



TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
49th Session, 3 July 2020

REPORT

The 49th session of the TER Steering Committee was held online as a Webex videoconference.

PARTICIPATION

The countries that participated in the session were: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Turkey. Representatives of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, TER Project Manager and his Deputy as well as the UNECE/TER Consultant also attended the session. List of the participants is attached (Annex 1).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. G. Bessonov, the TER Project Manager, welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and opened the session.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda of the session was approved as proposed (Annex 2).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. M. Kovacevic (Chairman, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Mr. P. Pospisil (Rapporteur, Czech Republic).

3. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

1. The TER Project Manager informed the Steering Committee of developments that took place during the reporting period from the 48th session of the Committee, stressing especially elaboration of the second phase of the High Speed Master Plan study and of the draft TORs for the 2025 Strategy, GIS and Infrastructure data, finalization of the 2019 TER Backbone Network Annual Report as well as successful management of the Project's budget. He also extended his thanks for the support provided to him during this period by Ms. M. Kopczynska, the Deputy TER Project Manager and by Mr. S .Dyatlov (Russian Federation).

a. TER Annual Report;

2. The Steering Committee was informed by the Consultant, Mr. P. Pospisil about the status of elaboration of the 2020 TER Backbone Network Annual Report. The respective data collection and processing is underway, but the filled in templates from some member countries are still missing. It is expected that the first draft of the report will be distributed for comments by the end of September this year.
3. The Steering Committee took note of the report and decided to send a reminder to the countries whose data are still missing, establishing an extended short deadline for their delivery. The UNECE and the Project Management would consider the possibility to print and publish the final report as a brochure.

b. High Speed Rail Master Plan;

4. Mr. J. Raczynski, the Consultant elaborating the second phase of the TER High Speed Rail Master Plan study, distributed just few hours ahead of the session the new versions of its summary, conclusions and recommendations.
5. Following the detailed discussion in which all the National Coordinators took part, the decision was taken that following the comments to these new versions, the document should be hopefully finalized under the auspices of the Project Management and then approved at the 50th session of the Committee, upon which the remaining payments to Mr. Raczynski will be executed.
6. The Steering Committee expressed deep appreciation to the volunteers, emphasizing extraordinary involvement of Mr. F.

Dionori, who during several last months prepared final version of the second phase of the TER High Speed Rail Master Plan study.

c. TOR for TER Strategy 2025;

7. The item was introduced by the Project Manager, who underlined its increased importance also in the light of the growing Euro – Asian rail transport. He also informed the Committee about the draft TOR for this project made available to all the National Coordinators.
8. The Steering Committee, stressing the importance of the activity, decided that the TER Strategy 2025 will be elaborated by one consultant only with the remuneration of USD 25,000. The updated TOR and selection criteria will be distributed by the TER PCO to all the National Coordinators by 10 July, leaving five working days for final comments. The final TOR would then serve as an input to the INSPIRA job opening.
9. The Selection Committee, consisting of Ms. M. Kopczynska, Mr. M. Kovacevic, Mr. P. Hartl and Mr. N. Nikolic was established to recommend to the Steering Committee the best ranked candidate for the elaboration of the Strategy. After SC approval, UNECE will prepare contract for selected consultant.

d. TER Projects;

10. The Steering Committee approved two TORs and selection criteria, namely for: (i) Project related to GIS and (ii) Study on compliance of TER infrastructure to technical parameters identified in international agreements, submitted in advance by the TER PCO. The SC approved selection criteria for consultants as well.
11. The procedures needed to select the consultants for both these projects will be the same as those identified in the items c.7. and c.8. above.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Report on TER TFA contributions and expenditures 2019;

12. Mr. N. Nikolic presented the financial report, according to which the total 2019 TER Trust Fund contributions amounted to USD 149,906 including the USD 20,000 payments of Romania for the years 2018 and 2019. The total 2019 expenditures represented USD 120,094 and the budget balance as of 31 December 2019 amounted to USD 1,045,682.

13. The Steering Committee expressed its satisfaction with these figures that proved the sound financial situation of the TER Project and approved the 2019 TER TFA Contribution and Expenditures report.

b. Status of TER Trust Fund contributions and expenditures 2020

14. Mr. N. Nikolic informed the Committee about the actual situation regarding the 2020 TER Trust Fund contributions that had been already submitted by 7 member countries as well as the 2020 expenditures that in the first half of the year reached about USD 32,000. The UNECE will send a respective reminder to the countries that had not yet fulfilled their obligations to the Trust Fund.

15. The Steering Committee requested the Project Management to contact the responsible Romanian authorities and ask them to appoint their representative replacing Ms. M. Grigore as the National Coordinator of the country.

16. The Steering Committee noted the Lithuanian abandonment of the TER Project membership.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

17. The 50th session of the TER Steering Committee is preliminarily scheduled to take place in Geneva on 17 November 2020.

6. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS

These main decisions were adopted:

Item 3.a. of the Agenda

- The Consultant will send a reminder to the countries in question with the new short deadline for providing the data needed for elaboration of the 2020 report.

Item 3.b. of the Agenda

- The HSR Master Plan report should be finalized at last by the Consultant in close co-operation with the Project Management and approved at the 50th session of the Steering Committee.

Item 3.c. of the Agenda

- The TER Strategy 2025 will be elaborated by one consultant only with the remuneration of USD 25, 000.
- The Steering Committee established the Selection Committee to select a Consultant to elaborate the 2025 TER Strategy and decided on the steps to be taken in order to expedite the INSPIRA job opening.

Item 3.d. of the Agenda

- The Steering Committee approved the TOR and selection criteria for the Project related to GIS and TOR for study on compliance of TER infrastructure to technical parameters identified in international agreements.
- The procedures needed to select the consultants for both the projects will be the same as those related to the 2025 TER Strategy.
- The remunerations for both studies were agreed a USD 35,000 each.

Item 4.a. of the Agenda

- The TER financial report was approved as submitted by the UNECE.

Item 4.b. of the Agenda

- The UNECE will send a reminder to the countries that had not yet fulfilled their 2020 obligations to the TER Trust Fund.
- The Project Management will contact the Romanian authorities, asking them to appoint the new National Coordinator of the country.

The Steering Committee adopted the report and extended its thanks to the UNECE for the successful organization of the videoconference as well as to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their outstanding services.