

At the **Western Balkans Road Summit** held in Tirana on 7 June, ministers in charge of transport signed the “Dedication to Roads of the Future”, committing to a number of priorities including to set in place road maintenance systems, rehabilitate the existing infrastructure, work together on e-tolling interoperability, increase safety and build



e-charging stations across the region. The summit, which was organised in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and under the auspices of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania, gathered ministers from the Western Balkans, representatives of the European Commission and practitioners of road sector for **discussions on how to create a climate resilient, intelligent, and resource-efficient road network in the Western Balkans**. The region demonstrated dedication to development of a sustainable road transport network, while at the same time promoting green mobility, climate proofing of road networks and deployment of emission zero fuels. Building of safe infrastructure and protection of road users remain a priority as we continue working with regional partners to on adopting the “Vision Zero” perspective and the “Safe System” approach. In practice this means identifying the most dangerous sections of the road network and increasing the safety of level crossings where 59% of fatal and serious accidents happen in the region. To tackle this issue, **Transport Community developed a public awareness campaign for improving safety of rail/road intersections** that targets a wider audience via dedicated events, social media campaign and printed materials. The campaign received significant attention from our partners at the European Commission on International Level Crossing Awareness Day on 9 June and was selected as flagship initiative for promotion on the day: [https://road-safety.transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/european-commission-marks-international-level-crossing-awareness-day-2022-06-09\\_en](https://road-safety.transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/european-commission-marks-international-level-crossing-awareness-day-2022-06-09_en)



The campaign was officially launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 21 June at the **annual Summer School of Transport Community focused on roads**. The Summer School, which took place on 21 – 24 June in Sarajevo, was co-organised with the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) and the International Road Federation (IRF) and officially opened by the Minister of Communications and Transport Mr Vojin Mitrović. The Summer School offered participants from the Western Balkans an opportunity to gain knowledge about latest development at the EU and regional level specifically focusing on safe, smart and sustainable roads.

Another important event organised by the Transport Community in June was a three-day **workshop in Skopje on roadside checks** on 29 June – 1 July. 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. This workshop is the second one in a row organised for regional partners from Albania, Kosovo<sup>1\*</sup>, and North Macedonia, after a successful event in Serbia in December 2021 for participants from Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Roadside inspections allow us to identify and remove from traffic the vehicles that are malfunctioning, detect drivers and operators who do not possess the appropriate qualifications and documentation. To prevent these issues, there is a need for strengthening the capacities and knowledge of the inspectorates in the region. At the **International Road Federation Conference “Vision Zero for Balkans”** on 1 June in Sofia, we highlighted the importance of establishing a system in which road crashes do not result in serious injuries or loss of life and the importance of cross-border cooperation on road corridors, as well as reliable data for development of effective road safety policies. On 10 June, Transport Community delegation took part in a train ride organised in Pristina as part of Kosovo\* Sustainable Development Week. Together with government and representatives of dip corps, we spoke about the need for a common strategy for making transport greener and sustainable, including electrified regional railways as the best way for the decarbonisation of transport. At this year's **European Development Days** on 21 June, Director Zakonjšek joined the European Commissioner Adina Valean, Foreign Minister of Gambia H.E Mamadou Tangara and Executive Director at the International Trade Center Pamela Coke-Hamilton at a high-level panel on sustainable and smart corridors. Predefined, multimodal and multi-regional transport corridors were highlighted as a key for sustainable economic development and social cohesion. At the **Western Balkans ministerial meeting** organised in Lyon as part of Connecting Europe Days 2022, our organisation's presentation on 29 June focused on the newly proposed European Transport Corridor – Western Balkans – and the corridor's benefits to the region in terms of connectivity and access to the EU market. To coincide with the Road Summit in Tirana, we organised two technical committee meetings – on road safety and roads on 6 June. At the **Regional Steering Committee meeting** held a day after the summit we presented the ongoing technical assistance projects, an outline of the 2023 budget and a mid-year report on our activities.



<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.