Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs

First session
Geneva, 31 October – 1 November 2016
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Programme of work

Programme of Work and Terms of Reference of the UNECE Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs

Note by the secretariat

I. Programme of Work

A. Objectives of Work

1.   In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts is expected to complete its work within two years (2016–2018) and to submit a full report of its accomplishments. The Group of Experts should base its considerations on previous work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in this field, in particular the work on:

(a)   Cost benefit analysis of transport infrastructure projects, 2003;

(b)   A methodological basis for the definition of common criteria regarding the identification of bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service in infrastructure networks, 2009;

(c)   The Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project standards and Recommended Practice, 2002;

(d)   The TEM and the Trans-European Railway (TER) revised Master Plan – Final Report, 2012;

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(e)   The Euro Asian Transport Linkages Project studies, 2008 /2012.

2.   The Group of Experts shall assist in:

(a)   Identify models, methodologies, tools and good practices for evaluating, calculating and analysing inland transport infrastructure construction costs;

(b)   Identify and list terminologies used in UNECE region for construction costs of inland transport infrastructure, if possible, create a glossary of agreed terminologies and related explanations;

(c)   Collect and analyse data in order to prepare a benchmarking of transport infrastructure construction costs along the ECE region for each inland transport mode – road, rail, inland waterways – including intermodal terminals, freight/logistics centres and ports; Analyse and describe the conditions / parameters under which these costs have been calculated on.

B.   Activities

3.   The Group of Experts will undertake the following main tasks, which are further defined in the Terms of Reference and will be further elaborated, as required, throughout the whole period of its work, with the support of the secretariat:

(a)   Adopt its work plan (objectives, activities, time schedule);

(b)   Take stock of models, methodologies, tools and good practices for evaluating, calculating and analysing inland transport infrastructure construction costs;

(c)   Identify and list the terminologies used in ECE region for construction costs of inland (road, rail, inland waterways – including intermodal terminals, freight/logistics centres and ports) transport infrastructure;

(d)   For each construction cost agree if possible on one terminology;

(e)   Create, if possible, a glossary of the agreed terminologies, which is going to be the basis on which the benchmarking will take place;

(f)   Prepare for each construction cost a list of sub costs involved including technical details/description for each of these sub costs;

(g)   Prepare, distribute and analyse the results of a survey requesting from Governments the actual costs for each transport infrastructure construction cost identified and listed;

(h)   Prepare based on the above results and present the benchmarking of transport infrastructure construction costs (final report of its work) to be published by UNECE;

(i)   Make proposals on the scope of related activities of its parent body, the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5);

(j)   If critical for the dissemination of Group of Experts' work, convene an international conference on benchmarking transport infrastructure construction costs to raise awareness possibly under the auspices of WP.5.

4.   In carrying out its main tasks, the Group of Experts will, among others, also:

(a)   Review the geographical scope of the work;

(b)   Identify potential partners in the public or private sector and on the national, regional and international level, with whom the Group of Experts may wish to collaborate,

with a view to take stock of models, methodologies, tools and exchange of good practices, as well as ensuring extra budgetary funding in support of its activities;

(c) Identify suitable methodological approaches, models and tools for gathering and disseminating information, i.e. conducting studies, distributing questionnaires, using existing studies and national strategies, existing best practices in calculating transport infrastructure construction costs, among others;

(d) Identify any necessary data that the Expert Group may require on regions or countries that have an increase on construction of transport infrastructure during the last decades, or are already experiencing high costs for constructing transport infrastructure.

C. Time Schedule

5. At its first session on 31 October 2016, the Expert Group will review its schedule of activities which is planned as follows:

Session	Date
First session	31 October – 1 November 2016
Second session	10–11 April 2017
Third session	10–11 July 2017
Fourth session	16–17 October 2017
Fifth session	March/ April 2018 (date to be confirmed)
Sixth session	2018 (date to be confirmed) if needed two meetings will take place during 2018
Report: thirty first session of Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)	September 2018, Geneva

II. Terms of Reference

6. The Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs are in document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2015/2 as amended and adopted by WP.5 at its twenty-eight session (Geneva, 7–9 September 2015) as reflected in its report (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/58, paras. 39–40), endorsed by the Inland Transport Committee in its seventy-eight session (23–26 February 2016) and approved by the UNECE Executive Committee (April 2016).