

Annex IV

TER MASTER PLAN FOLLOW-UP ACTION PLAN FOR 2007

1. The elaboration of the TER Master Plan is among the major activities proposed in the Short-term Strategy for further integration of TER in the European Transport Environment. At its 16th session, in 2001 the TER Steering Committee approved this Strategy and included the TER Master Plan into the TER Programme of Work for the years 2001-2005. Thereafter, the TER Master Plan was elaborated in an integrated manner, together with the TEM Master Plan, on the basis of uniform Terms of Reference for both TER and the TEM projects, approved by the Projects' Steering Committees.
2. The works on the TER Master Plan were finalized by September 2005, being achieved the intended goals i.e. presentation of a consistent and realistic long-term investment strategy for the railway and combined transport backbone network in the wider TER region. For attaining this objective a remarkable work has been done with the contribution of the countries' experts, the external consultants, the PCO staff and under the guidance of the UNECE Transport Division.
3. Among its most important outputs achieved could be mentioned:
 - Elaboration of a methodological framework for the identification, evaluation, prioritisation and financing of priority railway infrastructure projects;
 - Identification of the TER backbone network with core projects;
 - Alternative implementation scenarios for a Regional Master Plan;
 - Inventory of specific priority projects for implementation;
 - Budget estimates for implementation of projects;
 - Identification of bottlenecks or missing links on the network;
 - Estimates on funding and financing of identified projects;
 - Inventory of rail border crossing problems including suggestions and actions.
4. The Master Plan has been a major step forward in the future development of the transport infrastructure in Central and Eastern Europe and its interoperability. As many as 491 projects (319 TEM and 172 TER) with an aggregate estimated cost of EUR 102.10 billion, of which, EUR 49.55 billion for road and EUR 52.55 billion for rail, were evaluated and prioritized. These results had taken duly into account alternative scenarios of growth, methodological aspects and assumptions, bottlenecks and missing links as well as problems of funding of transport infrastructure and border crossings.
5. The TER Project Steering Committee approved the conclusions and recommendations as well as the proposed follow-up actions of the TER Master Plan. Monitoring of the implementation of TER Master Plan and regular adaptations of the network are major tasks of the follow-up work. The main follow up activities recommended by the Master Plan are illustrated below. These include:

- Ensure the necessary follow-up of the Master Plan work;
- Complete missing and/or insufficient data with the direct inputs from the countries;
- Regularly update of the TER Master Plan Backbone Network and priority projects;
- Monitor the implementation of the Master Plan and the progress for bringing the technical standards of TER Backbone network up to the required international level;
- Harmonize and coordinate priority projects in various countries for timely implementation across the borders;
- Present status of the Backbone Network shape in 2010, 2015, 2020;
- Review of the investment strategy by 2008 taking into account developments and evolution;

These activities have been included in the TER Programme of Work for the new cycle 2006-2010, as an integral part of the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement, representing the most important tasks of TER Project in the following years.

6. In 2006, TER Project, based on countries' inputs and assistance of external consultants, carried out specific follow-up activities aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Master Plan. Focus was given on priority projects identified by the Master Plan, assessing its interconnection with other related initiatives, the legal commitments of involved countries and disseminating of its results. The achievements of the work include:
 - Elaboration of a Comparison Report of the TER Master Plan Backbone network with the five axes proposed by the HLG as well as with the legal commitments of the EU, member and acceding countries, involved in the Master Plan;
 - Collection of missing or partial information on the status of priority projects;
 - Review of the current status in some parts of the backbone network and availability of funds for the implementation of the identified projects;
 - Preparation of a Progress Report, for 2006, on the implementation of priority projects identified by the Master Plan.
7. TER Working Party on Infrastructure Matters and Technical Operations (WP.1) at its Session in Geneva, 14 November 2006, is invited to consider the Master Plan follow-up tasks proposed to be carried out by TER Project in 2007 and make recommendations to the 23rd TER Steering Committee Session, to be held in Geneva, 16 of November 2006.

These include:

- Further collection of missing and/or insufficient data with the direct inputs from the countries, which did not provide data;
- Updating the TER Master Plan Backbone network, including its extension to Armenia and Azerbaijan;
- Harmonization and coordination of the order of priority of projects in various countries for timely implementation across the border;
- Elaboration of a comparison of the TER Master Plan backbone network vis-à-vis the OSJD priority corridors as well as the E-Rail and Combined transport networks;

- Addressing railway border crossing facilitation issues along the main border crossing points of the TER Master Plan Backbone Network;
 - Identification, collection and processing of the necessary elements/data for the presentation of the shape of TER Backbone network by 2010, 2015, 2020;
 - Monitoring the progress and implementation of technical standards for bringing TER Backbone network up to the required international level;
 - Preparation of a Progress Report, for 2007, on the implementation of priority projects identified by the Master Plan.
 - Start the process of reviewing the investment strategy, before 2008, with a view of elaborating the ToR for the review in 2008, in cooperation with the TEM Project.
8. To allow the implementation of the above mentioned tasks WP.1 will be also invited to consider proposing to the TER Steering Committee the organization of below meetings of the TER Project in 2007:
- 3rd Meeting of TER Experts on the implementation of the Master Plan - (March 2007);
 - 4th Meeting of TER Experts on the implementation of the Master Plan - (June 2007);
 - Meeting of TER Experts on Railway Border Crossing on facilitation of border control procedures along the TER Master Plan Backbone Network - (November 2007)
 - TER Working Party on Infrastructure Matters and Technical Operations (WP.1) – (November 2007).
9. A detailed description of the proposed TER Master Plan follow-up Action Plan and the objectives of the proposed meetings of TER in 2007 in this regard is annexed .
10. Considering the important tasks assigned to the PCO in the next period of time in relation with the Master Plan, its follow up work and other activities, TER Working Party on Infrastructure Matters and Technical Operations (WP.1) may wish to consider recommending to the Steering Committee to continue making use of the services of Mr. M. Lupescu and Mr.R. Galbenu, as consultants, for assisting the TER PCO in implementing TER activities in 2007, preparing documents and maps, organizing of meetings, etc., and request the Executing Agency, in close cooperation with the Project Manager, to establish, within January 2007, the appropriate consultancy contracts with specific tasks according to the needs.

ANNEX

Action Plan for the implementation of TER MASTER PLAN in 2007

A. ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY TER PROJECT IN 2007

1. Further collection of missing and/or insufficient data with the direct inputs from the countries, which did not provide data
2. Updating the TER Master Plan Backbone network, including its extension to Armenia and Azerbaijan;
3. Identification of areas where crossborder projects timing and realization need to be addressed;
4. Elaboration of a comparison of the TER Master Plan backbone network vis-à-vis the OSJD priority corridors as well as with the E-Rail and Combined transport networks;
5. Addressing railway border crossing facilitation issues along the main border crossing points of the TER Master Plan Backbone Network;
6. Identification, collection and processing of the necessary elements/data for the presentation of the shape of TER Backbone network by 2010, 2015, 2020;
7. Monitoring the progress and implementation of technical standards for bringing TER Backbone network up to the required international level;
8. Preparation of a Progress Report, for 2007, on the implementation of priority projects identified by the Master Plan.
9. Start the process of reviewing the Master Plan, before 2008, with a view of elaborating the methodology for reviewing and updating in 2008 of TER Master plan, in cooperation with the TEM Project for TEM Master plan.
10. Maintenance and further development of the TER Master Plan GIS
11. Promotion of TER Master Plan

B. ORGANIZATION OF TER MEETINGS IN 2007, IN SUPPORT OF THE TER MASTER PLAN FOLLOW-UP WORK

1. 3rd Meeting of TER Experts on the implementation of the Master Plan - (March 2007), for assessing further collection of missing and/or insufficient data from the countries, updating of TER Master Plan backbone network also by including Armenia and Azerbaijan, identification of areas where cross border projects realization need to be addressed, etc.
2. 4th Meeting of TER Experts on the implementation of the Master Plan - (June 2007) for identification and processing elements for the shape of Backbone in 2010-2020, elaboration of a comparison of TER Backbone network vis-à-vis the OSJD priority

corridors, E Rail and AGTC networks, monitoring progress in implementation of technical standards, etc

3. Meeting of TER Experts on Railway Border Crossing facilitation issues along the main border crossing points of the TER Master Plan Backbone Network - (November 2007), etc
4. TER Working Party on Infrastructure Matters and Technical Operations (WP.1) – November 2007 for discussing the preparation of Progress Report for 2007 on the implementation of priority projects identified by Master Plan, process of reviewing the Master Plan and methodology for the reviewing and updating in 2008 of the TER Master plan in cooperation with TEM Project, etc

1. Further collection of missing data and/or insufficient data with the direct inputs from the countries, which did not provide data

3rd Meeting of TER Experts on the implementation of the Master Plan will be held to discuss the proposed detailed activity for the implementation of the Action Plan for 2007, as one of the major objectives of the TER Programme of Work for the period 2006-2010. During the meeting would be assessed the main actions considered of utmost importance for the future progress of TER as well as for the implementation of the Master Plan.

Due to the lack of data about some important construction/reconstruction works on projects and in order to complete the realistic shape of the TER backbone network in the different time horizons of 2010, 2015 and 2020 and in reassignment of priorities to certain railway projects the missing or insufficient data should be completed with direct inputs from the countries.

All these additional data and information should be collected at PCO before 15 of February and discussed during the above Meeting of TER experts on Master Plan.

Information for projects included in the Master Plan will be based on the

Questionnaire on missing data; Data for new projects for the review of Master Plan will be presented based on the TEMPLATES. This will also enable the participants to assess the current status of projects under implementation.

Proposed time schedule: March 2007

2. Updating the TER Master plan Backbone network including its extension to Armenia and Azerbaijan.

An important part of the efforts would be devoted to assessing the situation of the TER backbone network. These outputs will also serve for identification of the bottlenecks and measures for their removal. Information required will be sent to PCO before 15 of February 2007.

The results of this evaluation and prioritization of projects will also serve as inputs to up-dating the Master Plan investment plans envisaged to take place in 2008.

After the meeting the report on the outcome of discussions with results of the projects' assessment will be elaborated and distributed.

Proposed time schedule: March 2007

3. Identification of areas where cross border projects timing and realization need to be addressed.

Based on the latest information received on updated investment plans for the period 2010-2020, a comprehensive evaluation will be carried out for assessing the areas where cross border projects timing and realization need to be addressed. Before this meeting the data required for the same period in the non-TER Master Plan countries as well as in Armenia and Azerbaijan will be requested in order to obtain the complete picture on the shape of priority projects situated on long routes and which implementation should be ensured across the country's borders.

After the meeting an assessment report with conclusions would be prepared.

Proposed time schedule: March 2007 , continuing in the years to come.

4. Elaboration of a comparison of the TER Master Plan Backbone network vis-a-vis the OSJD priority corridors as well as the E-Rail and Combined transport networks

Comparison analysis, and reporting, on the TER backbone network vis-a-vis OSJD priority corridors would be prepared and discussed during the 4th Meeting of TER experts on Master plan.

In addition TER backbone network would be examined vis-a-vis the Line sections included by TER countries in the AGC and AGTC.

After the meeting an assessment report will be prepared and distributed to the countries.

Proposed time schedule: June 2007

5. Addressing railway border crossing facilitation issues along the main border crossing points of the TER Master Plan Backbone Network

TER Master Plan follow-up work on border crossing facilitation is one of the important issues with direct impact on increasing to a higher or lower degree the traffic of passenger and goods in international railway transport.

Measures taken by countries in border crossing control could lead to bottlenecks if international standards are not applied. Various international organizations have developed standards for facilitating the border control procedures.

TER Project with its experience since 2001 in approaching this issue was monitoring the progress achieved in the member countries. Now the discussions would be devoted to proposals and measures aimed at removing all kind of problems in this field which could lead to bottlenecks and solving other related issues on the TER backbone network.

A report will be prepared and submitted to the meeting of experts on Railway border crossings for discussion.

Proposed time schedule: November 2007

6. Identification, collection and processing of the necessary elements/data for the presentation of the shape of TER Backbone network by 2010, 2015, 2020.

Based on the results, conclusions and recommendations of the 3rd meeting of experts on Master Plan, the updated lists of lines and maps, showing the identified elements for shaping the future TER backbone network in the years 2010, 2015 and 2020 will be elaborated.

These issues will be discussed during the 4th meeting of TER experts.
A report on this subject will be prepared after the meeting.

Proposed time schedule: June 2007

7. Monitoring the progress and implementation of technical standards for bringing TER backbone network up to the required international level.

Monitoring of the progress in bringing the TER Master Plan backbone network up to the required UNECE AGC, AGTC and TER Standards must represent the permanent task of the TER Project in the future and be reflected in all its phases and assessed during the meetings.

These issues would be discussed during the WP1 Meeting (framework for monitoring the progress in the implementation of the TER Master Plan).

After the meeting a report would be with the outcome of discussions will be elaborated and distributed.

Proposed time schedule: November 2007

8. Preparation of a Progress Report, for 2007, on the implementation of priority projects identified by the Master Plan

On the basis of the progress and results achieved during the year in the realization of the Follow-up Action Plan, a Progress Report on the implementation of the priority projects identified by the Master Plan will be prepared and distributed for discussion during WP1 meeting.

Proposed time schedule: November, 2007

9. Start of the process of reviewing the Master plan, before 2008 with a view of elaborating the methodology for reviewing and updating in 2008 of TER Master plan in cooperation with the TEM Project for TEM Master plan.

In close cooperation with TEM Project will be prepared proposals for a joint review of the investment strategy and draft Terms of Reference for the general review of the Master Plan in 2008. Being an operation similar to the elaboration of the present Master Plan, the coordination of the work will be given to PCO with assistance provided by experts/consultants from the TER countries.

Proposals for reviewing the strategy and of the Master Plan will be prepared and submitted for discussion during WP 1.

Proposed time schedule: November 2007

10. Maintenance and further development of the TER Master Plan GIS

Additional data to be provided by the countries in the framework of the respective work in 2007 will be processed by the PCO, with the help of the external consultants, the outcome of which will be reflected in new GIS maps, as appropriate.

Proposed time schedule : whenever necessary and latest by November 2007

11. Promotion of the Master Plan results

Continued dissemination of information on the TER Master Plan results and the follow-up work. (ECE, EC, fora , Governments etc.)

Review and updating of the TER Master Plan website with proposed documents and maps to be inserted would have to be done by the TER PCO.

Organization of a special event for the presentation of the TEM and TER Master Plan projects to the EU and international financial institutions for possible funding of their implementation could be also considered in the first half part of 2007.
