


Economic Commission for Europe
Inland Transport Committee
Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics
Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs
Twelfth session

Geneva, 22–23 November 2021

**Report of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport
Infrastructure Construction Costs on its twelfth session**
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I. Attendance

1. The Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (hereafter called the Group) held its twelfth session on 22–23 November 2021. The session was Chaired by Mr. A. Maciejewski (Poland/ Trans-European Motorway (TEM) Project).
2. Representatives of the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States participated: Croatia, Finland, Poland, Russian Federation and Turkey.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/24

3. The Group adopted the agenda.

III. Transport Infrastructure Construction costs: Presentations of good practices at national levels for evaluating and calculating construction costs (agenda item 2)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/7/Rev1

4. The Group reviewed ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/7/Rev.1 which had been prepared by the secretariat as requested by the Group at its last session in April 2021. As per the Group's request, the original version of this document had been fact checked and updated.
5. The Group reviewed the revised document and agreed that in light of its expanded mandate additional text with more information on national procurement/ benchmarking efforts of infrastructure maintenance works and operation costs had to be added. Representatives of lead countries Croatia, Poland, Russian Federation and Turkey agreed to work on preparing a number of additional text boxes with good practices and to have these ready for discussion and possible approval for inclusion at the next session of the Group in February 2022.

IV. Transport Infrastructure Construction costs: Presentations of terminologies used (agenda item 3)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2019/1/Rev.3

6. As per its expanded mandate and following the approval of the document by WP.5, the Group endorsed ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2019/1/Rev.3 which consists of an expanded terminology list including new terms related to maintenance and operation costs prepared by lead countries Croatia, Poland, and Turkey, for inclusion in its final report.

V. Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs: Overview of main concerns and considerations (agenda item 4)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/5; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/8

7. Under this agenda item, the Chair and the secretariat informed the Group that its parent body, WP.5, at its session in September 2021 had been briefed about the progress made by the Group, in particular regarding the additional questionnaires on transport maintenance and operation costs (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/5). The Group was informed that WP.5 expressed its support to submit the new questionnaires to mode-specific Working Parties SC.1,¹ SC.2² and SC.3/WP.3³ for data collection purposes and that it had agreed to

¹ Working Party on Road Transport

² Working Party on Rail Transport

³ Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

take on a more proactive role in supporting the Group's data collection efforts by raising awareness about the Group's activities thereby contributing to its geographical expansion leading to a more data rich final report to be prepared ahead of the WP.5 annual session in September 2022. The Group was informed by the secretariat that despite efforts, no additional replies had been received from Member States so far, neither to the initial questionnaires on transport infrastructure construction costs (for which the deadline had been extended) nor to the new questionnaires on maintenance and operation costs. The secretariat also informed the Group that in response to a request to provide more data, WP.24⁴ had acknowledged that its response rate to the questionnaire on infrastructure construction costs of inter-modal terminals had been quite limited given that most terminals are private sector rather than Government owned and managed. In this light, WP.24 recommended the Group not to invest time and efforts in the development of an additional questionnaire on maintenance and operation costs and also indicated that no further WP.24 data inputs were to be expected. The Group took note of this and requested the secretariat to reach out one more time to the other mode specific Working Parties (SC.1, SC.2 and SC.3) to inform them that the final deadline to receive data had been extended until 31 January 2022.

8. Under this agenda item, the secretariat also briefed the Group on the establishment of a GIS based International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO). The Group was invited to provide feedback and guidance on the potential that this platform offers to host and visualise its benchmarking analytical data and information on national and regional benchmarking best practices. The secretariat stressed that ITIO provides an efficient way to ensure that the work of the Group becomes sustainable and would in addition to resulting in a written report also live on in a virtual/ GIS based environment. Moreover, ITIO would offer an automated user dashboard function that would allow Governments, in a secured IT environment, to continue sharing transport infrastructure construction cost information with one another. The Group expressed its interest in ITIO and agreed to provide to the secretariat written views and ideas for discussion at its next session in February 2022. It also requested the secretariat to prepare an official document outlining a number of possible ways on how to visualise the benchmarking construction cost data onto ITIO.

VI. Discussions on the structure of the final report of the Group of Experts (agenda item 5)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/6; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/8
ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/9

9. As regards the structure of its final report, the Group agreed to continue to follow the structure as discussed at its tenth session which was held on 30-31 January 2020 (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/20, section VI, para. 21).

10. Under this agenda item, the Group also reviewed ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/6 – “A Benchmarking literature review – definitions concepts and methodologies” and agreed that in light of its expanded mandate, under section VII of the document “Benchmarking in Construction Industry” maintenance and operation related definitions, concepts and methodologies had to be incorporated. Lead countries Turkey (for road), Poland (for rail) and Croatia (for inland waterways) agreed to provide inputs by the next session of the Group in February 2022. The Group also requested the secretariat to perform light language editing on the document as required and issue a new official document ahead of its next session.

11. Under this agenda item, the Group also discussed the analytical parts of its forthcoming final report and, as per its previous discussions, agreed to start working on revising and shortening the text of ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/8 – “Benchmarking analysis of transport infrastructure construction costs in the ECE region”, ahead of the forthcoming thirteenth session in February 2022. The Group agreed that depending on the availability of country data on maintenance and operation costs, a separate analytical chapter should be prepared covering these aspects. The Group decided however that its final report should have one consolidated set of findings, conclusions and recommendations covering the three modes

⁴ Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

(road, rail, and inland waterways) as well as the benchmarking analysis of construction and operation and maintenance costs. In this regard it agreed that, in parallel to reviewing these documents, it should also start working on reviewing and further improving ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/9 – “Findings, conclusions and recommendations”.

12. The secretariat informed that all documents still under revision/ review by the Group would need to be finalised and prepared for endorsement at its fourteenth (and last) session scheduled for 23–24 May 2022. The Group noted that the documentation deadline to get these documents ready for endorsement in the three ECE official languages at its session in May, is 14 March 2022, and that the documentation deadline to submit the full set of documents to WP.5 for adoption at its session in September 2022 is due by the end of June 2022.

VII. Other business (agenda item 6)

13. No other business was raised.

VIII. Date and place of next meeting (agenda item 7)

14. The Group took note that the thirteenth session is scheduled to be held in Geneva on 10–11 February 2022

IX. Adoption of main decisions (agenda item 8)

15. The Group adopted the list of main decisions of its twelfth session and requested the secretariat and the Chair to prepare the full report to be circulated to the members of the Group for comments on items other than those contained in the list of main decisions.
