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SEE RAIL Perspective

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(Photo on the cover page: SEE Mobility 2019)

What a Wonderful World at «SEE Mobility 2019»

Dear readers, members and friends of RCSEE,

Intensifying of regional cooperation in the railway sector continued with the hosting of second SEE Mobility 2019 fair, organized by RCSEE. In the meantime, this event became the most important regional networking event in our field, and has attracted expert visitors from the region, as well as many EU countries, Switzerland...



SEE Mobility 2019 has everything these fairs have: expert conference (with

the topic of transfer of knowledges and technologies in Southeastern Europe), award ceremony and the large cocktail for all participants and visitors for further corporate networking.



Our cluster activities in the meantime were numerous. From the appearance of a number of our members at this fair to the decision of our Presidency for RCSEE to accept an invitation and become a member of ERCI (European Railway Clusters Initiative) family.

Of course, you can read all about the mentioned points, as well as about the latest developments in our sector in the region in this issue, which will be in the sign of numerous photos.



Kindest regards,

Milan Vučković

RCSEE Coordinator

Editor in Chief

SEE RAIL Perspective



Representative of Spanish Embassy Visiting Railways of the Republic of Srpska

April, Doboj, BiH (Text and Photo: Railways of Republic of Srpska): **Pablo Cascon Salgado**, in charge of economic affairs in the office of Spanish embassy in Zagreb, spoke with the representatives of Railways of Republic of Srpska on possible cooperation in future projects.

During the visit, he was presented with the project finished last year, in which the refurbishment and safety on all stations on Doboj-Banja Luka section, with six stations remaining to be networked in the remote control system.

Speaking of large refurbishment activities on railways that should be performed, Director of Sector for Development and Investments **Snježana Marković** stated that those are capital investments of high importance for Srpska Railways.

During the meeting the sides discussed what the Railways of Srpska may expect from the cooperation.

I am visiting the Railways of Srpska for the first time and I heard for some projects in which we can provide financial support. That is good to know, as we have a large number of railway sector companies doing high quality work worldwide, and who, with the engagement of local companies, could answer the challenge. That is why we planned to present those companies in Zagreb and Sarajevo, and to talk in order to see if it is realistic to jointly work on some projects—said Pablo Cascon Salgado, commercial attaché of the Spanish Embassy.

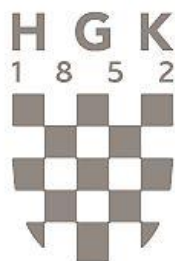
The meeting was also attended by the analyst for foreign trade in Zagreb office **Montserrat Perez Ripoll** and **Igor Vasiljević**, Acting Executive Director of Infrastructure in Railways of Republic of Srpska.



22 mil KM (11.25 mil EUR) Granted to the Railways of Federation of B&H

April, Sarajevo, B&H (Source: Railways of Federation of B&H): Government of Federation of B&H adopted a Program of spending of funds from the budget line “Subventions to public companies—Transfer to Railways of Federation of B&H”, from the 2019 federal budget of Federal Ministry of Transport and Communications, amounting to 22,000,000 KM.

Purpose of this programme is support for implementation of Law on Financing of Railway Infrastructure and co-financing of passenger and combined transport through which Federation of B&H finances maintenance of railway infrastructure, cofinances railway passenger and combined transport and finances the operation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Railways Public Corporation Sarajevo, in accordance with the agreement between the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Srpska.



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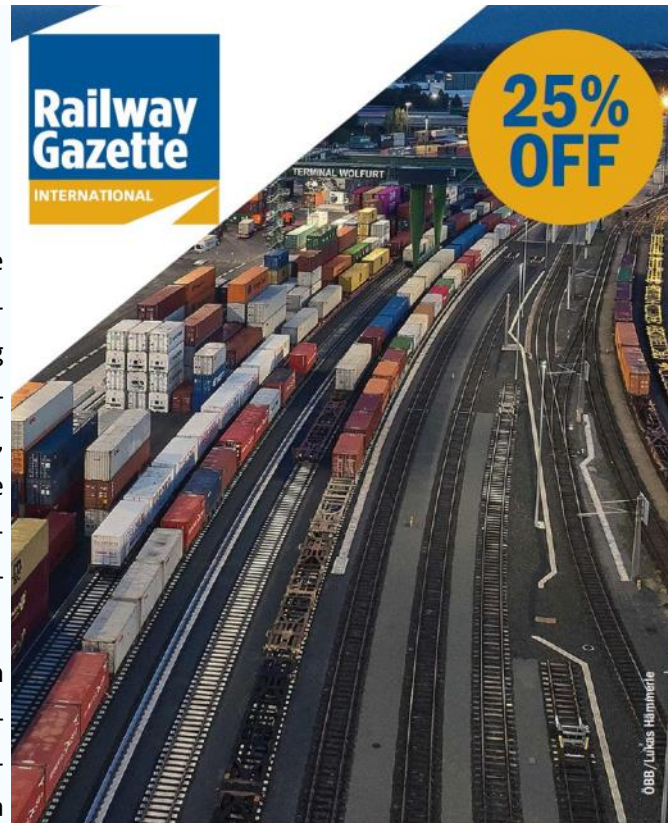


Modernization of Okučani - Vinkovci Railway Section

May, Zagreb: On May 17 2019, Croatian Railways Infrastructure signed a contract for "Creation of Study Documentation for Modernization of Railway Section Okučani – Vinkovci" with a consortia consisting of IGH Institute, Railway planning **HŽ Infrastruktura** signed with the consortium they make **Institut IGH d.d.**, **Railway Project Company d.d.**, **Granova d.o.o.**, **Engineering Project Institute** and **Rijekaproject**. The contract is worth 10.7 million HRK, 85% of it is cofinanced by Connecting Europe instrument, and is part of the project "Creation of documentation for modernization of Okučani – Vinkovci railway section".

Okučani – Vinkovci section is 131 km long and is a part of main (corridor) railway M104 Novska – Tovarnik – state border with the Republic of Serbia. It is a part of RH1 corridor, and is a part of Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). Modernization of this section is a continuation of restoration of international corridor RH1 Dugo Selo – Novska – Tovarnik – state border. As a reminder, European funds were used to modernize Vinkovci – Tovarnik – state border and Okučani – Novska sections. Parallel to this, planning of reconstruction and improvement of the Dugo Selo – Novska section is ongoing. Project for modernization of Okučani – Vinkovci section, which currently includes 12 train stations and 13 halts, is an ongoing reconstruction of this corridor co-financed from the EU funds.

European Commission granted the funds for co-financing of the creation of complete project documentation for the reconstruction of Okučani – Vinkovci section from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) amounting to 9,535,045 EUR, or 85% of all applicable costs of the project, totalling 11,217,700 EUR. Remaining 15% of project will be financed from own funds.



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Contract for Construction of Novi Sad–Subotica fast rail section signed in Beijing

April, Belgrade: On April 25, 2019, a contract was signed in Beijing for modernization and reconstruction of a section of Belgrade– Budapest fast railway between Novi Sad and Subotica, financed from the new infrastructure investment cycle. Credit contract for this project was signed with the Exim bank of China was signed by the Minister of Finance, Sinisa Mali, in the presence of the presidents of Serbia and China.



“Novi Sad - Subotica section is the third section of Belgrade– Budapest fast rail on the Serbian territory. Technical documentation is mostly prepared, and we expect the works to start by the end of 2019 and to last for two and a half years” - said Vice-President of the Government of Serbia and Minister of the Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Zorana Mihajlovic, who was a part of the official delegation to the People's Republic of China.

Project for the construction of high speed rail between Novi Sad and Subotica includes a double-track railway and stations with accompanying facilities, reconstruction and modernization of railway junctions Novi Sad, Vrbas and Subotica, as well as construction of electrotechnical infrastructure that enabled safe traffic on projected speeds and introduction of European train management system.

Novi Sad - Subotica railway is 108.2 km long and includes 49 underpasses, overpasses and similar objects. Project includes reconstruction of nine train stations and three new stations with station capacities. A 1.6 km long viaduct will be constructed in Vrbas.

Project of the modernization of this railway includes the application of European standards of interoperability

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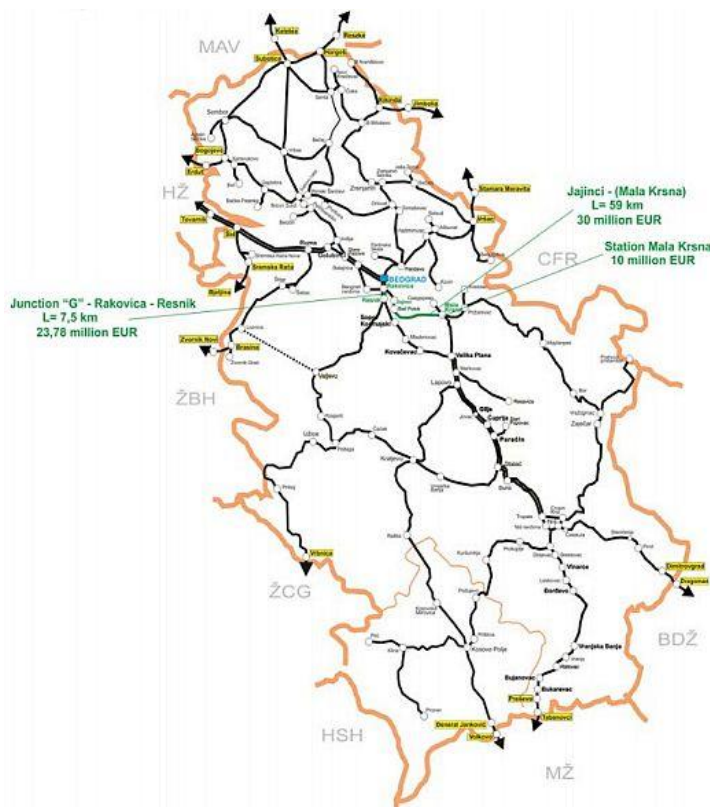
Reconstruction of railway on Jajinci - Mala Krsna section

May, Belgrade: Serbian Railway Infrastructure began reconstruction of Jajinci– Mala Krsna railway section and the train station Mala Krsna with works in Umcari train station. It is a section of railway located on international Corridor X through Serbia.

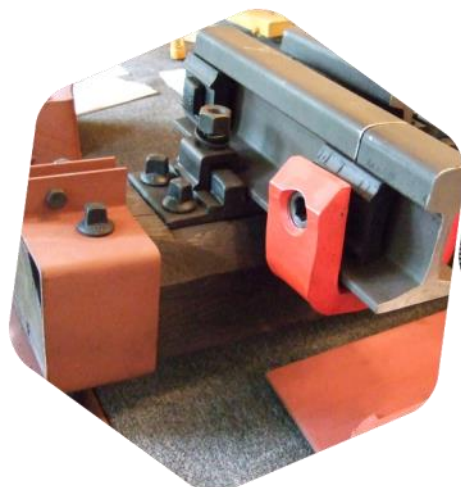
By reconstruction of railway, speed of trains on this section will be increased to the projected 120 kmh, and the current speed of trains on the most of the railway is 50 kmh.

Works include the reconstruction of 68.7 km tracks and electric infrastructure, as well as eight stations, six halts, three tunnels and two bridges, said the company.

Reconstruction of the railway encompasses replacement of tracks, sleepers and contact network, as well as installation of optical cable, while all junction points will be replaced at the Mala Krsna train station.



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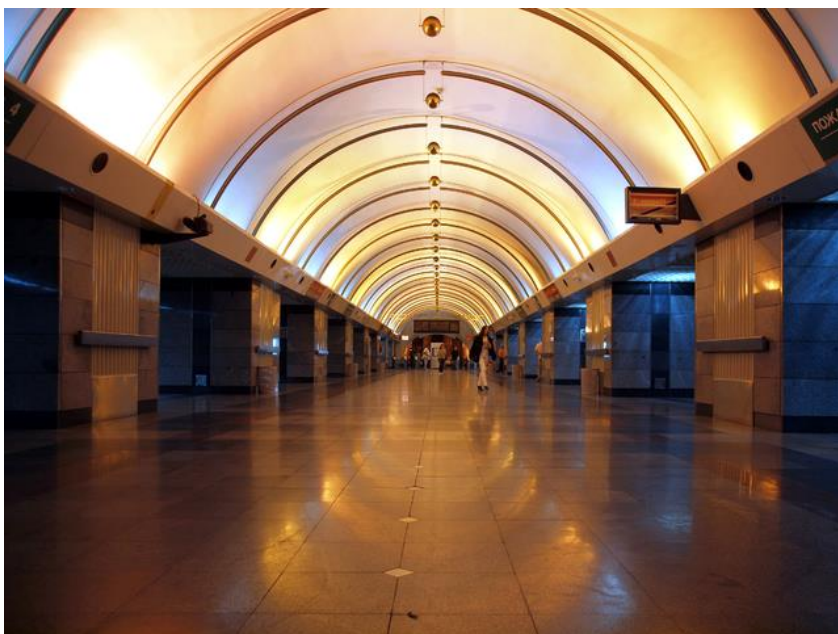


Belgrade Metro - Neverending Story...

May, Belgrade: Story of Belgrade metro is 70 years old by now. All political groups from the end of the Second World War till today promised the realization of this project. That is why some media rightly wonder if the story of Belgrade metro reality or merely a dream? In the end of 70s of the past century construction was begun which was quickly halted for multitude of reasons: lack of funds, difficult ground, and ultimately, economic sanctions and wars of the 90s. In 1989 construction began on a central metro station „Vukov Spomenik“ , with 2,500 sqm of commercial space and underground parking for 100 vehicles. Station was officially opened in 1995, and is since used for suburban trains. In the meantime, this entire system was not maintained properly, so the station, commercial area and the garage are in a state of disrepair.

Hope that Belgrade metro situation could move in a positive direction came on April 23 2019. On that day, Government of Serbia adopted a Memorandum of Understanding between Serbia, City of Belgrade and Chinese company **Power Construction Corporation of China**, which is supposed to realize this project. Until that moment, it was thought that the Belgrade metro will be constructed by **Alstom**, which signed an agreement back in mid-August 2011 with the Belgrade authorities of the time. Alstom was supposed to do a feasibility analysis of the first line (15km) by September 2012, with works to commence in mid-2013. Estimate back then was that the construction of first line would last for 3 to 3.5 years and it could become serviceable in the end of 2016, or in the first half of 2017. The study was not done to this day.

In the meantime interest in constructing the metro was expressed by Russian companies. In the current talks with China, the start of works (which will supposedly cost approximately 3 billion EUR) remains an unknown. Bureau of urbanism and construction of the City of Belgrade recently published a list of strategic transport priorities which does not include the metro. Construction is planned from 2027 onwards, and the end of construction by 2033 at the earliest. Belgrade metro remains a political fairytale for naive citizens who have to spend several hours every day to reach their workplace and return home through chaotic traffic, which simultaneously causes huge business losses and serious air pollution, with disastrous effect to the life and development of children in Belgrade.



Current central station Vuk's monument (photo: Wikipedia)



Belgrade Train



Slovenia

Slovenian Company LANcom Presented Itself on SEE Mobility 2019

May, Maribor - Belgrade: LANcom company presented the Republic of Slovenia on recently concluded SEE Mobility 2019 fair.

This company was founded in 1990 in Maribor. Today, LANcom is a supplier of complete system and information solutions and programs own software for Slovenian and global market.

This company completes the offer of its IT services with own test center.



Montenegro

Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro Stand Among the Most Visited

Decision of **Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro** to attend the recent SEE Mobility 2019 fair was justified, considering their stand was one of the most visited on the event.

This company was represented by experienced managers, Ms **Vera Vujović** and Mr **Veselin Perović**, who have shown agility, maximum kindness and great patience to offer all necessary information to many interested visitors from the region and the EU.





NORT MACEDONIA

Finished Railway Reconstruction on Bitola - Kremenica Section

May, Bitola: Reconstruction of railway on Bitola - Kremenica (state border with Greece) was finished in mid-May. On April 16 2019 railway was tested by **Strabag** company that realized this project. This section of railway was supposed to be finished by the end of 2018, but the works were prolonged due to bad weather conditions.

This project was financed from the state budget and the European funds. The project was worth 17.2 mil EUR, 6 million of which came from IPA funds, and the rest from the state budget.

The section from Bitola to the border with Greece, Kremenica, is 18 kilometers long.



GREETINGS TO NEW RCSEE MEMBERS:

Our cluster greets new members :



MV Automation System GmbH, Germany:

<https://www.mv-automation.eu/de/>



Žaneta Ostojić Barjaktarević, Belgrade (individual member)

E-Mail: z.ostojic@teneas.rs and: zaneta.ostojic@gmail.com

Fair of transport technologies *SEE Mobility 2019* held in Belgrade

SEE Mobility, second international fair of transport technologies and services was held in Belgrade, with the main topic of "Future of mobility on Western Balkans". Fair's goal was, foremost, to network railway companies from the region with leading manufacturers and modern global technologies, and the development of railway and road infrastructure and transport of passengers and goods.

Spokespersons on the opening ceremony agreed that railway infrastructure has great perspective for development in the future period and that regional importance is paramount: **Milan Vučković**, director of Railway Cluster for Southeastern Europe, organization that hosted the event mentioned that the fair brought together 34 exhibitors from 14 countries from the region and the EU. **Miroslav Prokić**, who greeted the attendees on behalf of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia stressed the significance of the large number of projects that this ministry initiated, with the support of the Government of Serbia. His Excellency, **Gordan Bakota**, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Belgrade said that the Croatian Chamber of Economy and leading Croatian companies in this industry recognized the importance of this event. **Tajana Kesić Šapić**, director of sector for industry of Croatian Chamber of Economy thanked the organizer with the suggestion that this manifestation could grow into an annual event that

could in the future be hosted throughout the region. **Nebojša Bojović, PhD**, greeted the attendees in dual role, as a president of the assembly of the Serbian Railways and the Dean of Belgrade Faculty of Transport.. **Zvonimir Viduka**, Director General of Zagreb company Altpro greeted the attendees on behalf of his company, but also on behalf of all nine sponsors without whose support this event could not have been held on such a high level.

Immediately after the fair opening a highly interesting panel discussion was held on topic of transfer of knowledges and technologies in Southeast Europe, where the representatives of industrial sector spoke of their personal experiences, moderated by Dragoljub Rajić from RCSEE.

As a reminder, finally, the sponsor support to the fair was given by: **Altpro** (General Sponsor), **Croatian Chamber of Economy** (Golden Partner), **Končar Electronic Industry** (Golden Sponsor), **Thales Austria** (Golden Sponsor), **Siemens Mobility Cerovac** (Golden Sponsor), **Lukin tehnik** from Belgrade (Golden Sponsor), **DIV Group** from Serbia and Croatia (Silver Sponsor), **Novatronic** from Novi Sad (Silver Sponsor) and Italian company **ESIM** (Silver Sponsor).

Photos: RCSEE©



Miroslav Prokić

SEE MOBILITY 2019 - Photos: RCSEE©



HE Gordan Bakota, Ambassador



Tajana Kesić Šapić, HGK



Nebojša Bojović, PhD



Zvonimir Viduka, Altpro

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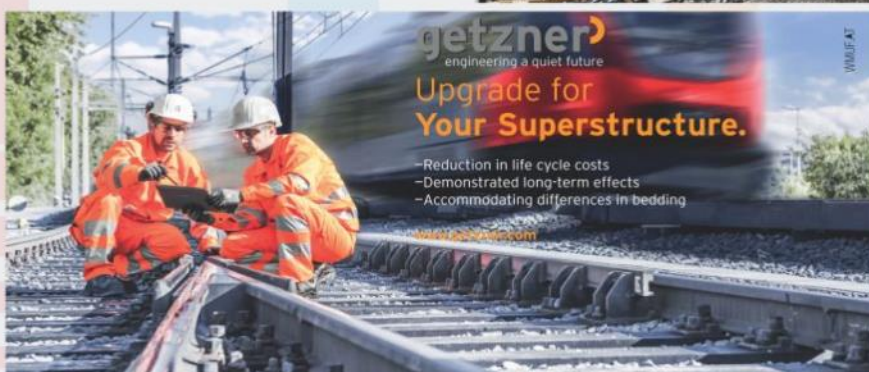
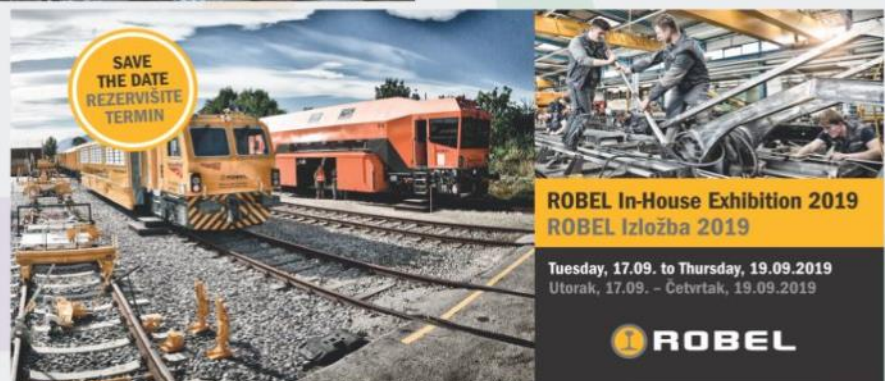
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Two Important Agreements on International Cooperation Signed on SEE MOBILITY 2019

Two separate cooperation agreements were signed by the **University of Belgrade Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering and Railway Cluster for South-East Europe (RCSEE)** with **The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE)** to strengthen ties of Birmingham University with the rail industry of Southeast Europe.

The agreements, which were signed at the SEE Mobility Fair in Belgrade on 8 May 2019, set out plans for how BCRRE, Rail Alliance, the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering – University of Belgrade (FTTE), and RCSEE, will work together on collaborative railway research and innovation projects. The RCSEE agreement will focus on sharing knowledge and best practice between BCRRE Rail Alliance and RCSEE with a shared aim of increasing opportunities for SME members to grow and develop their business. There will also be collaboration on developing skills including a railway engineering education partnership between the Universities of Birmingham and Belgrade.

Alex Burrows, Managing Director of the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education and the Rail Alliance said, “We are hugely excited to be working with the University of Belgrade and the Rail Cluster for South-East Europe to strengthen our links in this region of Europe. Serbia and the wider region is an emerging economy and location within Europe with a developing rail network and supply industry make it an ideal region for us to develop our activity.

“These agreements really mark the start of an exciting

period of collaboration between the Universities of Birmingham and Belgrade to increase railway research and education. We also hope that this will bring significant opportunities to our Rail Alliance SME Community in terms of exporting and growing their business opportunities.”

Dragoljub Rajić, Operational Manager of Rail Cluster for South-East Europe said, “Companies from railway sector and universities in the South-East Europe countries cope with numerous challenges of revitalizing and modernizing the railway infrastructure and adoption of new technologies who are necessary for railway of 21st Century. We see cooperation agreement with BCRRE and Rail Alliance as very important bridge for further transfer of knowledge and technologies, exchanging information’s and making new business opportunities for members of both associations.”

Prof. dr Nebojša Bojović, dean of the FTTE said, “We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to work with BCRRE and the University of Birmingham. Our two institutions have long traditions that confirm the quality of our work and dedication to the science and transport industry.

“This cooperation can bring a lot of benefits to our staff, professors, but also to our students. This will enable us to grow in a professional sense. We look forward to cooperating with BCRRE through projects, students and staff visiting, etc.”

Photos: RCSEE©



Prof. Dr. Nebojša Bojović and Alex Burrows



Milan Vučković, RCSEE and Alex Burrows

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Meeting of RCSEE Cluster Presidency Held in Belgrade

During the second day of SEE Mobility 2019 fair, a meeting of Cluster Presidency was held which was attended by the following members: **Milan Vučković** (RCSEE Director), **Dragoljub Rajić** (RCSEE Coordinator), **Zvonimir Viduka** (Altpro, Croatian representative), **Žarko Rončević** (Elnos, representative of B&H and Serbia), **Vlado Pavlović** (Siemens Mobility Cerovac from Serbia) and **Volker Drenkhahn** (AEbt from Germany).

Members of Presidency which were not attending the meeting due to other obligations were from Slovenia and Austria. Presidency made several strategic decisions such as:

- to accept ERCI (European Railway Clusters Initiative) to consider full membership of RCSEE on the upcoming meeting in Birmingham on May 23;
- To extend the Presidency for two more positions after the current members declare if they will keep their functions or wish to step back due to other priorities, which they should inform Cluster Director;
- Current Director, Milan Vučković, suggested to step down from his position and suggested Dragoljub Rajić, operational director as his replacement, which was unanimously accepted. In the future, Milan Vučković will perform the function of operational director, that is, Cluster

Coordinator.

- Cluster management will, according to the proposal of the representative from Germany (Volker Drenkhahn) draft a financial plan for the next year in order to solve the issue of Belgrade premises;

The upcoming activities were planned for the reminder of the year:

- To invite RCSEE members to take part on a joint Cluster stand on InnoRail conference in Budapest from November 12 to 14. Cluster representative, like in 2017, will attend in the official program of the conference.
- To organize a training in September 2019 in Zagreb on the topic of “What is 4th railway package?” by Cluster member, AEbt from Nuremberg.
- To improve Cluster website in order for current and future members to have additional benefits;
- To suggest active cluster members to improve strengthening of the cluster through its promotion among their business partners.

Photos: RCSEE©



New RCSEE Director, Dragoljub Rajić



New RCSEE Coordinator, Milan Vučković

RCSEE Joins European Railway Clusters Initiative – ERCI

Management board of leading European association of railway clusters ERCI, on its meeting in Birmingham on May 23, decided on accepting RCSEE in its membership.

Up to now, ERCI gathered 13 European railway clusters representing the core of European railway industry and as such are the key player on the global market. Thanks to the constant innovations and technological developments, European railway industry currently partakes in 46% of the world market.

Becoming a 14th member of ERCI is significant for the companies in our regional cluster; specifically for small- and medium-sized export-oriented enterprises, as they will have an opportunity to participate in consortia with numerous other European companies to secure finances for research and development of new products from several EU funds.



In this way companies will have an opportunity to put forward their innovations and products for financing and later placement on European and non-European markets, and also to take part in consortia in production process with other companies and partners.

The next meeting of ERCI will be held on October 1 to October 3, at Ferrovial 2019 fair in Milan. RCSEE will have an opportunity to present its member companies, their main fields of work, products and services. That will be a new opportunity for promotion of railway supplier industry from the 6 countries RCSEE covers.

ERCI - European Railway Clusters Initiative



EURAILCLUSTERS

A decisive milestone was reached when the European Railway Clusters Initiative ERCI was founded and the agreement of cooperation was officially signed during the INNOTRANS 2010 in Berlin. Meanwhile ERCI is the leading meta-cluster of the railway industry in Europe uniting 12 innovation clusters from 10 European countries. Together, we connect the ideas and interests of over 1,000 small and medium-sized businesses in the industry. ERCI is their voice and lobby at European level. We help our member companies to grow – through improved access to European partners and customers, accelerated technology transfer and joint marketing in- and outside of the EU.

Over the past years, ERCI has established governance structures and has established itself as the European railway cluster network. ERCI has been accredited under the project name PERES 4i-partnership, under the roof of the EU cluster collaboration platform. Among other activities, the member companies and institutions of ERCI partner clusters benefit from:

- Accelerated access to other European companies and institutions
- Active support in the participation at EU research and development programs, e.g. Shift2Rail
- Access to ERCI events all over Europe
- Marketing and business development activities within the EU and beyond
- European lobby for SME interests;

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