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RAIL CLUSTER FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

SEE RAIL Perspective

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IMPRESSUM

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(Cover photo: Pixabay, venturaartist)

It is still not late to become an exhibitor on SEE Mobility 2023!

Dear readers, RCSEE members and friends,



This year, at the end of May 2023 our cluster organizes fourth international fair SEE Mobility in Belgrade, largest event dedicated to railway mobility technologies in Southeastern Europe. It will be a good opportunity for expert networking, not only among companies but also independent experts.

This time as well a number of railway companies from the region applied as active participants on the fair as exhibitors or visitors, as well as Europe (Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Montenegro and Macedonia from the region, but also from Poland, Czech, Germany, Hungary, Austria, United Kingdom...).

Among current gold and silver sponsors are most famous regional and European names from the industry. Those are the companies that have recognized our fair and cluster as organizer of this event as a significant partner with whom they have long-term successful cooperation and support by participation in all our events.

Therefore this is an additional invitation to all the potential exhibitors who might be late to apply for SEE Mobility 2023 due to numerous business priorities. There is still space if you hurry up with your application. Call us as soon as possible. We prepared an excellent program for exhibitors that includes visit to two excellent projects in Serbia. In the following pages, and especially on our website www.see-mobility.com you will find all necessary information on it.

We are looking forward to seeing you again and the exchange of expert and business information! Welcome to SEE MOBILITY 2023 in Belgrade!

Milan Vučković
RCSEE Coordinator
Chief Editor
SEE RAIL Perspective





SEE Mobility is the only international fair on the Western Balkans for transport technologies and services, to be held biannually.

The fair encompasses following areas: Road, railway and public transport technologies, railway and public transport infrastructure, interior and exterior in road and railway vehicles with accompanying services and tunnel construction.

Our fair is a growing one and as such it offers a unique opportunity for concrete expansion of business activities of your company and the possibility to present your products, services and new technical solutions to a very dynamic market that encompasses 7 countries with over 30 million inhabitants.

The 4th SEE Mobility will be held on May 30 and 31 in Belgrade's Hotel Jugoslavija. The motto of SEE Mobility 2023 is "Connectivity for the future", which puts additional emphasis on railways and logistics as two pillars of the 21st-century mobility industry.

Besides the two exhibition days, additional visits to leading companies and industrial parks in Serbia, specially organized for exhibitors and guests of the fair, are planned for the afternoon of May 31 (Nelt Group intermodal logistic hub) and on June 1, 2023 (MIND Group industry park). The offer for sponsors and exhibitors of the fair is diverse and favorable, so they will have a good opportunity to network with new partners and expand the business contacts during the three days of the program.

So, apply in time as the number of stands is limited and certain number is already reserved for the sponsors! Do not wait too much. All information for exhibitors and visitors can be found at: www.see-mobility.com

Next SEE-MOBILITY: Belgrade 2023, 30-31 May



More at: www.see-mobility.com



Meeting on railways in Bosnia and Herzegovina held in the Council of Ministers

March, Sarajevo, B&H: Acting Director General of Railways of Republic of Srpska **Slađan Jović**, in Sarajevo in the Council of Ministers of B&H, attended a working meeting with Minister of Communication and Transport of B&H **Edin Fort**, Deputy Minister **Ognjen Janjić**, Director of Regulatory Board of the Railways of B&H **Tihomir Narić** and Director General of Railways of Federation of B&H **Enis Džafić**. Subjects of the meeting were, among others, analysis of current state of railway sector in the Republic of Srpska and Federation of B&H, needs, plans and capabilities, as well as joint projects on the level of B&H in the upcoming period. All participants were satisfied with the meeting that put an accent on improvement of railway sector and intensifying cooperation in the future period of both entities of B&H. (Source and Photo: Railways of Republic of Srpska)



Railways of Republic of Srpska to transform into holding in the next year

February, Doboj: Railways of the Republic of Srpska will enter 2024 organized as a holding of three dependent companies: passenger transport, cargo and infrastructure, said acting Director General **Slađan Jović** at the conference in Doboj and stated his pleasure with business results in the past year.

At the regular annual press conference, Jović stated at the Railways of Republic of Srpska successfully operated from the aspect of transport of cargo and

passengers, and reduction of accidents on railways and level crossings.

As stated in the press release, it is expected that 2023 will be a record year for Railways of RS in terms of contracted transport, since **Elektroprivreda Srbije** contracted transport of 400,000 tons of coal on Ploče - Zvornik section, with existing transport from Prijedor to Zvornika, as well as transport of 300,000 tons of coal for **Elektro-Slovenija** whose realization began on February 10 from Prijedor.

“We extended the contract with Mital from Zenica, so between 1,500,000 i 1,6000,000 tons of coal will be transported in this year will be transported for the needs of Zenica Steel Mill on the section Prijedor - Zenica”, said Jović.

He stated that Government of the Republic of Srpska has pledged to provide 20,000,000 KM to subsidize passenger transport and infrastructure maintenance, judging that amount to be insufficient for necessary repairs and improvement of the condition of infrastructure and cargo operator. (Source: ATV)



The annual assembly of the "Pro Rail Alliance" (SZŽ) was held

28. February, Zagreb: At the premises of ALTPRO company in Zagreb, on 28th of February 2023 annual assembly of Pro Rail Alliance was held in which the financial reports and report on Alliance's activities in 2021 and 2022 were



accepted by the assembly, as well as the Plan of Action and Financial Plan for 2023

Presenting the reports on the work in the past year, President of PRA Ante Klečina said that activities were sufficient, considering the entire situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemics, that significantly affected the work of all NGOs financed by the projects, donations and membership fees. PRA operated in four key segments: educational projects, research, promotional activities and inter-organization communication. Activities were, more or less, successfully performed through national projects, economic activity and additional activities on a volunteer basis. In the past period there were no projects

from EU funds as Alliance did not have enough own funds to invest in such projects, but on the national level it conducted the project of Alternative Mobility in cooperation with local municipalities, and through the economic activity it worked on developing mobility studies with local self-governments and held 7 public conferences. *(Source and Photo: SZŽ)*

Infrastructure is a critical point of user (dis)satisfaction in Croatia

March, Zagreb: In the customer satisfaction survey for the users of cargo transport in Croatia, only 20 per cent of users are satisfied or very satisfied with the price of transport, while the best ranked is the frequency of transport, while duration and punctuality was graded by an average mark of „neither satisfied nor dissatisfied“ by the majority of users. Most critical point of railway cargo transport is mainly connected to railway infrastructure (often and uncoordinated closures and reconstruction of railways, slow trains, unreliability and bad organization of handover of trains on the borders) and work of railway operators (price, information, old rolling stock, reliability). In the survey on the satisfaction on cargo transport conducted by Croatian Regulatory Agency for Network Industries 20 users of cargo transport were surveyed. Users graded the accessibility and quality of transport, and the helpfulness of operators and infrastructure managers.

During 2022, in the Republic of Croatia there were 17 cargo operators: **HŽ Cargo d.o.o., ENNA Transport d.o.o., Rail Cargo Carrier – Croatia d.o.o., Train Hungary Magánvasút Kft., Transagent Rail d.o.o., SŽ – Tovarni promet d.o.o., Rail & Sea d.o.o., CER Cargo d.o.o., Eurorail Logistics d.o.o., Pružne građevine d.o.o., Adria Transport Croatia d.o.o., Ten Rail d.o.o., Log Rail d.o.o., InRail S.p.A., ČD Cargo Adria d.o.o., North Adriatic Rail d.o.o. and Kombinirani prijevoz d.o.o.** Out of 17, four were not active - CER Cargo d.o.o., Adria Transport Croatia d.o.o., Ten Rail d.o.o. i North Adriatic Rail d.o.o.

(Source: Pro Rail Alliance)



SLOVENIA

Serbia, Austria, Czech, Slovakia and Hungary in focus for Slovenian Railways

February, Ljubljana: In 2022, Slovenian Railways (SR) have, according to the first estimation, earned more than 40 million EUR of net gain, with income of 620 million EUR, which is highest so far, said said the Director General of the company **Dušan Mes** in an interview for online portal **24ur.com**.



Key goals of SR for the future are improved passenger experience in passenger transport and increase in cargo transport outside Slovenia. We have a joint company with Czech company EP Holding. We own 51%, they own 49%. We gained a pretty significant capital increase, currently we are preparing a tender documentation for new cargo locomotives— said Mes. Concerning the cargo sector, our goal is to develop in the region of North Adriatic ports and Central Europe: operating cargo moving from Trieste, North Adriatic ports, from Ploče to Trieste or further in Italy, towards Central Europe, Austria, Czech, Slovakia,

Hungary and from the Balkans toward Italy.

Concerning the cargo transport, the challenge is in how quickly we can take over this area—Adriatic ports, Central Europe—as the competition does it very fast. Really, this is all about skill—will we be skilled enough to be the first, fastest, best—or not? But, that is how it is in every kind of business. There are risks, for now we are managing them, and I am certain we will succeed in these two segments as well. (Source: **24ur.com**)



MONTENEGRO

Security worker Miladin Vujisić rewarded by the ŽICG company

March, Podgorica: At the meeting of the Board of Directors of Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro (ŽICG) a motion by the Sector for Maintenance of Construction Infrastructure was accepted to award **Miladin Vujisiću**, security guard on the construction site for the tunnel from the GIS Podgorica company, in charge of repair of tunnel number 168 on the Bijelo Polje – Bar railway, between Mojkovac station and Trebaljevo crossing, due to the harsh weather—snowstorm followed by strong wind, on January 22 a large tree fell from the left side of the rail. The tree was found by Vujisić and he immediately informed the closest train dispatcher. That way a train accident was prevented on the train that was supposed to move from Mojkovac station, and the potential large damage on the locomotive and railway infrastructure was avoided. Most importantly, lives of passengers were not put at risk.

Through this socially responsible, and most importantly, humane act, Vujisić reminded us what are the true values and earned admiration and thanks from everyone in ŽICG.

(Source and photo: ŽICG)





Modernization of Belgrade - Niš railway begins

March, Belgrade: Contract for first tranche of the investment grant for construction of high-speed Belgrade-Niš railway, a total of 598 mil EUR, as a part of financial package for the railway Corridor X, was signed symbolically in the train between Belgrade Center and Resnik, on the section of the future high speed rail.

Contract was signed by the Chief of European Investment's Bank (EIB) Regional Office for Western Balkans Alessandro Bragonzi and the Minister of Construction Goran Vesić, in the presence of the President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić and European Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement Oliver Várhelyi.

After signing, Vučić thanked the EU and stated that 600 million is the highest non-returnable grant that Serbia received.

Contract covers the construction of Stalać – Đunis segment, 17.7 km long, on the third section of the future high speed railway, that will be constructed first, as the conceptual design is already completed and approved.

EU, as he stated, gave more than 420 mil EUR of aid for infrastructure projects in Serbia.

– Project value for construction of Belgrade-Niš high speed railway is 2 billion and 775 million EUR, out of which 1.1 billion is a credit of European Investment Bank, 550 million EUR is a loan from European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the EU grant is 650 million EUR, and the remaining 552 million EUR will be financed by Serbia – said Vučić.

He stated that Belgrade-Niš high speed railway will be finished in 2027, and that the trains will run at speeds of 200 km/h.

P3 plans development of logistical parks in Serbia

17 March, Belgrade: European Bank for Renewal and Development (EBRD) will secure a loan of 250 mil EUR (265 mil USD) to a Luxembourg P3 Group for financing of green, certified logistics and industrial parks in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Serbia.

P3 will use the funds for financing of procurement. Development and construction of warehouses in the listed countries, in accordance to its green financing framework— EBRD stated.

P3 Group, seated in Luxembourg, has long term experience in the field of investment, management and development of warehouse complexes throughout Europe. Company is 100% owned by GIC, state fund of Singapore Government. As stated on their official website, P3 develops “sustainable warehouses according to the highest inter-

national standards”. EBRD states on its website that property financed by the EBRD has to be certified within BREEAM certification system (with a level of “very good” at least), and that it has to be managed in accordance with “best ecological and energy efficiency standards”.

P3 is present in 11 countries, with almost 300 objects (managing 7.6 million m² in total).

In January interview for CEO Magazine, Director General of P3 Frank Pörschke stated that the “demand for logistic space is still

strong, even when the recession is possible in 2023”.

Part of this group – **P3 Parks d.o.o. Beograd**, is registered in Serbia since 2008.



Paris Public Transport Company “Early Operator” of Belgrade Subway

17. march, Belgrade:

Representatives of the City of Belgrade signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the French company RATP yesterday, in which the desire for this renowned company to become an “early operator” of the Belgrade Subway was expressed.

– Being an early operator means that RATP will advise the Government of Serbia and the City of Belgrade so that, in the process of designing, primarily of subway stations, maximum commercial effects would be produced for the city and so that a maximum comfort of passengers would be secured. After the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, negotiations about the agreement which will be part of the interstate agreement of Serbia and France on the construction of the Belgrade Subway are to start – said the deputy mayor of Belgrade, **Goran Vesic**.

RATP is one of the biggest world companies for passenger public transport system management, which, among other things, manages the subway system in Paris (as well as the buses and all tram lines except for one) and many other cities in the world.

Vesic pointed out that the “early operator” was to help the city in designing and building its subway system and that, in the next years, the operator of the Belgrade Subway “which will manage the system” would be chosen.

– Parallel with the construction of the subway system, Belgrade must think about how to manage it. The Belgrade Subway will be one of the most modern ones in the world and fully automated. That is why it is important for companies with a big experience with precisely that kind of a subway to take part in the management process. Also, parallel with the construction of the subway, we need to start choosing the operator and training our people who will work in that system, of which there will be several thousand. Their training must start on time, because it cannot be completed in several months, but will take years, so that, in 2028, when the first subway line is to start, they would be ready to work at full capacity – Vesic stated.

(Source: e Kapija, photo: site bgmetro.rs)



Presentation of current and planned railway projects in the Republic of Serbia was held

Presentation of current and planned railway projects in the Republic of Serbia was held on March 14 for the members of RCSEE and partner clusters from European Railway Cluster Initiative (RCSEE), in cooperation with Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI) and its project implementation units (PIUs).



Presentation attracted the attention of more than a hundred participants from the country and the region, but also from wider European area. **Teodora Milenković** from the sector for railways and intermodal transport of the MCTI presented projects that are currently implemented or planned in the upcoming

period by the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with international donors. After the presentation, interested participants had an opportunity to directly ask the questions concerning the projects and were answered by the representatives of the Ministry and project implementation units.

TÜV Rheinland InterCert new member of RCSEE

TÜV Rheinland Group with the seat in Cologne (Germany) is one of the oldest organizations in Europe and the world, that was originally founded for technical supervision. Main organization now has close to 150 years of experience and through its work it encourages development of technical safety, and protection of people and the environment on a global level.

TÜV Rheinland Group has over 18 000 employees in over 350 companies in more than 60 countries.

TÜV Rheinland Group conducts its international operations through its company **TÜV International GmbH**, while the interests of TÜV Rheinland Group in the Western Balkans are represented by the **TÜV Rheinland InterCert d.o.o.** company.

In the upcoming years the importance of this company in this region will grow, as the company can bridge the gap between the EU and the West Balkan countries.

Further information on the company that is the newest member of our cluster can be found at their internet presentation: www.tuvrheinland.rs

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