

1st TEM and TER Joint Rail and Road/Motorway Follow-up Expert Group Meeting
26 October 2011, Salzburg, Austria

TER MASTER PLAN REVISION FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMME OF WORK

In accordance with the approved TER Master Plan Revision Terms of Reference and its Final Report conclusions and recommendations, the specific follow-up actions and activities have been envisaged to increase the awareness for the Master Plan Revision implementation, to disseminate its results and outcomes as well as to obtain the missing information about the current status and planned progress in some parts of the backbone network, needed to present its complete shape in the different time horizons.

For this purpose, the TEM and TER Joint Rail and Road/Motorway Follow-up Expert Group at its first meeting held on 26 October 2011 in Salzburg, Austria elaborated the draft TER Master Plan Revision Follow-Up Monitoring System, to be approved by the 31st session of the TER Steering Committee.

Based on the monitoring mechanism adopted, the activities listed below are proposed to be incorporated in the TER Master Plan Revision Follow-up Programme of Work.

Completion of the Master Plan Revision missing or insufficient data

In the course of the elaboration of the TER Master Plan Revision, lack of adequate information about the current status and planned progress in some parts of the respective railway network and about the passenger or freight traffic flows caused certain difficulties in presenting the complete shape of the TER revised backbone network in the different time horizons of 2015 and 2020. Therefore, the missing or insufficient data should be completed with direct inputs of countries that did not provide all the data and printing imperfections should be corrected, in order to support the decision making process and further improve and make use of the TER Master Plan Revision results.

TER Master Plan Revision backbone network status and future progress

In the framework of the activities of the TEM and TER Joint Rail and Road/Motorway Follow-up Expert Group and on the basis of the collected infrastructure status data, the latest information on updated investment plans to further develop the TER revised backbone network should be collected, examined and processed, so as to obtain the complete picture on the status of this network and its development by 2020.

On this basis, the TER revised backbone network status 2015 and 2020 data will be produced in order to support the respective monitoring processes. These outputs will also serve to the identification of the capacity and condition bottlenecks and for the identification of network sections eligible for reconstruction in order to increase the design speeds.

Monitoring of Master Plan Revision implementation

Regular monitoring of the results of implementation of the Master Plan Revision, especially of its investment plan is a necessary tool to make sure that its potential is fully realized, its conclusions, findings and recommendations come to fruition and its goals are reached. Furthermore, monitoring of the progress in bringing the TER Master Plan revised backbone network up to the required UNECE AGC and TER Standards must represent the permanent task of the TER Project in the future to be reflected in all its annual Programmes of Work.

The Master Plan Revision projects' implementation monitoring will follow the established monitoring procedure, guaranteeing its regularity and reliability, according to which the filled in templates should be submitted regularly to the TER PCO for checking and processing every year.

The results of the monitoring activities would be submitted once a year for the consideration of the TER Steering Committee.

Elaboration of contingent proposals on modifications of the TER Master Plan Revision backbone network

In the framework of the TER Master Plan Revision, the TER Master Plan backbone network was defined, consisting of the most important rail links connecting the Master Plan member countries with each other, taking into account also the AGC rail network, the EU High level Group transnational axes, the EU Trans-European Railway Network (TEN-T) and the Euro-Asian links.

In order to reach the best possible conformity between the TER Master Plan revised backbone network and these major international networks, the TEM and TER Joint Rail and Road/Motorway Follow-up Expert Group would follow their latest developments and if necessary, it would submit to the TER Steering Committee the proposals to adjust the Master Plan revised backbone network system accordingly.

Maintenance and upgrading of the TER Master Plan Revision GIS system

The TER Project's data processing and information system provides annually updated data on principal railway network in the TER member countries as well as on railway sections under construction and makes it possible to produce TER network maps of each country, showing the actual status of the rail infrastructure. These data were also successfully exploited in the course of elaboration of the TER Master Plan Revision, more specifically in the process of creation of its traffic forecast and in the production of the Master Plan Revision special maps showing the status of its backbone network, traffic flows, border crossings, bottlenecks and the infrastructure projects.

The exploitation of the TER data system and of their collection methodology, based inter alia also on the experience gained in the process of the TER Master Plan Revision elaboration, will represent an important and continuous Master Plan Revision follow-up activity and would at the same also contribute to the continuous upgrading of the TER Master Plan Revision GIS system.

Analysis of financial securisation of the Master Plan Revision projects

In the TER Master Plan Revision, the main sources of funding of the investment plan have been identified. Nevertheless, according to its results, a considerable amount of the total implementation costs for the realization of the Master Plan Revision projects was not secured at the time of the preparation of the Master Plan Revision Final report. Because of this, and in order to advance further and support the process of the implementation of the plan and to continue the process of the funds acquisition in close co-operation with the countries in question and the international financing institutions, it is desirable to devote the activities of the TEM and TER Joint Rail and Road/Motorway Follow-up Expert Group also to financial securization of the TER Master Plan Revision projects and to ensuring their financing including the analysis of the projects' eligibility for EU grants, bank and public-private funding as well as to recommendations for future steps to be taken in order to secure the missing funding sources.

For these purposes, the information and recommendations of the Annexes of Volume II of the TEM and TER Master Plan Revision Final report and especially the findings of the Annex V (Financing the Railway Infrastructure in the Revised Master Plan) should be made use of in the framework of the follow-up activities.