


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

Geneva, 10 and 11 February 2022

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

1. The Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (hereafter called the Group) held its thirteenth session on 10 and 11 February 2022. 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: Albania, Croatia, Poland, Russian Federation and Turkey.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/26

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/GE.4/2022/1

4. The Group reviewed ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2022/1. This document had been prepared by the secretariat as requested by the Group at its session in November 2021. Inter alia, it builds further on the information contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/7/Rev.1 but also includes additional information on national best practice examples including in the field of procurement/ benchmarking efforts of infrastructure maintenance works and operation costs. The Group considered this document and endorsed it for inclusion in its final report.

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

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

5. Document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2019/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 had been adopted by the Group at its twelfth session in November 2021. At the thirteenth session of the Group no further discussion on this document took place.

V. Collection and analysis of benchmarking data (agenda item 4)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/5, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2022/2

6. Under this agenda item, the secretariat informed the Group that as per its request at the twelfth session in November 2021 it had approached once again the 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. The secretariat informed the Group that despite this final call no additional replies had been received from Member States, neither to the initial questionnaires on transport infrastructure construction costs (for which the deadline had been extended several times during two calendar years) nor to the new questionnaires on maintenance and operation costs. The Group took note of this and agreed that no further data collection efforts were to be conducted and that its final report had to be completed within its current mandate and with the data available to date.
7. As per a proposal by the GE.4 Chair, the Group agreed that following the completion of its final report, benchmarking of transport infrastructure construction, maintenance and

operation costs in the road and rail sectors could be continued in the framework of the Trans-European Motorways (TEM) and Trans-European Railway projects' programmes of work. The Group recommended that the previously prepared questionnaires be shared among TEM and TER members to initiate an ongoing data collection process and to use the already existing capacities of both TEM and TER to prepare on a regular basis relevant infrastructure construction cost-related analysis. In this regard, the Group agreed that a first analytical report could be presented in September 2023 to the thirty-sixth session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) which serves as the parent body both to GE.4 and to the TEM and TER projects. The TEM and TER project managers announced that they would table this proposal for approval at the next steering committees of these projects and report back to the fourteenth session of the Group in May 2022.

8. Under this agenda item, the secretariat provided an update on the newly established Geographic Information System (GIS) based International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO) and presented document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2022/2 which it had prepared following a request by the Group at its twelfth session and includes several proposals on how to visualise the benchmarking construction cost data on the ITIO. The Group agreed on the important potential this platform offers to host and visualize its benchmarking analytical data and information on national and regional benchmarking best practices. The Group also agreed that the ITIO provides an effective way to ensure that its efforts remain sustainable and live on in a digital/ GIS based environment beyond its current mandate. The Group requested the secretariat to explore in a test phase, the integration of benchmarking data into the ITIO, in close coordination with ongoing TEM and TER GIS visualization efforts. It requested the secretariat, for the duration of test phase, to keep the benchmarking data on the ITIO as a separate layer, not part of the public part of the platform.

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

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2022/3; 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 reviewed ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2022/3 – “A Benchmarking literature review – definitions concepts and methodologies” and requested lead countries Croatia, Poland, and Turkey to prepare for discussion and endorsement at its final session a revised version of the document which would include under section VII several additional transport infrastructure maintenance and operation related definitions, concepts, and methodologies.

11. The Group also discussed the analytical parts of its forthcoming final report included in document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/8 – “Benchmarking analysis of transport infrastructure construction costs in the ECE region” and in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/9 – “Findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Group” and in this regard requested lead countries Croatia, Poland and Turkey ahead of its final session to: (a) Shorten, finetune and whenever possible improve the existing texts and analysis contained in both documents; and (b) Split the current text of ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/8 into two separate documents, focusing on road analysis and on rail and inland waterway analysis respectively. Furthermore, the Group requested the secretariat ahead of its final session to improve and strengthen the introductory chapter of its final report based on the text contained so far in document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/5. The Group requested that revised versions of the above referred to documents be prepared as official documents for discussion and adoption at its next session. The secretariat informed 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)

12. No other business was raised.

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

13. The Group took note that the fourteenth session is scheduled to be held in Geneva on 23 and 24 May 2022.

IX. Adoption of main decisions (agenda item 8)

14. The Group adopted the list of main decisions of its thirteenth 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.
