

Throughout November 2023, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat continued supporting the regional partners and observers in getting #TogetherConnected. Our November newsletter brings to you the selected news on enhancing connectivity in the Western Balkans and beyond. We wish you a nice read!

The flagship project of the Transport Community, the **Transport Observatory Database/Information System (TODIS)**, has been officially launched for the key stakeholders' use. The official launch occurred at the "Transport Data Management: Pioneering the Way to Enhanced Decision-Making and Public Policy" event, held in Tirana on 23 November which also gathered key stakeholders, including the European Commission, Eurostat, EU Member States, European Investment Bank, UNECE, and CEFTA, alongside representatives from all six Regional Partners of the Transport Community. Learn more [here](#).



North Macedonia made an important step forward in its transportation sector with the **successful passage of amendments to the Railway System Law**. This legislative move brings North Macedonia towards the rail market opening, aligning it with the goals set forth in the Transport Community Treaty and advancing harmonisation with the EU Acquis. The Transport Community Treaty outlines commitments for its signatories to open and integrate their transport markets. North Macedonia's recent amendments to the Railway System Law are a tangible demonstration of its dedication to fulfilling its commitments under the Treaty. Learn more details [here](#).



The Western Balkans transport sector needs its workers skilled for a green and digital transition. Together with the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), we gathered regional stakeholders and students for a **regional dialogue on advancing skills**. The Regional Dialogue fostered a comprehensive discussion on the future landscape of the transport industry in the region. Through insightful panels and expert engagement, the event identified emerging opportunities in the sector, particularly focusing on future jobs and professions, marking the European Year of Skills.



We completed our **training series aimed at facilitating border crossings between the EU and the Western Balkans**. Two final workshops were held in Bosnia and Herzegovina where authorities worked with their colleagues from Croatia to enhance border crossing points management. The program featured expert presentations, notably from the expert network of CELBET (Customs Eastern and South Eastern Land Border Expert Team), participatory discussions, and visits to BCPs to provide hands-on insights. Find more details about this training series [here](#).





We joined forces with the World Bank for a two-day **Road Maintenance and Asset Management Workshop in Tirana** on 21-22 November 2023. To excel sustainable road development in the Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, the participants focused on road asset management, service level agreements, and data collection. Read more [here](#).



At the RailLive! in Madrid, an event that brings together technology, innovation, and strategy stakeholders from the entire rail supply chain, we met the **Western Balkans Rail Infrastructure Managers Network** but also other stakeholders, including Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking Director, a.i. Moreover, we discussed the future of rail infrastructure, including railway systems development ideas.



The **12th meeting of the Transport Community's Technical Committee for Transport of Dangerous Goods** gathered its members in Pristina on 16 November. The meeting discussed the ongoing efforts to enhance the implementation of relevant standards related to the transport of dangerous goods in the Western Balkans. More details are available [here](#).



From 8 to 10 November, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat conducted a **study visit to the Baltic countries**, Estonia and Lithuania, to explore cutting-edge **digital solutions and logistics practices related to e-freight**. The study visit delegation visited prominent institutions gaining insights into the advancements shaping the future of freight transport. More details are available [here](#).



For the three days, from 6 to 8 November, we were in Durrës for a **TAIEX workshop**, joining forces with colleagues from Albania, Germany, Montenegro, and Spain in our efforts to ensure the **safe maritime transport of dangerous goods**. The workshop involved an insightful visit to the Container Terminal, where we discussed the handling of dangerous goods containers and the vital role of the port community system.



We took part in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) 77th session of the **Working Party on Railway Transport** (Inland Transport Committee) where its representative contributed to discussions centred around the future of international rail traffic. At the session's workshop "The Future of International Rail Passenger Transport", which took place in the Palace of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 November, Transport Community's Rail Policy Coordinator, Mr Dejan Lasica, spoke about policy reforms and development of TEN-T rail network in the Western Balkans. Find out more about this event [here](#).

During the month, we also met other stakeholders, and partners, discussing our cooperation for a shared goal – better, safer, and more sustainable transport across the Western Balkans. Among our counterparts were newly elected [Prime Minister Spajić of Montenegro](#) and [Minister Radulović of Montenegro](#), [Minister Bochvarski of North Macedonia](#), [Minister Forto of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Minister Ivanović of Montenegro](#), [Director-General of the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Koopman of the European Commission](#), [Ambassador of Slovenia to Serbia, H.E. Mr Bergant](#), [Belgrade Airport CEO Berisot](#), [Executive Director of the EU Agency for Cybersecurity Lepassaar](#).

We participated in the [Thessaloniki Summit](#), the [Belgrade Economic Forum](#), the meeting of regional initiatives where we [met young people](#), and in the [RailLive! in Spain](#).

Don't miss the opportunity to work with us.

We are looking for a [Transport Acquis and Legal Desk Officer](#) to join our team. If you are a civil servant from the Western Balkans, you can also join the [Regional Mobility Programme](#).

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