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Working Party on Transport Statistics

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work, biennial evaluation and work plan

Additional information on the Programme of Work and Biennial Evaluation 2016-2017

Note by the Secretariat

This document provides more detail on the Programme of work and biennial evaluation 2016/2017 (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/4). Specifically, in addition to the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, a performance assessment and lessons learned/areas for improvement are suggested below. This information is required for the Inland Transport Committee's (ITC) biennial evaluation.

Cluster 13 Transport statistics

A. Performance assessment

The Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) held two regular sessions. At the latter in 2017, the first morning was dedicated to a rail statistics workshop.

The next edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics was discussed and improvements were identified. Pilot questionnaires on level crossing safety indicators and rail accident statistics were adopted and disseminated.

The online transport statistics database was improved upon with an enhancement of the timeliness of data. Two recurrent publications were prepared and published online: Statistics for Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS) and UNECE Transport Statistics for Europe and North America (formerly ABTS). A capacity building workshop for United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs) countries took place in September 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Finally, the harmonization of transport statistics methodologies continued, with Intersecretariat Working group (IWG) meetings between Eurostat, The International Transport Forum and the secretariat taking place.

B. Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

The secretariat should continue to improve cooperation with Eastern and Central European, Caucasian and Central Asian member States, in particular considering the capacity building workshop organized in Ashgabat. This workshop helped to establish direct contacts with data providers however more efforts are needed. More capacity building activities are required in order to improve the response rate of some countries. The E-Road and E-Rail 2015 census results should be disseminated using a Geographic Information System (GIS) application if possible. Further streamlining of the common questionnaire, considering the needs of data users and minimizing the reporting burden on countries, should be considered. The Working Party should be promoted as an open forum for robust discussions on methodological work on transport statistics.