



On 4 July, Transport Community organised a three-fold event at the Port of Bar. We **launched our road safety campaign “It’s a Thin Line”**, marked the **handover of Transport Community presidency from Kosovo* to Montenegro** and celebrated **Port of Bar’s joining the European Sea Ports Organisation as observers**. Last year in Montenegro, five persons lost their lives and nine were seriously injured on level crossings. To tackle this issue, we are raising awareness in Western Balkans about the dangers of the improper crossing of railways. Regional campaign “It’s a Thin Line”, which aims to increase the safety of intersections of railways and roads, was launched in Montenegro after successful events in North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to raising awareness, the Transport Community is

supporting its six regional partners to improve the infrastructure, procure safety equipment and install proper signaling on level crossings in Western Balkans. The campaign includes animated videos, flyers for drivers and students, and a video currently being shown on TV stations across the region. Together with the Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Liburn Aliu we launched the campaign in Pristina at Fushë Kosova/Kosovo Polje on 5 July. On 1 July, we **concluded a three-day workshop in Skopje on roadside checks**. Together with the Polish



Road Transport Inspectorate, the Embassy of Poland in Skopje and with support of the Macedonian Ministry of Transport and Communications, we organised a training which consisted of theoretical part covering the EU acquis on tachographs and technical conditions of vehicles, and the practical part during which the Polish Road Transport Inspectorate demonstrated the roadside check at the tolling station Petrovec close to Skopje.

The first Green Lane border crossing between Western Balkans and the EU has become functional between Greece and North Macedonia, thanks to the SEED+ System for Electronic Exchange of Data. On 7 July, customs representatives of two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the Thessaloniki Connectivity Forum, organised by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This cooperation opens the possibilities for further **expansion of the Green Lanes initiative to other EU Member States**. “The first operational Green Lane between the EU and the



Western Balkans is a crowning achievement of two years of coordinated actions of numerous stakeholders, in line with the commitments made at the EU-Western Balkans summit in Brdo pri Kranju. By establishing the Green Lanes within the entire region first, and then on borders with the EU, we are bringing the region closer to the EU. This kind of crossings are a steppingstone to even better managed borders, decrease of waiting times for passengers and freight, and the one-stop-go approach at all our borders. This concept can and should be applied to other border crossings with the EU and I would like to encourage more EU Member States to join,” Director Zakonjsek was quoted as saying at the event in Thessaloniki. The **second workshop within CONNECTA’s sub-project ‘Technical Assistance for the Deployment of Smart and Sustainable Mobility in the Western Balkans’** was held in Belgrade on 6 July. The event was attended by the representatives of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania, the Albanian Institute of Transport, the Albanian Agency for Energy Efficiency, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of North Macedonia, the Public Enterprise for State Roads of North Macedonia, the Ministry of

Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure of Serbia, the Public Enterprise *Roads of Serbia* and the representative of the Charge&GO company. **July 22 visit to integrated border crossing Tabanovce/Preševo**, was an opportunity to highlight the role of joint border crossings in reducing waiting times at borders in Western Balkans. Together with Minister of Transport and Communications of North Macedonia Blagoj Bochvarski and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of Serbia Tomislav Momirovic, Transport Community delegation reiterated that all border crossings in the region should become integrated in order to increase capacity and reduce waiting times. On 21 July, Director Matej Zakonjšek **met with the Executive Director of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking Carlo Borghini** to discuss role of innovation and research as an opportunity for rail in Western Balkans to advance to modern future. High-capacity, flexible, multimodal, sustainable, reliable and integrated railway system in Europe for passengers and cargo is a joint priority of our two organisations.

