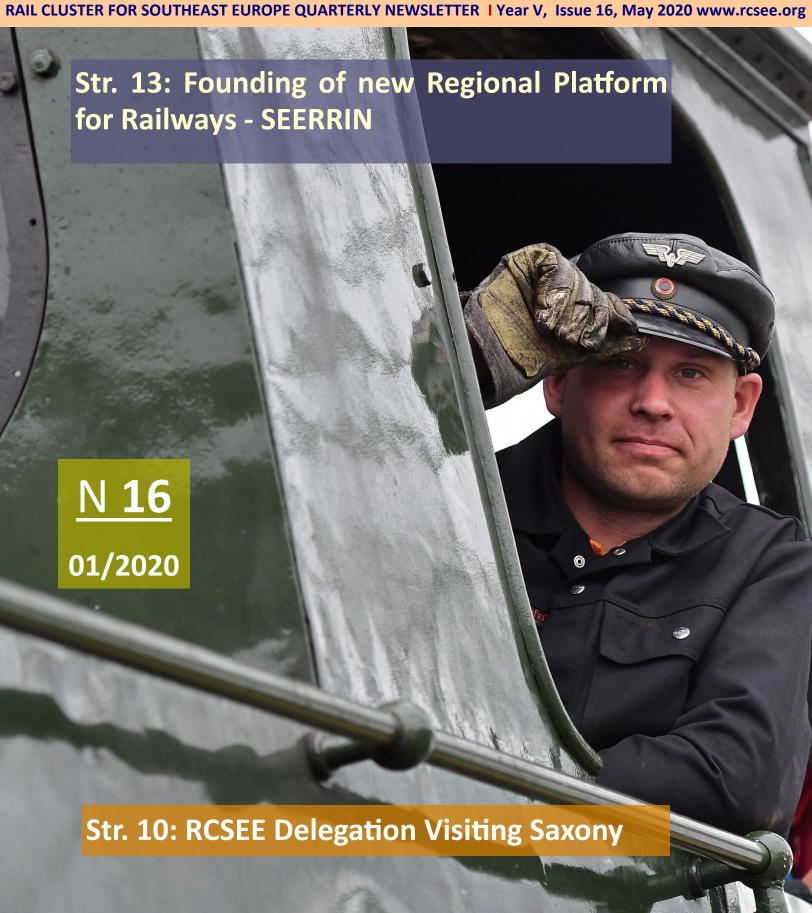


SEE RAIL Perspective



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May 2020



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Serbia: France and China to Construct Belgrade Metro

Serbia: Continuing the Works on Prokop Station

Croatia: Contrat for Križevci-State border Section

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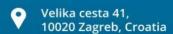
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Passenger Transport Operational on Slovenian Railways from May 11

Slovenian Railways have adjusted to all demands in order to ensure safety of the train passengers in the COVID-19 pandemics. Only healthy passengers are admitted to the train not showing symptoms of respiratory infection (cough, runny nose, fever, headache). Before boarding the train distancing between the passengers must be respected. While entering the train, passengers should desinfect their hands, as well as while exiting the train. Entrace and exit in the train cars is marked, and passengers should move in the direction indicated on the floor markings. It is necessary to have a properly worn mask that covers nose and mouth during the whole duration of the trip.

Number of seats and standing spots is limited. During the measures, waiting rooms and public toilets at the stations will be closed.

Slovenian railways have recommended ticket purchasing online, through mobile sales or their application, in order to avoid contact with sales points on railway stations and reduce the possibility of virus spread.



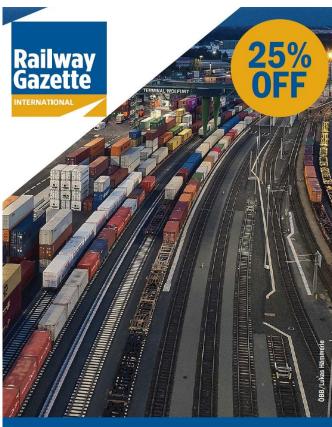
Preparation for Reconstruction of Vrbnica-Bar Railway

Directorate for Public Works of Montenegro has signed contracts for works and supervision on reconstruction of railway Vrbnica-Bar in December 2019, including repairs of contact and telecommunication network. European Union supports this project through pre-accession IPA funds.

Planning is nearing an end, and technical details and tenders are expected in nearby future.

Total value of the project is 5.6 mil EUR. Section to be reconstructed is 6.74 km long, and is located between stations Kos and Trebešica. Works will be done while the traffic is running, in order to minimize the disruptions in passenger and freight transport.

Project will promote ecologically acceptable means of transport contributing to the better connection of Montenegro and Western Balkans with the EU, mobility on Montenegrian territory and improved standards of safety and efficiency in railway transport.



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Belgrade Metro to be Constructed by France and China

Minister of Construction, Zorana Mihajlović signed on May 12 in Belgrade Agreement on Donation of 8.3 mil EUR for realization and financing of Belgrade Metro project between the governments of Serbia and France.

Minister Mijalović announced that Serbia will realize this project together with French and Chinese partners, and that negotiations are ongoing.

Agreement was also signed by the Ambassador of France in Serbia, Jean-Louis Falconi.

"This agreement means that we will start working on the feasibility analysis, concept design and environment impact analysis for the first phase, that is, first metro line. But, simultaneously we will receive a concept solution for the third metro line" said Zorana Mihajlović.

It is estimated that three metro lines will cost between 4.5 and 5.5 bn EUR.

She expects that the agreement will be realized between companies Belgrade Metro and French Egis group, which will work on feasibility analysis, concept design and environment impact analysis.

"We expect to have technical documentation in a year. In the meantime, we are doing all the work and I cannot say right now if the Chinese partner will do the construction works, and French telecommunications. Discussions are led between Chinese and French partners, and between Serbian, French and Chinese governments. We are preparing an agreement between Serbia and France that could be ratified once we have a new government" she added.









Construction Resumes on Belgrade Center (Prokop) Station

Serbian railways Infrastructure announced the beginning of works of construction on Belgrade Center station, that is, concrete block on level 105, above the future first and second station track in Prokop, and value of works is 1.257 bn RSD.

Based on the contract, Belgrade Center will receive a concrete construction with a total surface of 35,743 m².

Newly constructed concrete block will be positioned above the future first and second station track, which are not yet constructed.

Once the works on this object are complete in August 2021, Serbian Railways Infrastructure will begin the construction of first and second station track in Belgrade Center station, each around 500 m in length.





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Contract Signed for Works on Križevaci-Hungarian Border Section

Croatian Railways Infrastructure, on March 12 signed a contract for works on project "Reconstruction of existing and construction of second railway track on Križevci – Koprivnica – state border section" with Cengiz Insaat Sanayi ve Ticaret A. S. Company, worth 2.418 bn HRK.

This is a strategic project of public importance for Croatia, with a total value of 2.624 bn HRK, largest infrastructure project in recent history, cofinanced by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

Križevci – Koprivnica – state border section is located on the Croatian part of Mediterranean corridor which extends from state border with Hungary, over Zagreb and to Rijeka, and its reconstruction and upgrade will increase capacity of railway and increase the speed and safety on the corridor.



Apart from the previously mentioned reconstruction and renewal of the existing railway track and construction of second track, it is planned to reconstruct train stations Lepavina and Koprivnica and construction of new railway station Novo Drnje, while the existing station Mučna Reka will transform into a stop. Train stops Majurec, Carevdar, Vojakovački Kloštar and Sokolovac will also be reconstructed, and a new stop Peteranec will be constructed.

Construction works will also include seven bridges, three viaducts, eight road overpasses, three underpasses and nine subways.

Reconstruction of railway also includes the construction of roads parallel to railway track, reconstruction and modernization of contact network and other electro energetic facilities and the installation of new signaling and safety and telecommunication devices.

The maximum projected speed will be 160 km/h.

President of the Croatian Government, Andrej Plenković attended the ceremony of signing of the contract

(photo/source: Government of the Republic of Croatia)



Directorate for Coordination of Management of Railway Transport in Croatia Formed

On May 13, 2020, Minister of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure Oleg Butković signed a Decision on creation of Directorate for operational coordination of railway transport management in the Republic of Croatia in order to reduce the introduction of COVID-19 disease in the population and improving the supervision over the expansion of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Directorate is tasked with implementing the measures made by Croatian Government, national Civil Protection Directorate and Ministry of transport, and suggesting measures in the field of railway transport of passengers and freight, in accordance with the situation in Croatia and recommendations of European Commission.

Infrastructure managers, railway operators and all other participants in the Croatian railway system must follow instructions of the Directorate.

Croatian Railways Infrastructure and Croatian Railways Passenger Transport companies must provide operational, human and material capacities in order to implement decisions of the Directorate.



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RCSEE Delegation in Working Visit to Saxony

In the period of February 25-29, delegation of Railways Cluster for Southeastern Europe stayed in a business visit to German region of Saxony.

Delegation was made of 16 representatives from 14 companies, organizations and institutions, primarily from our region, that stayed for four days in Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and Chemnitz.

During the week, delegation visited sites of six companies from Saxony: *Deutsche Bahn* (DB), *Bombardier*, *RailMint*, *Heiter Blick*, *Hörmann Vehicle Engineering* and *DVB* (Dresden public transport operator).

Apart from that, members of the delegation actively participated in B2B meetings organized by partner organization, BTS Rail Saxony railway cluster from Dresden and two workshops organized by German Railways (*DB Vehicle and Technology Center*) and *Hörmann Vehicle Engineering*.

On the very first day RCSEE representatives were the guests to their hosts and partner, BTS Rail Saxony, while this event was from the start significantly supported by the Development Agency of Saxony (*Wirtschaftsförderung Sachsen*) that hosted the B2B meetings of the members of two clusters in this state institution.

Companies, organizations and institutions that were represented were: RCSEE, Business Support Network (BSN), Railway Directorate of the Republic of Serbia, Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences from Zagreb, Belgrade Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering, as well as companies Encode d.o.o., Minel General Electrics, Techco Electrics and Perform d.o.o. (all from Serbia), Oilco KDA (Northern Macedonia), GVO d.o.o. (Slovenia), Techco Group GmbH (Austria) and Database and Technology (Italy).









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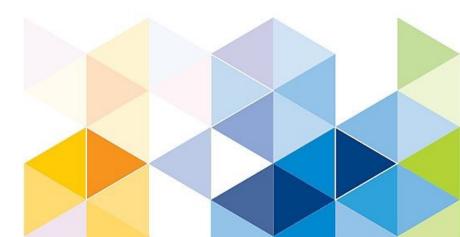




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SEERRIN – South East Europe Rail Research and Innovations Network Founded

Railway Cluster for Southeastern Europe, Belgrade Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering, Zagreb Faculty of Transport Sciences and Birmingham Center for Railway Research and Education of Birmingham University founded a South East Europe Railway Research and Innovation Network, (SEERRIN).

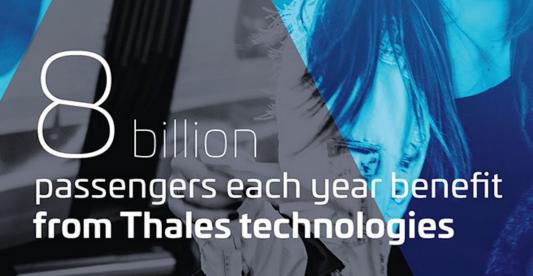
SEERRIN has become an international platform for cooperation open for joining of other interested companies, faculties and organizations from the Southeast Europe region.

Founding of SEERRIN is a new phase in the development of railway industry in Southeastern Europe. After 20 years of transition, in which the national railways and supplier industry underwent the process of restructuring, and many new, young companies were founded throughout the region, the time has come to increase knowledge and introduce new technologies.

That is why BCRRE, as one of the world's leading institutions in the field became a long-term strategic partner with whom we will work on increasing the capacity of human resources in all fields important for the development of railways in the region. Cooperation with BCRRE, which includes UK's largest railway cluster Rail Alliance, serves to improve development of new and advanced railway projects, to increase the scope of research in the region and to enable companies and universities to network better in order to develop and promote innovative solutions.

Forming SEERRIN is of special importance for manufacturing and innovative companies in the region, as the partnership and contacts with University of Birmingham, BCRRE and Rail Alliance, that have their centers and engineering schools in several continents open new channel for cooperation with a number of UK and global companies, which will lead to the increase of placement of products and innovative solutions on international markets. These activities have already began in practice, as UK partners, during the negotiations for formation of SEERRIN, connected several RCSEE members with potential buyers in the UK.

Additional benefits from the formation of SEERRIN will also be felt by the national railways in the region, government agencies in chare of standards and safety of the railway system and owners and investors of industrial railways lines, private railway operators, etc. as through a series of seminars, conferences and practical trainings the BCRRE experts with wealth of worldwide experience will transfer their knowledge, experiences and advices for rational, efficient and sustainable management of railway infrastructure and rolling stock and use of modern technologies that are currently underutilized in the SEE region, and would be of great use.











COVID-19 Pandemics and the Railway Industry

Organized by the European Railway Clusters Initiative (ERCI) and Italian cluster DITECFER, webinar was held on the impact of coronavirus crisis on the European Railway Industry, with the participation of the representatives of railway clusters and European Commission (DG GROW).

Railway industry is not immune to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemics. Almost 60% of the companies from the SME sector reported disruption in supply chains during this year due to the situation in China, which spilled over to European companies. Many companies have again become aware of the importance of localized and transparent supply chains and have expressed the intent to rely more on nearby suppliers in the future, instead of faraway suppliers where supplies can be affected by simmilar crisis.

European Commission is aware of the problems occuring in supply chain disturbances. It is planning to monitor the situation, relaying on the information from the existing channels – Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), industry clusters, chambers of commerce and other industry associations, as well as European-level social partners. Role of clusters in this system is to anticipate and avoid supply chain disruptions through the identifications of key companies, scanning and synthesizing information in confidential databases.

Finally, it is predicted that COVID-19 crisis will have an impact on skills required by the industry, primarily those connected to digital technologies, cybersecurity and organizing work from home – which is one more challenge facing the SME sector. Also, it is predicted that in the future accent will be on the use of digital technologies in manufacture of railway products and digitalization in railway transport.





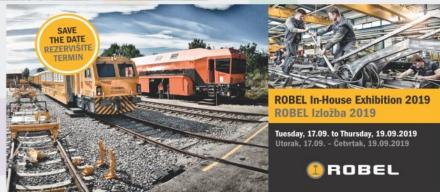
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Stay Informed Through ERCI 10 Webinars

As a response to the circumstances brought by the coronavirus crisis, clusters from the rail supply industry gathered in the European Railway Clusters Initiative (ERCI – celebrating its 10 year anniversary in 2020) have pooled together their resources and expertise to share knowledge and information and make it available to over 2,000 small and medium-sized businesses from 17 European countries.

ERCI's primary objective is to reinforce the competitiveness of the European rail industry through cooperation between big companies, SMEs and research institutes on close-to-market innovations.

The ERCI clusters are working together to provide a series of regular webinars on wide variety of topics relevant to the rail industry, providing up-to-date knowledge and updated information on current developments. We will also show how the rail industry is innovating and adapting to provide solutions that can be used as a response to COVID-19 pandemics.

The first webinar, provided by Catalonian cluster Railgrup, will be held on 29 April, on the topic of Cybersecurity, explaining threats and risks, possible security measures and how to protect railway systems.

Throughout May and June, our rail clusters - including BTS Saxony, DITECFER and Rail Alliance - are offering a number of online events to all ERCI members. Further information on these events will be provided on the ERCI website (https://eurailclusters.com/) and our cluster member websites.

For the companies from the SEE region webinars organized by Rail Alliance/BCRRE will be especially interesting, as the plans for the construction of HS2 railway in the UK have advanced and will require participation of many European suppliers, so this is the opportunity for all interested companies to receive information on possibilities for placement of their products in this project worth over 100 billion GBP.

Stay Informed Through ERCI 10 Webinars































Date	Time	Topic
29 April	10:00 CET	Cybersecurity for Rail Professionals
6 May		Rail Industry in COVID-19 Era: Policy Developments and Activities
13 May	10:00 CET	Rail Industry Innovation in Response to Coronavirus
19-21 May	11:30 CET	Destination Decarbonisation
27 May	10:00 CET	ERCI's Webinar with Shift2Rail - Freight and Logistics Taskforce Webinar
3 June		Digitalisation
10 June		ТВА
17 June		Rail Online
24 June		TBA

15 clusters covering 17 European Countries

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