution), appropriate risk management

In order to ensure active involvement from all units across the agency and to monitor the implementation of the SAP, an internal task force has been set up in 2023. This task force ensures optimal communication across the Agency on the SAP and its milestones, as well as the implementation of key milestones. Finally, the Strengthening Action Plan has been added to the Strategic Calendar of the Executive Board of the Agency. A rapporteur has been appointed in 2023, who will support, guide, and monitor the implementation throughout 2024-2026.

Negative priorities / decrease of existing tasks

Paused activities for the year 2024

- *NSA Annual Performance review*
- *Review of NIB accident investigation reports*

Stretched and targeted outputs for the year 2024

- The Agency has been working on the Common Safety Methods on the assessment of Safety Level and Safety Performance for several years, following its mandate. It also is one of the priorities of the Strengthening Action Plan. However, an information sharing system is needed to prevent future accidents and improve safety as a whole. The Agency does not have sufficient resources to create such tool. The Agency has therefore developed a paper with the resources required to develop and implement such tool, along with a timeline and the stages of implementation. The Information Sharing System (ISS) would require an estimated 2,375,000 EUR budget and a total of 8 FTEs. Based on substantial efforts, given the already very stretched budget envelope, the Agency allocated 185,000 EUR from its budget in 2024 to carry out the preliminary work for ISS-Stage 1. This investment needs to be complemented with the requested FTEs and budget (as per the dedicated SOS paper submitted to the MB), in order to ensure the project materialises its outputs and impacts.
- The Agency will continue to work intensely on its NSA monitoring activities, as it is one of the policy priorities highlighted in the Strengthening Action Plan. However, there is a need to develop together with Member States a new Priority Countries Programme (PCP) at EU level, with a broader approach including more railway stakeholders such as Member States, NSA/NIB, RUs, IMs, AsBo, NoBo, Notifying Authorities, National Accreditation Bodies and other checking bodies, and finally other operational stakeholders such as ECM, and wagon keepers. The PCP has the potential to provide a more holistic picture of railway safety and interoperability in the Member State, and to bring further changes to improve safety across the EU. In order to deliver this new initiative, the Agency would need an additional 50,000 EUR per year, along with 3 FTEs.

III. Annual Work programme 2024

Executive summary

The Annual Work Programme for 2024 details all the projects and services which will be carried out to contribute to the Agency's goals in the year. The structure of the Work Programme has been organised against desired long-term outcomes, implementing therefore an effective multi-annual work programme with developed objectives, as well as the intervention logic.

The annual work programme 2024 had been aligned to the priorities listed in the Agency's Strengthening Plan and the corresponding implementing document (SAP 2023-2027), which represents an anchor for the planning in SPD 2024 and the subsequent ones.

The Agency's efforts in 2024 are particularly focused on:

- **Technical and operational barriers:** The Agency will work towards the reduction of technical and operations barriers within the rail market through, among others, the amendment of TSIs to be aligned with the technical innovations, harmonisation of national rules among MSs, continuous NoBo monitoring, the delivery of 4th Railway package activities (SSC, ERTMS TA, VA), and the deployment of ERTMS.
- **Safety:** The Agency will strengthen safety on rail through the development of a safety culture, the monitoring of National Safety Authority, the Common Safety Methods on Assessment of Safety Level and Safety Performance (within the boundaries linked to the resource constraints for the information sharing system), and other relevant projects.
- **Data developments and ticketing:** The Agency will continue to foster developments in the field of Linked data, as well as development under the TAP TSI. The Agency will continue its work on databases and registers optimisation.
- **Communication and dissemination:** The Agency will increase communicating and disseminating relevant information and knowledge to its stakeholders, as well as organising events and showcase the interesting projects and developments within the rail sector.
- **Good governance:** The Agency will strive for governance excellence and efficiency in all of its activities and will continue its efforts for improving budget execution rates and overall compliance and performance.

To best illustrate the alignment between SPD 2024 and SAP 2023-2027, the indicators and targets which contribute to the Strengthening Action Plan are indicated with a ticked box in the annual tables hereinbelow. Moreover, the number of FTEs linked to SAP 2023-2027 is also highlighted in a separate column.

Activities

Strategic statement 1 – There will no longer be any technical and operational barriers to the free movement of people and goods by rail, assets can be reused throughout Europe.

<p>Expected outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical barriers to the free movement of people and goods by rail are eliminated • Operational barriers to the free movement of people and goods by rail are eliminated • All rail assets can be re-used across the EU <p>The expected outcomes are further detailed to the following intermediate outcomes more directly linked to the Agency’s safety portfolio:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ERTMS is fully implemented on rolling stock by all Railway Undertakings 2. ERTMS is fully implemented on railway infrastructure by all Infrastructure Managers 3. All railway rolling stock is TSI compliant by all Rus across the EU. (exc. TAP/TAF & OPE) 4. All railway infrastructure is TSI compliant by all Ims across the EU 5. National rules (rolling stock & fixed installation) are harmonised across the EU 6. All relevant railway-related data is shared in an open and transparent way so that it is utilisable and useful for the sector
<p>Outcome indicators</p> <p>Note: they will be further developed in future SPDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonisation and reduction of Member-State specific National rules (both national safety rules and national technical rules) via SRD • Number of international passenger/freight trains at selected border stations (interoperability reports) • Number of hours spent at cross-border operations • ERTMS trackside deployment in the EU • Vehicles equipped with ERTMs in the EU • Number of open type 3 issues when issuing VA and TA/ overall number of certificates issued • Number of VA and TA issued with reduced validity period/ overall number of certificates issued • Number of data consumption of registers
<p>Expected resource envelope:</p> <p>Human resources¹⁸ 70.05 FTEs + 10.03 additional FTE’s from SAP implementation</p> <p>Financial resources¹⁹ € 3,766,092 (out of which € 1,824,000 for NSA costs & € 212,004 for PoE costs)</p>	
<p>Fee-based</p>	<p>Partially</p>

¹⁸ The human resources are shown in FTE, not headcount. For more information, please refer to Annex IV.

¹⁹ The financial resources shown here only take into account the direct operational expenditures. For a comprehensive view on the financial resources including all costs such as staff salary, IT costs etc, please refer to Annex II.

Project Name	FTE	FTE from SP	Budget assigned	SP	Output indicator	Output Target
000MRA1138						
NoBos monitoring	4.01	2.05	€ 80,000		No. of reports for NoBos audit/inspection sent to NoBos for comments after the onsite visit.	At least 9 reports
					No. of reports for NoBos audit/inspection delivered	At least 4 reports
				✓	A new common framework for NoBos, DeBos and AsBo assessment and monitoring set up by the Agency (new legal base may be needed)	Final draft agreed with EC as a basis for a future legislative proposal
				✓	Learning from NoBo monitoring/ Forum of best practices	Organised when the 1st audit cycle is at an advanced stage
				✓	No. of NoBo audits performed per year	15
ERA1172						
Harmonising railway operations	2.98	1.54	€ 25,000		Increased harmonisation of operations - support EC with TDD renewal	100% of EC requests answered
					Maintenance of TSI OPE text (Manage CRs, manage issued AMOCs, develop guidance, supporting COM)	100% of requests treated
				✓	Increased harmonisation of operations - implement new structure for TSI OPE	Phased implementation of new structure
				✓	Increased performance of and trust in MS as control level - manage NSRs cleaning-up process 2.0 (compliance with TSI OPE 2023, incl. impact of TO, if relevant)	100% of planned MS assessed (incl. impact of earlier TO if relevant)
				✓	Increased performance of SMS - draft new regulation of Type 5 NSR	Draft new regulation – and develop guidance/ training

ERA1175						
TSIs maintenance	3.55	1.03	€ 45,000		CCM process established to ensure the maintenance of the TSIs	6 Working Party meeting days - CCM tool available for the stakeholders
					CR on Combined Transport	CR closed
					CRs on innovative solutions from ERJU	CRs managed in line with ERJU input
					TSI INF Revision	TWG established and TSI structure agreed
					TSI maintenance progress	10 CRs finalised
					Update on the guides on ERA website	All guides updated
					Support dissemination activities, including conferences and training	Provided
				✓	CCM ready for processing System Pillar	CCM implemented for all requests
				✓	CR Energy measurements	Closed
				✓	CR Noise of parked trains	Closed
				✓	CR on platform/train interface	Closed
				✓	CR RIV/Dangerous goods	Closed
				✓	CR Unique Authorisations	Specific Cases for coaches
				✓	CRs on Standards	TO EN updates
✓	TSI as a global standard	International Strategy finalised				
✓	TSI Dissemination Workshops	4				
ERA1177						
Learning from TSIs	0.95	0.45	€ 8,550		Support to NOBOs	100 % Participation to NB Rail PLE and STR
				✓	Support to EC (TO/Advice/Derogations/NoBos) within agreed deadlines	100%
ERA1193						

Research and Innovation (S)	0.96	€ 5,000		Europe's Rail JU projects of interest for the Agency monitored	Research projects with ERA level of interest 3 (high interest) monitored with yearly report
				List of Europe's Rail JU projects of interest for the Agency identified	100% of JU new projects analysed
				Support to the Europe's Rail JU and cooperation with other bodies on research	At least one written communication on the Agency's research needs to the relevant bodies
ERA1209					
Revision of VA guides and procedures	2.62	€ 8,000		Proportion of problems detected during vehicle authorisation activities (including pre-engagement and notifications) for which solutions are proposed	5 VA return of experience meetings
				Proportion of problems detected during vehicle authorisation activities (including pre-engagement and notifications) for which solutions are proposed	95%
				Proportion of problems related to vehicle authorisation activities (including pre-engagement and notifications) reported by stakeholders for which solutions are proposed	95%
ERA1210					
Revision of ERTMS Trackside approval	1.62	€ 15,200		Proportion of major problems assessed with a decision following the change control process	95%
ERA1213					
Board of Appeal (BoA)	0.80	€ 52,250		Issuance of findings and decisions of the Board of Appeal on time, according to the Agency's role as the Registrar for the Board of Appeal	≥95%

ERA1217						
Business helpdesk VA, SSC and ERTMS Trackside approval	1.76		-		Improvement plan	Implemented
					Proportion of the requests on the Agency scope of work addressed to the business helpdesk answered within 10 working days for 2021	90%
ERA1218						
Manage ERTMS long term evolution	7.92	3.64	€ 250,000		CCS TSI - Enhanced framework	CCS TSI Amendment
					CCS TSI - Maintenance and operational activities	Organisation of ERA-ENISA Cybersecurity conference
					CCS TSI - Maintenance and operational activities	Organisation of ERTMS Conference
					ERTMS - Enhanced framework	Delivery of SUBSET-153, SUBSET-076 and SUBSET-151
					ERTMS - Enhanced framework	Delivery of Technical Opinion on FRMCS V2 specifications
					ERTMS - Maintenance and operational activities	Publication of the ERTMS BCA report (incl. results of ERA questionnaires) according to TSI CCS point 7.2.10 - Specifications maintenance
					ERTMS - Maintenance and operational activities	Update of ETCS generic handbook
					Support dissemination activities, including conferences and training	Provided
					✓ CCS TSI - Maintenance and operational activities	Publication of CCS TSI Application Guide

				✓	CCS TSI - Maintenance and operational activities (Support for the EU-wide deployment of ERTMS, including economic impact analysis to inform possible public investment prioritisation (e.g. by CINEA))	Requests of CINEA- DG Move 100% assessed
				✓	CCS TSI - Enhanced framework- analysis on phasing out the checks to prove the technical compatibility of on-board units with different ERTMS trackside implementations and to achieve harmonisation of engineering and operational rules for the SERA	CCS TSI Article 12 - analysis delivered according to the deadline set in art. 12 CCS TSI
ERA1221						
Delivery SSC, VA, ERTMS Trackside approvals	8.60		€ 15,000		Issuing ERTMS Trackside Approvals - Proportion of decisions taken according to the legal framework deadlines	100%
					Issuing Single Safety Certificates - Proportion of decisions taken according to the legal framework deadlines (for completeness and assessment phases)	100%
					Issuing Vehicle Authorisation, including ERTMS on-board assessments - Proportion of decisions taken according to the legal framework deadlines (for completeness and assessment phases)	100%
					Support dissemination activities, including conferences, training, and webinars	Provided
ERA1226						
Registers Operation and Development	7.45	0.62	€ 664,000		CCM process established to ensure a harmonised maintenance across all ERA Registers and TSIs	CCM tool available for the stakeholders
					Development of a cloud-based tool for CR management across all TSIs (incl. registers and	Q3 2025

		various technical documents) ensuring a more user-friendly interface	
		Development of an approval workflow for VKM in SRM	December 2024
		Development of the RINF Application in accordance with Article 6 of RINF Regulation (EU) 2019/777 (2023 amendments)	(1) End of testing phase Q2 2024; (2) End of deployment phase Q3 2024
		ERADIS - Avg. processing time for ServiceDesk requests, document publication and users support	10 days
		ERADIS - Release 6.0	In production by Decemebr 2024
		ERATV - % of submitted records published or clarification requested	95%
		ERATV - Avg. processing time for ServiceDesk requests and users support	10 days
		ERATV - Release 3.0	100% approved CRs delivered
		EVR - Avg. migration time of received local NVRs (data) migrated to EVR	6 months
		EVR - Avg. processing time for ServiceDesk requests, lettermarking codes and users support	10 days
		EVR - Release 4.0	In production by December 2024
		OCR - Avg. processing time for ServiceDesk requests and Organisation Codes management	10 days
		RINF - Avg. processing time for ServiceDesk requests	10 days
		SAIT - Avg. processing time for ServiceDesk requests and user support	10 working days

				SAIT - Release 2.0	2024
				SRD - Avg. processing time for ServiceDesk requests, lettermarking codes and users support	10 days
				SRD - Release 3.0	In production by December 2024
				VKMR - Vehicle Keeper Merking list publication	Monthly publication
				Setting-up and finalisation of a pilot with volunteering IMs supporting the development of the RINF Application towards automated upload of data by IMs into RINF based on existing IMs' data models	Q2 2024
				RINF data provision dashboard	Presented to EB and MB once a year
				✓ EVR - Agency becoming a registration entity for vehicles at the EU level	Workflows put in place provided the EVR legal act was amended accordingly
				✓ Exploratory work for Eurocontrol for railways, including the traffic management and economic regulation aspects	Draft concept paper developed and discussed with EC
ERA1240					
Management of Innovation and Long-term evolution of the Agency	3.00		€ 14,250	ERA contribution to the System Pillar activities	At least 2 position papers / comments on SP documents delivered
				ERA use of outputs from EU Rail JU	Mature CRs from the SP integrated into the ERA CCM process
				Technological watch activity	Update of the compelling vision published on ERA website before 31/12/2024
ERA1243					

Executing VA	18.85		€ 1,847,556		Executing VA	Legal deadlines and according to the process
ERA1244						
Executing TA	1.80		€ 188,448		Executing ERTMS TA	Legal deadlines and according to the process
ERA-DRO-010						
OSS releases	1.88		€ 545,838		Proportion of significant problems detected during operation for which solutions are available in a next release.	95%
ERA-PRG-006						
National Technical Rules management	1.30	0.70	€ 2,000		Examination of notified national rules for fixed installations	100% of notified NRs assessed according to Art 25 and 26 of ERA Regulation
					Examination of notified national rules for vehicle authorisation	100% of notified NRs assessed according to Art 25 and 26 of ERA Regulation
					Migration of national rules for vehicle authorisation from RDD to SRD	All rules in addition to TSIs migrated
				✓	Inclusion in TSIs of requirements from NRs	33% of introduced CRs Closed

Strategic statement 2 – Rail will become the backbone that supports an environmentally sustainable multimodal transport system and will be favoured as a transport mode by the new generations.

Strategic statement 3 – Rail traffic will become seamless and MaaS (Mobility as a Service) and LaaS (Logistic as a Service) will be ensured, including multi-leg ticketing.

<p>Expected outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved synergies with other transport modes, placing railways at the core of the new multimodal transport system • Sustainability of railways will be further enhanced and showcased • Rail is the preferred mode of transport of new generations • Seamless rail traffic • Mobility as a service and Logistics as a service are ensured • Multi-leg ticketing supports the new multimodal transport system in the EU
<p>Outcome indicators</p> <p>Note: they will be further developed in future SPDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of implementation of TAF and TAP TSI as monitored through the annual “Safety and Interoperability Progress Report” • Evolution in share of rail (both passenger and freight) in the EU’s transport market compared to air, road or maritime transport • GHG emission from rail compared with other transport modes (shares %)
<p>Expected resource envelope:</p> <p>Human resources²⁰</p> <p>Financial resources²¹</p>	<p>2.85 FTE + 0.10 additional FTE’s from SAP implementation</p> <p>€ 42,538</p>
<p>Fee-based</p>	<p>No</p>

²⁰ The human resources are shown in FTE, not headcount. For more information, please refer to Annex IV.

²¹ The financial resources shown here only take into account the operational expenditures. For a comprehensive view on the financial resources including all costs such as staff salary, IT costs etc, please refer to Annex II.

Project Name	FTE	FTE from SP	Budget assigned	SP	Output indicator	Output Target
006REC1128						
Manage the evolution of Telematics application for freight (TAF TSI)	1.16		€ 18,050		Change requests included in TAF technical appendices, according to the CCM process	Q4 2024
					Monitoring of the TAF TSI implementation - progress report on Year -1	Q2 2024
					Recommendation about the revised TAF TSI delivered to DG MOVE	Q1 2024
					Compliance assessment check requested for TSIs on telematics applications to include interfaces with other regulations under the aegis of ERA (e.g. OPE TSI, RINF, ERA Vocabulary)	100% of compliance assessment reports produced in due time (3 months)
					Participation to the Commission's meetings related to the Digital Transport and Logistic Forum and eFTI Regulation	Participation to the Commission's meetings related to the Digital Transport and Logistic Forum and eFTI Regulation
ERA1234						
Green agenda	0.10		€ 4,038		Annual topical report	Report published and event around the results of the report organised
ERA-REC-122						
Manage the evolution of Telematics application for passengers (TAP TSI)	1.00	0.10	€ 10,450		Change requests included in TAP technical appendices, according to the CCM process	Q2 and Q4 2024
					Monitoring of the TAP TSI implementation - progress report on Year -1	Q2 2024

				Recommendation about the revised TAP TSI delivered to DG MOVE	Q1/2024
				Participation to the meetings related CEN/TC278/WG3	60% participation based on priority topics
				Participation to the meetings related to the NAPCORE project	60% participation based on priority topics
				Compliance assessment check requested for TSIs on telematics applications to include interfaces with other regulations under the aegis of ERA (e.g. OPE TSI, RINF, ERA Vocabulary)	100% of compliance assessment reports produced in due time (3 months)
				✓ Progress with the specifications for multi-leg ticketing	Specifications finalised
				Ontology extended to allow for data upload for the Inventory of assets	End 2024
ERA-WKG-015					
TDG Coordination	0.59		€ 10,000	No. of meetings where ERA supports the EC in accordance with the AR art. 17.	15

Strategic statement 4 – Rail will be an increasingly safe and secure mode of transport for its users and workers.

<p>Expected outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved safety and security on rail Improved safety and security for rail workers <p>The expected outcomes are further detailed to the following intermediate outcomes more directly linked to the Agency’s safety portfolio:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All railway operators – IM, RU, ECM – understand and accept their responsibility and actively implement an SMS to control the risks of operational activities; An increased performance of and trust in the different safety related control levels in the system – ERA, MS, NSA, ASBO, ECM CB, accreditation, recognition, NIB; Safety and safety management/performance related data is shared in an open and transparent way;
<p>Outcome indicators</p> <p>Note: they will be further developed in future SPDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of open type 3 issues when issuing SSC’s/ overall number of certificates issued Number of SSC’s issued with reduced validity period/ overall number of certificates issued Number of appeals made by operators in a year linked to SSC certification/ average number of SSC’s issued per year Percentage of NSA’s audited with at least 1 deficiency (focused on deficiencies still open from the 1st cycle). Note: this is a rolling indicator NSA Monitoring: number of deficiencies still open (follow-up of the 1st cycle) vs number of deficiencies of the 1st cycle (rolling indicator) Note: this is a rolling indicator Number of peer reviewed NIB’s Number of volunteering NIBs to participate in the NIB peer review/ total number of NIB’s (on a yearly basis)
<p>Expected resource envelope:</p> <p>Human resources²²</p> <p>Financial resources²³</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28.65 FTE’s + 4.13 additional FTE’s from SAP implementation € 1,258,487 (out of which € 744,000 for NSA costs & € 134,484 for PoE costs)
<p>Fee-based</p>	<p>Partially</p>

²² The human resources are shown in FTE, not headcount. For more information, please refer to Annex IV.

²³ The financial resources shown here only take into account the operational expenditures. For a comprehensive view on the financial resources including all costs such as staff salary, IT costs etc, please refer to Annex II.

Project Name	FTE	FTE from SP	Budget assigned	SP	Output indicator	Output Target
001MRA1116						
NSA Monitoring implementation	4.62	2.26	€ 160,000		No. of audit reports delivered	At least 4
					No. of audit reports sent to NSA for comments after the onsite visit	At least 6
					Support dissemination activities, including conferences, training, and webinars	Provided on request
				✓	Observation of NSA Supervision activities e.g. RUs where the Agency has issued the SC	To be included in the NSA monitoring service, when relevant
				✓	No. of NSA audits performed	9
				✓	Proper learning from the NSA monitoring	Follow-up of deficiencies ensured
004SST1088						
Develop Safety Culture	1.93		€ 41,500		Delivery of the report on the development of a safety culture according to Art. 29 (2) of Directive (EU) 2016/798	Report delivered
ERA1167						
Sustainable safety management	5.16		€ 36,250		Strengthen ASBO control level - coordination of ASBO (meetings, RFU development, etc.)	3 working group meetings organised, 3 technical meetings organised, support material published/delivered
					Strengthen ASBO control level - Development of assessment scheme for Assessment bodies (CSM RA) and Collaboration with EA / IC (European cooperation for accreditation / Inspection committee)	3 work group and 3 task force meetings organised

			Strengthen ECM control layer - develop, deliver and maintain guidance material on ECM certification	Support material published or delivered (in collaboration with ERA Academy): Revision of the guideline initiation (to be continued in 2025 and 2026), Data collection through ECM survey
			Strengthen ECM control level - coordination of ECM certification bodies (meetings, RFU development, etc.)	3 coordination meetings organised
			Strengthen SMS - develop, deliver and maintain guidance material on SMS (incl. app, website, etc.)	Support material published or delivered (in collaboration with ERA Academy)
			Strengthen SMS - develop, deliver and maintain guidance material on TDG risk management	3 EUDG Sub Group meetings organised (Harmonised scenarios, Risk Management Platform development) organised, support material developed
			Strengthen SMS (TDG) - coordination of EUDG meetings	2 EUDG plenary meetings organised
			Strengthen SMS (TDG) - development of the Risk Management Platform (RMP)	RMP proof-of-concept/Beta V3.1; reference manual V3.1
ERA1168				
Learning from safety performance	1.35	€ 5,000	Strengthening NIB control layer - bilateral feedback provided to # NIB (possibly to be combined with NIB peer review)	100% delivered on request

				Strengthening SMS - study on the potential use of operational data for safety management	study started
ERA1208					
Revision of SSC guides and procedures	1.32		€ 8,000	% of change requests implemented following the decision from the change control board to execute them during the year	95%
				Collection of feedback, identification of lessons learned and possible improvement for ERA guides and procedures	5 SSC plenary meetings and 2 Peer Review Group meetings
ERA1219					
Common Safety Methods on Assessment of Safety Level and Safety Performance	3.50	1.87	€ 8,503	Support to Operators and Authorities	Satisfaction of railway stakeholders
				Training activity	Training material delivered and experienced
				✓ CSM Development	Technical Opinion on Annex I updated according to the lessons learned
				✓ CSM guidance/training	Guide on ISS functioning published
				✓ GoA/JNS fast track procedure	GoA/JNS proposal
				✓ GoA/JNS normal track procedure	GoA proposal & ERA follow-up report
				✓ Management of the Group of Analysts	Implementation of GoA workplan during CSM ASLP phase I
				✓ Support to implementation of CSM ASLP and ISS users ²⁴	Business support to ISS users
ERA1224					

²⁴ Depending on the progress made with the ISS system implementation (also linked to the outcome of the SOS paper)

Support to NIB Peer Review	0.33	€ 14,250	ERA to attend as observer, at least remotely, to the meetings of NIB Peer Reviewed	Attend to, at least, 50% of NIBs Peer Review meetings
			Report on the first peer review cycle	Report delivered
ERA1236				
Integration of Human and Organisational Factors	1.19	€ 10,000	Collaboration on HOF topics to build and share knowledge	HOF Collaboration with organisations and research institutes in railways and other safety domains
			Dissemination on HOF topics	Active collaboration in development/promotion of RailHOF platform
			Dissemination on HOF topics	bi-annual HOF conference
			Dissemination on HOF topics	HOF network meeting
			Training on specific HOF topics	Develop HOF-expert competency framework (TF to set up after agreement of HOF network in 2023)
			Training on specific HOF topics	Review of the HOF toolkit and associated documentation/training 2 years after publication
ERA1242				
Executing SSC	7.20	€ 877,484	Executing SSC	Legal deadlines and according to the process
ERA1249				
Safety Trainings and Assistance to Rail Stakeholders (STARS)	2.05	€ 97,500	Assistance delivered according to the request assessment	100%
			Requests for assistance assessed	100%
			Requests for safety trainings assessed	100%
			Trainings delivered according to the request assessment	100%

Strategic statement 5 – Rail will be resilient and agile in responding to emergency situations

Expected outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience of the rail sector to emergency situations and external events Agility of the rail sector to respond quickly and efficiently to emergency situations
Outcome indicators	The indicators will be developed in future SPDs, as no projects will contribute to the achievement of the statement in 2024.
Expected resource envelope:	
Human resources	0 FTEs
Financial resources	€ 0
Fee-based	No

Strategic statement 6 – Rail will become increasingly economically competitive as a mode and as a sector.

Expected outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic competitiveness of the rail sector compared with other modes of transport
Outcome indicators Note: they will be further developed in future SPDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolution in rail traffic in absolute terms Proportion of rail vs road and air transport, for passenger and freight rail in the EU Number of pax-km per passenger train-km Number of tonne-km per freight train-km Average ERTMS costs (trackside and on-board)
Expected resource envelope:	
Human resources ²⁵	3.28 FTE
Financial resources ²⁶	€ 80,400
Fee-based	No

²⁵ The human resources are shown in FTE, not headcount. For more information, please refer to Annex IV.

²⁶ The financial resources shown here only take into account the operational expenditures. For a comprehensive view on the financial resources including all costs such as staff salary, IT costs etc, please refer to Annex II.

Project Name	FTE	FTE from SP	Budget assigned	SP	Output indicator	Output Target
ERA1188						
Impact assessments	1.05		€ 15,200		Number of impact assessments delivered for recommendations and opinions	Number of IAs corresponds to the number recommendations delivered / number of opinions issued
					Task Force Report endorsed by ESG	Report delivered to the ESG by December
					IA on TSI specific cases	Delivered by end 2024
ERA1189						
Ex-post evaluations	0.56		€ 3,325		Number of completed ex-post evaluations	At least one
ERA1195						
Reporting on Railway System	0.78		€ 9,500		Annual assessment report on achievements of CSTs	31/03/2024
					Report on Safety and Interoperability	Available by end of Q2
ERA1196						
Data and information analysis	0.74		€ 52,375		Complete the targeted studies that are selected by the MT	Two targeted studies
					Contribute to follow-up activities of the ERA Safety Climate Survey, including the drafting of the safety culture report for the EC	Delivery to the EC by 16/06/24
ERA1223						
Women in transport	0.15		-		Thematic session WiT with the Agency's management team	Organised
					Thematic session WiT with the Agency's staff	Organised
					Speed networking event findings	Analysis performed and actions drawn

Strategic statement 7 – The EU will become the global reference for rail and ERA authorisations will be globally recognised.

Expected outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU is a global reference for railway certifications and integration ERA authorisations are recognised worldwide
Outcome indicators Note: they will be further developed in future SPDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of participants in ERA training sessions and other dissemination events
Expected resource envelope:	
Human resources ²⁷	10.22 FTE + 0.80 additional FTE's from SAP implementation
Financial resources ²⁸	€ 1,419,298
Fee-based	No

²⁷ The human resources are shown in FTE, not headcount. For more information, please refer to Annex IV.

²⁸ The financial resources shown here only take into account the operational expenditures. For a comprehensive view on the financial resources including all costs such as staff salary, IT costs etc, please refer to Annex II.

Project Name	FTE	FTE from SP	Budget assigned	SP	Output indicator	Output Target
ERA1145						
ERA Academy	3.58		€ 1,039,930		Implementation of the Academy related section of the Communication and dissemination plan	Implemented as planned
ERA1147						
Coordination of international relations	2.11		€ 60,000		Collaboration with OSJD	Ensured
					Collaboration with OTIF	Ensured
					Engagement with other international regulation bodies (Platform of regulators)	Ensured
					Support to EC in wider international engagement	Ensured
ERA1148						
Networks	1.03		€ 47,500		Networks - NIB cooperation	Organised
					Networks - NRB management and coordination	Organised
					Networks - NSA Network	Organised
ERA1161						
Online corporate communication	2.05		€ 214,368		Implementation of changes on the Agency's website	quarterly
					LinkedIn - Number of original posts	At least 6 posts per month
					Moodle platform availability	> 97% (excluding maintenance)
					Organising Webinars	At least 8 webinars/year
					Twitter - Number of original posts	At least 10 posts per month

				Twitter - Number of retweets	At least 12 retweets per month
				Website availability	> 97% (excluding maintenance)
				YouTube - Number of original videos	At least 2 videos per month
ERA1163					
Publications management	1.20		€ 47,500	Creating and implementing communication campaigns aiming at explaining ERA's mission, activities and added value	2 Communication Campaigns
				Strengthening and keeping the consistence of ERA corporate design	2 internal trainings delivered to ERA Staff
ERA1178					
Collaboration with European and international standardization organizations	0.25	0.80	€ 10,000	Assessment of the new standard version to be referred to in TSIs	New version assessed within the agreed deadlines
				ERA-UIC coordination	2 meetings held
				Participation to the meeting related (RASCOP, CLC/TC9X, CEN/TC256, ISO/TC269, ISO/TC204, IEC/TC9, ETSI)	50% participation based on priority topics
				✓ Draft EC request for EN standards	Provided

Strategic statement 8 - The Agency will ensure an effective and efficient governance of its portfolio of activities in order to offer the best value for money to citizens and business in the EU

<p>Expected outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective and efficient governance of the Agency’s portfolio • The Agency’s activities provide value for money guaranteed to EU citizens and businesses across the EU <p>The expected outcomes have been further detailed in the following intermediate outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digitalisation of the Agency: Single source of data for internal access; Single source of data for external access; Data is only introduced once 2. Staff understand the mission and vision of the Agency, internalise it and have the flexibility, the ownership/ autonomy with their activities, and a clear mutual understanding of their roles and responsibilities to actively contribute to the strategic direction of the Agency 3. The Agency has a sound and agile governance framework, whose processes and administration favour clarity, efficiency and decision making at the right level. 4. The SPD process steers the Agency' strategy and multi-annual work programme development in an integrated, evidence-based, and coordinated manner as well as the monitoring of its effectiveness. This can be achieved through interfacing with the internal stakeholders owning the strategies and the external stakeholders (EC, EB strategic calendar, etc) 5. SPD is the single reference (for internal and external stakeholders) for all critical tactical information providing the overarching view on the implementation of the projects and services 6. The Agency is a learning, ethical, legally complying organisation where the decision-making, the strong financial control, the monitoring and reporting processes give the ED the assurance of best value for money
<p>Outcome indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget discipline (% of deviation from annual budget) • Data is FAIR, measured on a scale
<p>Expected resource envelope:</p>	
<p>Human resources²⁹</p>	<p>27.75 FTE’s + 1.63 additional FTE’s from SAP implementation</p>
<p>Financial resources³⁰</p>	<p>€ 808,416</p>
<p>Fee-based</p>	<p>No</p>

²⁹ The human resources are shown in FTE, not headcount. For more information, please refer to Annex IV.

³⁰ The financial resources shown here only take into account the operational expenditures. For a comprehensive view on the financial resources including all costs such as staff salary, IT costs etc, please refer to Annex II.

Project Name	FTE	FTE from SP	Budget assigned	SP	Output indicator	Output Target
ERA1154						
Supporting EB and MB meetings	1.30		€ 76,000		% of mandatory decision topics for year N covered by the EB/MB meetings	100%
ERA1156						
Organisational strategic programming, monitoring and reporting	7.29		€ 156,000		Budget planning, monitoring and reporting	>95% of execution of C8 payment appropriations
					Budget planning, monitoring and reporting	>95% of payments made by contractual deadline
					Budget planning, monitoring and reporting	100% of budget transfers approved in line with ERA Financial Regulation provisions
					Budget planning, monitoring and reporting	Budget 2025 request encoded in BadgBudg
					Budget review	At least 6 budget reviews
					CAAR 2023	Adopted by MB
					SPD 2024 monitoring Dashboard	Presented to MT (monthly basis) and EB/MB (at every meeting)
					SPD 2024 substantial and non-substantial amendments	Adopted by MB (substantial)/ adopted by ED (non-substantial)
					SPD 2025-2027	First draft endorsed by MB in January and final document adopted by MB in November

			SPD 2026 - 2028	MB workshop organised and workshop report circulated to the participants
			Strategies identified, steered and monitored	2
			% of internal/ external requests for corporate performance related data and information addressed	100%
		✓	Budget planning, monitoring and reporting	<10% of carry-over of payment appropriations for T1
		✓	Budget planning, monitoring and reporting	<20% of carry-over of payment appropriations for T2
		✓	Budget planning, monitoring and reporting	<30% of carry-over of payment appropriations for T3
		✓	Budget planning, monitoring and reporting	>98% of appropriations committed
		✓	% of full time administrative equivalent work streamlined through efficiency gains	Ensure projected administrative FTE decrease in line with the SAP
		✓	% of SAP vacancies filled considering budget constraints	100%
		✓	% of SAP indicators/ targets for year N+1 on policy priority areas included and resourced in adopted SPD N+1	100%
		✓	Topics for which the SAP Task Force made progress: 1. workload analysis and process leaning, 2. matrix and portfolio management review, 3. training and capacity building, 4. budget, 5. synergies	Progress made for all topics

ERA1158						
Internal Management and Control System	3.80		-		% of nonconformities identified for which corrective/preventive actions are identified	100%
					Agency' most significant risks identified and assessed. Remedial actions plans in place.	Documented and reported in CAAR
					Agency's processes management - % of Agency processes revised in line with the ICF and leaning objectives	20%
					Audit implementation_% of IAS/ECA recommendations implemented in line with the action plan	100%
					Documented assessment of the effectiveness of the Internal control framework	Prepared and included in the CAAR
					Financial verification_ Residual error rate following ex-post control	≤2%
ERA1159						
Legal support	2.10		-		% of legal acts issued by the Agency, as defined by the Agency regulation, for which legal advice was provided	100%
ERA1160						
Accounting	1.20		-		Accounting - Opinion in the CoA annual report on reliable Agency accounts	Positive
ERA1162						
Media/press relation and crisis management	0.70		€ 28,500		Consolidating media relations management	Developing Media relations plan for 2024
					Consolidating media relations management	Develop narratives and key messages for ERA's domain of activity (ERTMS, TSI, safety, F&C, monitoring and analysis)
					Consolidating media relations management	Weekly media monitoring

				Reinforcing ERA’s ability to communicate effectively during a crisis	Conduct one internal lesson learnt exercise
				Reinforcing ERA’s ability to communicate effectively during a crisis	Review and improve crisis communication processes
				Reinforcing ERA’s ability to communicate effectively during a crisis	One training provided to the Crisis Communication Team
				Increased engagement with media	At least one press briefing to be organized in 2024
				Increased engagement with media	6 Press Releases to be published in 2024
				Increased engagement with media	Dedicated Press Room to be further developed on ERA’s website, facilitating constructive dialogue with media representatives
ERA1205					
Procurement Service	3.02		€ 2,500	No. of procurement procedures timely organised out of the total number of procurement procedures planned in the annual procurement plan	>90%
ERA1222					
Ethics service	0.13		-	% of Agency's staff trained on antifraud and Ethics	at least 15% per each type of training
				% of annual declaration of interests (DoI) submitted by staff members	at least 90%
ERA1225					

Management, control and support of ERA portfolio of projects and services	1.50		-		Communication of SPD outputs for which risks cannot be mitigated within Agency's control	90% of project outputs that will not be fully achieved communicated to the Management team
					Monthly reports for Agency's projects and services	95% collected
					Projects at risk of not achieving SPD outputs identified, causes analysed, mitigation measures proposed and implemented by the PM/SM, PO/SO	100% of mitigation measures proposed and implemented for projects at risk by the PM/SM, PO/SO
ERA1227						
Interoperable data	3.44	1.63	€ 540,666		Data and telematics conference	Done by December 2024
					Linked data programme implementation towards a data-centric organisation.	Reference data management procedure defined.
					Linked data programme implementation towards a data-centric organisation.	ERA vocabulary covers Safety related data (of the Agency's relevant information systems)
					Linked data programme implementation towards a data-centric organisation.	ERA vocabulary covers CCS TSI related data over railway infrastructure data
					Operation and availability of the KG and its services	> 95% system availability
					Support dissemination activities, including conferences and training	Provided
				✓	Migration of registers into a knowledge graph approach	EVR data migrated and in sync with the master database

			✓	Migration plan for the individual registers to a linked data approach, including the standardization of terminology through the ERA terminology	Migration plan finalised, based on legal requirements and business cases
				Preliminary work for ISS-Stage 1	1.Ontology implemented 2.Basic User interface 3.Machine to machine capability tested 4.Pilot chatbot for natural language queries of the knowledge graph
ERA1228					
Internal communication lifecycle	0.80		-	Staff engagement survey	Odd years: SES organised, action plan developed and approved/ Even years: closing of at least 70% of the follow-up actions from the action plan
ERA1231					
DPO (Data Protection Officer)	0.20		-	Percentage of pieces of advice and consultation provided on time	100%
ERA1235					
Better together at ERA	0.53		€ 4,750	ERA's culture reassessed	Understanding the evolution of ERA's culture following the implementation of the change plan
ERA1239					

SUMMA implementation at ERA	0.99			Support to the implementation of SUMMA within the Agency	First level support provided within 24 hours (either solution provided or escalation to DG BUDG)
				SUMMA related trainings (in house and Commission-organised) delivered	5
ERA1247					
Efficient Vehicle Authorisation	0.75			VA C2T applications: involvement with EVA prototype (internal EUAR users)	10 by Q4/2024

Strategic statement 9 - The Agency will ensure a performant working environment, based on high-quality motivated human resources and a collaborative behaviour

Expected outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performant working environment at the Agency • Collaborative behaviour showcased through all processes and deliveries of the Agency • High-quality service delivery
Outcome indicators Note: they will be further developed in future SPDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff satisfaction (evaluated through the Staff Engagement Survey or own survey with the same scope and questions) • Highly trained staff (checked through dimensions training performance such as the evolution of hours recorded on training in MS Project, training budget, number of PIT requests) • HR strategy action plan progress • Overtime (% worked above the 40 hours/week on a monthly basis, over 110%) • Cloud migration – infrastructure migrated to the cloud • ICT strategy action plan progress
Expected resource envelope:	
Human resources ³¹	26.69 FTE
Financial resources	€ 1,180,625 (Title 3 & 4.3) + € 2,687,000(Title 2 & 4.2) => € 3,867,625
Fee-based	Partially

³¹ The human resources are shown in FTE, not headcount. For more information, please refer to Annex IV.

Project Name	FTE	FTE from SP	Budget assigned	SP	Output indicator	Output Target
ERA1201						
ICT Service	10.91		€ 1,060,000 from relevant chapters in T3/T4.3 + € 1,340,000 from relevant chapters in T2/T4.2		Average yearly availability of the Critical IT systems	95%
					Average yearly availability of the Essential IT systems	95%
					Average yearly availability of the Necessary IT systems	93%
					Production environment of ARES put in place. Internal coordination on ARES implementation within the Agency	Q1
					ServiceDesk user satisfaction feedback "Very Good/Excellent" rate	>70%
ERA1202						
FM Service	7.35		€ 1,347,000 from relevant chapters in T2/T4.2		Execution of evacuation exercise at the ERA HQ	At least 1 exercise per year
					ServiceDesk users' satisfaction feedback "Very Good/Excellent" rate	>70%
ERA1203						
HR Service	7.63		€ 625		% implementation of the establishment plan	> 98%
					% implementation of the external personnel plan (CAs and SNEs)	>98%
					% of staff turnover	Lower or equal to 5%
					ServiceDesk users' satisfaction feedback "Good/Excellent" rate	>70%
ERA1251						

Securis@ERA	0.80	€ 120,000	Percentage of information assets in the inventory which have an up-to-date risk assessment	95%
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Methodological note:

A. FTEs – the resources are planned for the Strategic Statements (in line with the envelopes shown above), as well as for ERA Management and administration.

The table shows in a separate column (“Additional FTEs from SAP”) the allocation of the additional resources envisaged in the EC proposal (12 TAs).

The margin up to the maximum establishment plan accommodated the difference between headcount and FTEs (e.g. part time work etc.)

Strategic statement	FTE	Additional FTEs from SAP	Total FTE
Strategic statement 1	70.05	10.03	80.08
Strategic statement 2&3	2.85	0.10	2.95
Strategic statement 4	28.65	4.13	32.78
Strategic statement 5	-	-	-
Strategic statement 6	3.28	-	3.28
Strategic statement 7	10.22	0.80	11.02
Strategic statement 8	27.75	1.63	29.38
Strategic statement 9	26.69	-	26.69
ERA Management and administration	16.92	-	16.92
Total	186.41	16.69	203.10

B. Budget – the financial resources are planned as follows:

Expenditures	Note on the link to the P/S from the annual section	EU Subsidy	Fees and charges	Total
Staff costs	These are not included in the P/S budget envelopes in the annual section above	€ 22,654,387	€ 7,633,433	€ 30,287,819
Infrastructure operating expenditure	These are included in the budget for the ICT service and the FM service (StSt 9)	€ 2,146,913	€ 540,087	€ 2,687,000
Operational expenditure	These are included in the budget for all the P/S in StSt1 – StSt 9	€ 3,969,280	€ 3,526,576	€ 7,495,856
<i>Out of which costs for NSAs for the F&C</i>	<i>Allocated by ERA P/S (ERA1242,1243,1244)</i>	-	€ 2,568,000	€ 2,568,000
<i>Out of which costs for PoE for the F&C</i>	<i>Allocated by ERA P/S (ERA1242,1243,1244)</i>	-	€ 345,488	€ 345,488
Meetings, missions, other costs	Not allocated by ERA P/S	€ 50,986	-	€ 50,986
Other operational expenditure	Allocated under the ICT service in StSt9	€ 846,940	€ 213,060	€ 1,060,000
TOTAL		€ 29,668,506	€ 11,913,156	€ 41,581,662

Annexes

Annex I. Organisational chart

Figure 1 - Organisational chart as of 01/01/2024

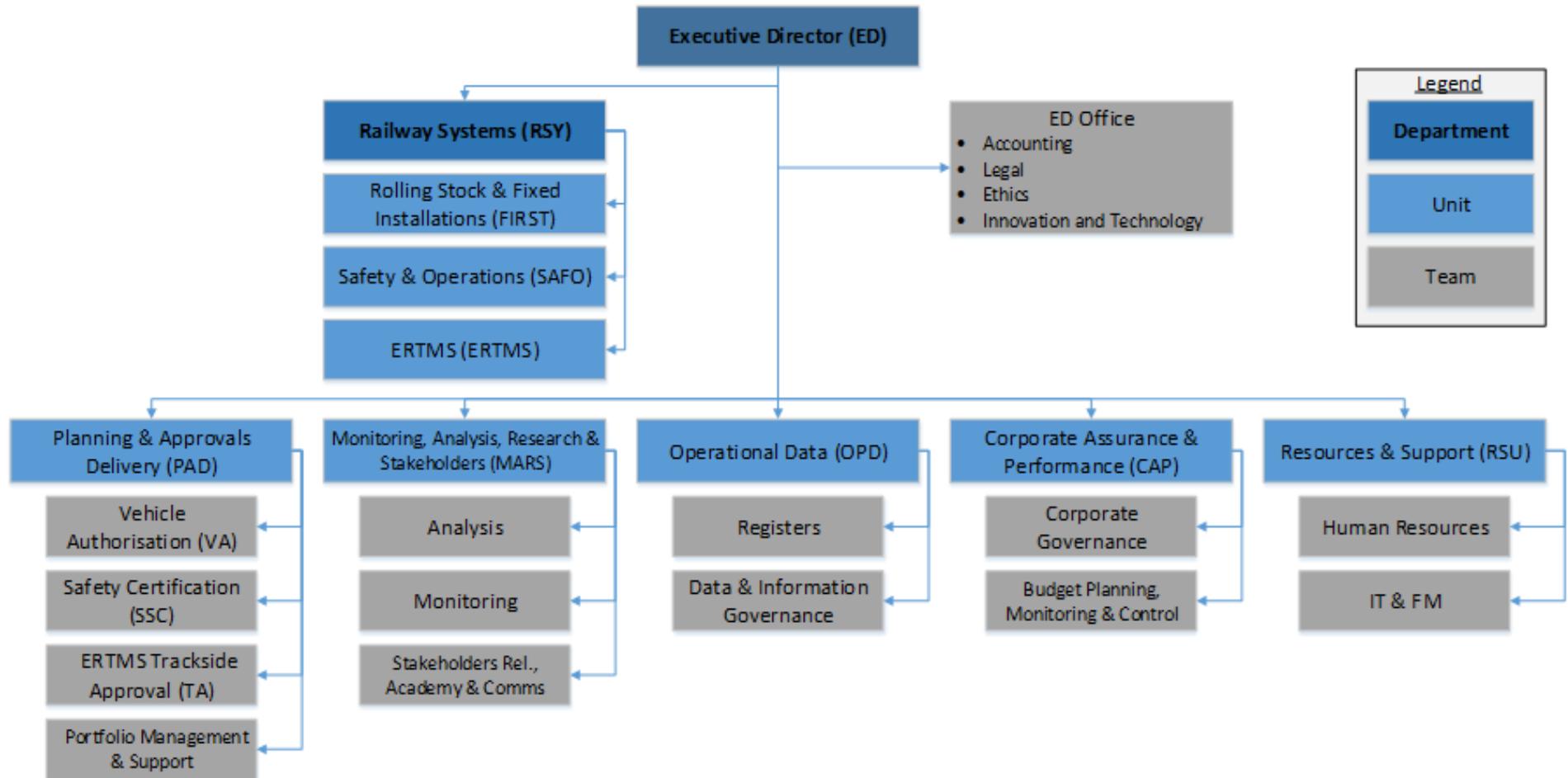


Table 6 - Number of posts for each organisational entity³²

Department, Unit, or Team	EU contribution & Fees & charges				Grants, Contrib. & SLAs				Grand Total
	TA	CA	SNE	Σ Posts	TA	CA	SNE	Σ Posts	
Executive Director (ED)	7	1		8					8
ED (general)	7	1		8					8
Railway Systems (RSY)	58	4	1	63		3		3	66
RSY (general)	9			9					9
ERTMS & Telematics (ERTMS)	18			18					18
Rolling Stock & Fixed Installations (FIRST)	17			17		1		1	18
Safety & Operations (SAFO)	14	4	1	19		2		2	21
Planning & Approvals Delivery (PAD)	24	10		34					34
PAD (general)	4	3		7					7
ERTMS Trackside Approval (TA)	2	1		3					3
Portfolio Management & Support	4	3		7					7
Safety Certification (SSC)	5			5					5
Vehicle Authorisation (VA)	9	3		12					12
Monitoring, Analysis, Research & Stakeholders (MARS)	28	7		35					35
MARS (general)	5	1		6					6
Analysis	6			6					6
Monitoring	12			12					12
Stakeholders Relations, Academy & Communications	5	6		11					11
Operational Data (OPD)	16	4	2	22					2
OPD (general)	3	1	1	5					5
Data & Information Governance	6	1	1	8					8
Registers	7	2		9					9
Corporate Assurance & Performance (CAP)	14	3	1	18					18
CAP (general)	4	1		5					5
Budget Planning, Monitoring & Control	5			5					5
Corporate Governance	5	2	1	8					8
Resources & Support (RSU)	19	7		26					26
RSU (general)	1			1					1
Human Resources	6	1		7					7
IT & FM	12	6		18					18
<i>to be assigned</i>									
Grand Total	166	36	4	206		3		3	209

³² Expressed in terms of headcount, as of 01/01/2024. This includes all posts, including vacancies.

Annex II. Resource allocation per activity 2024 - 2026³³Table 7 - Resource allocation 2023 - 2026³⁴

Activity	Revenue source	2023				2024				2025				2026			
		Σ FTE	TA	CA + SNE	Budget €	Σ FTE	TA	CA + SNE ³⁵	Budget €	Σ FTE	TA	CA + SNE	Budget €	Σ FTE	TA	CA + SNE	Budget €
StSt 1	EU contrib.	45.4	41.6	3.8	8,376,125	43.4	39.5	3.9	8,211,079	46.7	43.0	3.6	9,304,117	47.4	44.1	3.3	9,624,466
	F&C	29.1	22.3	6.8	7,451,321	33.7	26.3	7.4	8,505,519	33.7	26.5	7.2	8,711,431	33.7	26.6	7.1	8,861,117
	G, C, SLA	3.1	2.4	0.7	475,410	3.0	2.7	0.3	600,800	1.5	1.4	0.1	395,250				0
StSt 2-3	EU contrib.	3.6	2.9	0.7	667,943	3.0	2.8	0.1	535,364	3.0	2.8	0.1	545,409	3.0	2.8	0.1	556,769
StSt 4	EU contrib.	22.4	18.8	3.6	3,862,208	25.6	21.2	4.4	4,447,181	23.5	19.6	3.9	4,361,311	23.1	19.5	3.6	4,239,430
	F&C	5.2	4.0	1.2	1,826,773	7.2	5.9	1.3	2,144,390	7.2	6.0	1.2	2,179,286	7.2	6.2	1.0	2,222,742
StSt 5	EU contrib.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
StSt 6	EU contrib.	3.1	3.1	0.0	564,902	3.3	3.3	0.0	635,759	3.3	3.3		647,106	3.3	3.3		659,928
StSt 7	EU contrib.	8.9	4.1	4.8	1,854,087	11.0	5.9	5.1	2,976,189	10.7	5.8	4.9	2,734,483	10.5	5.8	4.7	2,944,176
	G, C, SLA	1.0	0.2	0.8	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
StSt 8	EU contrib.	29.4	19.9	9.5	4,835,075	29.4	21.2	8.2	5,286,754	31.1	22.9	8.3	5,489,312	31.2	22.9	8.3	5,612,257
StSt 9	EU contrib.	26.5	18.5	8.0	5,049,440	26.7	20.1	6.6	5,303,205	26.9	20.1	6.8	5,413,661	26.9	20.1	6.8	4,448,370
M&A ³⁶	EU contrib.	16.8	14.5	2.3	3,009,808	8.8	7.6	1.3	2,272,975	8.7	7.3	1.3	1,766,477	8.8	7.4	1.4	2,781,717
	F&C	6.3	4.9	1.4	1,554,241	8.1	6.4	1.7	1,263,247	8.1	6.4	1.7	1,255,088	8.1	6.5	1.6	1,263,637
Σ EU contribution		156.1	123.4	32.7	28,219,589	151.1	121.6	29.6	29,668,506	153.9	124.9	29.0	30,261,876	154.2	125.9	28.3	30,867,114
Σ Fees and charges		40.6	31.2	9.5	10,859,649	49.0	38.6	10.4	11,913,156	49.0	38.9	10.1	12,145,805	49.0	39.3	9.7	12,347,496
Total EU + F&C		196.8	154.6	42.2³⁷	39,079,238	200.1	160.1	40.0	41,581,662	202.8	163.8	39.1	42,407,681	203.2	165.2	38.0	43,214,609
Σ Grant, Contr. & SLA		4.1³⁷	2.6	1.5	475,410³⁸	3.0	2.7	0.3	600,800	1.5	1.4	0.1	395,250				0
Grand Total		200.8	157.2	43.6	39,554,648	203.1	162.8	40.3	42,182,462	204.3	165.1	39.2	42,802,931	203.2	165.2	38.0	43,214,609

³³ Staff numbers – in line with EU Draft Budget “2.1.2 European Union Agency for Railways – ERA” – include statutory staff only (establishment plan and external staff); as a consequence, Structural service providers, and Interim workers are not included. External staff financed from grant, contribution or service-level agreements are shown on separate lines.

³⁴ Title 1 & 2 budget distributed pro rata based on the FTE allocation.

³⁵ Out of which 0.80 SNE FTE will contribute to Stst 4 and 0.75 SNE FTE will contribute to Stst 8

³⁶ ERA management and administration (incl. Meetings, missions, other costs)

³⁷ Distribution of resources is based on the real allocation of FTEs between projects/services. While 3 CAs are envisaged for System Pillar and 1 CA for IPA in terms of headcount, other staff with TA contracts are also allocated to support these streams of work.

³⁸ Amount on Grants, Contrib. & SLAs reflect the actual cash flows, not the real staff cost

Annex III. Financial Resources 2024-2026

T 1 – Revenue

i – General revenues

Table 8 - Overview of revenues

Revenues (EUR)	2023	2024
	Estimated	Budget forecast
2. EU contribution	27,418,274	28,645,912
1. + 3. + 4. + 5. + 6. + 7. Other revenue	10,471,913	12,935,750
<i>Of which 1. Revenues from fees and charges</i>	<i>10,859,649</i>	<i>11,913,156</i>
<i>Of which 3. Third country contribution (= EFTA)</i>	<i>801,315</i>	<i>1,022,594</i>
Total revenues	39,079,238	41,581,662

Table 9 - General revenues

Revenues	2022	2023	2024		VAR	2025	2026
	Budget (EUR)	Budget (EUR)	Agency request (EUR)	Budget forecast (EUR)	2024/2023 (%)	Envisaged (EUR)	Envisaged (EUR)
1. Revenues from fees and charges	7,038,812	10,859,649	11,913,156	11,913,156	11.9%	12,145,805	12,347,496
2. EU contribution*	26,278,423	27,418,274	28,645,912	28,645,912	4.5%	29,218,830	29,803,207
<i>of which assigned revenues deriving from previous years' surpluses</i>	114,224	69,639	81,821	81,821	17.5%	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>
3. Third countries contribution (incl. EEA/EFTA and candidate countries)	656,721	801,315	1,022,594	1,022,594	27.6%	1,043,046	1,063,907
<i>of which EEA/EFTA (excl. Switzerland)</i>	656,721	801,315	1,022,594	1,022,594	27.6%	1,043,046	1,063,907
<i>of which candidate countries</i>	-	-	-	-		-	-
4. Other contributions	-	-	-	-		-	-
5. Administrative operations	-	-	-	-		-	-
<i>of which interest generated by funds paid by the Commission by way of the EU contribution (FFR Art. 61)</i>	-	-	-	-		-	-
6. Revenues from services rendered against payment	10,000	-	-	-		-	-
7. Correction of budgetary imbalances	-	-	-	-		-	-
Total revenues	33,983,956	39,079,238	41,581,662	41,581,662	7.0%	42,407,681	43,214,609

ii – Additional EU funding: grant, contribution and service-level agreements

Table 10 - Overview on additional EU funding

Revenues	2023 Budget (EUR)	2024 Budget forecast (EUR)
Total revenues	475,410	600,800

Table 11 - Additional EU funding: grant, contribution and service-level agreements

Revenues	2022 Budget (EUR)	2023 Budget (EUR)	2024 Agency request (EUR)	2024 Budget forecast (EUR)	VAR 2024/2023 (%)	2025 Envisaged (EUR)	2026 Envisaged (EUR)
Additional EU funding stemming from Grants (FFR Art.7)	247,450	0	0			p.m.	p.m.
Additional EU funding stemming from Contribution Agreements (FFR Art.7)	10,000	475,410	p.m.	600,800	126.4%	395,250	p.m.
Additional EU funding stemming from Service-Level Agreements (FFR Art. 43.2)	0	0	0			0	0
Total	257,450	475,410	p.m.	600,800	126.4%	p.m.	p.m.

For the list of agreements and further details, refer to Annex XI Plan for grant, contribution or service-level agreements.

T 2 – Expenditure

iii – Expenditure

Table 12 - Expenditure

Expenditure (EUR)	2023		2024	
	Commitment appropriations	Payment appropriations	Commitment appropriations	Payment appropriations
Title 1 - Staff expenditure	23,473,646	23,473,646	22,654,387	22,654,387
Title 2 - Infrastructure and operating expenditure	2,096,800	2,096,800	2,146,913	2,146,913
Title 3 - Operational expenditure	2,649,143	2,649,143	4,867,206	4,867,206
Total EU contribution	28,219,589	28,219,589	29,668,506	29,668,506
Title 4.1 - Staff expenditure	6,647,547	6,647,547	7,633,433	7,633,433
Title 4.2 - Infrastructure and operating expenditure	524,200	524,200	540,087	540,087
Title 4.3 - Operational expenditure	3,687,902	3,687,902	3,739,636	3,739,636
Total Fees and charges	10,859,649	10,859,649	11,913,156	11,913,156
Total EU contribution + Fees & charges	39,079,238	39,079,238	41,581,662	41,581,662
Title 5 - Grant Agreements	-	-	-	-
Title 5 - Contribution Agreements	475,410	475,410	600,800	600,800
Title 5 - Service-Level Agreements	-	-	-	-
Total Grants, Contrib. & SLAs	475,410	475,410	600,800	600,800
Grand Total	39,554,648	39,554,648	42,182,462	42,182,462

iv – Commitment appropriations

Table 13 - Commitment appropriations (EU contribution)

Titles & Chapters (EU contribution)	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget		VAR 2024/2023 (%)
	(EUR)	(EUR)	Agency request (EUR)	Budget forecast (EUR)	
Title 1 - Staff expenditure	21,966,714	23,473,646	22,654,387	22,654,387	-0.6%
Salaries & allowances	21,488,714	22,941,729	22,160,605	22,160,605	-0.4%
- Of which establishment plan posts	18,806,214	20,177,137	19,422,988	19,422,988	0.0%
- Of which external personnel	2,682,500	2,764,592	2,737,617	2,737,617	-3.0%
Expenditure relating to staff recruitment	127,000	117,600	66,317	66,317	-43.6%
Employer's pension contributions	0	0	0	0	
Mission expenses	10,000	8,000	7,990	7,990	-0.1%
Socio-medical infrastructure	50,000	60,000	44,744	44,744	-25.4%
Training	125,000	120,000	119,850	119,850	-0.1%
External services	145,000	207,917	233,308	233,308	12.2%
Receptions, events and representation	1,000	2,400	1,598	1,598	-33.4%
Social welfare	20,000	16,000	19,975	19,975	24.8%
Other Staff related expenditure	0	0	0	0	
Title 2 - Infrastructure and operating expenditure	1,862,438	2,096,800	2,146,913	2,146,913	2.4%
Rental of buildings and associated costs	1,082,582	990,400	916,453	916,453	-7.5%
Information, communication technology and data processing	701,253	954,400	950,810	950,810	-0.4%
Movable property and associated costs	31,826	28,800	135,830	135,830	371.6%
Current administrative expenditure	3,428	27,200	19,975	19,975	-26.6%
Postage / telecommunications	37,691	92,000	123,845	123,845	34.6%
Meeting expenses	0	0	0	0	
Running costs in connection with operational activities	0	0	0	0	
Information and publishing	5,658	4,000	0	0	-100.0%
Studies	0	0	0	0	
Other infrastructure and operating expenditure	0	0	0	0	
Title 3 - Operational expenditure	3,115,992	2,649,143	4,867,206	4,867,206	45.9%
Operational expenditure - Strategic Statements	1,951,491	1,863,180	4,020,266	4,020,266	57.6%
- Of which Strategic Statement 1	335,055	517,460	1,117,000	1,117,000	115.9%
- Of which Strategic Statements 2 & 3	15,000	93,688	42,538	42,538	-54.6%

Titles & Chapters (EU contribution)	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget		VAR 2024/2023 (%)
	(EUR)	(EUR)	Agency request (EUR)	Budget forecast (EUR)	
- Of which Strategic Statement 4	279,901	208,953	381,003	381,003	82.3%
- Of which Strategic Statement 5	681,707	0	0	0	
- Of which Strategic Statement 6	474,387	30,400	80,400	80,400	164.5%
- Of which Strategic Statement 7	165,441	625,246	1,419,298	1,419,298	127.0%
- Of which Strategic Statement 8		357,800	808,416	808,416	125.9%
- Of which Strategic Statement 9		594	120,625	120,625	20215.8%
- Of which ERA management and administration		29,040	50,986	50,986	-92.9%
Other operational expenditure	1,164,501	785,964	846,940	846,940	7.8%
Total	26,945,144	28,219,589	29,668,506	29,668,506	5.1%

Table 14 - Commitment appropriations (Fees and charges)

Titles & Chapters (Fees and charges)	2022 Budget (EUR)	2023 Budget (EUR)	2024 Budget		VAR 2024/2023 (%)
			Agency request (EUR)	Budget forecast (EUR)	
Title 4.1 - Staff expenditure	3,386,620	6,647,547	7,633,433	7,633,433	14.8%
Salaries & allowances	2,885,000	6,033,542	6,781,230	6,781,230	12.4%
- Of which establishment plan posts	2,520,000	5,199,466	5,864,707	5,864,707	12.8%
- Of which external personnel	365,000	834,076	916,523	916,523	9.9%
Expenditure relating to staff recruitment	0	29,400	16,683	16,683	-43.3%
Employer's pension contributions	501,620	481,026	727,985	727,985	51.3%
Mission expenses		2,000	2,010	2,010	0.5%
Socio-medical infrastructure		15,000	11,256	11,256	-25.0%
Training		30,000	30,150	30,150	0.5%
External services	0	51,979	58,692	58,692	12.9%
Receptions, events and representation		600	402	402	-33.0%
Social welfare		4,000	5,025	5,025	25.6%
Other Staff related expenditure		0	0	0	
Title 4.2 - Infrastructure and operating expenditure	207,459	524,200	540,087	540,087	3.0%
Rental of buildings and associated costs	108,549	247,600	230,547	230,547	-6.9%
Information, communication technology and data processing	98,910	238,600	239,190	239,190	0.2%
Movable property and associated costs		7,200	34,170	34,170	374.6%
Current administrative expenditure		6,800	5,025	5,025	-26.1%
Postage / telecommunications		23,000	31,155	31,155	35.5%
Meeting expenses		0	0	0	
Running costs in connection with operational activities		0	0	0	
Information and publishing		1,000	0	0	-100.0%
Studies		0	0	0	
Other infrastructure and operating expenditure		0	0	0	
Title 4.3 - Operational expenditure	3,444,733	3,687,902	3,739,636	3,739,636	1.4%
Operational expenditure - Strategic Statements	3,204,733	3,491,411	3,526,576	3,526,576	1.0%
- Of which Strategic Statement 1	3,047,804	2,568,011	2,649,092	2,649,092	3.2%
- Of which Strategic Statements 2-3		0	0	0	
- Of which Strategic Statement 4		923,400	877,484	877,484	-5.0%
- Of which Strategic Statement 5		0	0	0	

- Of which Strategic Statement 6		0	0	0	
- Of which Strategic Statement 7	156,929	0	0	0	
- Of which Strategic Statement 8		0	0	0	
- Of which Strategic Statement 9		0	0	0	
- Of which ERA management and administration		0	0	0	
Other operational expenditure	240,000	196,491	213,060	213,060	8.4%
Total	7,038,812	10,859,649	11,913,156	11,913,156	9.7%

v – Payment appropriations

Payment appropriations in current and planning years are identical to commitment appropriations

T 3 – Budget outturn and cancellation of appropriations

Table 15 - Budget outturn and cancellation of appropriations

Budget outturn (EUR)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reserve from the previous years' surplus (+)	119,879	59,486	114,225	69,638
Revenue actually received (+)	28,644,227	30,761,007	32,834,965	34,703,739
Payments made (-)	-26,041,310	-27,440,679	-29,908,642	-33,246,670
Carry-over of appropriations (-)	-2,931,959	-4,097,690	-3,894,958	-3,565,238
Cancellation of appropriations carried over (+)	54,280	106,232	30,110	40,317
Adjustment for carry over of assigned revenue appropriations from previous year (+)	335,358	785,738	1,008,478	2,150,676
Exchange rate differences (+/-)	-1,110	-383	-315	-1,002
Adjustment for negative balance from previous year (-)	-119,879	-59,486	-114,225	-69,638
Total	59,486	114,225	69,638	81,821

Annex IV. Human Resources 2024-2026 – quantitative

T 4 – Staff population and its evolution: overview of all categories of staff

A. Statutory staff and SNE³⁹

Table 16 - Establishment plan posts

Human resources	2022			2023	2024	2025	2026
Establishment plan posts	FTE corresponding to authorised budget	Actually filled as of 31/12/2022	Occupancy rate %	Authorised staff	Envisaged staff	Envisaged staff	Envisaged staff
Administrators (AD)	120 ⁴⁰	118	98.3%	136 ⁴¹	137 ⁴²	137	137
Assistants (AST)	34 ⁴⁰	32	94.1%	30 ⁴¹	29 ⁴³	29	29
Assistants/Secretaries (AST/SC)	0	0		0	0	0	0
Total establishment plan posts	154	150	97.4%	166	166	166	166
External staff	FTE corresponding to authorised budget	Actually filled as of 31/12/2022	Execution rate %	FTE corresponding to authorised budget	FTE corresponding to authorised budget	Envisaged FTE	Envisaged FTE
Contract Agents (CA)	36	36	100%	36	36 ⁴⁴	36	36
Seconded National Experts (SNE)	4	2	50%	4	4 ⁴⁵	4	4
Total external staff	40	38	95%	40	40	40	40
Total staff	194	188	96.9%	206	206	206	206

³⁹ Staff financed from grant, contribution or service-level agreements not included in this table, but under Additional external staff expected to be financed from grant, contribution or service-level agreements below

⁴⁰ One AST post converted to AD as per [MB Decision n° 299](#)

⁴¹ 2 AST posts converted to AD as per MB Decision n° 332

⁴² Of which 27 assigned to Fees and charges

⁴³ Of which 1 assigned to Fees and charges

⁴⁴ Of which 8 assigned to Fees and charges

⁴⁵ Of which 0 assigned to Fees and charges

B. Additional external staff expected to be financed from grant, contribution or service-level agreements

Table 17 - Additional external staff expected to be financed from grant, contribution or service-level agreements^{46 47}

Human resources	2023	2024	2025	2026
External staff financed from agreements	Envisaged FTE	Envisaged FTE	Envisaged FTE	Envisaged FTE
Contract Agents (CA)	5	3	p.m.	p.m.
Seconded National Experts (SNE)	0	0	0	0
Total external staff	5	3	p.m.	p.m.

C. Other Human Resources

Table 18 - Structural service providers⁴⁸

Structural service providers	Actually in place as of 31/12/2022
Infrastructure	1
IT – Service Desk	3
IT - Security	1
Registers (including OSS)	3
Other - Software management/development	3
Total structural service providers	11

Table 19 - Interim workers

Interim workers	FTEs in 2022
Total interim workers	0

⁴⁶ For the list of agreements and further details on the split of FTEs between these agreements, refer to Annex XI Plan for grant, contribution or service-level agreements.

⁴⁷ Extension of the IPA grant agreement to 2023 under negotiation.

⁴⁸ Service providers are contracted by a private company and carry out specialised outsourced tasks of a horizontal/support nature.

T 5 – Multi-annual staff policy plan 2022-2026

Table 20 - Temporary Agents

Temporary Agents	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Authorised budget Perman. posts	Actually filled 31/12 Temporary posts	Authorised budget Perman. posts	Actually filled 31/12 Temporary posts	Request of ERA Perman. posts	Request of ERA Temporary posts	Request of ERA Perman. posts	Request of ERA Temporary posts	Request of ERA Perman. posts	Request of ERA Temporary posts
AD 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AD 15	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
AD 14	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
AD 13	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
AD 12	2	1	2	1	6	2	10	6	14	14
AD 11	11	11	14	11	20	14	20	20	22	22
AD 10	22	20	19	20	15	19	17	17	21	21
AD 9	23	15	19	15	32	19	28	28	21	21
AD 8	22	26	24	26	12	24	19	19	25	25
AD 7	18	16	20	16	23	20	21	21	17	17
AD 6	19 ⁴⁹	26	25	26	17	25	15	15	15	15
AD 5	2	2	11 ⁵⁰	2	10	11	5	5	0	0
Total AD	120⁴⁹	118	136⁵⁰	118	137	137	137	137	137	137
AST 11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 9	2	1	1	1	2	1	4	4	5	5
AST 8	3	3	2 ⁵⁰	3	3	2	4	4	5	5
AST 7	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	5
AST 6	4 ⁴⁹	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	7	7
AST 5	7	6	7	6	9	7	9	9	7	7
AST 4	9	11	9 ⁵⁰	11	6	9	2	2	0	0
AST 3	5	3	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
AST 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total AST	34⁴⁹	32	30⁵⁰	32	29	29	29	29	29	29
Total AST/SC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

⁴⁹ One AST 6 post converted to AD 6 as per [MB Decision n° 299](#)⁵⁰ 2 AST posts converted to AD as per MB Decision n° 332

Temporary Agents	2022				2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Authorised budget		Actually filled 31/12		Authorised budget		Request of ERA		Request of ERA		Request of ERA	
	Perman. posts	Temporary posts	Perman. posts	Temporary posts	Perman. posts	Temporary posts	Perman. posts	Temporary posts	Perman. posts	Temporary posts	Perman. posts	Temporary posts
Total TAs	154		150		166		166		166		166	

Table 21 - Contract Agents

Contract Agents ERA staff (External personnel)	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2022	Executed FTE as of 31/12/2022	Actually filled as of 31/12/2022	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2023	FTE request for 2024	FTE request for 2025	FTE request for 2026
Function Group IV	23		23	23	23	23	p.m.
Function Group III	5		7	7	7	7	p.m.
Function Group II	6		4	6	6	6	p.m.
Function Group I	2		2	0	0	0	0
Total	36	N/A	36	36	36	36	36
Contract Agents External staff financed from Grants, Contrib. & SLAs	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2022	Executed FTE as of 31/12/2022	Actually filled as of 31/12/2022	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2023	FTE request for 2024	FTE request for 2025	FTE request for 2026
Function Group IV	5		5	4	3	1.5	
Function Group III	1		1				
Function Group II	1		1	1			
Function Group I							
Total	7	N/A	7	5	3	1.5	p.m.

Table 22 - Seconded National Experts

Seconded National Experts	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2022	Executed FTE as of 31/12/2022	Actually filled as of 31/12/2022	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2023	FTE request for 2024	FTE request for 2025	FTE request for 2026
Total	4	N/A	2	4	4	4	4

T 6 – Recruitment forecasts 2024 following retirement/mobility or new requested posts

Table 23 - Recruitment forecast

Job title in the Agency	Type of contract (Official, TA or CA)		TA / Official ⁵¹		CA ⁵²
	Due to foreseen retirement/ mobility	New post requested due to additional tasks	Internal	External	
Project Officer	TA			X	

- Engagement of additional TA and CA (Project Officers), taking into account the priorities from the Strengthening Plan Action Plan 2023-2027
- Open posts for SNEs to be filled from Calls for expression of interest published on the Agency’s website

Foreseen retirement in 2024: 3

Inter-agency mobility 2023: 0

⁵¹ Function group/grade of recruitment internal (brackets) and external (single grade) foreseen for publication

⁵² Recruitment Function Group (I, II, III and IV)

Annex V. Human Resources 2024-2026 – qualitative

A. *Recruitment (engagement) policy***Implementing rules in place**

Table 24 - Implementing rules in place

Topic	Model decision	Yes	No	
Engagement of TA	Model Decision C(2015)1509	x		Applied by analogy since 25/11/2015 as per AB decision (see below)
Engagement of CA	Model Decision C(2019)3016	x		Applied by analogy since 02/10/2019 as per MB decision (see below)
Middle management	Model decision C(2018)2542	x		Applied by analogy since 25/06/2019 as per MB decision ⁵³
Type of posts	Model Decision C(2018)8800	x		Applied by analogy since 25/06/2019 as per MB decision ⁵⁴ , revised on 30/06/2023 ⁵⁵

The following general principles guide the application of the legal framework concerning the Agency staff:

- a) The core of the Agency staff consists of Temporary Agents. All Temporary Agent positions have been identified as long-term positions. Due to the budgetary and establishment plan constraints the Agency is obliged to also engage Contract Agents in order to fulfil its mission;
- b) Temporary and Contract Agents are treated equivalently as far as possible.

In addition, it should be noted the Agency does not employ officials. However, there are cases where EU officials have been engaged following an external selection procedure and have therefore acquired the status of Temporary Agent in the Agency (whilst remaining an official on unpaid leave in their institution of origin).

vi – Selection and engagement procedures:

The procedure for selection and engagement of Temporary Agents and Contract Agents is based on Articles 27-34 of the [Staff Regulations](#) and Articles 12-15 and 82-84 of the [Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities \(CEOS\)](#), the related Implementing Rules on the engagement and use of Temporary Agents and Contract Agents, the Financial Regulation ([European Commission's Framework](#) and [that of the Agency](#)), the [Code of Good Administrative Behaviour](#) and the data protection rules.

The Agency also makes use of the EPSO CAST lists accessible to Agencies for the engagement of Contract Agents. Because of the Agreement on the European Economic Area nationals of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are eligible for working for the Agency.

The selection procedures for the engagement of Temporary Agents are carried out in accordance with [Decision N° 121 of the Administrative Board of the European Railway Agency](#) laying down the general implementing provisions on the procedure governing the engagement and use of temporary staff under Article 2(f) of the CEOS.

Depending on the function and the level of tasks and within the limits authorised by the establishment plan of the Agency, Temporary Agents are engaged at the following entry grades:

- › AST 1 to AST 4 for the function group AST
- › AD 5 to AD8 for the function group AD

For managerial posts or highly specialised posts, the Agency can engage Temporary Agents at grades AD 9 and AD10 or at grade AD12 for Heads of Department.

⁵³ [MB Decision n°204 on middle management staff](#)

⁵⁴ [MB Decision n°203 on types of post and post titles in ERA](#)

⁵⁵ [MB Decision n°326 on types of posts and post titles](#)

The duration of contracts for Temporary Agents is governed by Decision N° ERA-ED-DEC-1109-2015. Staff holding a long-term post are normally offered an initial contract with a duration of four years with the possibility of renewal. The standard practice for a first renewal is normally for a two-year period and any further renewal is for an indefinite period.

For staff on short-term employment, the duration of the contract depends on the duration of the tasks to be carried out. At ERA, the duration of those contracts is predominantly related to the availability and duration of grants, or to a specific time determined project. In very rare cases it is to cover long-term absences.

The Agency is launching the following types of calls, published on [ERA website's Recruitment portal](#):

- Call for Interest (partial internal re-assignment): CFI/ERA/...
- Internal Mobility for Temporary Agents-Administrators: IM/ERA/AD/...
- Internal Mobility for Temporary Agents-Assistants: IM/ERA/AST/...
- Inter-Agency Mobility for Temporary Agents-Administrators: IAM/ERA/AD/...
- Inter-Agency Mobility for Temporary Agents-Assistants: IAM/ERA/AST/...
- External calls for Temporary Agents-Administrators: ERA/AD/2021/...
- External calls for Temporary Agents-Assistants: ERA/AST/...
- External calls for Contract Agents: ERA/CA/2021/...

vii – Temporary agents

The [ERA Regulation 2016/796](#) which entered into force in 2016 makes no distinction between posts for long-term and short-term employment. Still a post can, in accordance with Article 16 of [Decision N° 121](#), be defined to be for short-term employment when it involves tasks of a limited duration.

The decision to renew contracts of employment of Temporary Agents occupying a long-term post is taken by the Executive Director based on two considerations: the continuity of the post and the competences and performances of the jobholder, in accordance with Decision N° ERA-ED-DEC-678-2013 and the Procedure PRO_STA_01 on the “renewal and non-renewal of contracts of employment before the expiry date”.

If a TA or former TA is awarded a second contract of employment in the same function group, this contract shall be considered as a renewal in the sense of Article 8 of the CEOS if the period between the end of the first contract and the starting date of the new contract is less than 6 months. If the period between the two contracts of employment is 6 months or more or if the new contract is in a different function group, the second contract of employment shall be considered a new contract of employment.

viii – Contract agents

The selection procedures for the engagement of Contract Agents are carried out in accordance with [Decision n° 210](#) of the Management Board of the European Union Agency on the general provisions for implementing Article 79(2) of the CEOS, governing the conditions of employment of contract staff employed under the terms of Article 3a thereof.

In accordance with Article 85 of the CEOS, contract staff can be engaged for a fixed period of at least three months and not more than five years. Contract Agents are engaged for their specific competence in different areas of administration (finance, HR, IT, logistics, legal, audit, quality management), in the railway domain or to perform manual or administrative tasks.

This type of contract is usually used to meet specific needs such as:

- › Administrative tasks;
- › Coping with temporary peaks in workloads;
- › Launching projects or new activities for which long-term commitment in terms of staffing is unclear;

- › Replacing staff on long-term absences such as maternity leave, long-term sick leave or unpaid leave;

However, increasingly ERA has also engaged Contract Agents for other (long-term) tasks, such as:

- › Administrative and Logistician Support Agents
- › Assistants
- › Project Officers

ix – Seconded National Experts⁵⁶

Seconded National Experts (SNEs) are staff employed by a national, regional or local public administration or a public intergovernmental organisation who are seconded to the Agency so that it can use their expertise in a particular field. SNEs are seconded from their national employer to the Agency's operational units on the basis of their specific competency and technical expertise in the railway domain, based on [Decision n° 173](#) of the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Railways laying down rules on the secondment to the Agency of seconded national experts and national experts in professional training.

A possibility to mandate 'cost-free' SNEs also exists, where the Agency does not pay any allowances or cover any of the expenses related to the performance of their duties during their secondment, although the Agency does not deploy such SNEs at the moment.

SNEs assist the Agency staff and cannot perform (middle) management duties. The initial period of secondment may not be less than six months or more than two years. It may be renewed once or more up to a total period not exceeding four years. Exceptionally, the Agency's Executive Director may authorise one more extension of the secondment for the maximum duration of one year at the end of the four-year period. Each secondment and extension are subject to an exchange of letters. An SNE may be seconded once again provided that the conditions of secondment still exist and a period of at least six years has elapsed between the end of the previous secondment and the new secondment unless the previous secondments lasted for less than four years.

x – Trainees

Professional traineeships last 10 months and are managed in accordance with Decision N° ERA-ED-DEC-1063-2015, depending on budget availability.

xi – Structural service providers⁵⁷

At ERA, the majority of service providers are *intra muros* IT consultants.

⁵⁶ SNEs are not employed by the Agency

⁵⁷ Structural service providers are not employed by the Agency
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B. Appraisal and reclassification / promotions

Implementing rules in place

Table 25 - Implementing rules related to appraisal of performance and reclassification / promotion

Topic	Model decision	Yes	No	
Reclassification of TA	Model Decision C(2015)9560	x		Applied by analogy since 03/31/2016 as per AB decision (see below)
Reclassification of CA	Model Decision C(2015)9561	x		Applied by analogy since 03/31/2016 as per AB decision (see below)
Appraisal of TA	Model Decision C(2013)8985	x		Applied by analogy since 25/11/2015 as per AB decision (see below)
Appraisal of CA	Model Decision C(2014)2226	x		Applied by analogy since 25/11/2015 as per AB decision (see below)

Concerning the performance appraisals and staff reclassification and promotions, the Agency applies:

- [Decision N° 132](#) of the Administrative Board of the European Railway Agency on general implementing provisions regarding Article 87(3) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union
- [Decision N° 133](#) of the Administrative Board of the European Railway Agency laying down general implementing provisions regarding Article 54 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union
- [Decision N° 122](#) of the Administrative Board of the European Railway Agency on the general provisions for implementing Article 43 of the Staff Regulations and implementing the first paragraph of Article 44 of the Staff Regulations for temporary staff; and
- [Decision N° 123](#) of the Administrative Board of the European Railway Agency on the general provisions for implementing Article 87(1) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union and implementing the first paragraph of Article 44 of the Staff Regulations.

They were first implemented for the appraisal and reclassification exercise of 2016. Since 2016, the Agency adopted and implemented the rules for the reclassification of Contract Agents.

T 1 – Reclassification of temporary staff

Table 26 - Reclassification of temporary staff

Group and Grade	Average seniority in the grade among reclassified staff					Actual average over 5 years	Average over 5 years ⁵⁸
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
AD 5					2.3	2.3	2.8
AD 6	4.3	2.9	1.9	2.3	3.5	3.1	2.8
AD 7	4.8	4.5	4.6	1.9	2.6	4.3	2.8
AD 8	5.4	3.7	2.4	2.3	3.5	3.6	3.0
AD 9	3.8	5.6	4.5	4.7	2.7	4.3	4.0
AD 10	4.9	5.8	9.5	6.1	4.3	5.5	4.0
AD 11	4.8				4.5	4.6	4.0
AD 12					3.9	3.9	6.7
AD 13							6.7
AD 14					7.9	7.9	N/A
AST 1							3.0
AST 2	4.3					4.3	3.0
AST 3	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.4	4.7	3.0
AST 4	4.3			3.9	3.9	4.1	3.0
AST 5	4.8	3.6		2.9	3.9	4.0	4.0
AST 6	3.8			5.9	2.9	4.6	4.0
AST 7			4.8	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.0
AST 8		5.8				5.8	4.0
AST 9							N/A
AST 10 ⁵⁹							5.0
AST/SC 1							4.0
AST/SC 2							5.0
AST/SC 3							5.9
AST/SC 4							6.7
AST/SC 5							8.3

⁵⁸ According to Decision C(2015)9563⁵⁹ Senior Assistant

T 2 – Reclassification of contract staff

Table 27 - Reclassification of contract staff⁶⁰

Function Group	Grade	Staff in activity at 01.01.2022	How many staff members were reclassified in 2022	Average number of years in grade of reclassified staff	Average number of years in grade of reclassified staff ⁶¹
CA FG IV	18	0	0	N/A	N/A
	17	0	0	N/A	Between 6 and 10 years
	16	3	0	N/A	Between 5 and 7 years
	15	9	0	N/A	Between 4 and 6 years
	14	7	2	4.1	Between 3 and 5 years
	13	2	0	N/A	Between 3 and 5 years
CA FG III	12	0	0	N/A	N/A
	11	1	0	N/A	Between 6 and 10 years
	10	0	0	N/A	Between 5 and 7 years
	9	3	1	4.3	Between 4 and 6 years
	8	0	0	N/A	Between 3 and 5 years
CA FG II	7	3	0	N/A	N/A
	6	3	1	2.7	Between 6 and 10 years
	5	0	0	N/A	Between 5 and 7 years
	4	0	0	N/A	Between 3 and 5 years
CA FG I	3	1	0	N/A	N/A
	2	2	0	N/A	Between 6 and 10 years
	1	0	0	N/A	Between 3 and 5 years

⁶⁰ Staff financed from grant, contribution or service-level agreements not included in this table⁶¹ According to Decision C(2015)9561

Mobility policy

Mobility within the Agency

[Decision N° 121](#) of the Administrative Board of the European Railway Agency laying down the general implementing provisions on the procedure governing the engagement and use of temporary staff under Article 2(f) of the CEOS (adopted on 25.11.2016) and Decision n° 210 of the Management Board of the European Union Agency on the general provisions for implementing Article 79(2) of the CEOS, governing the conditions of employment of contract staff employed under the terms of Article 3a thereof enshrine the scenarios for internal mobility for TA 2(f) and CA.

The Agency considers internal mobility when vacancies arise, but due to the very specific, technical competences of a big part of the staff, internal mobility remains limited.

Furthermore, members of the Agency staff can apply for vacant posts within the Agency advertised externally. A supplementary agreement in accordance with Article 10 of the CEOS will be concluded as required if existing staff get a new job.

Mobility between Union Agencies

The implementing rules on the engagement and use of Temporary Agents 2(f) and Contract Agents define the scope of mobility between EU Agencies. A very limited number of the support staff who have left the Agency in previous years have accepted TA/CA positions in other Agencies.

Increasingly staff members who took up long-term Temporary Agent positions at the Agency come from other EU Agencies.

Mobility between the agencies and the institutions

Some posts are filled following an external selection procedure by staff coming from other European institutions (in particular the Commission), although the number remains small.

C. Gender representation

T 3 – Data on 31/12/2022 statutory staff (only officials, TAs and CAs)

Table 28 - Data on 31/12/2022 - statutory staff only (officials, TA and CA)

Establishment plan posts	Level	Official		Temporary		Contract Agents		Grand Total	
		Staff	%	Staff	%	Staff	%	Staff	%
Female	Administrator level (AD + CA FG IV)			29	15.6%	5	2.7%	34	18.3%
	Assistant level (AST + CA FG I-III + AST/SC)			23	12.4%	9	4.8%	32	17.2%
	Total Female			52	28.0%	14	7.5%	66	35.5%
Male	Administrator level (AD + CA FG IV)			89	47.8%	18	9.7%	107	57.5%
	Assistant level (AST + CA FG I-III + AST/SC)			9	4.8%	4	2.2%	13	7.0%
	Total Male			98	52.7%	22	11.8%	120	64.5%
Total				150	80.6%	36	19.4%	186	100.0%

External staff from Grants, Contrib. & SLAs	Level	Official		Temporary		Contract Agents		Grand Total	
		Staff	%	Staff	%	Staff	%	Staff	%
Female	Administrator level (AD + CA FG IV)					1	14.3%	1	14.3%
	Assistant level (AST + CA FG I-III + AST/SC)					2	28.6%	2	28.6%
	Total Female					3	42.9%	3	42.9%
Male	Administrator level (AD + CA FG IV)					4	57.1%	4	57.1%
	Assistant level (AST + CA FG I-III + AST/SC)					0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Total Male					4	57.1%	4	57.1%
Total						7	100.0%	7	100.0%

Table 29 - Data regarding gender evolution over 5 years of the Middle and Senior management⁶²

Managers	2018		2022	
	Number	%	Number	%
Female	1	14.3%	2	20%
Male	6	85.7%	8	80%
Total	7	100%	10	100%

D. Geographical balance

T 4 – Officials, TAs and CAs

Table 30 - Data on 31/12/2022 - statutory staff only (officials, TA and CA)

Nationality Establishment plan posts	AD + CA FG IV		AST + CA FG I-III + AST/SC		TOTAL	
	Number	% of total staff	Number	% of total staff	Number	% of total staff
Austrian 	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Belgian 	26	14.0%	18	9.7%	44	23.7%
Bulgarian 	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Croatian 	4	2.2%	0	0.0%	4	2.2%
Cypriot 	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Czech 	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Danish 	2	1.1%	1	0.5%	3	1.6%
Estonian 					0	0.0%
Finnish 	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
French 	18	9.7%	14	7.5%	32	17.2%
German 	9	4.8%	0	0.0%	9	4.8%
Greek 	7	3.8%	1	0.5%	8	4.3%
Hungarian 	3	1.6%	0	0.0%	3	1.6%
Irish 	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Italian 	21	11.3%	4	2.2%	25	13.4%
Latvian 					0	0.0%
Lithuanian 	2	1.1%	0	0.0%	2	1.1%
Luxembourg 					0	0.0%
Maltese 					0	0.0%
Dutch 	3	1.6%	0	0.0%	3	1.6%

⁶² Staff who is defined as middle manager by the applicable General Implementing provisions on middle management

Polish		7	3.8%	2	1.1%	9	4.8%
Portuguese		4	2.2%	0	0.0%	4	2.2%
Romanian		7	3.8%	2	1.1%	9	4.8%
Slovakian		1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Slovenian						0	0.0%
Spanish		17	9.1%	3	1.6%	20	10.8%
Swedish		1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
British		3	1.6%	0	0.0%	3	1.6%
Total		141	75.8%	45	24.2%	186	100.0%

Nationality External staff financed from Grants, Contrib. & SLAs	AD + CA FG IV		AST + CA FG I-III + AST/SC		TOTAL		
	Number	% of total staff	Number	% of total staff	Number	% of total staff	
French		2	28.6%	1	14.3%	3	42.9%
Italian		1	14.3%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%
Romanian		1	14.3%	1	14.3%	2	28.6%
Spanish		1	14.3%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%
Total		5	71.4%	2	28.6%	7	100.0%

- The AACC granted the Brexit exception to 5 UK Nationals as provided for in the Arts 12(2), 47 and 119 of the CEOS.
- ERA may engage citizens from EEA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), but does not receive any applications from these countries.

T 5 – Evolution over 5 years of the most represented nationality in the Agency

Table 31 - Evolution over 5 years of the most represented nationality in the Agency– to be updated

Most represented nationality Establishment plan posts	2018		2022		
	Number	%	Number	%	
Belgian		41	24%	44	24%

E. Schooling

Table 32 - Schooling

No agreement is in place with a European School.		
Contribution agreements signed with the EC on type I European schools	No	
Contribution agreements signed with the EC on type II European schools	No	Informal arrangement with EEL(M) (École européenne Lille Métropole)
Number of service contracts in place with international schools:	0	
Description of any other solutions or actions in place: Informal arrangement with Jehan Froissart Primary School in Valenciennes (EN curricula)		

Annex VI. Environment management

Executive summary

The revised SPD guidelines⁶³ require Agencies to compile and formalise their Environment management policy. To achieve this ambition, the first Environment management annex was drafted in which **ERA summarised its commitment to higher policy goals, the measures already in place, as well as the potential future environment management initiatives and actions**, taking in consideration the responsibilities of the Agency as a public administration body, while keeping in mind the impact of environmental initiatives on the Agency’s limited human and financial resources. Despite these limitations, the Agency is a socially and environmentally responsible organisation which pursues, whenever possible, the adoption and related implementation of environmental measures and initiatives that can be achieved with the available means.

The Agency is committed to promote a culture of sustainability acting in a responsible and sustainable manner – see point 9 of the [European Union Agency for Railways Policy](#)⁶⁴. Concern for the environment and promoting a broader sustainability agenda are integral to ERA's professional activities and the management of the organisation. In addition, the Agency is committed to urgently **respond, within the boundaries of its mandate and capacity, to the ongoing energy crisis**.

The Agency’s aim is to follow and to promote good sustainability practice, to reduce the environmental impacts of its activities and to help its stakeholders to do the same. The Agency’s existing environment principles⁶⁵ are covered under the following broader topics:

Green building ⁶⁶	Climate protection	Environmental preferable purchasing
Transportation	Waste reduction and recycling	Sustainable resource management

ERA’s wider work in the railway sector, including its authority and policy contribution to **a fully-fledged functioning Single European Railway Area**, is covered under the Annual Work Programme, in particular Strategic Statement 2⁶⁷ and the specific project designated to “Green agenda” (ERA1234).

In addition to the broader policy context related to the Green Deal, the Agency pays attention to the environmental impact of its **day-to-day operations** (i.e. to its building, staff, management, administration, and functioning).

⁶³ [Communication C\(2020\) 2297 final](#) of 20.4.2020 on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and on the guidelines for the SPD and the CAAR

⁶⁴ https://www.era.europa.eu/sites/default/files/agency/docs/european_union_agency_for_railways_policy_en.pdf

⁶⁵ Currently covered in the latest [Environmental measures implemented at ERA status note](#) (internal, 15/03/2022)

⁶⁶ The Agency is considering a green building certification for its new headquarters building project ([Certification HQE - Haute Qualité Environnementale](#))

⁶⁷ “Rail will become the backbone that supports an environmentally sustainable multimodal transport system and will be favoured as a transport mode by the new generations”

ERA in the broader policy context related to environment

As an Agency of the European Union, **ERA pledges to the Commission’s European Green Deal**⁶⁸ initiative. Consequently, **ERA commits to deliver its part of the deal** to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels – as defined in the **EU Climate Target Plan 2030**⁶⁹.

Since the publication of the Communication from the Commission on the European Green Deal⁷⁰ in December 2019, ERA has strengthened its activities aiming at promoting the role of the railways in the decarbonation of the European transport sector. To make the European Union the first carbon neutral region in the world by 2050, lowering the transport emissions is crucial. Between 1990 and 2019, the transport emissions have gradually increased and reached 25% of the total greenhouse gas emissions of the EU. The transport sector is the second sector only to the energy sector in terms of emission.

However, looking at the same period, the emissions of the railway sector have gradually decreased and nowadays represent less than 0.5% of the transport-related emissions. In addition, railways are also the mode of transport with the lowest external costs (externalities).

ERA has a central role in fostering interoperability and safety of the rail transport which should eventually make it more attractive, more efficient and thereby increase the modal share of the railways, resulting the greenhouse gas emissions of Europe’s transport sector, in line with the objectives of the EC Green Deal:

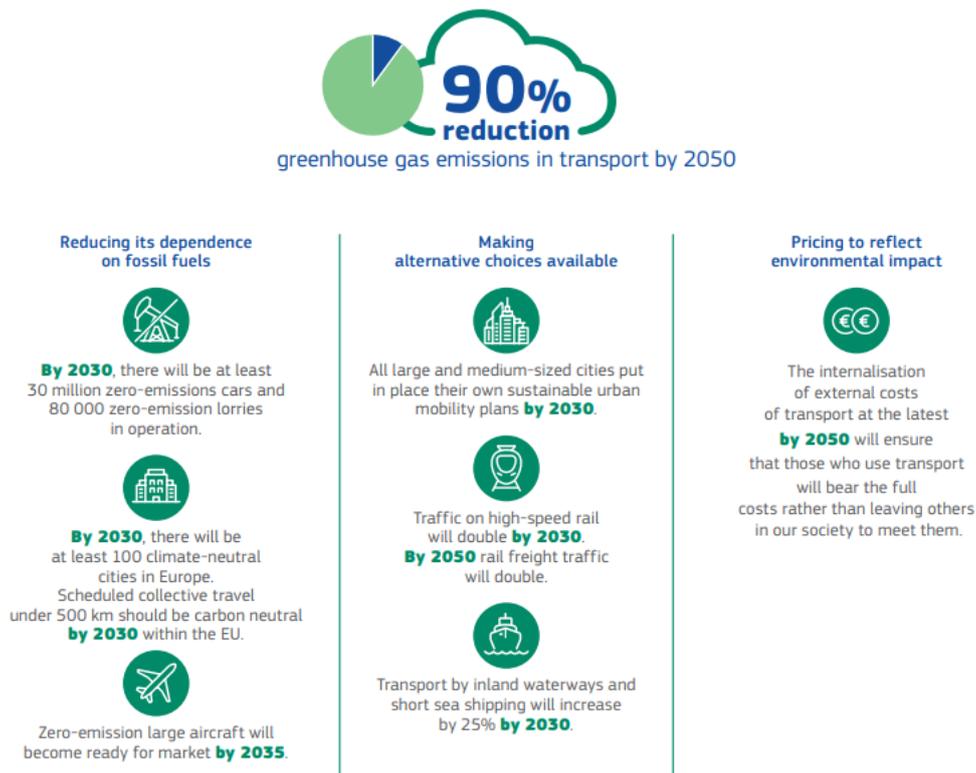


Figure 2 – Sustainable mobility targets (Source: EC)

⁶⁸ See https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en | https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/delivering-european-green-deal_en

⁶⁹ <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/news/EuropeandBeyond/Pages/55-percent-emissions-cut-plan.aspx> | https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/european-green-deal/2030-climate-target-plan_en

⁷⁰ [Communication COM/2019/640 final](https://ec.europa.eu/communication/com/2019/640-final) of 11.12.2019 from the Commission on the European Green Deal

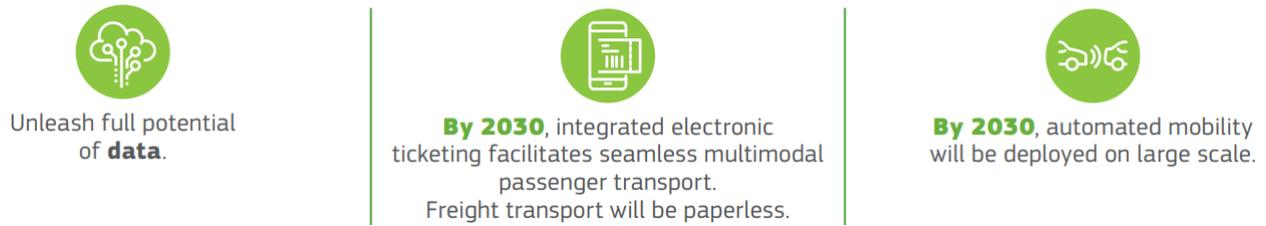


Figure 3 – Smart mobility targets (Source: EC)

Transport has been one of the sectors hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU has now an opportunity to build a mobility system that is sustainable, smart, and resilient: a system for future generations.



Figure 4 – Resilient mobility targets (Source: EC)

ERA’s wider work in the railway sector, including its authority and policy contribution to a **fully-fledged functioning Single European Railway Area**, is reflected in all Agency’s strategic statements which form part of the Single Programming Document (multi-annual and annual parts). The targeted conceptual work related to the Green agenda is captured in Strategic Statement 2⁷¹.

In 2021, ERA led by example by having been one of the main organisers of [European Year of Rail 2021](#)⁷², a flagship thematic initiative of the European Green Deal.

On the highest level, **ERA also pledges to respect and act upon the** United Nation’s [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), and the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

⁷¹ “Rail will become the backbone that supports an environmentally sustainable multimodal transport system and will be favoured as a transport mode by the new generations”

⁷² See https://europa.eu/year-of-rail/index_en | https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/FS_20_363

Environmental impacts of ERA activities

ERA's administrative operations related to its building(s) have direct and indirect impacts on the environment. ERA's impact on the environment falls under the following categories:

1. Use of electricity, including for heating and cooling, water, paper and stationery
2. Generation of waste and CO₂ emissions (including by travelling / commuting)
3. Land use with regards to biodiversity⁷³



ERA pays attention to limiting the use of resources, taking the energy crisis into account, and minimising negative impacts on the environment.

The recent geopolitical developments make the environmental – and in particular energy-related issues – more visible than ever before.

Accountability ceiling of ERA

ERA is committed to do the utmost to advance its environment management and neutralise its impact on the environment. Nevertheless, it needs to be noted that due to outside factors ERA's leverage may be limited regarding some proposed environment actions.

Current ERA headquarters building was put at the disposal of ERA by Valenciennes Métropole through a rental contract. Other buildings (meeting rooms in Lille, parking) used by ERA are rented in office buildings and parking lots, where the environment management responsibilities and tasks lie with the property owner or manager. In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Agency has re-assessed its approach to meetings with stakeholders and has limited the use of office spaces in Lille, as well as the missions of ERA staff and externals to Lille headquarters. A large number of the Agency's meetings have been held in remote mode, thus reducing the carbon footprint.

Moreover, ERA's new headquarters building project has a key focus on environmental considerations when setting up specifications and during negotiations. The new building project complies with the EMAS/HQE recommendations.

It has to be noted that the railway link with the adjacent Belgian city of Mons is missing for decades, with no rail service on the section between Valenciennes and the Franco-Belgian border. Despite recent plans brought back the hope for re-establishing the connection, as of today this condition leaves no feasible public transportation option for the significant proportion of ERA staff living in Belgium. ERA remains a vocal advocate of recommencing cross-border railway operations as defined in its Strategic Statement 1⁷⁴, with a particular focus on this particular one. Nevertheless as of today, carbon footprint related to staff commuting from Belgium to France needs to be mitigated with less desirable alternative solutions, such as carpooling.

⁷³ As per the EMAS regulation ([Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2018/2026](#) of 19 December 2018 amending Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 on EMAS). Note: the premises have limited urban green space or accessible rooftop to be considered for significant improvement of its biodiversity.

⁷⁴ "There will no longer be any technical and operational barriers to the free movement of people and goods by rail, assets can be reused throughout Europe"

Environment management initiatives and actions completed in 2023

Action	Area	Target	Coord.	Status	Additional information
Reducing temperature in the building as agreed/recommended by French authorities, with no possibility for additional electric heating devices	A. Consumption of resources (energy & utilities)	immediately	RSU/FM	Done	In December 2022, 30% of savings compared to December 2021.
Repair/replace faulty sensors to solve lights always on in some offices	A. Consumption of resources (energy & utilities)	immediately	RSU/FM	Done	
Reduce/stop heating and cooling in underutilised spaces, allow for settings management at office level	A. Consumption of resources (energy & utilities)	Q1 2023	RSU/FM	Done	HVAC programmed to stop at 10:00 if staff is not present (winter - spring).
Adjust auto-off settings of lights, reducing light level whenever possible, add manual switches for "hard off" (not even activated with motion sensor), consider lights off beyond working hours	A. Consumption of resources (energy & utilities)	Q1 2023	RSU/FM	Done	
Remove some neon tubes and/or replace them with LED in garage	A. Consumption of resources (energy & utilities)	Q2 2023	RSU/FM	Done	Neon tubes replaced by LED in the parking space.
Internal communication campaign on various topics such: energy efficiency, cycling to work and composting	A. Consumption of resources (energy & utilities) B. Reduction of carbon footprint related to staff commuting I. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), staff involvement in environmental issues	Q4 2023	MARS/SAC	Will be done by the end of the year	The campaign on composting has been done (possibility to buy composters at lower price with Valenciennes Métropole). The two other campaigns will be launched Mid-October.
Purchase of bike repair station (or repair kit with pump)	B. Reduction of carbon footprint related to staff commuting	Q2 2023	RSU/FM	Done	A pump and a repair kit available upon demand.

Replace bottled water at events with alternative, less waste generating means (e.g. distributing ERA-branded reusable water bottles, order of returnable bottle products with a deposit fee)	F. Waste generation reduction, sorting and recycling	Continuous	MARS/SAC	Done	This is now a standard practice (e.g. last Rail safety days in Tallinn).
Include recyclable packaging in the criteria of the catering contract	F. Waste generation reduction, sorting and recycling	Contract renewal	RSU	Done	This is now a standard practice.
Set-up of ERA Environment (Volunteering) Group to drive dissemination actions, collect ideas and push for the progress of environment actions	I. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), staff involvement in environmental issues	Q1 2023	CAP	Done	Quarterly coordination meetings, 10+ membership.
Promotion of the transition rally organised as part of the European week of sustainable development in Valenciennes	I. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), staff involvement in environmental issues	Q3 2023	MARS	Done	Active involvement of some ERA staff.
Blood donation organised with ERA staff	I. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), staff involvement in environmental issues	Q2 2023	ERA	Done	

Environment management achievements of ERA until 2022⁷⁵

2022

- Implementation of SYSPER having in view the digitalisation of formerly paper-based processes and reduce paper use
- Reduction in the number of missions and limited use of the Lille premises
- Donation of old laptops to local charities and associations through the Mairie de Valenciennes

2021

- Introduction of the new SharePoint system - having in view the advancement of DMS digitalisation and reduction of paper use
- Suspension of staff missions and in-house ERA events, only allowing the absolutely essential ones, when possible, organising them online instead as a consequence of Covid-19 pandemic
- Providing ERA branded cloth masks through Better Together project (to reduce use of surgical masks)
- Reusable water bottles provided for the participants of the Rail Safety Days 2021 event instead of disposable cups

2020

- Substitution of the purchase of single use plastic cups for paper cups
- Participation of the Agency at the virtual EU interinstitutional Greening Network meeting
- Suspension of staff missions and in-house ERA events, only allowing the absolutely essential ones, when possible, organising them online instead as a consequence of COVID-19 pandemic

2019

- Installation of LED lighting systems in the HQ ground floor corridor
- Participation of the Agency at the EU interinstitutional Greening Network meeting

2018

- Refurbishment of all meeting rooms in the ERA HQ (installation of LED lighting systems inside the MTG A131, B003-B005, B016, B017, and B018).

2017

- Installation of recycling stations for offices supplies in the ERA HQ
- Purchase of eco office supplies and LED desk lamps
- Communal areas of the HQ refurbished with eco-friendly material
- Participation of the Agency at the EU interinstitutional Greening Network meeting

2016

- Installation of recycling stations in the HQ
- Replacement of old fridges with new ones consuming less energy
- Deployment of power off scripts for laptops left powered on
- Participation of the Agency at the EU interinstitutional Greening Network meeting

2015

- Implementation of recycling and sustainable purchases via two catering contractors
- Recycling workshop from the French local authorities to explain the recycling in France organized by FM attended by colleagues within ERA (23/04/2015)

2014

- Installation of the recycling station at the canteen, plastic cup collection station, plants in the reception and library, installation of recycling bins in the meeting rooms at the headquarters
- ERA started the gradual introduction of paper orders that have environmentally friendly label (Ecolabel/Blauer Engel), and also labelled FSC. By today ERA purchases products labelled "FSC Recycled" (manufactured with 100% recycled fibre of which at least 85 percent is PCW recycled material).

⁷⁵ Based on the [Environmental measures implemented at ERA status note](#) (internal), complemented with other achievements

Environment management initiatives and planned actions

2024 will be a transition year for ERA in the way initiatives linked to limit its environmental impact will be apprehended. Initiatives and actions will continue to be launched and implemented. In addition to that, indicators will be developed per main areas of actions (consumption of resources, mobility, public procurement, waste management and office space) which will then be used from 2025 onwards.

Methodological notes:

1. The actions listed in the sections below which require a budget envelope will start with a budget estimate as a pre-requisite. Budget availability will be assessed for those actions before proceeding with the implementation.
2. Depending on the interest expressed for the volunteering group referred in part I, this group can assist with other actions listed in parts A-I.
3. While some of the units/teams are referred in the column of responsibilities by the nature of their role in the organisation, the successful implementation of the strategy relies on the ownership and involvement of all staff members.



A. Consumption of resources (energy & utilities)

ERA collects and analyses information related to the consumption of electricity and water.

A Pareto analysis of energy consumption will be conducted to pinpoint the critical points to concentrate on and put efforts in first. Based on this information, ERA will identify any possible action to decrease the consumption.

List of actions:

Action	Target	Coordinator
Promote the use of “personal carbon footprint tool”	Q1 2024	MARS/SAC
Perform a carbon footprint impact of ERA’s activities	Q3 2024	RSU/FM
Continue to procure green energy	rolling	RSU/FM



B. Reduction of carbon footprint related to staff commuting

ERA to analyse the provision of local public transport passes to staff starting in 2023.

ERA will analyse analogous schemes at Commission and other Agencies and evaluate the feasibility of providing local public transport passes to staff (or retrospectively reimbursing staff for these passes) to further encourage staff to use public transport and thereby reduce their carbon footprint. The budget impact of such initiative should be properly factored.

List of actions:

Action	Target	Coordinator
Carpooling module in SharePoint	rolling	RSU/IT
Explore the possibility to reimburse a part of local transportation pass	Q4 2024	MARS/SAC

Development of a teleworking regime that requires less office space (e.g. hot desks, rotational schedules) – <i>see under section F below</i>	in line with COM reg.	RSU/HR
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C. Green public procurement⁷⁶

ERA to further improve its procurement by implementing green public procurement. ERA to advance green public procurement by promoting the use and order of “green office items” from the EC office supplies’ catalogue.

Calls for procurement tenders of relevant goods and services include “Environmental and social contribution” among the technical evaluation criteria (e.g. decommissioned furniture disposal/re-use, recycling policy, donations) whenever it is relevant for the contract. Tenderers have to comply with these criteria and considerations to qualify for a contract. It is a standard ERA practice to build environmental considerations into procurement for relevant goods and services.



D. Carbon footprint reduction and management of missions, meetings and events

ERA will promote and utilise the [Commission’s guidelines on organising sustainable meetings and events](#). It has implemented MIPS+ module of Sysper to replace MiMa and will compile regular reports on travel-related emissions. ERA encourages environmentally friendlier itineraries in its travel policy.

ERA adheres to [Commission’s guidelines on organising sustainable meetings and events](#)⁷⁷, and commits to promote the guidelines and incentivise to its staff to apply the steps when organising meetings and events:

- Step 0: Is a physical meeting/event necessary?
- Step 1: Is the venue sustainable enough?
- Step 2: Is the printed and promotional material sustainable?
- Step 3: Are the 3Rs applied? (Reduce, Recycle and Reuse)
- Step 4: Is the catering sustainable?
- Step 5: Are the accommodation and transport environmentally friendly?
- Step 6: Have social aspects been considered?

Step 7: Are you sharing environmental awareness? The Agency could strengthen the recommendation for internal and external attendees to select train transportation where convenient connections are available, or air travel options with smaller carbon footprint (e.g., more direct flight routes, less connections). In addition, travel policy and related internal communications will repeatedly emphasise to ERA staff that online meeting forms should be preferred and picked over travel intensive face-to-face meetings whenever feasible and expedient.

In 2024, incentives will be made for staff to travel to Innotrans in Berlin by train.



E. Further reduction of paper and stationery consumption

ERA will continue to fully digitise workflows. It will further reduce the printouts of publications. In the limited case of printers’ use, ERA will maintain the use of eco-friendly / partially recycled A4 printing paper as a default printing medium.

ERA will advance further digitalisation of the Agency, including the replacement of paper-based processes with electronic workflows and other IT systems – in cooperation with the Commission’s DG DIGIT – such as:

- SYSPER (full rollout)

⁷⁶ European Commission - Green Public Procurement: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm

⁷⁷ New release: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/emas_for_you/news/news84_en.htm

- Microsoft SharePoint and Office 365: office solutions for paperless document creation and storing (full rollout)
- Ares: document management and archiving system

ERA will continue to reduce the number of printed (paper-based) publications through close management of the communication & publication plan. ERA will increase the use of print on demand of its publications/materials and web publishing.

ERA will raise awareness among its staff to on further possibilities of moving towards paperless office. As part of it, instead of the usual stationery “welcome package”, office supplies will continue to be stored in a designated office and colleagues will be invited to collect strictly what they need – on demand.



F. Waste generation reduction, sorting and recycling

ERA will maintain – or if possible, improve – the selective recycling and waste collection arrangements in its current building, as well as in the new building. ERA will order office supplies and merchandise on an on-demand basis only, with preference to sustainable/recycled/eco-friendly distributable merchandise.

ERA will make sure that selective waste collection remains widely available in offices and common areas of the current building and undertakes to provide for the same in the new building. In the form of internal communication, ERA will raise awareness among its staff about these recycling arrangements.

Moreover, ERA has a partner to recycle decommissioned IT equipment.

List of actions:

Action	Target	Coordinator
Procure and distribute ERA-branded reusable water bottles for staff to reduce disposable cup use	Q1 2024	MARS/SAC



G. Reduction of office space need

List of actions:

Action	Target	Coordinator
Teleworking rules, including clear criteria for requesting full time presence on premises, depending on the service needs	in line with COM reg.	RSU/HR
Flexible office arrangement in the new building	in line with new HQ project	RSU/FM
Discontinue Lille office rental when the current contract expires		
Hot desk arrangements		



H. Use of available green space, greening of the offices

List of actions:

Action	Target	Coordinator
Design in the new building: planting native and high CO ₂ conversion capacity plants, installing vertical garden	in line with new HQ project	RSU/FM
Propagation of indoor vertical gardens in the new building		



I. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), staff involvement in environmental issues

List of actions:⁷⁸

⁷⁸ Subject to resource constraints

Action	Target	Coordinator
Periodical intervention at General Assemblies to inform staff about environmental topics	rolling	CAP
Annual CSR activities organised to staff (e.g. tree planting, garbage collection, social volunteering) and incentivising teams to choose “responsible” team-building activities with added environ./social value	rolling	Volunteering Group / Better Together
Promote events at the level of ERA staff, such as: “green week”, “green day” or “greener office contest”	rolling	MARS/SAC

Current status and plan for certifications and standards

ERA does not hold a certification for any of the environment/energy management standards (e.g. [EMAS](#), [ISO 14001](#), [HQE](#), [ISO 50001](#)). However, especially in the context of the new building project, ERA pays particular attention to the requirements listed in the respective standards. The new building is planned to be EMAS & HQE certified.

Annex VII. Building policy – year 2024

Current building(s)

Table 33 - Current building(s)

#	Building name and type	Location	Surface Area (in m ²)			Rental contact					Host country (grant or support)
			Office space	Non-office	Total	Rent (€/year) ⁷⁹	Duration of the contract	Type	Breakout clause Y/N	Conditions attached to the breakout clause (if applicable)	
1	ERA HQ	120 rue Marc Lefrancq, 59307 Valenciennes, FR	5.250 m ² ₈₀	N/A	5.250 m ²	531 613.56 €	1 year with tacit renewal	office rental	N	N/A	no
2	Lille Office - Espace International	299 Boulevard de Leeds, 59000 Lille, FR	67.00 m ²	1,50 m ²	68,50 m ²	13 865.00 €	Until 31/12/2026	meeting premises rental	N	N/A	no
3	Parking des Tertiales - SPL Valenciennes Stationnement	Rue du Fer à Cheval, 59300 Valenciennes, FR	-	-	100 parking places	26 250.00 €	1 year with tacit renewal	parking rental	N	N/A	no
Total			5 317 m²	1.50 m²	5 318.50 m² + 100 parking	571 728.56 €					

Notes:

- ERA HQ (Valenciennes): ERA is the only tenant in the ERA HQ building, the Agency exclusively occupies and uses all office and non-office spaces in the building. Therefore, all surface area is included under the 5.250 m² of office space (SHON, terraces are not considered).
- Lille Office - Espace International (Lille): ERA shares office spaces with the building landlord (CCI de Région) on the 2nd floor. Following the signature of the addendum n°4 to main Lease contract that will enter into force as of 01/01/2024, the leased total office space is reduced to 68.50 m² for a lease yearly fee of 13 865.00 €, where the “quote-part des parties communes” is 2.04%. ERA has an exclusive use of the “office space”⁸¹ of the 67.00m² considered in the rent, the remaining 2.04% included under “non-office”⁸² are shared with the landlord and other tenants.

⁷⁹ HT = hors taxe (excluding tax), as of 2021.

⁸⁰ SHON = Surface Hors Œuvre Nette (Net Surface Area), see <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2868>.

⁸¹ The net office space being used exclusively by the Agency, namely the reception, cafeteria, meeting rooms, offices, circulations, storage / technical rooms, copy corners inside ERA closed space.

⁸² Toilets / sanitary installations, storage / technical rooms and circulations located outside ERA closed space and being shared with other occupants, including building common areas located on the ground floor main reception (parking places are not considered).

Building project in the planning phase

Due to the growth of the Agency, the current building in Valenciennes does not offer any longer the required conditions to accommodate staff and activities related to the Agency's role as railways' Authority. Therefore, the Agency has re-allocated the majority of staff members in double office spaces as a short-term solution. Another short-medium term solution is the implementation of teleworking up to the limit set by the Management Board Decision on Teleworking.

In parallel, as part of a long-term solution, the Agency and Valenciennes Métropole have started defining the requirements for a new building to accommodate ERA activities after 2028 by means of a Study composed of different phases. In 2018, the Phase I of the Study confirmed that the current ERA HQ cannot accommodate all requirements related to the Agency activities and growth.

In 2019 and 2020, the Agency has managed to complete the Phases 2 and 4 of the technical and functional study resulting in the approval of the technical specifications that will be used as the base for the selection of architects in the Phase 3 of the Study.

Taking into account the experience gained during the pandemic with large-scale teleworking and new ways of working, the building capacity was revised, and the technical project adapted.

The main objective for the Agency during 2021 was to prepare the technical and financial dossier to be formally addressed to the EU Budgetary Authority for the approval of the New ERA building project.

In 2022, the Agency clarified with the DG MOVE, the EU Budgetary Authority, the steps related to the procedure to be followed to have the project formally approved. On the 31/10/2022, a letter was sent to the EU Budgetary Authority with the file as part of the Early information procedure under Article 266(2) of the Financial Regulation resulting in the presentation on the 17/11/2022 of the ERA project to the Committee on Budgets in Brussels, where it was noted that the file submitted by ERA was very comprehensive and clear. Following the exchange of views held in the meeting of the Committee on Budgets, some follow-up questions asked by Members during the discussion were sent to ERA. At this stage, the EU Parliament confirmed that the procedure "Information préalable" can be considered as closed.

In 2023, Valenciennes Métropole decided to transfer the building project to the "Banque des Territoires" that will launch the Call for Architects during Q4 2023 – Q1 2024 with the purpose to be able to draft a Rental Lease Agreement proposal. This draft Lease Agreement will contain all the financial conditions needed by ERA to launch the formal procedure (submission of the Final Technical and Financial Dossier) aiming at receiving the approval of the Budgetary Authority for the ERA Building Project.

ERA is in constant discussion with Valenciennes Métropole for the new building project. The technical file is ready (Tome fonctionnel, Tome technique, Programme Environnemental et « Dimensionnement Projet ») and Valenciennes Métropole will launch a competition to select an architect. The plan is to launch the competition in Q1 2024 in order to select the architect in Q3 2024.

Building projects submitted to the European Parliament and the Council

See status under previous section.

Annex VIII. Privileges and immunities

The Management Board approved the proposed Headquarters (or Seat) Agreement between the Agency and the host Member State without objections or negative votes in August 2018.⁸³ The Seat Agreement between the French Government and the Agency has been presented as draft legislation to the French National Assembly on 7 July 2021⁸⁴ and has been adopted and promulgated on 31 January 2022. The final text of the Seat Agreement can be found [here](#)⁸⁵. The following table presents the privileges granted to the Agency's staff:⁸⁶

Table 34 - Privileges granted to staff

Agency privileges	Privileges granted to staff	
	Protocol of privileges and immunities / diplomatic status	Education / day care
<p>The Agency's headquarters are located in Valenciennes and Lille. The French authority pledge to provide the necessary support to ensure the location of the Agency's headquarters will remain unchanged. (Art. 3)</p>	<p>The HQ Agreement differentiates statutory staff (officials, TAs, CAs) and external staff (SNEs, experts, trainees, interims). (Art. 1).</p>	
<p>The Agency's premises are inviolable, exempt from perquisition, requisition, confiscation or expropriation. No French authority can enter the building without the prior agreement of the Executive Director. The property and assets of the Agency cannot be subject of legal measure of constraint without the authorisation of the CJEU. (Art. 4)</p>	<p>The privileges and immunities provided for the statutory staff aim to guarantee their independence and the unimpeded functioning of ERA. The Executive Director and the statutory staff (Art. 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enjoy immunity from jurisdiction, even after the termination of their mission, in respect of acts carried out by them in the exercise of their functions • are exempt from national taxes on earnings, salaries and respective supplements paid by the Agency • enjoy the exemption for themselves and their spouses from measures restricting immigration and from aliens' registration formalities; • enjoy the same privileges in respect of currency and exchange regulations comparably to those accorded to staff of international organisations • enjoy the right to import duty-free their furniture and personal effects at the time of first taking up their post in France and the right on the termination of their functions 	<p>No provision in the headquarters agreement. Please refer to Annex V. E. Schooling for further information on education.</p>
<p>The Agency's archives and all official documents are also inviolable. The Agency will benefit from the same treatment the French Government provides to diplomatic missions when it comes to official communication. No restriction can be placed on neither</p>		

⁸³ https://www.era.europa.eu/sites/default/files/agency/docs/decision/decision_n180_headquarters_agreement_between_agency_and_host_state_en.pdf

⁸⁴ Assemblée Nationale : https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/15/textes/l15b4323_projet-loi | Sénat : <https://www.senat.fr/dossier-legislatif/pjl21-288.html>

⁸⁵ https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/15/textes/l15b4323_accord-international.pdf

⁸⁶ <http://www.senat.fr/rap/l21-365/l21-3651.html>

Agency privileges	Privileges granted to staff	
	Protocol of privileges and immunities / diplomatic status	Education / day care
<p>official communication addressed to the Agency or a member of its personnel, nor on any communication emanating from the Agency. In addition, the Agency shall have the right to use codes and to dispatch and receive official correspondence and other official communications by courier or in sealed bags which shall be subject to the same privileges and immunities as diplomatic couriers and bags. (Art. 5)</p> <p>The Agency is entitled to display the flag of the EU, as well as its own on its premises and vehicles (Art. 6)</p> <p>The Agency, its assets, income and other properties, shall be exempt from all direct taxes. The Agency is also exempt from indirect taxes and duties included the price of movable and immovable property and services, acquired for its official use and involving an expenditure of at least €150. The exemption may be granted by way of a refund. The Agency shall also be exempt from all custom duties and any other taxes for all goods intended for official use, as long as this exoneration is foreseen in the EU or national legislation. (Art. 7-8)</p> <p>Finally, the Agency is entitled to register three vehicles with diplomatic plates. (Art. 9)</p>	<p>in France to export free of duty their furniture and personal effects, subject in both cases to conditions considered necessary by the French authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy the right to import duty-free their private car acquired whether in the country of their last residence or in the country of which they are nationals, bound by the single market rules. They also enjoy the right to export it duty-free, subject to the conditions considered necessary by the French authorities; • Have access – along with their family members – to access without discrimination compared with French citizens to all public services provided on French territory, including medical services, education, childcare, and housing. <p>The French Government will deliver to all members of the Agency’s personnel (except those who have the French nationality or permanent residency) a special residency document identifying them as member of the Agency’s personnel. The Agency will ensure that once an employee leaves the Agency, its residency document is handed back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also facilitates the issuance of those residency documents and work authorisations to the family members of all the Agency’s personnel, except those who have the French nationality or permanent residency (Art. 11 (1, 2)).</p> <p>The French authorities will take all necessary measures to facilitate the entry, stay, and departure of experts in missions for the Agency on the French territory. Necessary visa and authorisations will be delivered for free as quickly as possible (Art. 11 (2, 4)).</p> <p>In addition, the Executive Director and the statutory staff are exempt from any compulsory national social security system. External staff, SNEs, and their family members, subject to their coverage in their own country of citizenship, are also exempt from any compulsory national social security system. (Art. 12)</p>	

Annex IX. Evaluations

The Agency has a system in place to monitor its performance and formalise an evaluation of the results achieved in the year into the **SPD dashboard**, as an ongoing tool, as well as through the **Consolidated Annual Activity Report**, which focuses on the achievements of indicators and targets set out in the SPD.

The following instruments are used for collecting the data and for triggering actions:

- **Work progress reports**, filled in by projects and service managers reporting the status of projects and services against the relevant plans, budget and human resources allocation, including SPD targets.
- **Budget execution monitoring**, a continuous activity based on a daily automated report fed with SUMMA data, displaying the level of appropriations, commitments and payments to date for each budget line and for each project/service
- **Monthly management monitoring reports, analysing and reviewing project and staff allocation (actuals vs planned), budget execution and risks/issues at project/service level**
- **Monthly budget review meetings** with the Management Team to analyse the data from the budget execution monitoring and take timely decisions for deploying / redeploying the resources. The redeployment of resources is brought to the attention of the Management Board for information if the transfers are within one title or between titles but below the 10% threshold or for decision if the transfers are between titles and above the 10% threshold.
- **IMCS**, part of the internal monitoring programme aimed at verifying that processes, projects, services and products comply with internal and external requirements, including.
- **IAS audits**
- **ECA audits**
- **Non-Conformity register**, where deviations from the relevant rules and provisions are recorded

All the sources listed above allow the Agency governance bodies, namely the Management Team and the Management Board to monitor continuously the functioning of the Agency. In order to allow this, the Agency has developed a **performance dashboard** which is turning the data into meaningful information.

The dashboard provides figures, charts and visuals about:

- Human resources (incl. information on statutory staff members, geographical and gender balance)
- Budget management (Revenues and Expenditure, with a breakdown to budget titles of budget envelope/appropriation and paid amounts to date)
- Authority tasks (incl. the number of SSC/VA/TA applications received, number authorisations/certifications issued to date, planned and actual hours per authorisation type)
- Projects and services (incl. Budget and FTE planned vs. actual, status traffic lights with information on red status, overall cost analysis)
- Strengthening Action Plan (SAP) (recruitment status, SAP policy priorities, SAP milestones, budget execution)
- Audits (status on open recommendations)

Terminology⁸⁷

The following terms are used in the SPD – in accordance with the Commission guideline on evaluation:

Strategic Statement⁸⁸ is a coherent area of action with objectives and resources. It is the basic building block for the structure of the annual Work Programme, distinguishing between operational activities – directly related to the mission and core tasks of the agency, and horizontal/ cross-cutting activities – carried out to support operational activities and staff.

Objective describes what the agency wants to achieve either in the short or long term.

Indicator is a characteristic or attribute that is measured regularly in order to assess to what extent an objective has been met.

Baseline is the point of reference against which achievement or progress towards objectives is measured.

Milestone is an intermediate target set, expressed in quantitative or qualitative terms, measuring progress towards the achievement of long-term objectives.

Target is the ultimate desired situation, quantified and timed.

Inputs are the human and financial resources used and the time required to produce outputs.

Actions are the work carried out over a certain period of time, consuming resources and producing outputs in accordance with the objectives set.

Outputs are what is directly produced or supplied through the agency intervention. They often relate to the expected deliverables of the intervention and are identified based on its operational objectives.

Outcome is the envisaged medium to long term effects of a programme or policy output. While its results are not easily foreseeable and might not be entirely in the sphere of control of the Agency, the outcome represents an intermediate medium-term step between the agency' outputs and longer-term societal impacts. The Agency has structured its multiannual work programme according to desired outcomes to ensure all of its outputs will contribute positively to its vision & ambition.

Results are the direct effects of intervention(s) on the target groups.

Impacts are the indirect or long-term effects of an intervention on the EU or global society that are, at least partly, expected to be influenced by agency's interventions.

⁸⁷ [Communication C\(2020\) 2297 final](#) of 20.4.2020 on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and on the guidelines for the SPD and the CAAR, C. Terminology

⁸⁸ Referred to as "Activity" in former SPDs

Annex X. Strategy for the organisational management and internal control systems

The strategy gives an overview on how the internal control system is organised and is contributing to the mitigation of the risks to the achievement of Agency's objectives to acceptable levels.

The Agency is operating based on a management system designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of the five internal control objectives derived from the Agency's Financial regulation as well as ensuring continuous improvement and the need to implement a flexible and effective governance. The management system is implemented through four high-level components (i) Strategic, (ii) Core, (iii) Support and (iv) Measurement and improvement. Each component is including all 17 principles of the Internal Control Framework (ICF). There is also a clear link with the internal components of the ICF (i.e. control environment, risk assessment, control activities and monitoring). This system is deployed further at the level of processes.

The roles and responsibilities for implementing the system are integrated as follows:

The **Management Board** represents the Member States, and the institutional stakeholders has a strategic role on budgetary and planning matters. It is overseeing the internal controls and risk management of the Agency. It ensures that the Agency fulfils its mission and performs the tasks assigned to it

The **Executive Director (ED)** in its capacity of Authorising Officer (AO) and under the supervision of the Management Board is ultimately responsible for the management of the internal control framework. The ED sets the tone at the top and puts in place structures and processes to gain reasonable assurance that the system is operating effectively.

The **heads of units/department** in their capacity of/Authorising officer by delegation (AOD) must ensure that the internal controls are efficient and effective in their area of responsibility as per AO delegation of powers. Both AO and AOD in their capacity of process owners are responsible for continuous improvement of the processes.

The newly created function of **manager in charge of Risk management and internal control** is fulfilled by a middle manager. It oversees the monitoring the implementation of the internal control arrangements and for complete and accurate reporting on the operation and effectiveness of the internal control framework. This function is also in charge of facilitating the risk management process.

The **accounting officer** certifies the year-end accounts thus providing reasonable assurance that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial situation of the Agency.

All staff should ensure at their own level of competency that their activities comply with rules and regulations and report any deficiency.

The delegations of powers for executing the budget are detailed in internal procedures. The implementation of the budget is done via projects and services which is reflected in empowering project and service managers in managing the associated risks and resources without prejudice to the AO/AOD powers.

The IAS is the internal auditor of the Agency and performs independent assessment on the internal control systems based on a three-year plan. Complementary, internal audits are performed. The

external audit is performed by the European Court of Auditors (for the legality and regularity of transactions) and an external company (for the accounts).

Internal controls tools include:

- Controls performed at all levels of the Agency
- Risk management, in particular at project/service level and Agency level where the most significant/relevant risks are captured including strategic risks (recorded in the agency/corporate risk register and reported in the CAAR). Risks are formally assessed at both inherent and residual level to make sure that the analysis of the effectiveness of the controls in place is ensured before additional mitigating measures are put in place (cost-effectiveness of controls).
- Corrective/preventive measures are established when recurrent and systemic errors are recorded. Ex-ante nonconformities involving significant amount of money (>15.000 euros) are approved by the AO
- Internal control monitoring criteria for measuring the presence and the functioning of the principles are in process of being developed considering the risk environment and are focused more on effectiveness and efficiency.
- Follow-up of recommendations from ECA, IAS, Discharge authority as well as other sources (e.g. external evaluations) to ensure that the actions plans are effectively implemented within the agreed deadlines.
- An integrated reporting system to inform and alert management on the progress on the implementation of costs for each project/service as well as SPD outputs (monthly dashboard). The cost data is connected to the source (SUMMA). It includes several other parameters such as risks, issues, changes, corrective actions taken, quality, milestones etc.
- Budgetary status reports are produced on a daily basis including an overview per unit of the budget execution per budget line for all fund sources, financial information on commitments, payments and transfers, information on progress of planned procurement and contracts. The information helps achieving the performance targets in these particular areas.
- Ex-ante controls consisting in several checks of financial and operational aspects of transactions by the actors involved in the financial circuits. There is a very comprehensive checklist/templates as well as guidance which ensure an effective level of control. The specific controls are detailed in the manual of financial procedures which also included the steps to be taken for making a financial transaction, the various financial circuits by type of transaction and the different roles and responsibilities. The Agency is putting substantial efforts in updated these manuals/checklists.
- Sensitive function policy defines the management of functions involving a considerable amount of autonomy and executive powers with the aim of ensuring that actions are taken to mitigate the risk that the jobholders deliberately misuse their decision-making powers or influence with a view to gaining personal advantages
- Ad-hoc controls are additionally applied at the level of processes whenever the management assesses it is necessary to mitigate a specific risk (e.g. selection procedures, financial delegations).

The Agency's anti-fraud strategy has been developed in accordance with OLAF guidelines, it is setting clear objectives, actions and responsibilities and it is based on a standalone fraud risk assessment exercise adapted to the Agency's environment encompassing fraud risks regardless of their criticality. The risk of fraud is duly considered when carry out the risk assessment exercise.

The strategy is focusing on three objectives:

- Handle effectively actual or perceived conflict of interest,
- Enhance the promotion of high ethical values as well as increasing fraud awareness
- Enhance data and information security

The objectives are fully aligned with the fraud risks identified which include inherent significant risk of conflict of interest due to specific circumstances of the Agency's activities (i.e. regulatory powers with significant decision making powers and potential reputational, legal and financial consequences if conflict of interest not adequately managed; relatively limited 'market' for recruitment of staff as well as for entities which could provide services for the Agency), potential risk of cyber-attacks leading to operational damage, loss of data, unauthorised disclosure of information or breach of data; potential risk of outsourcing the data and information security without proper security risk assessment), risk of staff members not being fully aware of their ethics obligations as well as handling and reporting fraud. The Agency has put in place comprehensive control measures proportional to the level of risks and amount of risk identified which encompass (but not limited to) mandatory tailor-made trainings on ethics and separately on antifraud for all staff, mandatory submission of declaration of interests for all staff and members of the Management Board and of the Board of Appeal, ex-post/on the spot controls, review of internal procedures (including procedures for reporting and handling fraud). Control indicators enable assessment of effectiveness of the measures taken.

Starting 2023, the Agency is implementing the following activities under a single service (Internal Management and Control System – ERA1158) to better support the assurance function:

1. The internal management system coordination – coordinating the proper implementation of the internal control framework, ;
2. The central financial verification;
3. The contact point for IAS, ECA and EP discharge follow-up.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the management system

The agency monitors continuously the efficiency and effectiveness of the Internal Control Framework. A yearly assessment report is produced where consideration is given to the results of controls mentioned above. All the internal control components and principles must be present and functioning well at all levels of the Agency to be considered effective. The results of the assessment are reported in the CAAR.

Annex XI. Plan for grant, contribution, or service-level agreements

Table 35 - Grant, contributions, or service-level agreements

	General information					Financial and HR impacts				
	Date of signature	Σ amount (EUR)	Duration	Counterpart	Short description		2023	2024	2025	2026
Grant Agreements										
1. IPA (2019/410-319) ⁸⁹	04/12/2019	450,000	48 months 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2023	DG NEAR	Continuation of pre-accession support to the EU candidates and potential candidates (Western Balkans and Turkey)	Amount (EUR)	0 ⁹⁰	0	0	0
						Nº of CAs	1	0	0	0
						Nº of SNEs	-	-	-	-
2. EUMedRail (ENI/2016/359-727)	31/12/2016	2,000,000	84 months 01/01/2017 – 31/12/2023	DG NEAR	Implementation of the action EUMedRail - EuroMed Rail Safety and Interoperability Project	Amount (EUR)	0	0	0	0
						Nº of CAs	1	0	0	0
						Nº of SNEs	-	-	-	-
Total Grant Agreements						Amount (EUR)	0	0	0	0
						Nº of CAs	2	0	0	0
						Nº of SNEs	-	-	-	-
Contribution Agreements										
1. System Pillar (MOVE/C4/SUB/2021-454/S12.852702)	15/07/2021	750,000	45 months 16/07/2021 - 01/05/2025	DG MOVE SRD.3	Provide a financial contribution to finance the implementation of the action ERA support to the Railway System Pillar	Amount (EUR)	225,410	205,550	p.m.	p.m.
						Nº of CAs	3	3	1.5	p.m.
						Nº of SNEs	-	-	-	-
2. Technical support on the deployment of the European Rail Traffic Management System in Greece	TBD ⁹¹	250,000	2023 (3 months)	DG REFORM	Technical support on the deployment of the European Rail Traffic Management System in Greece	Amount (EUR)	250,000	0	0	0
						Nº of CAs	-	-	-	-
						Nº of SNEs	-	-	-	-

⁸⁹ Extension of the grant agreement to 2023 under negotiation.⁹⁰ Full amount received by the end of 2022. However, due to the project extension to 31/12/2023 the remaining € 192,464 will be spent in 2023.⁹¹ The details will be added as soon as the signature will have taken place

3. Pilot project - Single European Railway Area - Prototype Corridor Munich-Verona (MOVE/C2/SUB/2022-499/SI2.903563)	16/10/2023	790,500	26 months 16/10/2023-14/12/2025	DG MOVE	Support the generation of knowledge and invaluable lessons with the goal of accelerating the completion of the Single European Railway Area, in particular for the Rhine Alpine rail corridor between Munich and Verona	Amount (EUR)	0	395,250	395,250	0
						Nº of CAs	-	-	-	-
						Nº of SNEs	-	-	-	-
Total Contribution Agreements						Amount (EUR)	475,410	600,800	395,250	p.m.
						Nº of CAs	3	3	1.5	p.m.
						Nº of SNEs	-	-	-	-
Service-Level Agreements										
1. N/A						Amount (EUR)				
						Nº of CAs				
						Nº of SNEs				
Total Service-Level Agreements						Amount (EUR)	0	0	0	0
						Nº of CAs	0	0	0	0
						Nº of SNEs	-	-	-	-
Total						Amount (EUR)	475,410	600,800	395,250	p.m.
						Nº of CAs	5	3	p.m.	p.m.
						Nº of SNEs	-	-	-	-

Annex XII. Strategy for cooperation with third countries and/or international organisations

Since the adoption of the existing strategy for global cooperation (together with SPD 2018), the Agency is updating the scope of work in order to best address the priorities listed by the European Commission in this field, namely:

The EU transport policy aims at promoting greater development and stability in the neighbouring countries, enhancing connectivity with the neighbouring areas and towards Asia, and creating a level-playing field for international rail transport and the rail supply industry beyond EU borders. The Commission welcomes Agency's aspirations to provide technical support at Commission request. The Commission reminds that the main priorities as regards rail international cooperation fall into EU's neighbourhood, strategic partners and high growth economies beyond neighbourhood, and international organisations. Agency's international activities should not go beyond.

Annex XIII. Procurement plan

Table 36 - New procurement procedures to be launched in 2024

Title	Description	Schedule	Market ceiling	Type of Contract
Process leaning services	in line with SAP all of the Agency's processes will need to be leaned for which the support of a company is needed in line with the endorsement of the MB.	Q1	156,000.00 €	Direct contract
ERTMS Conference	As system authority for ERTMS, ERA in past years gathered the global ERTMS community in its hometown Valenciennes to discuss the way forward. Held on bi-annual basis in alternation with the European Rail Safety Days, the conference usually features keynote presentations and workshop elements over a two-days period. Traditionally it made EU decision-makers find their way to Valenciennes.	Q1	220,000.00 €	Direct contract
Linked Data Conference (June 2024, Italy)	Digitalisation becoming increasingly important, the Agency is planning its first Linked Data conference in June 2024.	Q2	250,000.00 €	Direct contract
Connecting Europe Days (April 2024, Brussels, Belgium Presidency)	Wherever financially feasible, the ERA team seeks to address topics of strategic importance with the respective Presidency of the Council of the European Union. For the Belgium Presidency 2024, the Connecting Europe Days are an excellent opportunity to address railway connectivity and interoperability themes.	Q1	25,000.00 €	Direct contract
Innotrans (Sept. 2024, Berlin)	Since 2008, ERA has been present at the largest railway industry fair worldwide InnoTrans, which is held every two years in Berlin. It was used as platform to present ERA's key activities that impact the rail sector in its new role as European authority with one-to-one meetings between ERA staff and members of the rail sector. In 2024, the EU institutions - ERA together with the European Commission and Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-RAIL) - will attend InnoTrans for the first time jointly using a common "EU village" stand.	Q2	100,000.00 €	Direct contract
Budapest Conference (Sept 2024, Hungarian Presidency)	This annual conference, 12th edition, co-organised by ERA and the Department of Railway Authority of the Hungarian Ministry of Construction and Transport, will be under the Hungarian EU Presidency in 2024.	Q3	25,000.00 €	Direct contract

HOF Biennial Conference (Dec 2024, Valenciennes)	The ERA Human and Organisational Factors (HOF) Biennial Conference has become a house number for the positive railway safety culture community in Europe. Addressing topics such as HOF and railway automation, or managing workload and fatigue, it is an important catalyst for discussions and reflection on key topics and brings together the railway community to promote a positive safety culture in the EU and beyond.	Q4	30,000.00 €	Direct contract
Procurement of IT tool for confidential storage of data for economic analyses	Procurement of IT tool to facilitate storage and use of confidential data linked to standard inputs for economic analyses linked to launched Economic Steering Group Task Force	Q1	50,000.00 €	Direct contract
ESISDID - External Services for Information Systems Development on Interoperable Data	ESISDID FWC is aimed to provide off-site services for conducting Analysis, Design, Development, Maintenance and Studies related to Information Systems on the Interoperable Data area of activity, including specifically those based on semantic technologies, such as Linked Data, Knowledge Graphs and Semantic Web.	Q1	4,000,000.00 €	Framework Contract
Domain technical support (Telematics)	Contracted technical in the field of telematics (TAP and TAF) to support the evolution of the telematics area to a semantic approach and alignment with the Register of Infrastructure (RINF)	Q1	240,250.00 €	Direct contract
Domain technical support (Digital Route book)	Contracted technical support on the development a digital Driver Route Book, including identification of data requirements for the provision of necessary information for the driver and technical advice on the data presentation of the elements for the driver.	Q1	240,250.00 €	Direct contract
Generic ETCS Driver's Handbook update	The aim of the tender is to establish a contract for the update of the Generic ETCS Driver's Handbook on the use of the onboard equipment of ERTMS/ETCS (European Rail Traffic Management System / European Train Control System) in accordance with the Control Command and Signalling Technical Specification for Interoperability (CCS TSI)	Q1	130,000.00 €	Direct contract
Professional film for a safety leadership training	ERA safety leadership training was developed in 2018 and has been successfully deployed. Critical factor is the professional film that shapes the course. A follow-up training is to be developed. The possible successful tenderer will produce the film that will support this new training.	Q1	160,000.00 €	Direct contract

Table 37 - Planned use in 2024 of existing framework contracts

FRAMEWORK CONTRACTS			To be committed in 2024 (estimated)
Local Identifier	User Reference	Expiry Date	
ERA 2022 05 FWC-01	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ERTMS TRACKSIDE APPROVAL	21/05/2027	34 500 EUR
ERA 2023 01 FWC-01	INTERPRETATION SERVICES	24/07/2027	207 500 EUR
ERA 2021 07 FWC	Catering services (Valenciennes)	08/12/2025	30 000 EUR
PMO contract / AMEX GLOBAL BUSINESS TRAVEL	Travel Agency services (missions)	31/03/2024	100,000.00 €
SCIC/C1/2018/FWC/02	SCIC EVENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES - LOT 2	23/01/2024	360 000 EUR
OC_EFSA_COM_2019_01 LOT 2-01	DEVELOPMENT OF STATIC AND INTERACTIVE INFORMATION AND STORYTELLING PRODUCTS	22/06/2024	72 000 EUR
OC_EFSA_COM_2019_01 LOT 1-01	DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS	10/05/2024	90 000 EUR
ESMA 2022 02	ESMA ICT Consultancy	18/10/2026	1 250 000 EUR
ERA 2019 06 FWC	ESP-EISD6 - Off site IT services	28/07/2024	1 000 000 EUR
ERA 2021 02 FWC	Consultancy support on Vehicle Authorisations applications	06/01/2026	350 000 EUR
ERA 2022 03 FWC	DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING PRODUCTS FOR THE EU AGENCY FOR RAILWAYS KNOWLEDGE HUB	31/08/2026	85 000 EUR
SLA DIGIT 028	Service Level Agreement with DG DIGIT	No end date	250,000.00 €

Annex XIV. Strengthening Action Plan (SAP) 2023-2027

1. Context

In 2022, the Agency's Management Board adopted the Strengthening Plan prepared by the Agency in close cooperation with the European Commission. The purpose of the Strengthening Plan is to make the strongest possible case in order to strengthen the Agency with **resources matching the level of ambition necessary for achieving the important EC policy objectives for rail, in an effective and efficient manner, and benefit from high levels of ambition and efficiency within ERA's structure and methods.**

With the document serving as a basis for the internal EC budget negotiations in 2022, the Agency received a proposed increase of 12 TAs in 2022⁹². While the additional TA allocation is lower compared to the request from the Strengthening Plan (12 TAs proposed out of the 22 TAs requested), it can offer a good basis for the Agency to proceed with the implementation of the Strengthening Plan.

A very important challenge is represented by the fact that the additional TA allocation needs to be fully covered under the existing subsidy envelope. To make best use of this TA allocation and considering the external constraints related to the indexation of salaries and prices, the Agency is making a thorough assessment of its capacity to cover these costs in a sustainable manner until the end of MFF 2021-2027. Several measures are envisaged, such as the time-phased hiring of the TAs. The budget constraint on the subsidy side is therefore an element to be properly monitored and managed for the whole remaining period of the current MFF.

The current document describes the plan of actions which the Agency will put in place in the period 2023-2027 in order to implement the Strengthening Plan, taking into consideration the level of additional staff allocation proposed by the EC. It is hereinafter referred as SAP (Strengthening Action Plan) 2023-2027. This builds on actions already taken up to present to increase the efficiency of the support services and tools.

2. What we want to achieve

ERA has established an outcome-driven framework, placing strong emphasis on effectiveness (i.e. "doing the right things"), in line with the prioritisation of activities included in the Strengthening Plan. In parallel, a delivery structure based on Projects and Services has been established. Outputs of projects and services are followed up and measured using a dashboard approach.

With the Strengthening Plan, we will implement a series of improvement actions that should enable to achieve the most appropriate outcomes with the resources available. This is important not only to justify the additional resources requested by the Agency, but also in order to demonstrate that European taxpayer's money is used in the most effective way, so that the European railway system can develop towards attractiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

Improvement actions will be assessed according to their impact as well as ease of implementation. Quantitative targets are defined (mainly related to the respective FTEs) and followed up/measured on a regular basis. The baseline is ERA SPD 2022 and the monitoring tools are ERA SPD Portfolio Management together with the SPD Dashboard developed already.

⁹² 6 TAs are expected to be phased out by the end of MFF 2021-2027

3. Objectives, actions, indicators, and targets

The SAP 2023-2027 mirrors the Strengthening Plan and translated it into concrete actions. It is based on **the planning and monitoring framework and enablers already set up by the Agency**, which includes:

- the multi-annual planning in the SPD, with a clear focus on the intervention logic;
- the Agency's performance dashboard, including reporting to the EB and the MB
- the regular budget execution monitoring and reporting
- the Consolidated Annual Activity Report.

The annual work programmes will therefore be aligned to the priorities listed in the SAP, which represents an anchor for the multi-annual planning in what the priority policy areas are concerned. A direct tracking of SAP-related FTEs, outputs and targets will be included in the SPDs.

The SAP 2023-2027 is organised along the following components/objectives:

- A. Drive an optimal resourcing of policy priority areas, matched by proportional outputs and outcomes, including efficiency gains
- B. Maintain proper resourcing and further efficiency gains for the authority tasks
- C. Ensure a reduction in the Agency's administrative FTE allocation while maintaining regularity and legality
- D. Ensure the overall projected FTE evolution by 2027
- E. Ensure effective and efficient budget management (planning and execution), appropriate risk management

A. Ensure an optimal resourcing of policy priority areas, matched by proportional outputs and outcomes, including efficiency gains

Note: In addition to the balanced input/output ratio for the priority areas, efficiency gains are also embedded and measured with the same indicators. The latter represent the delivery of relatively more (ambitious) outputs for the same amount of effort compared to previous years.

Action	Indicator	P/S code	2022 baseline	Target				
				2023 ⁹³	2024	2025	2026	2027
A1. Ensure proper input/output for NSA monitoring	A1.1. No. of FTEs allocated (annual values)	001MRA1116	4.62	4.93	6	5	5	5
	A1.2. No. of NSA audits performed per year ⁹⁴		6	8	9	9	9	9
	A1.3. Proper learning from the NSA monitoring			Follow-up of deficiencies ensured	Follow-up of deficiencies ensured	Report after 2 cycles issued with recommendations for a new MB decision	Optimised scope implemented	Optimised scope implemented
	A1.4 Audit at the Member State level, i.e. covering more than just the NSA Activities in the MS ⁹⁵					Referential to be started at the end of the 2nd NSA Monitoring cycle		
	A1.5 Observation of NSA supervision activities of RUs where the Agency has issued the SC ⁹⁶			Pilot during the 2 nd year of the 2 nd cycle	To be included in the NSA monitoring service, when relevant	To be included in the NSA monitoring service, when relevant	To be included in the NSA monitoring service, when relevant	To be included in the NSA monitoring service, when relevant
	A1.6 "Monitor" NSAs in EU accession countries	ERA.1151 ⁹⁷					To be started at the end of the 2 nd	

⁹³ For 2023 we work with the assumption that all 12 additional TAs are distributed across the priority areas; however, a correction factor (0.5) needs to be applied to the additional TA work capacity hired in 2023 (in terms of FTE), which corresponds to the late hiring during the year. The numbers included in the 2023 column are already calculated with this correction factor.

⁹⁴ This indicator captures the speed of progress with organising the NSA audits; a complementing indicator is included in the SPD to measure the number of reports issued.

⁹⁵ This could probably be done less frequently i.e. a longer audit cycle: 6-year cycle, or even longer, or targeted only to MSs where we encountered severe issues during the NSA monitoring which could not be addressed at the NSA level but rather at the Member State level.

⁹⁶ Not to replace the NSAs supervision, but to assess the performance of NSAs while carrying out supervision activities (e.g. follow up type 3 issues by concerned NSAs)

⁹⁷ Subject to the extension of the IPA grant in 2023

Action	Indicator	P/S code	2022 baseline	Target				
				2023 ⁹³	2024	2025	2026	2027
	(synergies with IPA grant and TCT) after IPA countries accession”					NSA Monitoring cycle		
	A1.7 Combine large scope NSA monitoring audits and more targeted audits (e.g. process audits)					To be started at the end of the 2 nd NSA monitoring cycle		
A2. Ensure proper input/output for NoBo monitoring	A2.1. No. of FTEs allocated (annual values)	000MRA1138	4.01	5	6	8	8	8
	A2.2. No. of NoBo audits performed per year (full monitoring cycle in 3 years = 20 NoBos/year) ⁹⁸		8-9	15	15	20	20	20
	A2.3. Learning from NoBo monitoring/ Forum of best practices				Organised when the 1 st audit cycle is at an advanced stage			
	A2.4 A new common framework for NoBos, DeBos and AsBo assessment and monitoring set up by the Agency (new legal base may be needed)			First concept drafted	Final draft agreed with EC as a basis for a future legislative proposal			
	A2.5 “Knowledge hub” to promote best practices and train NoBos (widening it to EU accession countries)					To be started at the end of the 1 st NoBo audit cycle.		

⁹⁸ This indicator measures the speed of progress with organising the NoBo audits; a complementing indicator is included in the SPD to measure the number of reports issued.

Action	Indicator	P/S code	2022 baseline	Target				
				2023 ⁹³	2024	2025	2026	2027
A3. Ensure proper input/output for the ERTMS and radio communication evolution	A3.1. No. of FTEs allocated (annual values)	ERA1218 ERA-REC-129	10.35	11.22	13	13	13	13
	A3.2. Expertise provided to EC in the standardisation work related to FRMCS, ATO, innovation (satellite-based system for train positioning, enhanced onboard signaling etc.)- integration of enhancements in CCS TSI					Provision by 2025 in TSI if input is provided via System Pillar		
	A3.3. Support for the EU-wide deployment of ERTMS, including economic impact analysis to inform possible public investment prioritisation (e.g. by CINEA)			Requests of CINEA- DG Move 100% assessed	Requests of CINEA- DG Move 100% assessed	Requests of CINEA- DG Move 100% assessed	Requests of CINEA- DG 100% Move assessed	Requests of CINEA- DG 100% Move assessed
	A3.4 CCS TSI Maintenance and operational activities for CCS Framework				Publication of CCS TSI Application guide	Update CCS TSI with error corrections		Update CCS TSI with error corrections
	A3.5 review of ESC/RSC and roadmap for reduction			ESC/RSC roadmap proposal	CCS TSI Article 12 - analysis delivered according to the deadline set in art. 12 CCS TSI	roadmap implemented as planned	roadmap implemented as planned	
A4. Ensure proper input/output	A4.1. No. of FTEs allocated (annual values)	ERA.1175 ERA.1177 ERA.1178 ERA.1172	4.5	5.94	7	7	7	7

Action	Indicator	P/S code	2022 baseline	Target				
				2023 ⁹³	2024	2025	2026	2027
for the TSIs related work	A4.2. Lessons Learned implemented in CCM process			Harmonised CCM process implemented				
	A4.3. CR DAC			Implementation proposal		Provisions in TSI by 2025		
	A.4.4. CR Unique Authorisation				Specific Cases for Coaches			Unique Authorisation for vehicles
	A.4.5. CR Standards			All new EN referred to in TSI analysed	TO EN updates	TO EN updates	TO EN updates	TO EN updates
	A.4.6. CR Virtual Specification						Closed	
	A.4.7. CR TSI INF Cleaned-up					1 st Draft	Final Draft	
	A.4.8. CR Battery/Hydrogen trains						Closed	
	A.4.9. CR Structural composite materials						Closed	
	A.4.10. CR Platform/Train interface				Closed			
	A.4.11 CR Noise of parked trains				Closed			
	A.4.12. Energy measurements				Closed			
	A.4.13. CR RIV/Dangerous goods				Closed			
	A.4.14 CCM ready for processing System Pillar input			CCM ready by end of Q2	CCM implemented for all requests			
	A4.15. Ec requests for EN standards				Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided

Action	Indicator	P/S code	2022 baseline	Target				
				2023 ⁹³	2024	2025	2026	2027
	A.4.16 TSIs as global standards			International Strategy – 1st Draft	International Strategy - Final			
	A.4.17. Support to EC (TO/Advice/Derogations/NoBos) within agreed deadlines			100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	A.4.18. Increased harmonisation of operations - define new structure for TSI OPE			New structure/ approach defined/agreed	Phased implementation of new structure			
	A4.19 CR on Rear-end signal			closed				
	A4.20 TSI Dissemination Workshops			4	4			
A5. Ensure proper input/output for the clean-up of national rules ⁹⁹	A5.1. No. of FTEs allocated (annual values)	ERA.1172 ERA-PRG-006	4.28	7.36	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
	A5.2. NRs to include in TSIs			CRs introduced	33% CRs Closed	66% CRs Closed	100% CRs Closed	
	A5.3. Increased performance of and trust in MS as control level - Manage NSRs cleaning-up process 2.0 (compliance with TSI OPE 2023, incl. impact of TO, if relevant)			Project finalised (through agreement with MS and/or the issuing of TO)	100% of planned MS assessed (incl. impact of earlier TO if relevant)	100% of planned MS assessed (incl. impact of earlier TO if relevant)	100% of planned MS assessed (incl. impact of earlier TO if relevant)	100% of planned MS assessed (incl. impact of earlier TO if relevant)
	A5.4. Increased performance of SMS - draft new regulation for			Draft new regulation	Draft new regulation and develop	Develop guidance/ training	Deliver training	Deliver training

⁹⁹ In 2023, the Agency and the EC are putting together a practical implementation plan to address the acknowledged need for harmonisation in assessing and cleaning all the categories of rules (vehicle, FI, safety/operational). Once agreed, the milestones of this plan will be reflected in an update of the indicators for SAP 2023-2027 and SPD 2024, respectively.

Action	Indicator	P/S code	2022 baseline	Target				
				2023 ⁹³	2024	2025	2026	2027
	harmonisation of Type 5 NSR				guidance/ training			
A6. Ensure proper input/output for the CSM ASLP work stream ¹⁰⁰	A6.1. No. of FTEs allocated (annual values)	ERA.1219	3.5	4.18	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
	A6.2. Management of the Group of Analysts (GoA)			GoA meetings chaired	Implementation of GoA workplan during CSM ASLP phase I	GoA implemented	GoA implemented	GoA implemented
	A6.3. ISS development				Beta version finalised and tested ¹⁰¹	SAI/ SIS/ ERAIL workflows integrated – 1st version on-line		2nd version on-line
	A6.4. ISS operation				Operation and maintenance ¹⁰²	Operation and maintenance ¹⁰³	Operation and maintenance	Operation and maintenance
	A6.5. CSM development				Technical Opinion on Annex I updated according to the lessons learned	Recommendation on Annex IV	Simplification of CSI/CST	
	A6.6. Support to CSM implementation			User support for implementation	User support for implementation	User support for implementation	User support for implem.	User support for implem.
	A6.7 CSM guidance/training			FAQ based on the	Guidance on ISS functioning published	Training delivered	Training delivered	Training delivered

¹⁰⁰ It is important that a dedicated source of funding be identified for the business description and the setting of the ISS tool, as well as the support for the Group of Analysts; in the absence of that, the outputs of the work from the CSM ASLP workstream risk to be lost.

¹⁰¹ Idem

¹⁰² Idem

¹⁰³ Idem

Action	Indicator	P/S code	2022 baseline	Target				
				2023 ⁹³	2024	2025	2026	2027
				implementation of the CSM developed. Operators voluntarily implementing the CSM identified, questions collected, answers drafted and published.				
	A6.8 GoA/JNS			Normal: GoA proposal & ERA follow-up report Fast track: GoA proposal	Normal: GoA proposal & ERA follow-up report Fast track: GoA proposal	Normal: GoA proposal & ERA follow-up report Fast track: GoA proposal	Normal: GoA proposal & ERA follow-up report Fast track: GoA proposal	Normal: GoA proposal & ERA follow-up report Fast track: GoA proposal
A7. Ensure proper input/output for the digitalisation of Agency's registers	A7.1. No. of FTEs allocated (annual values)	ERA.1227 ERA.1226 ¹⁰⁴ ERA-REC-122	3.44	7.32	7.32	6.22	5.5	5.5
	A7.2. Migration plan for the individual registers to a linked data approach, including the standardization of terminology through the ERA terminology			Draft migration plan prepared	Migration plan finalised			
	A7.3. Migration of registers to a knowledge graph approach (no code needed anymore)				25%	50%	75%	100%

¹⁰⁴ ERA1226 is included in the services contributing to the policy goal specifically through their workstream on digitalisation, excluding the daily running of the registers.

Action	Indicator	P/S code	2022 baseline	Target				
				2023 ⁹³	2024	2025	2026	2027
	A7.4. Progress with the specifications for multi-leg ticketing				Specifications finalised			
	A7.5. Agency becoming a registration entity for vehicles at EU level			Proposal for EC decision sent	Workflows put in place accordingly			
	A7.6. Exploratory work for Eurocontrol for railways, including the traffic management and economic regulation aspects				Draft concept paper developed and discussed with EC	Final concept paper agreed with EC		

B. Ensure sustainable resourcing and further efficiency gains for the authority tasks

Action	Indicator	Target				
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
B1. Ensure sustainable resourcing for the authority tasks	B1.1. No. of FTEs allocated VA excluding CTT	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7
	B1.2. No. of FTEs allocated VA CTT	5	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.5
	B1.3. No. of FTEs allocated SSC	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.8
	B1.4. No. of FTEs allocated ERTMS TA	1.51	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
	B1.5. Proportion of FTEs allocated to authority tasks which are billed	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
	B1.6 Overall FTEs redeployed from authority to policy areas - cumulative values compared to 2022 baseline¹⁰⁵	-3,87	-4.21	-4.51	-4.91	-4.91
B2. Ensure a 1st review of the authority related processes	B2.1. Internal mid-term review of the matrix organisation supporting authority tasks (including AD/CA/AST split)	Mid-term review performed	Follow-up actions implemented			
	B2.2. List of identified improvements for a future legal framework update to be provided to the EC		List consolidated and shared with EC			List consolidated and shared with EC

¹⁰⁵ This reflects the re-visited assumptions for the use of ERA FTEs for VA, SSC, ERTMS TA compared to 2022 and also embeds a component of efficiency gains through simplification/automation of processes.

C. Ensure a reduction in the Agency’s administrative FTE allocation

Note 1: This objective is referred to the administrative FTE allocation, but encompasses a wide scope (e.g. redeploying administrative posts to operational activities, redeploying technical staff who currently cover administrative tasks to operational tasks activities).

All references are to FTEs (not posts) to allow for counting savings and/or redeployments which account for partitions of one FTE.

Note 2: The sequencing is thought as follows:

- i. Creating the capacity of potentially free FTEs through process leaning, including automation – as such, this does not account for a materialised saving, but is a pre-condition (step C2)
- ii. Identifying the opportunities to materialise that capacity – this can happen at contract end points (step C3)
- iii. Having the FTEs freed from administrative work needs to be followed up by their actual redeployment in operational areas (step C4)

Action	Indicator	Target				
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
C1. Process/deliverable/job related workload analysis	C1.1. Workload analysis for all processes (operational and support) based on a consistent methodology	Delivered			Updated	
	C1.2. Workload analysis at job level	Draft	Finalised			
C2. Creating room for administrative FTEs capacity	C2.1. % of previously documented processes leaned, including through automation ¹⁰⁶	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
	C2.2. % of newly documented processes leaned by design, as part of the Agency’s management system linked to ICF	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	C2.3. No. of FTEs saved by leaning secretarial, HR, IT, financial services and administrative functions linked to operational work	Part of overall target below				

¹⁰⁶ Baseline should be defined as a first step.

	C2.4. No. of FTEs saved from optimising the Agency's portfolio (clustering P/S, separating between genuine S and processes, resorting to off-the-shelf IT products etc.)	Part of overall target below				
C3. Materialising the FTE capacity gained	C3.1. No. of administrative FTEs not replaced (e.g. after retirement, invalidity procedure, leaving the Agency etc.)	Part of overall target below				
C4. Redeploying the capacity to operational activities	C4.1. Training programme for the Strengthening Plan put in place as part of the Agency's Learning and Development plan	Set up	Maintained	Maintained	Maintained	Maintained
	C4.2. No. of administrative FTEs retrained through the SP training programme, redeployed to operational activities	Part of overall target below				
	C4.3. No. of technical FTEs directly redeployed from administrative tasks to technical work without the need for training.	Part of overall target below				
C5. Overall FTE target part C (non-cumulative annual targets)		-0.5	-1.25	-0.5	-1	-1

D. Ensure the projected FTE evolution by 2027

Action	Indicator	Target				
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
D1. Control the FTE trend evolution by 2027	D1.1. No. of additional FTEs deployed to policy priority areas – cumulative values compared to 2022 baseline (based on part A above)	+11.23	+17.92	+15.82	+14.10	+14.10
	D1.2. No. of FTEs redeployed from authority to policy tasks - cumulative values compared to 2022 baseline (based on B1.6 above)	-3,87	-4.21	-4.51	-4.91	-4.91
	D1.3. No. of FTEs gained through efficiency measures – cumulative values, calculated based on the annual values from C5 ¹⁰⁷	-0.5	-1.75	-2.25	-3.25	-4.25
	D1.4. Re-assessment of the additional FTE needs for policy activities		Prepared and agreed with EC			
	D1.5. Gate way review of the targets		Done		Done	
	D1.6. Input provided to EC for the next MFF negotiations / any future Railway Package				Provided	

¹⁰⁷ This trend is based on the assumptions on FTE evolution for authority tasks as listed in line B1.6. Should the trend evolve in another direction, there will be a need to revisit the targets for B1.6, C5 and D1.1 in a coordinated manner.

E. Ensure effective and efficient budget management

Action	Indicator	Target				
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
E1. Effective budget management	E1.1. % of subsidy appropriations committed	Min. 98%				
	E1.2. % of carry forward to the next year	Max. 10% for T1 Max. 20% for T2 Max. 30% for T3	Max. 10% for T1 Max. 20% for T2 Max. 30% for T3	Max. 10% for T1 Max. 20% for T2 Max. 30% for T3	Max. 10% for T1 Max. 20% for T2 Max. 30% for T3	Max. 10% for T1 Max. 20% for T2 Max. 30% for T3
	E1.3. Salary gap structurally addressed	-	Done	Done	Done	Done
E2. Efficient budget management	E2.1. Real term savings in the support expenditure (IT, FM)	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

4. Governance and monitoring arrangements

The SAP 2023-2027 is endorsed by the Management Board and steered by the HoU CAP under the coordination of the ED.

A dedicated Task Force is put in place for the period 2023-2027 to support the Action Plan implementation, composed of:

- HoU CAP (Oana Gherghinescu)
- CAP team members (Thomas Willems, Koen Favys, Marta Lenarcik, Andrei Lixandru)
- A representative by unit, selected and nominated by the corresponding HoU, following an internal call for expression of interest (organised in Sep 2022)

Heads of Units/Heads of Departments will be accountable for their respective contributions. The involvement of the individual members in the Task Force is envisaged on a part time basis, in addition to their daily tasks at the Agency.

Regular reporting is envisaged as follows:

- Internal regular iterations with the Agency’s Management Team
- A dedicated section will be set up as part of the SPD Dashboard to monitor the progress of the indicators listed in Chapter 2 of this document, by year of reference
- The SPD Dashboard is presented at every regular EB and MB meeting, which offers the possibility to MB members to regularly monitor the progress with the action plan implementation
- A gate review with the Management Board can be envisaged every two years to make the necessary updates to the Action Plan, depending on the evolution in the internal and external context of the Agency.
- Annual reporting as part of the CAAR

Synergies with the Better Together and the HR strategy work streams will be carefully ensured by the Task Force.

5. Risks

The following risks are identified and assessed according to the matrix below:

Likelihood of consequence	Very likely	2	3	4	5	5
	Likely	1	2	3	4	5
	Possible	1	2	3	4	4
	Unlikely	1	2	2	3	4
	Very unlikely	1	1	2	3	3
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Significant	High
		Impact				

They will be monitored and addressed as part of Agency’s risk register.

Budget related

Risk	Risk assessment	Mitigating measures
1. The Agency might not be in the position to hire all 12 TAs in 2023 due to subsidy constraints. The inflation trend poses significant pressure on the Agency's capacity to cover the salary costs in the absence of sufficient additional EU subsidy.	4	The Agency is carefully monitoring the budget execution to strike the optimal use of the existing resources in the spirit of sound financial management, while flagging early warning signals in case of subsidy gaps. We will react by an agile approach, having reserve lists in place but only conclude employment contracts when the budgetary means are available.
2. The revenues from Fees and Charges are not under the full control of the Agency. In particular, the volume of work can fluctuate due to seasonal trends during the year, but also more structurally, upwards (e.g. the need for re-certification following DAC deployment, go-everywhere trains etc.) or downwards (e.g. starting with the second round of safety certification for the same RU at ERA, the complexity of the issues and checks might drop compared to the first round).	4	

Human resources and internal communication related

Risk	Risk assessment	Mitigating measures
3. The changes in the working patterns, together with the financial consideration for hiring at lower grades, might limit the attractiveness for the specialised technical jobs offered by the Agency in the future. This might hamper the business continuity, talent pool retention and by consequence, Agency's capacity to deliver the technical outputs envisaged in this plan.	3	
4. Inherent internal communication sensitivity around the choices made as part of the action plan (non-replacement, redeployment etc.). In addition, given this internal redeployment, the pressure on legally binding administrative tasks will increase exponentially.	4	The Agency will indeed tackle this aspect with attention, by highlighting and supporting the opportunity of ensuring career paths from administrative tasks to operational tasks. Natural end-of-contract gate reviews will be used.

Output related

Risk	Risk assessment	Mitigating measures
5. With insufficient additional resources for the policy tasks, up to the full level of the need, the Agency might not be in the position to support the EC in responding to all standardisation areas linked to innovation over the next years. The allocation of additional resources might need to be reopened during the lifecycle of this Action Plan to identify priority areas for which the Agency's involvement is further expected.	3	
6. Considering the complexity of the training program which could help redeploying administrative staff to operational tasks, it might have a limited buy in and/or efficiency and could require a period of time for completion which goes beyond the timeline of the Strengthening Plan.	4	

Other

Risk	Risk assessment	Mitigating measures
7. In 2021, the Agency received a grant for its System Pillar workstream. While the grant provides the Agency with 3 FTEs to cover for this work until May 2025. In the absence of an extension, there is a risk of business continuity for this stream of activities.	4	Ensuring a multi-annual continuity of the contribution agreement and an internal coordination of the system pillar work directly linked to the Railway System activities (ERTMS, TSIs, Safety).