

**TER Project Central Office
Bratislava, Slovakia**

Workshop on the Master Plan for the future High speed rail network in Central and Eastern Europe

Timisoara, 12 – 13 September 2012

R E P O R T

1. The Workshop on the Master Plan for the future High speed rail network in Central and Eastern Europe, organized by the Trans-European Railway Project (TER) with the support of the Romanian Ministry of Transport was held on 12 – 13 September 2012 in Timisoara, Romania.
2. Representatives and experts of Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, and Turkey as well as the UNECE representative, TER Project Manager and the UNECE consultant took part in the workshop. The list of participants is attached to this report as its Annex 1.
3. Mr. K. Alexopoulos, representative of the UNECE Transport Division, opened the workshop, extending his thanks to the Romanian Government for its kind decision to host the event and informing the participants about the activities of the Division related to the rail transport with special respect to those of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2).
4. Mr. A. Hörhager of the European Investment Bank and Head of the JASPERS Regional Office in Vienna, speaking on financing Infrastructure projects in a challenging environment, described the principles of the lending policy of the Bank and the tasks of JASPERS, providing advice for major infrastructure projects and briefed the workshop about the Project Bonds, a newly introduced tool to increase debt financing for large scale projects in the target areas of transport and energy.
5. Mr. J. Nicolaos, Director of the Infrastructure International Affairs and Strategy Department of the Romanian Railways, expressed his pleasure in welcoming the participants in Romania and informed them about the Romanian 2020 Railway Platform, Romanian Action Plans for the Railway Transport and about the general purpose and basic parameters of the prefeasibility study of the future high speed railway line Hungarian/Romanian border – Bucharest – Constanta.
6. Mr. Z. Marossy, Senior Expert, delivered the presentation on development of the Danube – Krish – Maros – Tisa Euroregion as well as about the study on

rehabilitation of the railway line Szeged (Hungary) – Kikinda (Serbia) – Timisoara (Romania), aimed at increasing its design speed to 160 km/h.

7. The next part of the workshop was moderated and introduced by Mr. S. Roseanu, Director General of the CFR Calatori S. A.
8. Mr. P. Schneyder of the Austrian PAN PLAN company provided information about the outcomes, facts and figures regarding the study of the high speed train line (Kiev) –Bucharest – Ruse – (Istanbul) in the light of the Trans-European as well as regional connections.
9. Mr. C. Sirinoglu of the General Directorate of Turkish Railways (TCDD) in Ankara reported on railway investments in Turkey and of the first two high speed lines in operation in the country and their socio-cultural effects. He further presented information and some figures regarding new major railway projects in Turkey, namely Eskisehir – Istanbul, Ankara – Sivas – Erzincan, Ankara – Izmir, Ankara – Bursa, Marmaray project and Ankara High Speed Railway Station and described also the TCDD targets for the year 2023.
10. Mr. J. Kleniewski, Counsellor to the Polish Minister of Infrastructure regarding the railway investment provided the participants with the information about the plans and activities of the high speed rail in Poland. He described the preliminary high speed line concept with the target years of 2030 and 2050, supported by the ongoing prefeasibility studies and mentioned also the Declaration of Infrastructure Ministers of the Visegrad Group on the high speed network in Central Europe of 20 April 2010, which may also add value to the TER project.
11. Mr. J. Kusnir, Director of the Railway Department of the Czech Ministry of Transport and Mr. R. Cech, System Specialist of the Czech Administration of the Rail Infrastructure dealt in their presentations with the high-speed rail from a perspective of a small Central-European country. They introduced the concept of so-called Rapid Service (RS) to be materialized in two phases, in the first phase making use of vehicles available in Central Europe (Railjet, ICx, Vectron, Taurus, etc.), having speeds 200-250 km/h and in the second one introducing the full high speed operation.
12. Ms. E. Shebunina, Senior Project Manager of the JSC “High-Speed Rail Lines” (Russian Federation) informed the workshop about the high-speed rail development in Russia, based on the Railway Transport Development Strategy until 2030. Up to now, the high-speed Sapsan train service on the St Petersburg–Moscow line was launched in late 2009, the speed train service on the Moscow–Nizhny Novgorod line in mid-2010 and the speed Allegro train service on the St Petersburg–Helsinki line in late 2010. At present, two more high speed projects (HSR 1 Moscow – St. Petersburg and HSR 2 – Moscow – Nizhny Novgorod – Kazan – Yekaterinburg) are under preparation, having the total length of 2254 km.

13. As an integral part of the Workshop, the technical excursion to the railway line Timisoara - Kikinda in Serbia was accomplished on 12 September. Following the excursion, the meeting was held in the Town Hall of Kikinda, opened by the President I. Pasztor, Assembly of Vojvodina.
14. Mr. K. Alexopoulos, representative of the Transport Division of the UN Economic Commission of Europe, introduced its activities in the railway and border crossing fields and Mr. H. Meelich informed the participants briefly about the objectives of the TER project and about its intention to elaborate the Master Plan for High Speed Railway Network in the region.
15. Mr. Blath, Senior Expert, and representatives of the DKMT Euroregion presented the results of the studies on revitalization of the Szeged – Kikinda – Timisoara and Szeged – Subotica – Baja lines.
16. Mr. J. Nicolaos summarized the position of the CFR with respect to the planned Budapest – Bucharest – Constanta high speed line on Romanian territory and Mr. S. Roseanu informed the meeting about the new agreement between the CFR Calatori and MAV Traction aimed at improvement of crossborder rail services.
17. At the end of the meeting in Kikinda, the Serbian representatives, Messrs. D. Nestic and M. Vucinic, expressed their support for the efforts to clarify the future high speed railway development in the region, stressing also the need to consider this topic in wider context, taking into account the related corridors and connections to the Adriatic and Black Sea ports, too.
18. The Project Manager, speaking on behalf of all the participants in the workshop, expressed their special gratitude to the Romanian Government as well as to the Timisoara Province and Towns of Timisoara and Kikinda for hosting the workshop as well as for its outstanding organization.