



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Seventy-sixth session**

Geneva, 16–18 November 2022

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Trans-European Railway Project**Update on the Work of the Trans-European Railway Project****Submitted by the TER Project Manager****I. Background**

1. The main aims of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project are to improve the quality and efficiency of transport operations, to assist the integration process of European transport infrastructure systems and to develop a coherent and efficient international railway and combined transport system in accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) pan-European infrastructure agreements.
2. The main goals of the TER project are: the facilitation and development of coherent and efficient international railway and combined transport system among the Central and Eastern European countries, contribution in absorbing of an important part of congestion in Central and Eastern Europe and reduction of environmental and safety problems on major international railways of those countries.

II. Activities for the Period from June 2021 to June 2022

3. In the reporting period three TER Steering Committee online sessions were held:
 - Fifty-second session on 2 June 2021;
 - Fifty-third session on 3 December 2021;
 - Fifty-fourth session on 21 June 2022.
4. The main subjects discussed during these sessions:
 - Host Country Agreement - Serbia has sent a letter for extension of the Host Country Agreement. After the procedure is completed, the agreement will be extended until the end of June 2024.
 - Project Management – the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Poland confirmed its decision in offering Ms. Małgorzata Kopczyńska as TER Project Manager from 2021 to 2023.

- TER Strategy 2025 – the document has been adopted. It establishes four strategic goals:
 - to facilitate rail and multimodal transport development and integration of the TER region;
 - to serve as a bridge between United Nations Member States and to promote efficient performance of railway corridors;
 - to promote the sustainable development of the TER member States through facilitating improvements in the economic and environmental effects of rail projects;
 - to become an advisor and a promoter of efficient and innovative railway solutions.
- Phase 2 of the TER High Speed Rail Master Plan – the document has been published. This study is a continuation of the work undertaken in phase 1, and extends its analysis to technical, legislative and socioeconomic aspects. In the document, there are the conditions for the establishment of national and international networks, as well as financial and planning elements of high-speed railway.
- Presenting TER data in a GIS format - the work is almost completed. The final adjustments are being made, including inserting the nodal infrastructure.
- A study on compliance of TER countries' infrastructure to technical parameters identified in international legal agreements – the document is being finalized.

5. Additionally, the Steering Committee is expected to decide on the possible continuation, within TER and the Trans-European North-South Motorway Project, of work launched by the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs. The work concentrated on construction, upgrade and renewal. Going forward, it is intended to shift the focus of the work to prepare an additional analysis of transport infrastructure maintenance and operations, including best practices with the subsequent integration of this data and analytical findings into the ECE International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO).
