

# ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT 2024



## FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Annual Operational Report 2024, a comprehensive reflection of our achievements, progress, and the efforts that have defined the year behind us. As we look back on the past twelve months, it is evident that our joint commitment to a sustainable, safe, and seamless transport network has driven notable results across the Western Balkans and our observing participants.

In 2024, we placed a strong emphasis on advancing green mobility, reinforcing transport connectivity, and ensuring safety remains at the core of our initiatives. Through strategic partnerships and targeted technical assistance programmes, we have supported regional partners in delivering key infrastructure projects, aligning with the key European Union's policies and objectives.

A major highlight of the year was the Green Mobility Summit, which brought together authorities, industry experts, and various stakeholders to exchange innovative solutions for decarbonisation and sustainable transport.

Our Regional Steering Committee and six technical committees played a crucial role in refining regional transport policies, developing the Next Generation Action Plans, and addressing pressing challenges in multimodality, digitalisation, and efficiency. Study visits and knowledge-sharing sessions have provided valuable insights, equipping stakeholders with best practices from across Europe.

The strengthening of the Green Lanes initiative has further facilitated seamless trade and mobility, reinforcing the Western Balkans' integration into the broader European transport network. The adoption of the Comprehensive Roadmap for Enhancing Green Lanes marked a key milestone in 2024. This roadmap sets a clear path for expanding Green Lanes beyond their initial scope, reducing waiting times at borders, and improving the interoperability of customs procedures between the Western Balkans and EU Member States.

Additionally, the EU-Western Balkans Summit on 18 December 2024 reaffirmed the region's strategic importance in the European transport network. With a renewed commitment from EU leaders, the summit underscored the need for accelerated infrastructure investments, regulatory harmonisation, and deeper cooperation on digital and green transitions. This new political momentum will be instrumental in shaping the next phase of regional connectivity.

Our regional cooperation efforts were further solidified through high-level ministerial meetings and strategic dialogues, reinforcing our shared vision for a modern, efficient, and safe transport network.

Engagement with civil society and industry representatives has ensured that our work remains inclusive and reflective of the needs of all transport users. Additionally, active participation in international conferences has strengthened our voice in global transport policy discussions, fostering new opportunities for collaboration and investment.

The achievements of 2024 were made possible through the dedication of our partners, stakeholders, and the Secretariat's team. In 2025, we remain committed to building a resilient transport ecosystem that connects the Western Balkans, observing participants, and the European Union into a seamlessly integrated network.

#TogetherConnected, we are getting ever closer, creating a joint European future.

**Matej Zakonjšek**  
Director

Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>Annex I</b>	Annex I to the Transport Community Treaty
<b>BCPs</b>	Border Crossing Points
<b>CEFTA</b>	Central European Free Trade Agreement
<b>CFL</b>	Luxembourg Railways
<b>CONNECTA</b>	Technical Assistance to Connectivity in the Western Balkans
<b>DG MOVE</b>	Directorate General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission
<b>DG NEAR</b>	Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EDDP</b>	European DAC Delivery Programme
<b>EIB</b>	European Investment Bank
<b>ERA</b>	European Union Agency for Railways
<b>ERTMS</b>	European Railway Traffic Management System
<b>EVR</b>	European Vehicle Register
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EU DEL(s)</b>	European Union Delegation(s)
<b>EU Member State(s)</b>	European Union Member State(s)
<b>IPA</b>	the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
<b>ITS</b>	Intelligent Transport Systems
<b>JASPERS</b>	Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions
<b>JBCPs</b>	Joint Border Crossing Points
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>RSC</b>	Regional Steering Committee
<b>SEE Parties</b>	Southeast European Parties: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TCT Secretariat</b>	Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
<b>TSIs</b>	Technical Specifications for Interoperability
<b>WBRSO</b>	Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

(\*) 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.



## ACTIVITIES IN 2024

### Next Generation Action Plans

The initial five Action Plans (2020–2024), covering Rail, Road, Road Safety, Transport Facilitation, and Waterborne and Multimodality, were developed to serve as a strategic roadmap for the region. These plans aimed to prioritise measures for enhancing transport across all modes and to further facilitate the movement of goods and passengers.

In December 2023, the Ministerial Council decided for the Next Generation Action Plans. Throughout 2024, productive technical discussions regarding the content of these plans were concluded during each relevant Technical Committee meeting. Following technical approval by the Technical Committees, the Regional Steering Committee endorsed the plans in November 2024. Ministerial Council endorsement is anticipated at the next meeting. The implementation schedule for these plans, covering the period 2025–2027, was agreed upon during 2024.

The Next Generation Action Plans incorporate several ongoing measures from the previous cycle (2020–2024), specifically those actions that were not fully completed within the designated period, while excluding measures already achieved by regional partners. These plans are grounded in key lessons learned from the implementation of the earlier Action Plans, leading to more precise and attainable objectives. Furthermore, the Next Generation Action Plans include measures aligned with the updated EU legislative framework, as detailed in the revised Annex I of the TCT, alongside other recent strategic documents, EU policy papers, and declarations/joint statements.

### Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme

Following the adoption of strategic documents in 2020, linking transport with the European Green Deal and thus the need to invest more targeted into the Green Agenda in the Western Balkans, the European Commission decided in 2021 to step up its engagement and allocate € 80 million to a “Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme”. The aim of the programme is to provide financial assistance to small scale projects that contribute to enhancing safety and sustainability mostly in the road and railway sectors, in line with the objectives of the Green Agenda.

Safe and Sustainable Transport Program was presented to Regional Partners in May 2022. In coordination with Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, Regional Partners submitted project proposals. As a result of consultations between DG NEAR and IFIs (EIB, EBRD and World Bank), in December 2022 it was agreed with the World Bank Group to be a lead IFI for Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme (SSTP).

During 2024 two calls for proposals were published, 1st (April-June 2024) and 2nd (October-December 2024).

In total 13 project applications were officially received out of which 11 have passed the eligibility criteria and were positively evaluated and approved. Geographical balance and fair share division of resources was effectively achieved as well as inclusion of all policy areas - Railway safety (4 projects); Deployment of Sustainable and Smart Mobility solutions (4 projects); Road safety (2 projects); and Border Crossing Points (1 project).

The allocation of SSTP funds currently stands at 82 percent (EUR 65 mil) under the approved SSTP project proposals (11 proposals). Remaining funds in Albania are expected to be included under the upcoming Trade and Transport Facilitation Program 2.0 project by the end of 2025. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the remaining EUR 8.5 million will go towards Federation once the lead World Bank project is approved (first half on year 2025).

## 1. RAILWAYS

During 2024, the Rail Technical Committee prioritised monitoring the implementation of the Rail Action Plan and supporting the transposition of Annex I.2 of the Transport Community Treaty.

Key Highlights from **Technical Committee** meetings:

- 19th Technical Committee on Railways (Vienna, 27–28 February): This meeting focused on shaping the future of rail operations. Industry experts showcased high-speed rail projects and indicative extensions to the TEN-T network. Discussions centred on upcoming projects, investments, capacity regulations, and interoperability measures, all aimed at enhancing connectivity across the TEN-T network.
- 20th Technical Committee on Railways (Podgorica, 11–12 June): The draft New Generation Rail Action Plan was presented, alongside updates on the implementation and preparation of railway infrastructure projects within the TEN-T network.
- 21st Technical Committee on Railways (Berlin, 26 September): The New Generation Rail Action Plan was formally adopted during this session. This critical document will guide Regional Partners over the next three years in transposing and implementing the EU Rail Acquis.
- 22nd Technical Committee on Railways (Brussels, 4 December): Held alongside a workshop on new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), this meeting featured experts from DG MOVE introducing Regulation 1679/2024. The regulation expands the monitoring framework from six to twelve KPIs, enhancing oversight of the rail network.

### Capacity building

The Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, with the support of the European Union Agency for Railways, conducted one capacity-building training session on the European Electronic Vehicle Register in line with the 4<sup>th</sup> Railway Package (market and technical pillar) with a focus on Directive (EU) 2016/797 on the interoperability of the rail system and Directive (EU) 2016/798 on railway safety. The training was held in Skopje on 15 May for North Macedonia and in Tirana on 16 May for Albania and Kosovo. Establishing National Vehicle Registers is a crucial element of the Rail Action Plan, with the ultimate goal of integrating all Western Balkan Six (WB6) countries into the European Electronic Vehicle Register. This initiative aligns with Directive 797/2016 on the interoperability of the rail system.



*Regional Workshop on TSI and 4th Railway Package*



In May 2024, the TCT Secretariat together with the DAC4EU and DAC Delivery Programme supported by Europe's Rail JU, organised a study visit to Berlin where the representatives from the Regional Partners experienced the testing and installation of the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). The legal base for developing this novelty is Directive 797/2016 on the interoperability of the rail system.

In cooperation with ERA, the TCT Secretariat organised four workshops for the regional partners in the second part of the year:

- Conformity Assessment in Railways – Banja Luka (BIH) – September 2024: provided in-depth sessions, group exercises, and expert discussions on EU conformity assessment frameworks, Notified Bodies, and practical implementation for the Western Balkans.
- TSI Open Days Technical Workshop in Budapest, Hungary – November 2024: ERA and the Hungarian Ministry of Construction and Transport hosted a workshop providing practical guidance on EU railway legislation, promoting interoperability and safety.
- Incident investigation training, Istanbul, Turkey – December 2024: Over 50 railway experts from the Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine attended ERA-led sessions focused on railway safety and infrastructure development, which included case studies, expert insights and field visits.
- From Design to Trackside Approval for new and upgraded railway infrastructure, Istanbul, Turkey – December 2024: Attended by over 25 participants, the training highlighted key topics such as project planning, executing high-speed railway projects, and overcoming infrastructure hurdles. Discussions provided valuable solutions to common challenges in railway infrastructure development.

### **Rail Infrastructure Managers Network**

The Rail Infrastructure Managers Network (RIMN), established under the Memorandum of Cooperation signed at the Western Balkans Rail Summit in 2021, held two key meetings in 2024:

- Pristina (March): Discussions covered maintenance plans, joint actions, and preparations for establishing a regional Railway Centre of Excellence.
- InnoTrans (Berlin, September): In partnership with UNIFE, the TCT Secretariat organised a thematic panel featuring Western Balkan experts. The panel addressed challenges in implementing railway infrastructure projects and discussed plans for regional network development.

These activities underline the Transport Community's ongoing commitment to fostering regional integration, enhancing rail safety, and advancing the TEN-T network in the Western Balkans.



*Rail Infrastructure Managers Network (RIMN) Meeting, Pristina*

## Re-establishing Rail Passenger Connections in South East Europe (SEE)

In line with the South East European Parties' Dedication to Rail, signed during the Western Balkans Rail Summit in Belgrade in 2021, re-establishing rail passenger connections within SEE has been prioritised. On 8 November, the TCT Secretariat, in cooperation with the Central Europe Initiative (CEI), convened a meeting in Trieste. Representatives from Railway Undertakings in the Western Balkans and EU Member States expressed strong support for restoring rail passenger links in the region.



*Meeting on Re-establishing Rail Passenger Connections in South East Europe*

## Technical Assistance and Studies

In collaboration with consultants and infrastructure managers from the Western Balkans, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat finalised technical specifications and tender documents for improving critical level crossings. This initiative aligns with Directive (EU) 2016/798 on railway safety and marks a significant step towards safer railway operations in the region. These safety improvements form an integral part of the Rail Action Plan and Annex I.2 of the Transport Community Treaty.

A study on establishing a Regional Centre of Railway Excellence was a key focus during the second half of 2024. A contract for the study was signed in November, with completion expected by June 2025.

During 2024, TCT Secretariat provided support during the process of preparation the changes in the Law on Railway System in Montenegro.



<b>RAILWAYS MILESTONES</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Level Crossings Improvement Technical Specifications Delivery</b> - Directive (EU) 2016/798 on railway safety. Technical assistance will be completed by first quarter of next year.	Q2 2024	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Meeting on re-establishing rail passenger connections in SEE</b> - Directive 2012/34/EU and Directive (EU) 2016/2370 on establishing a single European railway area.	Q2 2024	<b>Completed in Q4</b>
<b>Digital Automatic Coupling Workshop</b> - Directive (EU) 2016/797 on the interoperability of the rail system.	Q3 2024	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Establishing the Regional Centre of Railway Excellence</b>	Q4 2024	<b>Ongoing</b> Contract signed in November 2024
<b>Rail Infrastructure Managers Network Meetings (RIMN)</b> - Directive 2012/34/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of 21 November 2012 establishing a single European railway area	2024	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Multiple workshops/trainings on relevant railway related topics</b> – Railway 4 <sup>th</sup> Package (market and technical pillar) with focus on Directive (EU) 2016/797 on the interoperability of the rail system and Directive (EU) 2016/798 on railway safety	2024	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Not planned but delivered</b>		
<b>Training on TODIS</b> – article 9. and 28. of the Treaty	Q2 2024	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Panel discussion at the Rail Freight Corridor Alpine Western Balkan meeting</b>	Q2 2024	<b>Completed</b>

## 2. ROADS

The activities carried out during 2024 were focused on supporting the implementation of the Road Action Plan, Technical Assistance provided by the European Commission and Transport Community and thematic capacity building (study visits and training events).

Monitoring the Road Action Plan and assistance in the transposition of Annex I.3 of the Transport Community Treaty were at the core of the activities of the Road Technical Committee. The **Road Technical Committee** gathered four times during 2024.

1. 15th Road Technical Committee (18-19 April in Bratislava): Focused on enhancing road asset management, ITS deployment, and advancing climate resilience and environmental impact practices. Key agenda items include presentations from the Slovak Road Administration, JASPERS, and Austria Tech, alongside discussions on the next generation of the Road Action Plan.
2. 16th Technical Committee (18-20 June in Portoroz): Focused on key topics such as tolling interoperability in the Western Balkans, updates on EIP projects, and the next generation of the Road Action Plan was adopted in principle. It took place back to back with the conference jointly organised with PIARC and the Civil Engineering Association of Slovenia, Transport Slovenia Days.
3. 17th Technical Committee (6-7 November in Turin): Progress on the first-generation Road Action Plan was presented and final discussion on the next generation of Action Plan for Roads until 2027, focusing on the Green Agenda, Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy, and Reform Agenda for the Western Balkans. A study visit to the Mobility Center of Turin (Italy) highlighted ITS implementation and road network management.
4. 18th Technical Committee (4 -5 December, Brussels): Held alongside a workshop on new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), this meeting featured experts from DG MOVE introducing Regulation 1679/2024. The regulation expands the monitoring framework from two to seven KPIs, enhancing oversight of the road network.

### Capacity building

In 2024, a series of capacity-building activities were organised to enhance the operational readiness of each regional partner. A study visit on ITS implementation (17-18 October, Oslo) provided representatives from the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia with insights into Norway's approach to ITS transposition and implementation, strengthening their capacities in alignment with Annex I.3 and the Reform Agenda. A FIDIC training on Module 1 and Module 4 (18-22 November, Belgrade) brought together road and rail infrastructure managers to improve their project management skills and foster regional cooperation, supporting compliance with TCT Annex I.1 and EU transport regulations. Additionally, a study visit to the European Environment Agency and a JASPERS workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (26-27 November, Copenhagen) marked a significant step in integrating EU environmental standards into road projects. This visit facilitated knowledge exchange on best practices in environmental sustainability and climate resilience, laying the foundation for deeper collaboration with the EEA. These activities reflect the Transport Community's ongoing commitment to strengthening institutional capacity and supporting the adoption of EU best practices in the region:

- Study visit on ITS implementation (17-18 October, Oslo) : A study visit was organised to the Norwegian Roads Administration for representatives of all regional partners and observing participants (Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia), to learn about Norway's experience in the transposition and implementation of ITS solutions



in the field of road transport. The study visit will strengthen the capacities regarding the transposition of ITS related legislation as per Annex I.3, as well as the Reform Agenda.

- FIDIC Training on Module 1 and Module 4 (18-22 November, Belgrade): Representatives from the road and rail infrastructure managers from the Western Balkans, attended four-day FIDIC training aimed at improving their knowledge and consequently the projects implementation in each of regional partners. The training provided an opportunity for all participants to exchange their experience about the best practices and learnt lessons in road and rail projects management and improving the regional cooperation.
- This training is in line with TCT Annex I.1: Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and repealing Decision No 661/2010/EU (OJ L 348, 20. 12. 2013, p. 1), Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/758 of 4 February 2016 amending Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards adapting Annex III thereto (OJ L 126, 14. 5. 2016, p. 3).
- Study visit to European Environment Agency and Jaspers workshop on EIA (26-27 November, Copenhagen): Representatives from the Western Balkans, Moldova and Georgia visited the European Environment Agency (EEA) exchanging their experience about the best practices and learnt lessons from road projects implementation regarding the environmental aspects. This was the first visit from the region to the EEA, establishing the basis for deepening the future cooperation and important step of the TCT's ongoing efforts to support the region in adopting and applying EU standards across all areas of road transport, but also the global efforts to raise public awareness about the importance and impact of climate resilience. This visit has been followed by the JASPERS workshop on the environmental aspects for road projects with focus on EU procedures, rules, and standards for Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA). The participants explored the gaps between EU and regional frameworks and learned from case studies.



*Capacity building activities 2024*

## Road Executives Network

The 2nd Meeting of the Road Executives Network in Vienna, Austria, included a study visit to ASFINAG (Austrian Motorway Company) where participants learned about road infrastructure management, safety practices, ITS deployment, and e-tolling interoperability. The regular meeting addressed road maintenance challenges, ITS implementation in the Western Balkans, and ongoing JASPERS activities, with presentations and discussions led by regional road directors and experts.

Additionally, the Network of Road Executives gathered for its second meeting in Vienna on May 28, alongside a visit to ASFINAG, the Austrian Motorway Company.



*Road Technical meetings 2024*

## Technical Assistance and Studies

Technical Assistance for setting up Western Balkans Electronic Register of Road Undertakings- Phase I was awarded on 19 December 2024, to the joint venture DOMOTEK&CACTUSS with a duration 9 months. A working group for this project was established, comprising representatives from all the ministries of transport in the region, the private sector, and DG MOVE to serve as the primary focal point throughout the project implementation. This project is in line with TCT Annex I.3 Road transport specifically and support the region in the implementation of Growth Plan:

- Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator and repealing Council Directive 96/26/EC;
- Regulation (EU) No 2020/1055 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2020 amending Regulations (EC) No 1071/2009, (EC) No 1072/2009 and (EU) No 1024/2012 with a view to adapting them to developments in the road transport sector.

The scope of work involves assessing current processes and identifying gaps in legal and technical frameworks to align the Western Balkans' systems with EU standards for road

transport. It includes designing the Technical Specifications for the Western Balkans Electronic Register of Road Undertakings (WBRRU) and a digital permits exchange module, ensuring scalability, interoperability, and compliance with ERRU. Additionally, the work includes preparing a detailed tender dossier, cost estimates, and implementation roadmaps to guide the setup and long-term sustainability of these systems across the region.

Technical Assistance on the Assessment of setting up National Access Points and National Body in Regional Partners was awarded on 16 December 2024 for Realis d.o.o. with a duration of 11 months.

This project is in line with TCT Annex I.3 Road transport specifically and support the region in the implementation of Growth Plan Reform Agenda:

- Directive 2023/2661 amending ITS Directive 2010/40 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 on the framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other modes of transport (OJ L 207, 6.8.2010, p. 1).
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/670 of 2 February 2022 supplementing Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the provision of EU-wide real-time traffic information services (OJ L 122, 25.4.2022, p. 1).

The scope of work consists on defining the most suitable National Access Points (NAPs) and National Bodies (NBs) for each regional partner, including detailed needs assessments, infrastructure analysis, and cost estimations, while benchmarking with EU practices and NAPCORE recommendations. Additionally, it will be identified and prioritised data categories in line with Annex III of Directive (EU) 2023/2661, leveraging the NAPCORE data dictionary to ensure compatibility, phased implementation, and alignment with strategic goals. Tailored roadmaps for the establishment of NAPs and NBs, outlining milestones, cost estimates, and training plans to support technical, institutional, and operational readiness will be prepared for each regional partner.

Planned activities in 2024 were delivered within agreed timeline as defined within the workplan 2024:

ROAD MILESTONES	Time frame	Progress
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Network of Road Executives</b>	Q2 2024	<b>Completed</b> 28 May 2024
<b>Training on Capacity building on contracts management for works and maintenance of road</b> to support implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 <i>of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network</i>	Q3 2024	<b>Completed</b> 18-22 November 2024
<b>Supporting the implementation of ITS Directive 2010/40/EU</b> <i>of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 on the framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other modes of transport</i>	Q4 2024	<b>Ongoing</b> Contract signed on 16 December 2024.
<b>Improvement of road operations – Phase 1 of Western Balkans Electronic Register of Road Undertakings (WBRRU)</b> as per Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 <i>of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator</i>	Q4 2024	<b>Ongoing</b> Contract signed on 19 December 2024.
<b>Not planned but delivered</b>		
<b>Training on TODIS</b>	Q2 2024	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Study visit to European Environment Agency and Jaspers workshop on environmental aspects for road projects</b>	Q4 2024	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Workshop on revised TEN-T Regulation</b>	Q4 2024	<b>Completed</b>



### 3. ROAD SAFETY

Newly adopted Next Generation Action Plan on Road Safety consist of measures that are related to the overall Vision Zero objectives and targets by reducing serious injuries and fatalities by 25% by 2027 and 50% by 2030.

Road Safety measures of the Action Plan and the activities under the three-year work plan of the Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory (WBRSO) are the main topics and key focus of the agenda for improving road safety in the region.

On 10 October 2024, the European Commission's DG MOVE reported 20,400 EU road fatalities in 2023, a 1% decrease from 2022, but insufficient to meet the 2030 targets. Similarly, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat reported 1,261 road fatalities in the Western Balkans for 2023, a slight increase from the previous year. The figures for the 2023 year show an increase in the number of fatalities for Albania, Montenegro, and North Macedonia in comparison with the 2022 year, highlighting significant road safety concerns in the region. While Serbia witnessed a 9% decline in fatalities, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced an increase, hindering their progress toward the ambitious 'Vision Zero' goal of eliminating road deaths by 2050.

#### *Number of fatalities for the period 2019-2023*

Regional Partner	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023
Albania	227	181	197	164	192
Bosnia and Herzegovina	261	244	255	222	255
Kosovo	113	81	111	106	106
Montenegro	47	48	55	77	78
North Macedonia	132	125	116	124	127
Serbia	534	492	521	553	503
Western Balkans	1,314	1,171	1,255	1,246	1,261

As for the observing participants of the Transport Community, the situation is similar as most of the Western Balkans partners, where Georgia, has reported an increase in road fatalities.

Observing Participants	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023
Georgia	481	450	449	430	442
Republic of Moldova	277	244	254	217	197
Observing Participants (available data)	758	694	703	647	639

*Note: The figures for 2023 are provisional for some partners*

Three Technical Committee meetings on Road Safety took place during 2024. Two meetings were held back-to-back with the Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory and gathered stakeholders from the transport, police and health sector. On these meetings, participants had a study visit at the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) premises in Vienna with a dedicated agenda to the Vulnerable Road Users. Afterwards, they visited a school zone near BMK where the road safety measures for protecting children were shown on the spot. The 18<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee on Road Safety took place in a hybrid format and in person on 19-20 June in Portoroz, Slovenia. The meeting was held back-to-back with the TRANSPORT ENGINEERING DAYS 2024, organised on 18 – 19 June 2024, by DIPS in cooperation with Transport Community and NK PIARC Slovenia, with professional contributions from all transport modes. The 19th Technical Community Meeting on Road Safety was held on 3-4 October 2024 in the TCT Secretariat premises. It was a back-to-back meeting with the 9th Meeting

of the Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory (WBRSO). Next day on 4th October 2024, a 'Site visit' to the National Driving Academy – NAVAK in Belgrade was held. The site visit provided insights into the development and features of a driver training facility in Serbia. Key points included the need for additional training for drivers who already have driver licence. The centre has a training programme based on local needs. The facility is designed for realistic high-speed exercises adaptable for various scenarios, including night and winter conditions. The goal is to enhance driver safety and awareness through high-quality, realistic training.

17 <sup>th</sup> Technical Committee & 8 <sup>th</sup> WBRSO	18 <sup>th</sup> Technical Committee	19 <sup>th</sup> Technical Committee & 9 <sup>th</sup> WBRSO
25-26 April 2024, Vienna, Austria	18-20 June 2024, Portoroz, Slovenia	3-4 October 2024, Belgrade, Serbia



### *Technical Committee meetings on Road Safety back-to-back with WBRSO Meetings*

The Technical Assistance for collecting Key Performance Indicators on Seat Belt Use and Child Restraint Use was running from August 2023-March 2024. The analysing of data, regional visits as well as the publication of the results were carried out during January-March 2024. The Technical Assistance has a direct link with the Road Safety Action Plan and uses the EU methodology based on the Baseline Project. That said, the KPIs values are comparable with the KPIs values of EU Member States. This Technical Assistance is financed from the TCT Secretariat budget.

With the support of TAIEX, capacity building on increasing the knowledge about the implementation of 112 single emergency numbers and eCALL was held in Skopje on 21-22 February 2024. Up to 10 participants per regional partner and observing participants were nominated from road safety and dangerous goods areas of expertise. Measures and recommendations were proposed as a way forward which will be followed by the TCT

Secretariat in cooperation with regional partners and observing participants. All regional partners and Observing Participants were encouraged to approximate the eCall EU Directive comprised in Annex I.3 of the Transport Community Treaty. Reaching the goals of Decade of Action in Road Safety for 2021-2030 requires halving of fatalities but also serious injuries by 50%. Building the capacities for Health Sector in calculating the Injury Scale during the road crashes is planned in 21 June 2024. Experience from EU Member States and the work of European Commission will be shared with participants.

In view of increasing the capacities and raising awareness of the road safety professionals in the Western Balkans region, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat has successfully obtained copyright permission from the Slovenian Infrastructure Agency, Ministry of Infrastructure, to translate the Safer to School Guidelines into all official languages of the Western Balkan region. During 2024, four out of six visibility events were held, one for each regional partner. The two events for Skopje and Belgrade will be held during 2025. Fifty copies for each regional partner are printed and distributed to all participants during the high-visibility events. The electronic versions of the translated guidelines are published on our website.

### Capacity building

With the support of TAIEX, capacity building on increasing the knowledge about the implementation of 112 single emergency numbers and eCALL was held in Skopje on 21-22 February 2024. Up to 10 participants per regional partner and observing participants were nominated from road safety and dangerous goods areas of expertise. Measures and recommendations were proposed as a way forward which will be followed by the TCT Secretariat in cooperation with regional partners and observing participants. All regional partners and Observing Participants were encouraged to align the legislation with the eCall EU Directive comprised in Annex I.3 of the Transport Community Treaty.

Reaching the goals of Decade of Action in Road Safety for 2021-2030 requires halving of fatalities but also serious injuries by 50%. Capacity Building on Maximum Abbreviated Injury Scale (MAIS) 3+ was held on 21 June 2024 in Belgrade and gathered representatives of the Health and Police Sector from Western Balkans regional partners. Participants were introduced to the AIS definition, the global situation presented in the Global Status Report on Road Safety for 2023. Knowledge and best experience from EU Member States, Belgium and Ireland, as well as the work of European Commission was shared with participants.

ROAD SAFETY MILESTONES	Time frame	Progress
<b>Collecting Key Performance Indicators on Seat Belt Use and Child Restraint Use</b> in support of the progress of the Road Safety Action <i>Plan related to the measure “Pilot for surveying at least one KPI”</i>	Q1 2024	<b>Completed</b> The Technical Assistance started mid of August 2023 and ended in mid-March 2024
<b>Capacity building in 112 single emergency number and e-Call EU Directive</b> in support to the implementation of <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 305/2013 of 26 November 2012 supplementing Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the harmonised provision for an interoperable EU-wide eCall (OJ L 91, 3.4.2013, p. 1</i>	Q1 2024	<b>Completed</b> TAIEX capacity building organised jointly by road safety and dangerous goods experts

<b>Capacity Building on Maximum Abbreviated Injury Scale (MAIS3+)</b> in support of the progress of the Road Safety Action <i>Plan for “Improving the data collection of road traffic crash data” and reaching the goal by 50% reduction of serious injuries by 2030.</i>	Q2 2024	<b>Completed</b> One day capacity building held to gather Health and Police Sector
<b>Six Visibility Events for promotion of the Safer to School Guidelines</b> <i>in support of the progress of the Road Safety Action Plan related to the measure “Protecting Vulnerable Road Users”</i>	2024	<b>Completed events:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 11 April, Tirana;</li> <li>- 13 May, Pristina;</li> <li>- 04 June, Podgorica</li> <li>- 09 October, Sarajevo</li> </ul> <b>Planned events:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2025, Belgrade;</li> <li>- 2025, Skopje;</li> </ul>



#### 4. TRANSPORT FACILITATION

Three meetings of the **Technical Committee** on Transport Facilitation (TCTF) were convened in 2024, out of which two were back-to-back with the Green Lanes committee, emphasizing the focus on the Green lanes initiative and the relevant BCPs, also benefiting from the presence of multiple stakeholders and discuss the overall progress and next steps in BCP facilitation.

One of the TCTF meetings was held back-to-back with an Expert Panel “Enhancing cross-border connectivity in the CEI region exploiting sustainable transport solutions”, which aimed to address practical ways to facilitate regional trade and passenger transit through transport policies, cross-border agreements, BCP improvements and investments.



*Expert panel “Enhancing cross-border connectivity in the CEI region exploiting sustainable transport solutions”, 14 November 2024, Vlorë, Albania*

TCT and CEFTA have put in place the necessary coordination mechanism for steering the Green Lanes initiative. Three meetings of the **Green Lanes Steering Committee** were held on 5<sup>th</sup> of March in Zagreb, on 6<sup>th</sup> of June in Sarajevo, and on 14<sup>th</sup> November in Vlore. The meetings gathered representatives from the Customs administration of all CEFTA/Western Balkans parties and neighbouring EU Member States, as well as from the Transport/Infrastructure Ministries from TCT Regional Partners, and served as a good platform to coordinate the ongoing needs assessment on the Green Lanes BCPs through the preparation of fiches, as well as to monitor the established exchange of information through SEED+ between several pairs of EU-Western Balkans parties. During the reporting period, another pair of partners Serbia-Hungary signed a MoU for such exchange of pre-arrival customs information.



*First meeting of the Steering Committee for Green Lanes, Zagreb, 6.3.2024.*

#### Capacity building

The cooperation with CELBET (Customs Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border Expert Team) has advanced even more. A catalogue of professional trainings is offered to the



Customs administration of the Western Balkans. In addition, it was agreed that CELBET experts will help the border agencies in developing technical and functional specifications for the equipment needed on the BCPs.

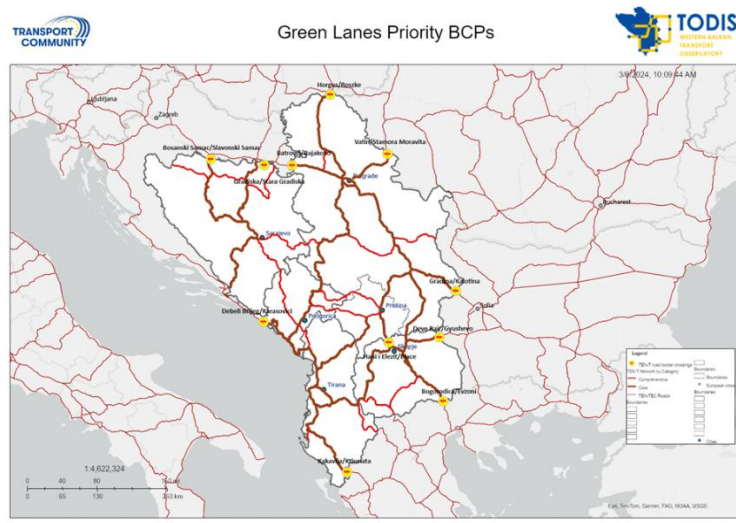


*Coordination meeting between TCT Secretariat and CELBET expert team*

### Technical Assistance and Studies

The focus in the transport facilitation sector in 2024 was on the preparation of the Green Lanes crossing points fiches, as one of the pillars of the Comprehensive Roadmap for enhancing Green Lanes, improved customs cooperation and modernisation of border/common crossing points.

Transport Community Secretariat, in cooperation with national authorities from the Regional partners and neighbouring EU Member States prepared BCP fiches for 11 priority crossing points, identifying their capacity restraints and shortcomings, as well as the investment needs in infrastructure improvements, new equipment & technology, and capacity building of the border agencies. In line with the conclusions from the EU-Western Balkans Summit held in December 2024 in Brussels, the European Commission should provide funds for financing the modernisation of the 11 BCPs.



*Identified Priority Crossing Points*



*EU-Western Balkans Summit, 18 December 2024, Brussels*

TRANSPORT FACILITATION MILESTONES	Time frame	Progress
Signed bilateral agreements for one-stop controls in road and rail sectors for most of the internal BCPs in the Western Balkans	Q4 2024	Ongoing.
EU-Western Balkans/CEFTA Green Lanes initiative implemented in both directions (WB6-EU) and on as much as possible EU-WB6 BCPs.	Q4 2024	Postponed. EC should provide the legal conditions by 2027.
BCP infrastructure (small scale) projects prepared and in pipeline for financing under available financial instruments	Q4 2024	Completed BCP fiches.
TCT- CELBET practical trainings for strengthening the efficiency and the competences of the customs border authorities carried out	Q3 2024	Agreed for 2025
Coordination trilateral meetings on transport facilitation improvements organised, with active participation from transport companies and business associations (Chambers of Commerce)	Q3 2024	Completed
The preparations are underway. One meeting (BIH-MNE-SRB + HR) is expected to take place in July, and two in autumn: North Macedonia-Serbia -Bulgaria, and Albania-Kosovo – North Macedonia.		
Study visit on Romanian-Moldovan BCPs for sharing best practises on models of enhanced border cooperation between EU and non-EU partners	Q2 2024	Postponed. After consultations with EC in which standpoint the issues related to borders of the Observing Participants are of sensitive nature, the study visit foreseen for April 2024 was cancelled until further notice.

## 5. WATERBORNE TRANSPORT AND MULTIMODALITY

The monitoring and implementation of the Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality was the main objective of the activities for the first half of 2024. During this period, four Technical Committee meetings are organised, the regional Maritime Week 2024, the regional workshop on inland waterway infrastructure and several technical assistance we have provided and facilitated to our Regional Partners.

During 2024 the **Technical Committee for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality** were organised four meetings as follows:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting (29 February in Civitavecchia, Rome): Focused on the actions related to infrastructure, digital and green elements of ports specifically on purchase and installation of equipment for improvement of the process efficiency and effectiveness in ports. This meeting was complemented with a study visit of the Technical Committee members in the Port of Civitavecchia and visited the port infrastructure, superstructure, and equipment, with the goal of sharing experiences on enhancing process efficiency and effectiveness in ports.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee (14 June in Durres): Part of the series of events organised during the Maritime Week 2024 in Durres this Technical Committee focused on monitoring of the level of the implementation of the Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality, and to introduce and discuss on the proposed actions of the Next Generation Action Plan.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee (18 September in Brčko District): Focused on Optimising Port Connectivity and Improving the last mile, highlighting the progress achieved for implementation of the Action plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality, finalisation and approval of the Next Generation Action Plan. This meeting was complemented with a study visit in the Port of Brcko where the technical committee visited the newly constructed port infrastructure, superstructure, and purchased equipment.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee (4 -5 December, Brussels): Organised together with the workshop on new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), this meeting featured experts from DG MOVE presenting Regulation 1679/2024. The regulation expanded the monitoring framework of the KPIs, strengthening oversight of the waterborne transport network. Additionally, the meeting was complemented by a study visit to the Port of Rotterdam, where Technical Committee members had the opportunity to observe the latest port developments, particularly in relation to rail and road connections and multimodality.



*Technical Committee meetings for Waterborne and Multimodality*



## Capacity building

From 13-15 June 2024, the Transport Community, in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, the Durrës Port Authority, and the Centre of Excellence for Maritime Affairs (CEMA), organised the Maritime Week 2024. The event brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and academic institutions to strengthen regional and international cooperation in the maritime sector.

Key discussions and agreements reached during the event laid the groundwork for enhancing port infrastructure, trade facilitation, and maritime education, fostering a more integrated and resilient maritime transport system. Notable initiatives launched included 'DataLab' and a Memorandum of Cooperation on maritime education, highlighting a strong commitment to innovation and capacity building.

As part of the event, the International Seafarers' Day was celebrated, recognising the essential role of seafarers in global trade and economic growth. The outcomes of Maritime Week 2024 will serve as a foundation for continued collaboration, driving sustainable development, digitalisation, and decarbonisation in the maritime sector.



*Maritime Week 2024*

On September 19, 2024, the Transport Community, in collaboration with the Danube Commission and the International Sava Basin Commission, organised the regional workshop on "Promoting the Port of Brčko as a Logistics Gateway and Its Better Integration into the Rhine-Danube TEN-T Core Corridor."

The workshop aimed to enhance the strategic role of the Core Port of Brčko by raising awareness of its potential for logistics and transport services, serving both the Brčko District and its wider economic hinterland in the region. Discussions focused on facilitating future cargo flows along the Danube and Sava Rivers and strengthening Brčko's connectivity with key Danube ports, reinforcing its role in regional and European transport networks.



*Regional Workshop Promoting the Port of Brčko as a Logistics Gateway*

In response to the needs identified during the Technical Committee meetings and as part of the implementation of the Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality, the Transport Community, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), organised in Tivat Montenegro the Regional Workshop on Awareness for the Implementation of Information Communication Provisions under Regulations I/7 and I/8 of the 1978 STCW Convention.

The workshop gathered representatives from all Regional Partners and Observer Participants to discuss their obligations under the STCW Convention, particularly focusing on implementation and reporting requirements to the IMO. This initiative aimed to enhance compliance, strengthen regulatory understanding, and support effective communication of information within the maritime sector.



*Regional Workshop on Implementing and Communication Provisions of the STCW Convention*

This three-day event, hosted by the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, brought together members of the Technical Committees for Waterborne Transport, key stakeholders from the Western Balkans, Observer Participants, and EU representatives to discuss the implementation of the new Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Regulation.



Participants focused on the new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), core corridor studies, and integration strategies aimed at enhancing waterborne and multimodal transport. The workshop provided a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration to support the efficient and sustainable development of the TEN-T network in the region.



*Regional Workshop on the new TEN-T Regulation*

### **Technical Assistance and Studies**

In response to Albania's request for technical assistance, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat engaged a locally contracted expert to support the development of an effective framework for the safe and sustainable management of inland waterways (IWW) in Albania.

The expert was tasked with conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current state of Albania's inland waterways and providing strategic recommendations for their future development. The technical assistance was successfully completed, and the final report was delivered on schedule, in line with the contractual deadlines. This initiative marks an important step toward enhancing Albania's inland waterway transport, contributing to improvement of the Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality and the Annex I of the Transport Community Treaty.

The final event of the TAIEX Technical Assistance for the mutual recognition of Albanian seafarers' certificates with the EU was held in March 2024. This initiative focused on knowledge sharing and best practices related to seafarer training and certification procedures.

Particular attention was given to the necessary procedures, documentation, and concrete actions Albania must undertake to achieve mutual recognition of its seafarers' certificates under the STCW Convention and EU Directive 2022/993.

At the conclusion of the technical assistance, experts provided a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations, outlining the steps the Albanian maritime administration should take to align with EU standards and initiate the mutual recognition process.



*TAIEX Expert Mission on Recognition of Albanian Seafarers' Certificates with EU*

Following Montenegro's request for technical assistance, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, in cooperation with TAIEX, supported in conducting an independent evaluation for the level of implementation of the STCW Convention, in accordance with Regulation I/8 (Quality Standard).

The evaluation focused on assessing Montenegro's system for the training and certification of seafarers, ensuring compliance with international standards. Upon finalisation of the corrective action plan, the Permanent Secretariat will further assist Montenegro in submitting the evaluation report to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), reinforcing the commitment of Montenegro to maintaining high maritime training and certification standards in fully concordance with the Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality and Transport Community Treaty.

Following the request for an analysis of the legal framework on maritime ports, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, in collaboration with TAIEX, started a Technical Assistance initiative to review and align the national legal framework with EU standards and international obligations.

The assistance focuses on transposing key regulations into Montenegro's legal system, particularly concerning port reception facilities for ship waste, harmonised procedures for the safe loading and unloading of bulk carriers, and a regulatory framework for port services, including financial transparency. These align with Annex I of the Transport Community Treaty and the Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality.

The first expert mission took place from 25 to 29 November 2024, and further activities are scheduled for 2025 to advance the drafting process and ensure full compliance with EU and international requirements.

WATERBORNE TRANSPORT MILESTONES		Time frame	Progress
<b>Maritime Week 2024 "Celebrating Maritime Heroes", Durres, Albania</b> to celebrate the IMO International Seafarers' Day and the implementation of the Directive 2022/993 on the minimum level of training of seafarers.		Q2 2024	Completed May 2024
<b>Workshop "Promoting Port of Brčko as logistics gateway and its better integration into Rhine-Danube TEN-T core corridor"</b> to support implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and action 2.2.2.2 of the Action Plan for WTM on Reconstruction and upgrade of port capacities and purchasing of related equipment.		Q3 2024	Completed On 19 Sept. 2024 Port of Brčko
<b>Not planned but delivered</b>		<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Locally Contracted Expert on Sustainable Management of Inland Waterway Transport in Albania.</b>		Q4 2024	Completed
<b>Regional Workshop on Implementing Information Communication Provisions of the STCW Convention.</b>		Q3 2024	Completed
<b>Workshop on new TEN-T Regulation and KPIs</b>		Q4 2024	Completed

## 6. TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

The second half of 2024 was dedicated to enhanced cooperation concerning Transport of Dangerous Goods, in particular on aspects concerning the enforcement of ADR as stipulated in Directive 2002/95/EC and rail TDG according to Directive 2008/68. To answer the questions concerning battery storage systems raised by the Energy Community Secretariat in June 2024, the last workshop of 2024 also had points dedicated to the regulations applicable for batteries according to the Annexes to Directive 2008/68. This last workshop also included an extremely valuable point related to the ADR and RID amendments to enter into force on 1 January 2025. All Regional and Observing Participants were kindly invited to do their utmost in order to translate into the domestic language(s) the annexes to the Directive 2008/68 as amended as soon as possible and as applicable for their respective jurisdiction.

Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro and Georgia succeeded to translate and publish the 2023 versions of ADR, RID and ADN, as applicable. These Regional Partners and Observing Participants will be in a more favourable position as now the 2025 amendments only will need to be translated.

To support this effort, the OTIF secretariat highlighted in their presentation the points of divergence specific to each mode. This is a useful tool in order to speed up translation of the amendments.

–Translation into the domestic languages of the annexes to the international agreements remains the first and foremost priority as it gives the possibility to citizens to have access to information “in a language he can read and understand”.

The progress achieved is important to be maintained taking into account that a new version of ADR, RID and ADN entered into force on 1 January 2025.

The 15th meeting of the TDG Committee and Workshop on enforcement of road transport of dangerous goods rules was held in Sarajevo, 8-10 October 2024. It benefited from excellent support from the Ministries of Transport in Croatia and Slovenia and the Financial Administration in Slovenia.

The peer review highlighted that Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to address the issue of enforcement of rules applicable for road transport of dangerous goods, i.e. to transpose Directive 2002/95/EC.

The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TDG Technical Committee and Workshop on RID and the role of the competent authority in relation to the safety obligations of the participants was held in Riga, 10-12 December 2024. The representatives of Latvia, France, the OTIF Secretariat and the European Union Agency for Railways kindly supported TCT Secretariat in the organisation of this meeting. The meeting and the Agenda were negotiated in cooperation with the Government of Georgia, that are in the process of implementing RID for the first time in their jurisdiction. ERA presented the railway legislation and its connection with TDG. The obligations of the national safety authority and of the dangerous goods safety advisers were also in focus.

### Technical Assistance and Studies

TCT Secretariat offered support for several TAIEX series of events for the following stakeholders:

Based on the previous experiences with the capacity building for emergency services in case of accident and incident in TDG of Montenegro (TAIEX 81894) and Albania (TAIEX 84111), a TAIEX Regional Workshop on 112 and eCall (85703) was organised in Skopje, the Republic of

North Macedonia. More than 100 experts were involved in an excellent exchange of experience, establishing a diagnosis of the implementation of the relevant EU Acquis.

Update of the procedures for TDG in ports (currently being requested by the Centre of Excellence for Maritime Affairs (CEMA) - Albania is currently being deployed, a study visit being currently being established to Spain.

- An additional project is pending concerning TPED requested by an inspection body in Albania.
- The Republic of Moldova had a TAIEX Workshop on authorization and control of transport of dangerous goods, 15-16 May 2024.
- Kosovo – Emergency Management Agency and Police are applying for a program concerning the advanced mobile location and digitalisation of their PSAPs.
- Kosovo – Workshop dedicated to radioactive wastes management ongoing application via TAIEX.

The rolling plan for capacity building projects was complied with to a significant extent and will need to be updated to highlight the needs of the participants.

Transport of dangerous goods	Time frame	Progress
All Regional Partners will <b>transpose Directive 2008/68/EC</b> on the inland transport of dangerous goods as amended.	Q2 2023 Expected: Q2 2025	<b>Completed for 2023 by</b> Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro <b>Update due for all RPs and OPs</b>
By the date when <b>Directive 2008/68/EC will be transposed, Directive 2022/1999 (former 95/50/EC)</b> will be transposed as well, as a package.	Q2 2023	<b>Partially</b> transposed, not implemented
By the end of 2025, all Regional Partners will <b>transpose the Directive 2010/35/EC.</b>	Q4 2025	<b>In progress</b>
<b>Not planned but delivered</b>		
TAIEX on 112 and eCall	Q1 2024	Follow-up to be agreed by RSC

## 7. SOCIAL ISSUES AND PASSENGER RIGHTS

Over the year of 2024, the Transport Community facilitated the implementation of the Action plan for the Implementation of the EU Acquis in the area of Social Issues and Passenger Rights, with several study visits and capacity buildings.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Study visit of the Informal Tachograph group prioritised implementation and facilitating the transposition of social legislation (Regulation (EU) No 165/2014 on tachographs, Regulation (EU) No 2020/1054 on driving time and rest time, Directive 2006/22/EC on enforcement of social legislation) of the Annex I.3 of the Transport Community Treaty.

The Study visit lasted for two days, from March 13th to 14th, in Brussels. The regional partners along with the Observing Participants joined in the CORTE Secretariat Working Group on Enforcement and engaged in meetings with DG MOVE colleagues. The CORTE Secretariat Working Group on Enforcement delved into several critical topics concerning the transport sector. Discussions revolved around the implementation of enforcement of social legislation (Directive 2006/22/EC) smart tachographs, emphasizing their role in enhancing efficiency and compliance within the industry. Additionally, participants examined the current state of policy regarding the AETR, aiming to ensure harmonization with EU regulations. At the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) the regional partners and observing participants were welcomed by the colleagues from the Road Transport Unit. The discussion was focused on the on social regulations (Regulation (EU) No 165/2014, Regulation (EU) No 2020/1054), market dynamics and tolling systems.



*Informal Tachograph group visiting DG MOVE*

Our second capacity building activity was organised in collaboration with CORTE, the Enforcement Working Group meeting in Podgorica, Montenegro and it lasted for two days, from 20 -21. November 2024. The event brought together the members of the Informal Tachograph Group and key stakeholders to discuss the adoption of the Smart Tachograph (Regulation (EU) No 2020/1054) and enforcement of social legislation (Directive 2006/22/EC and Directive 2020/1057). Participants engaged in discussions on implementing enforcement measures, ensuring compliance with EU legislation, and addressing challenges related to smart tachograph deployment in the Western Balkans. The second day focused on strengthening enforcement and compliance with EU social legislation, highlighting best practices and challenges in the region.





*Joint meeting of CORTE Enforcement group*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Social Forum

Leading up to the 5th Social Forum, in collaboration with the Cooperation and Development Institute, embarked on a series of workshops across the Western Balkans (06.02.2024 in Tirana, 15.04.2024 in Skopje, 16.04.2024 in Pristina, and 05.06.2024 in Sarajevo). The conclusions derived from these workshops significantly contributed to the Transport Community 5th Social Forum.

Based on Transport Community Treaty Article 27, which established the Social Forum to serve as a platform for dialogue between key transport stakeholders of the European Union and Western Balkans regional partners and building upon the conclusions<sup>1</sup> of the 4th Social Forum, where we actively engaged with social and civil society to make the transport sector in the Western Balkans more inclusive and accessible, the 5th Social Forum marks a significant step forward in recognising the vital contribution of civil society to policymaking in the transport sector. Their involvement not only ensures the representation of diverse perspectives but also enhances the social legitimacy and sustainability of large-scale transport projects and the transition to green mobility.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Social Forum on the 6 June 2024 in Sarajevo focused on Engaging Social Partners and Civil Society for a Green Mobility Transition. It featured two sessions focusing on environmental and social impacts of the green transition. The first session, A Socially Just Green Mobility Transition, focused on the social impact of the green mobility transition, emphasising the importance of ensuring that the transition is socially inclusive. The ministerial session was focused on fostering dialogue between civil society organisations (CSOs) and Ministers regarding the green mobility transition, with a special emphasis on Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) transport projects.



*5th Social Forum*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Conclusions-4th-Social-Final-Version.pdf>

The key conclusions<sup>2</sup> of the 5th Social Forum were fostering inclusive dialogue between CSOs, policymakers, and the transport sector to promote sustainable and inclusive mobility, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered in transport policies and projects. Another key takeaway was the importance of building the capacity of CSOs to enhance their participation in policy discussions and project implementation. Providing training and resources will empower CSOs to contribute effectively, ensuring transparency and alignment with regional sustainability goals. Additionally, the forum emphasized the need for establishing a Regional Twinning Initiative to connect EU and regional NGOs for knowledge exchange on transport projects. This initiative will help bridge technical expertise gaps, improve best practice sharing, and strengthen regional capacities in transport governance.



### *Highlights from the Economic and Investment Plan Roadshows*

#### **Equal opportunities in the transport sector**

A two-day study visit to Brussels and Antwerp took place on 14–15 November 2024, focusing on fostering a more inclusive and attractive transport sector in the Western Balkans. On the first day, participants visited DG MOVE, where they received guidance on joining the Platform for Change, explored EU policies on gender balance in transport, and discussed key challenges such as automation, digitalisation, and labour shortages. The visit also included a meeting with the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) to learn about initiatives like Women in Rail and the STAFFER Erasmus+ project on skills development.

On the second day, the group travelled to Antwerp, where they visited the Port of Antwerp to examine best practices in gender equality in transport. The study visit concluded with a meeting with the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA), where discussions centred on gender diversity, workforce innovation, and digitalisation in the maritime sector. The visit provided valuable insights into addressing labour shortages and automation challenges, equipping participants with strategies to enhance diversity and resilience in the transport sector.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Conclusions-5th-Social-Forum-Final-Version-050724-comments-incorporated.pdf>



### *Study Visit Building an Inclusive & Attractive Transport Sector Across the Western Balkans*

#### **Passenger Rights**

The final documentation for the Technical Assistance for Strengthening Regulatory Framework for Passenger Rights in the Western Balkans was delivered in December 2024.

The project was in line with the Action Plan for the Implementation of the EU Acquis in the area of Social Issues and Passenger Rights in transport (Annex I), specifically the:

- Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations (OJ EU L 315, 3.12.2007, p. 14).
- Regulation (EU) No 181/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 (OJ EU L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 1).
- Regulation (EU) No 1177/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 (OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 1).

The project delivered for the Regional Partners the following:

- A gap assessment of the legislation and institutional set up that deal with the implementation of passenger rights in the region.
- A cost effectiveness analysis for each regional partner for the three cornerstones that the passenger rights are based on: non-discrimination, accurate/timely and accessible information and immediate and proportionate assistance.
- Comprehensive Roadmap (short and medium term) with actions and measures for each regional partner in order to achieve full alignment with the EU passenger's rights Acquis and tailored Recommendations for each regional partners on how to improve the status of passenger rights based on the prioritisation of the identified measures and actions in the roadmap.

<b>SOCIAL ISSUES AND PASSENGER RIGHTS MILESTONES</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Preparatory actions (Study visit, capacity building) to improve the implementation of the <i>Action Plan for the Implementation of EU Acquis in the Area of Social Issues and Passenger Rights</i> - Regulation (EU) No 165/2014 on tachographs, Regulation (EU) No 2020/1054 on driving time and rest time, Directive 2006/22/EC on enforcement of social legislation.	2024	Completed
Technical assistance on <i>Strengthening Regulatory Framework for Passenger Rights in the Western Balkans</i>	Q4 2024	Completed

## **8. TRANSPORT OBSERVATORY DATA INFORMATION SYSTEM (TODIS)**

Following articles 9 and 28 of the Treaty, the Transport Community has a task to develop an information system for monitoring and reviewing the condition and performance of the indicative TEN-T extension of the comprehensive and core networks to the Western Balkans.

As Phase 2 of TODIS development is closed, the TCT Secretariat with the support of regional partners initiated data gathering through TODIS for the first time. These data were used for the preparation the TEN-T report on the developing indicative extension of the Core and Comprehensive Network and the Five-Year Rolling Work Plan.

All regional partners nominated persons for the roles of “regional user” and “regional coordinator.” The Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community, in cooperation with GDI Solution, organised a certain number of trainings. They were held during April at each TCT party. The total number of trainings was seven (one per regional party and two in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

There are 150 regional users and 6 regional coordinators. TODIS accounts opened for all of them as well as for experts from DG MOVE. The TCT Secretariat used TODIS first time for data gathering as well as for preparation analyses, graphs and maps.

During the second part of the year, we faced a need for improvement of TODIS because of two main reasons. First is a revision of the network and second is the new Regulation 1679/2024 with new KPIs for all transport modes. At the end of year, activities related to the improving of so far prepared database and its upgrade have started, expecting the finalisation till the end of 2025.



## 9. SUSTAINABLE AND SMART MOBILITY

The implementation of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for the Western Balkans and the monitoring/support of the transposition of the relevant EU acquis of Annex I of the Transport Community Treaty remains at the core of the activities of TCT Secretariat.

Given that several studies have been performed in the previous years with a concrete set of recommendations, the focus in 2024 was on capacity building and training to assist the RP in concrete implementation of activities.

### **Green Mobility Summit**

Regional Summit in 2024 focused on the green agenda in transport (decarbonization of transport, climate resilience of infrastructure, promotion of green solutions, etc.), focusing on adaptation and mitigation measures. The Green Mobility Summit has taken place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 6-7 June 2024. The summit fostered discussions and knowledge exchange, raising awareness about the development of sustainable, digital, resilient, and eco-friendly transport infrastructure and operations.

The Summit supported the implementation of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for Western Balkans, outlined in July 2021. Furthermore, Summit topics are in line with TCT Annex I, specifically, TEN-T Regulation, Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation, ITS Directive and Clean Vehicles directive.

The Summit was organised by the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as part of the Regional Climate Partnership between Germany and the Western Balkans jointly committed to improving transport infrastructure and climate in the Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Diverse expert panels focused on climate mitigation, digitalisation, and climate adaptation. While plenary session hosted Ministers, Mayors, and high-level officials from the Western Balkans and Observing Partners as well as European Commission. During the Summit, the overarching Green Mobility Declaration was endorsed, pledging to promote zero-emission and smart mobility, enhance climate resilience in transport networks, and foster regional cooperation for sustainable transport solutions. The declaration had two annexes, one on clean bus and clean fleet platform and another on cycling declaration.

### **Capacity building**

The Clean Bus and Clean fleet initiative was a part of deliverables for the Green Mobility Summit which was endorsed by the Ministers of Transport. Workshop on Mobility and decarbonisation will focus on aspects of zero emission vehicles and alternative fuel infrastructure for public transport as well as procurement options. Meeting was organised back-to-back with GIZ, with JASPERS assistance and joined by EBRD and World Bank. Workshop topics were in line with TCT Annex I, namely: TEN-T Regulation, Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation, and Clean Vehicles directive on 5th June in Sarajevo. The first panel discussed clean buses and clean fleets, focusing on infrastructure, operational, energy, and environmental aspects. Followed by an interactive session and group discussion on the challenges and opportunities related to clean fleet infrastructure and operations. The second panel explored procurement and funding opportunities for clean buses and fleets, with another interactive session and group discussion on the same topic. Meeting gathered around 50 participants from Ministries of Transport and cities from Western Balkans and Observing participants.

The Transport Community Permanent Secretariat supported the European Mobility Week in Pristina 16-22 September, focusing on the event's 2024 theme – Shared Public Space. Shared public space brings many benefits to society. A place where people, transport modes and

activities all have their own space is a place with more social equity, more road safety, less noise and air pollution, and a better quality of life.

The European Mobility Week activities in Pristina focused on three main topics related to alternative modes of transport – public bus transport, walking, and cycling. The event was opened by Director of the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community, the Mayor of Pristina, the Deputy Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure of Kosovo, GIZ Kosovo Director.

Activities included a lecture for school children on benefits of public transport and active mobility. Followed by dedicated bus ride for children as part of raising awareness activities. Additionally, the event included bike ride throughout the Pristina to promote new cycling services inaugurated by city of Pristina.

On 21 November 2024 a workshop on e-freight was held in Brussels. The workshop provided an in-depth exploration of electronic freight information exchange (eFTI) regulations, with a particular focus on the latest updates to implementing and delegated acts. Key stakeholders engaged with experts to discuss the regulatory framework, practical challenges, and solutions for transitioning to digital freight operations. The discussions aimed to support seamless compliance and operational efficiency across different transport sectors. Participants received insights from representatives of DG MOVE, IRU, UNECE, and GIZ, among others. Key topics included the eFTI Regulation's state of play, implementation challenges, EU-funded digital freight projects, and alignment with international transport standards. Sessions focused on advancing digitalization in freight transport, capacity building for multimodal data exchange, and the role of UNECE standards in facilitating interoperability.

The event concluded with reflections on next steps, emphasizing the importance of capacity-building programs and policy alignment between national and EU digital freight frameworks. Stakeholders highlighted the need for continued cooperation between international organizations, regulatory bodies, and logistics operators to overcome operational challenges and ensure a smooth transition to digital freight processes. Future workshops will delve into technical implementation strategies and further regulatory harmonization efforts.

The Transport Innovation Workshop, held on 10 October 2024 in Split, brought together key stakeholders, experts, and policymakers to discuss digital and green mobility transformation and financing strategies for sustainable mobility in the EU and Western Balkans. The event began with a presentation by CINEA, who outlined European mobility research and innovation opportunities, followed by presentation of ADRION and DANUBE programme. Discussions then focused on the institutionalization of digital transformation, with insights from RCC and Austriatech on integrating digital solutions into smart mobility frameworks. A panel discussion followed, examining why Southeast Europe lags behind Western Europe in large-scale transport innovation projects, with case studies from projects such as ELABORATOR, IMPACT, and SPINA. The morning concluded with a session on the Integrated Sustainable Urban Mobility Framework (ProSUMP), highlighting efforts to streamline urban transport planning in the Western Balkans.

The afternoon featured an interactive session on innovation and sustainability in transport, where participants collaborated on defining key prerequisites for achieving climate-neutral mobility. A study visit provided hands-on insights into innovative public transport solutions in Split, including a demonstration of electric buses, an overview of bus procurement and ticketing system projects, and a visit to the ITS center, where video surveillance and traffic

control systems were showcased. The day's discussions underscored the importance of aligning regional transport strategies with EU climate goals, improving digital infrastructure, and securing sustainable funding for large-scale mobility projects.

### Technical Assistance and Studies

The Service Contract “Technical Assistance on Multimodality, Terminal Assessment, and Digitalization” was assigned to a Joint Venture led by “I.E.C.C. Marios Miliadou and Associates” (herein after “the Consultant”) in December 2023 and it became effective after the relevant notification of the Contracting Authority (CA) the Transport Community Treaty Permanent Secretariat (herein after “TCT Secretariat”) on 15 January 2024. The duration of the contract is 44 weeks, and the contract was finalised on 10 December 2024.

The general objective of the assignment was to contribute to the fulfilment of the obligations derived from the Transport Community Treaty signed by the regional partners (herein after “the RPs”), related to Annex 1 of the Treaty, by implementing the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for Western Balkans<sup>3</sup>. Improving multimodality has been identified by the SSMS impact assessment<sup>4</sup> as one of the three groups of important measures for green and digital transition.

The specific objective of the assignment was to assist the six SEE Parties of the Transport Community to align with relevant EU acquis, by, among others, examining the problems hindering development of multimodality (e.g. infrastructure, policy, digitalization issues), conducting a market and prospective analysis on multimodal freight terminals, and elaborating an action plan for the development of a multimodal freight terminal network.

The tasks of this Technical Assistance assignment consisted of the following:

- Task 1: Inception Report
- Task 2: Survey for satisfaction with multimodal/ intermodal services
- Task 3: Identification of the multimodal freight terminals
- Task 4: Digitalisation aspects for enhanced multimodality and seamless supply chain flow
- Task 5: Institutional support

All intermediate and final deliverables, and outputs of the services were of good quality, and have been timely delivered and approved.

GREEN/MULTIMODAL/INOVATIVE TRANSPORT MILESTONES	Time frame	Progress
Implementation of e-freight regulation - Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic freight transport information)	Q4/2024	Completed
Workshop on innovation and smart mobility - ITS Directive 2010/40/EU and TEN-T Guidelines	Q4/2024	Completed
Supporting Mobility Week activities	Q3/2024	Completed
Workshop on mobility decarbonisation and depollution – Regulation 2014/94/EU on deployment of Alternative Fuel Infrastructure and TEN-T guidelines -sustainability part	Q1-Q4/2-24	Completed
Green Mobility Summit	Q2-Q3/2024	Completed
Technical Assistance on Multimodality, Terminal Assessment, and Digitalisation – measure deriving from the strategy and TEN-T Regulation	Q4/2024	Completed

<sup>3</sup> Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans (TCT Secretariat, 2021)

<sup>4</sup> Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans – Impact Assessment and Cost Effectiveness Analysis – Component 1 – Final Report (CONNECTA, 2023)

## 10. COOPERATION WITH THE OBSERVING PARTICIPANTS

On 15 November 2022 the Ministerial Council endorsed a joint statement advocating for the systematic involvement of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine as observing participants in the work of the Transport Community. TCT engagement with the observing participants commenced promptly and developed gradually during 2023, supported by EU Grant no. NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/441-320, with no less than 50 official meetings and events organized under the TCT framework joined by representatives of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Based on the experience gained in 2023, cooperation with the observing participants expanded significantly in 2024. On 23 December 2023, a new grant agreement (ref. no. NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/452-688) was concluded to support the participation of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the Transport Community during 2024 and 2025.

Besides ensuring their attendance to all meetings and events organized under the TCT framework, the new grant also includes the following components:

- Technical assistance meant to support policy and regulatory reforms in key sectors of the Transport Community.
- Strengthening the administrative capacity of key stakeholders in transport sector
- Providing targeted assistance for the transposition and implementation of the EU Acquis in Annex I of the Transport Community Treaty.

To ensure a more robust engagement with the observing participants while keeping the same level of support available for Western Balkan Partners, TCT has established a dedicated Project Implementation Unit (PIU), funded entirely under the Grant Contract. The PIU comprises a total of 6 positions and has been fully staffed, as of 5 August 2024. Dedicated professionals are working on a daily basis to support the active involvement of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine in the Transport Community's activities and initiatives.

During 2024, Observing participants were actively participating in the meeting of the **TCT bodies**, attending 23 meetings with around 70 participants.

Content-wise, the following activities have been carried out:

### **Stakeholders' engagement**

The continuous stakeholder engagement process initiated in early 2024 aims to strengthen the commitment of observing participants to the Transport Community at both technical and decision-making levels.

A structured engagement mechanism has been established through regular high-level and coordination meetings, ensuring swift issue resolution and maintaining dynamic communication. This includes two review missions in Moldova and 92 online coordination meetings, involving 218 participants from Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.



*Meeting with representatives of the Republic of Moldova*



### Coordination with other key actors

One of the TCT Secretariat's key purposes throughout the implementation of the Action has been to ensure effective coordination with other relevant stakeholders, fostering synergies between various ongoing programmes, complementing activities and avoiding overlaps.

23 coordination meetings were held with stakeholders such as the EU Delegations in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the European Railways Agency, the World Bank, EIB (JASPERS), EBRD, or GIZ, mostly in relation with the technical assistance and the capacity building programmes to be implemented under the Action. Key outcomes included an in-principle agreement with JASPERS to jointly organize capacity-building seminars on project preparation, pending confirmation from the European Commission, as well as collaboration with GIZ for capacity-building and technical assistance in implementing the eFTI Regulation in Moldova.

### Action Plans preparation

The Action Plans are an essential tool for structuring and prioritising the key objectives established under the Transport Community Treaty.

After multiple rounds of technical discussions and consultations with the relevant stakeholders, four Action Plans have been developed for Road, Road Safety, Rail, and Waterborne Transport & Multimodality. These documents were presented at the Regional Steering Committee meeting on 14 November 2024 and are scheduled for presentation at the upcoming Ministerial Council.

Once agreed at technical level, the Action Plans for Moldova and Georgia have been submitted to the relevant national authorities for approval and/or endorsement. In contrast, the Action Plans for Ukraine remain generic, due to the low responsiveness rate from the Ukrainian authorities. Depending on future engagement, the Action Plans for Ukraine could undergo revision/adaptation during 2025.

### Attendance in TCT bodies meetings

The observing participants were regularly invited to attend all meetings of the bodies established under the Treaty.

During 2024, **70 participants** from Georgia, Moldovan and Ukraine attended in-person **23 TCT bodies meetings**.



*Regional Steering Committee Meeting*

### TCT key reporting:

Data collection for the Annex I Status Report and the TEN-T Report commenced officially in June/July 2024 and lasted until November 2024. Relevant information on the status of TCT Annex I acquis and the TEN-T Network was gathered as following:

- Through review missions carried out in Moldova
- During discussions held to update the Action Plans
- Via dedicated questionnaires shared with the observing participants
- During sector-specific online meetings aimed at addressing information gaps

The Report was presented at the Regional Steering Committee meeting on 16 December 2024 and is scheduled for presentation at the upcoming Ministerial Council.



*Reports on Observing Participants*

### Capacity building

One of the key objectives of the Action is to strengthen the institutional capacity of relevant authorities in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine in priority areas of the Transport Community. During 2024, a total of 44 representatives from Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine participated in capacity-building activities under the Transport Community Framework, enhancing their technical expertise and regulatory alignment. These sessions fostered cross-border cooperation and knowledge-sharing to support EU transport policy implementation. Besides involving observers in the capacity building activities regularly organised under TCT framework, a tailored programme has been also designed in 2024 based on a comprehensive training needs assessment exercise, including a structured delivery plan and partnerships for implementation. Adapted to the specific needs and contexts of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine, this programme is intended to complement the capacity building events organised within the TCT framework, to which observing participants will continue to be invited. At least 9 capacity building events will be delivered in 2025 under this programme. Additionally, TCT will be offering sponsored traineeships within the European Railway Agency to railway professionals in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (the call for application was launched in late December).



*Capacity Building for Observing Participants in Skopje*

### **Technical Assistance and Studies**

The Grant Contract includes an important Technical Assistance component aimed at supporting the beneficiary countries align with EU regulatory framework, standards and practice in key priority sectors of the Transport Community.

Shaping the Technical Assistance programme under the Action has been a complex, iterative process involving multiple rounds of consultations with a wide range of stakeholders.

Throughout 2024, significant progress was made with regard to the implementation of the Technical Assistance component. A comprehensive technical needs assessment was conducted, providing a sound basis for the Procurement Plan.

Additionally, 14 indicative scopes of work were prepared and approved, supporting the timely development of procurement documents. Six complete sets of tender documents were finalized, leading to the launch of five tender procedures. As a result, one Technical Assistance contract was successfully awarded, marking a key milestone in advancing project objectives and ensuring a solid ground for the 2025 achievements.

## 11. TEN-T ANNUAL REPORT

For the first time, **data collection and updates are managed partially through TODIS** (see point 8 above). This was a new step ahead not only for the TCT Secretariat, but also for all Regional partners, and a very useful exercise for the upcoming full usage of TODIS in the coming period as the conceptual and methodological IT framework for the continuous monitoring of Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) performance on the Western Balkans.

2024 TEN-T Annual Report was endorsed by the Regional Steering Committee in December 2024.

## 12. FIVE-YEAR ROLLING WORK PLAN

The first biannual update of the 5-year Rolling Work Plan was delivered in 2024. This second edition of our Five-Year Rolling Plan, which coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community, marks an important milestone towards a more connected, resilient, and integrated transport network across the Western Balkans and beyond. This second edition of our Five-Year Rolling Plan not only highlights the progress made since 2022 but also sets out a vision for the region's transport sector and infrastructure network in the coming years. By aligning the Western Balkans' transport systems with EU standards, the region aims to achieve an important milestone in connectivity and policy harmonisation, laying the groundwork for a fully integrated transport network. This edition of the 5-year Rolling Work Plan was marked by the Regulation 1679/2024 which entered into force in 2024 and adoption of the Growth plan and Reform Agendas for the most of the Regional partners.

Five-year rolling work plan was endorsed by the by the Regional Steering Committee in December 2024.

## 13. REVISION OF THE TRANS EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORK REGULATION

The TCT Secretariat participated in the revision process of the TEN-T Network by:

- Facilitating the coordination of the entire process for the Western Balkans region;
- Assisting the European Commission and regional partners in identifying real needs for changes to the network;
- Providing technical support for network layout identification and drafting of the official TEN-T maps for the region;
- Organising the signing of the High-level Understanding between the EC and each regional partner in the margin of the Connectivity Summit that took place in May 2023 in Budva, Montenegro.

Regional Partners as well as the representatives of the TCT Secretariat participated in the Connecting Europe Days 2024 organised by the European Commission between 02 and 05 April in Brussels, and in the first Western Balkans – Eastern Mediterranean Corridor Forum on 20 November 2024 in Brussels.

TEN-T Regulation 1679/2024 entered into force by July 2024. TEN-T standards and requirements from the new Regulation should be used in all new rail infrastructure projects.

In cooperation with DG MOVE, the TCT Secretariat organised a Workshop regarding new Regulation 1679/2024 with a focus on new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The workshop



was held in Brussels in December 2024. More than 60 participants from the entire Western Balkan region, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova attended the Workshop.

#### **14. WESTERN BALKAN INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK**

The TCT Secretariat representatives attended as observers the meetings of the newly set managing structures for WBIF. In addition to that, the TCT Secretariat was involved in the screening process of the transport application submitted under Investments Round 10 and 10e and Technical Assistance Round 30 and 31.

#### **15. STUDIES**

Transport Community Secretariat is supporting the implementation of the Transport Community Treaty with conducting different studies for the Western Balkans regional partners. In the 2024, following studies were ongoing:

1. Defining details, concepts and curriculum development for establishing the Regional Centre of Railway Excellence
2. Technical Assistance for setting up Western Balkans Electronic Register of Road Undertakings- Phase I
3. Technical Assistance on the Assessment of setting up National Access Points and National Body in Regional Partners
4. Technical Assistance on Multimodality, Terminal Assessment, and Digitalisation
5. Technical Assistance for collecting Road Safety KPIs on Seat Belt and Child restraint Systems in the Western Balkans region
6. Technical Assistance for Strengthening Regulatory Framework for Passenger Rights in the Western Balkans

#### **16. MEETINGS OF BODIES ESTABLISHED UNDER THE TRANSPORT COMMUNITY TREATY**

According to Article 23 of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community, the Ministerial Council meets on an annual basis. Ministerial Council for 2024 is postponed for 2025 in agreement with the Ministerial Council Presidency (Republic of Serbia).

The Regional Steering Committee had four meetings in the course of 2024<sup>5</sup>.

Regular Technical committee meetings were organised to follow up on the implementation of the Transport Community Action Plans and Annex I of the Transport Community Treaty. Four meetings in 2024 took place of the Technical committees on Railways, Road, Road Safety, Waterborne Transport and Multimodality, Transport of Dangerous Goods and three of the Technical committee on Transport Facilitation.

5<sup>th</sup> Social Forum was held in June 2024 on Engaging social partners and civil society for a green mobility transition.

The Budget committee has its two regular meetings.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.transport-community.org/regional-steering-committee/>

## COMMUNICATION

Throughout 2024, the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community strengthened its communication efforts and leveraged various platforms to enhance outreach, stakeholder engagement, and visibility. Our approach centered around strategic stakeholder engagement, various communication activities, and digital outreach, has brought commendable results. Here are the key takeaways:

**Media presence and coverage:** In 2024, the Transport Community was mentioned in over 1,300 online media articles, accumulating more than 1,500,000 views. These mentions have been reinforcing our presence and ensured that key messages on regional transport connectivity and sustainable mobility reach a broader audience.

**Social media impact:** Our social media channels, including LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram, recorded over 750,000 views through more than 1,000 posts. These engagements resulted in nearly 100,000 interactions, highlighting the growing interest in our work. LinkedIn emerged as the primary platform for professional engagement, significantly contributing to these achievements.

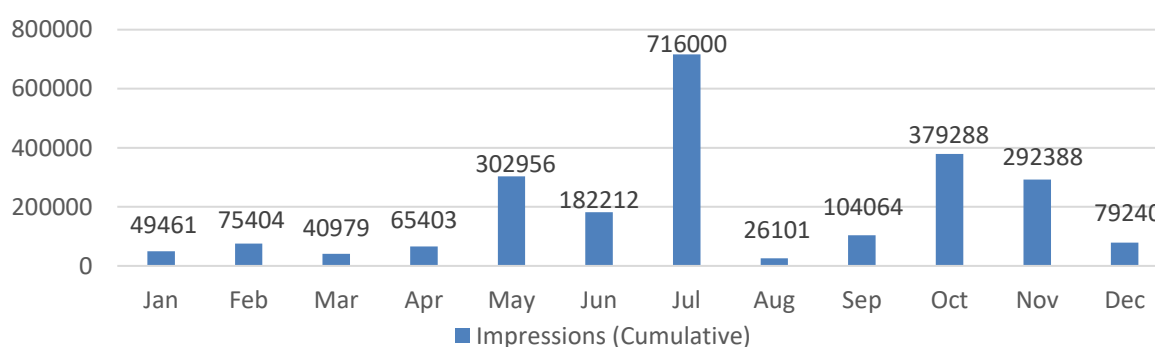
**Website performance:** The Secretariat's website remains a crucial information hub, attracting over 40,000 users and generating nearly 130,000 page views. Regular updates and new content have ensured that stakeholders have access to the latest developments, reports, and key milestones in our work.

**Newsletter engagement:** Our redesigned monthly newsletter continues to serve as a key communication tool, reaching more than 600 subscribers, mostly transport professionals. Throughout the year, 11 issues were published, generating almost 3,000 opens and 735 link clicks, demonstrating the continued interest in our updates and activities.

**Overall communication reach:** Cumulatively, our communication efforts in 2024 resulted in an estimated 2,300,000 views across social media and online media outlets. Remarkably, this impact was achieved primarily through organic engagement, with only a few paid promotions and no major communication campaigns.

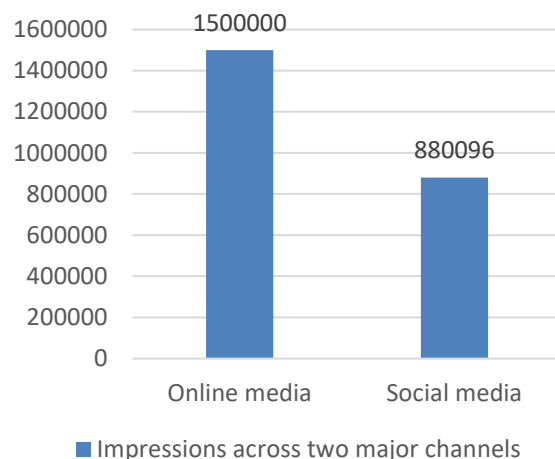
**Way forward:** As we move forward, the Secretariat's approach will continue strengthening the organisation's communication impact by expanding outreach, enhancing digital engagement, and fostering stronger connections with stakeholders across the Western Balkans and beyond.

Below is the breakdown of monthly cumulative impressions as well as their breakdown based on the major communication channels, as well as social media channels.

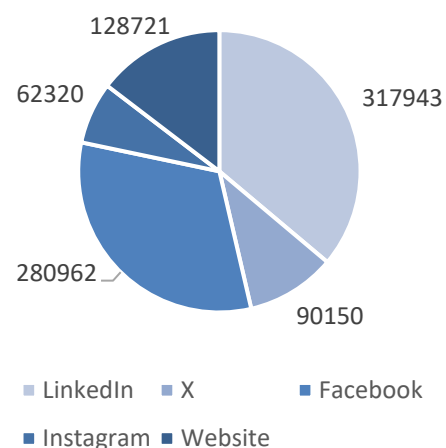


*Cumulative impressions (views) across online media, social media, and TCT website*

The graph above shows monthly count of cumulative impressions (views) across online media, social media, and our website. In 2024, our organisation achieved significant outreach through online media, social media, and our website, as reflected in the cumulative impressions data. Throughout the year, our digital presence steadily grew, with notable peaks in May (302,956 impressions), July (716,000 impressions), and October (379,288 impressions). The sharp increase in July can be attributed to major events and strategic communication campaigns, while the strong performance in the final quarter demonstrates sustained audience engagement.



*Impressions across two major channels*



*Breakdown of impressions across social media*

In 2024, our organisation successfully leveraged both online media and social media to maximise outreach and engagement. Online media remained the dominant channel, generating 1.5 million impressions, while social media contributed a substantial 880,096 impressions. Among social media platforms, LinkedIn emerged as the most impactful with 317,943 impressions, followed by Facebook (280,962), TCT website (128,721), and X (90,150), while our Instagram profile gained 62,320 impressions. These figures highlight the effectiveness of our multi-channel communication strategy in ensuring broad visibility and engagement across different audience segments.

As part of our outreach efforts, we organised the **#TogetherConnected: Media's Role in Transport Connectivity in the Western Balkans** workshop on **20 November 2024** at the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community in Belgrade. This one-day event brought together media professionals and Transport Community representatives to enhance journalists' understanding of regional transport initiatives, with a special focus on rail development and connectivity's role in economic growth and sustainability. By fostering dialogue between policymakers and the press, the workshop strengthened media engagement in transport policy discussions and amplified key transport connectivity stories to a broader audience.



*#TogetherConnected: Media's Role in Transport Connectivity workshop*

# ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL

## 1. HUMAN CAPITAL

In the first half of 2024 the TCT Secretariat benefited from the first Secondment from Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering road safety portfolio. Selection process was conducted with the support of TCT Presidency and EC expert from the road safety field. The work program was prepared by the TCT Secretariat Road Safety Desk Officer and communicated further and agreed with counterparts from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Secondment lasted for six months, from 15 April until 14 October 2024.

In parallel with the first secondment, Secretariat initiated procedure for the second secondee from Kosovo and third secondment for Montenegro.

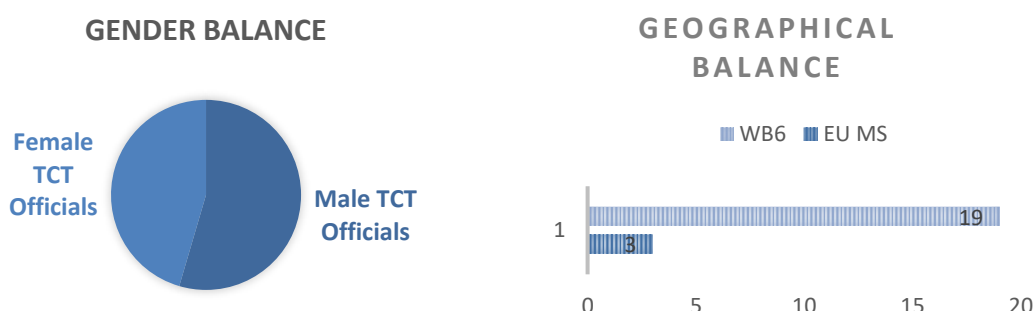
When it comes to the Human Resources and fluctuation of TCT staff, year 2024 was a challenging year since the establishment of the TCT Secretariat. Previously relinquished positions of the Transport Acquis and Legal Desk Officer and Road Project Officer were fulfilled, resulting in having two new officials as of June 2024, both coming from the South East European parties.

In the second half of 2024, two administrative assistants decided to continue further with their carriers, outside of the TCT. Director and Deputy Director Administrative Assistant started working at the TCT Secretariat as of 1 August 2024, whereas Administrative Assistant for Policy Division started working at the beginning of September 2024.

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> RSC Meeting the Regional Steering Committee endorsed the proposal for a new position within the Secretariat for IT support. In line with the decision, TCT Organigram was updated and Vacancy Notice published. After two unsuccessful publications, the third attempt resulted in selecting an appropriate candidate and the new TCT Official in charge of IT has started working in the Secretariat at the end of September 2024.

All changes were regularly reflected at the TCT Organigram published at the TCT Webpage - [https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/TCT-organigram-0924\\_1.pdf](https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/TCT-organigram-0924_1.pdf)

Speaking in numbers, after all changes happened in the 2024, at the end of the year, the Secretariat counted 22 TCT Officials (permanent staff) out of which 12 male and 10 female Officials, three coming from EU Member States and 19 from the South East European parties.



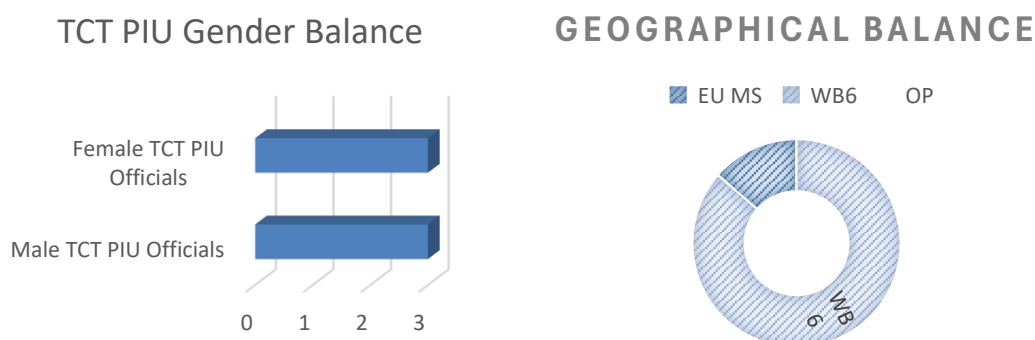
At the beginning of 2024, TCT Secretariat established Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for grant implementation supporting involvement of the Observing participants (Georgia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova). In January 2024 selection process started for staffing the PIU and has lasted until July 2024. Following PIU positions were fulfilled – Administrative Assistant as of 1 January 2024, Head of Project Implementation Unit (PIU) as of 1 February 2024, Finance and Accounting Officer as of 8 May 2024, Road and Road Safety Desk Officer as of 15 May 2024, Waterborne Transport (Maritime, Inland Waterways) and Green Mobility



Desk Officer as of 16 July 2024 and Rail and Multimodality Desk Officer as of 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.

Having in mind duration of the Grant, all positions are contracted until the 31 December 2025 and included in the PIU Organigram, which can be obtained from designated page at the TCT website: <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/PIU-Organigramme-10102024.pdf>.

TCT PIU Team is consisted of six Officials with fair Gender Balance (three male and three female Officials), whereas Geographical Balance goes in favour of WB6 – two EU MS Officials and four Officials from the South East European parties, with no staff from the Observing Participants.



For two selection processes, one for the TCT Secretariat permanent staff and one for the PIU staff, Secretariat faced with two application withdrawals. Both withdrawals came after the candidate was confirmed, i.e. in the process of negotiating start date. One candidate was from EU Member State while the PIU candidate was from one of the Observing Participants.

During the 2024, TCT Secretariat supported regional cooperation providing support to strengthening capacities of the young civil servants and public administrations initiated by Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA). In June and September 2024, the Secretariat hosted two young civil servants with one week job shadowing in the TCT Secretariat, being engaged in the Secretariat daily activities and, in this way, learning about TCT. Both candidates were nominated by ReSPA, one coming from Albania and another from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Logistic and financial support was completely secured by ReSPA while TCT Secretariat enabled them active involvement in daily Secretariat activities.

Due to very active first part of the year, staff retreat and trainings, previously planned for first half of the year, at the end were postponed for second half of 2024. On 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2024 training on procurement was organised for all staff members. Also, having in mind staff turnover and forthcoming activities for the second half of 2024, Stress Management activities followed up the procurement training. By the end of the year, Staff Retreat has been organised for all staff members, focusing on team collaboration and coordination, team strengthening, reinforcement as well as communication and problem solving.

## 2. ADMINISTRATION

The Transparency Register is updated on a regular basis and published on the website of the Transport Community <https://www.transport-community.org/transparency-register/>

Due to the Project Implementation Unit, office setup was made of the 9<sup>th</sup> floor was done in order to properly accommodated PIU staff.

## 1. AUDIT OF 2023 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Upon endorsement by the Regional Steering Committee in April 2024, a contract was signed with an external audit company to perform the auditing of the 2023 Annual Financial Statements of the Transport Community, and expenditure verification for the grant contract that covers the expenditure of involvement of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova as observers.

The Auditor issued the Report on 19th of June 2024. It was shared with the members of the Regional Steering Committee and the Budget Committee and also made publicly available on our [website](#)<sup>6</sup>.

The Report states that the financial statements for 2023 give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Organization as at 31 December 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). For the fifth time in a row, the TCT Secretariat has received a clean health bill on financial management.

In parallel, we also had an expenditure verification for the grant financing in relation to the involvement of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine as Observing Members of the Transport Community.

This verification has also resulted in a clean report from the auditor, and the grant which was provided by the European Commission in 2023 is now considered officially closed.

## 2. 2024 BUDGET FUNDING AND EXECUTION

All parties have fulfilled their financial obligations towards the budget of the Transport Community for payment of the budgetary contributions.

In line with the practice from previous years, the payments of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of contributions from South East European Parties were offset against the prior year surplus.

The budget execution rate for 2024 reached **92.77%** or 94.62% excluding the budget reserve. Compared to 2023 we have an increase of 10.57% in budget execution.

In absolute terms, the major underspending are in (a) Personnel costs due to staff turnover; (b) Other costs and services, due to lower number of participants in the capacity building and other events; and (c) The budget reserve was not utilised, (d) the Ministerial Council did not convene.

During 2024, there were 3 revisions to the budget, within the limits set forth in the Financial Rules. This was done in response to identification of savings and new priorities and opportunities for optimising the use of the budget.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2023-Financial-Statements-and-Audit-Report.pdf>

Budget Heading / SubHeading	2024 Budget	Budget Transfers I	Budget Transfers II	Budget Transfers III	Total Re-allocation in %	Revised Budget	Expenditure incl. Legal Commitments	Imp. Rate	Remaining Balance
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)		(e=a+b+c+d)	(f)	(g=e/d)	(h=e-g)
I. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT	2,799,383	-	(1,407)	23,250	0.78%	2,821,225	2,678,813	94.95%	142,412
1. Personnel Costs	1,442,670					1,442,670	1,360,530	94.31%	82,140
2. Travel costs	138,836	-				138,836	137,223	98.84%	1,614
3. Office costs	48,020	-	38,800	107,501	304.67%	194,321	192,856	99.25%	1,465
4. Other costs and services	799,857	-	(70,207)	(49,751)	-15.00%	679,898	622,805	91.60%	57,093
5. STUDIES, Technical Assistance	370,000		30,000	(34,500)	-1.22%	365,500	365,400	99.97%	100
II. MINISTERIAL COUNCIL	15,000	-	21,000	(23,250)	-15.00%	12,750	-	0.00%	12,750
III. REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE	12,353	5,400			43.71%	17,753	16,302	91.83%	1,450
IV. TECHNICAL COMMITTEES	218,084	(11,120)	(19,593)		-14.08%	187,371	182,827	97.57%	4,544
V. SOCIAL FORUM	9,808	-			0.00%	9,808	9,626	98.14%	182
VI. BUDGET COMMITTEE	5,286	5,720	-		108.20%	11,006	7,579	68.86%	3,427
SUBTOTAL: (I+II+III+IV+V+VI)	3,059,914	-	-			3,059,914	2,895,148	94.62%	164,766
Budget Reserve (approx. 2%)	61,286	-				61,286	330	0.54%	60,956
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,121,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>3,121,200</b>	<b>2,895,478</b>	<b>92.77%</b>	<b>225,722</b>

### *Budget execution January - December 2024*

## 3. THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Budget Committee held its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting on 16 April 2024 in Brussels with all members being present physically, and on 18 October 204 in Belgrade in a hybrid mode.

Topics of discussion included the Annual Operational Report for 2023, the 2023 financial statements, the 2025 Budget, the selection procedure of the external auditor, state of play of the payment of budgetary contributions, the 2024 Budget execution the annual work program, the human capital etc. The Budget Committee endorsed its 2023 Annual Report.

## 4. 2025 BUDGET OF THE TRANSPORT COMMUNITY

As per Article 35 of the Treaty, the Regional Steering Committee shall adopt the budget of the transport Community every year. The budget shall cover the operational expenses of the transport Community necessary for the functioning of its bodies. The expenditure of each body shall be set out in a different part of the budget. The 2025 Budget was adopted by the Regional Steering Committee during its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting on 16 December 2024.

The 2025 budget is designed to support the activities outlined in the Annual Work Plan and to facilitate the implementation of the Treaty's objectives. The budget is allocated to six main bodies: the Permanent Secretariat, the Ministerial Council, the Regional Steering Committee, the Technical Committees, the Social Forum, and the Budget Committee.

The total budget amount for 2025 is EUR 3,121,000.00, which equivalent to the 2024 budget.

Compared to the prior year there are three main changes: a) A significant allocation is made for the Budget Line I.3 for software investments in the development of the Western Balkans Register of Road Undertakings; and upgrading and enhancing the Transport Observatory; b) The Studies/Technical Assistance budget is reduced to cover only one study; and c) The budget reserve has been abolished completely, considering that the Organisation is considering to have matured.

Budget Heading / SubHeading	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	(Decrease) / Increase	% (Decrease) / Increase
I. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT	2,877,614	2,799,383	78,231	2.79%
1. Personnel Costs	1,456,805	1,442,670	14,135	0.98%
2. Travel costs	132,239	138,836	(6,597)	(4.75%)
3. Office costs	414,920	48,020	366,900	764.06%
4. Other costs and services	743,650	799,857	(56,207)	(7.03%)
5. Studies, Technical Assistance	130,000	370,000	(240,000)	(64.86%)
II. MINISTERIAL COUNCIL	17,000	15,000	2,000	13.33%
III. REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE	17,944	12,353	5,591	45.26%
IV. TECHNICAL COMMITTEES	192,384	218,084	(25,700)	(11.78%)
V. SOCIAL FORUM	9,808	9,808	-	0.00%
VI. BUDGET COMMITTEE	6,450	5,286	1,164	22.01%
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>3,121,200</b>	<b>3,059,914</b>	<b>61,287</b>	<b>2.00%</b>
Budget Reserve	-	61,286	(61,286)	(100.00%)
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,121,200</b>	<b>3,121,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

*2025 Budget of the Transport Community*



## 5. DESCRIPTION OF ADOPTED DECISIONS IN 2024

Doc. Date	Doc. Type		Unit	Reference No.	Description
18/03/2024	Decision	FIN	011	INT 011-04-2024	Decision no. 24: Derogation from Rule – Reimbursement of travel expenses TC Rail, Feb 2024, Vienna on additional ½ of DSA increase due to exceptional circumstances <sup>8</sup>
14.05.2024	Decision	FIN	021	INT 021-04-2024	Decision no. 25: Derogation - Increase of DSA <sup>9</sup> for Montenegro on a specific occasion (Leaders' Summit meeting Kotor, 15-16 May 2024)
24.05.2024	Decision	FIN	023	INT 023-04-2024	Decision no. 26 on Budget Transfers 2024
21.05.2024	Decision	FIN	024	INT 024-04-2024	Decision no 27: Request for derogation - Green Mobility Summer School on specific occasion of reimbursement of DSA
12.06.2024	Decision	FIN	026	INT 026-04-2024	Decision no. 28: Derogation - Increase of DSA for Portoroz on a specific occasion on reimbursement of DSA (DIPS 2024, Portoroz, 17-18 June 2024)
28.06.2024	Decision	FIN	031	INT 031-04-2024	Decision no. 29: Derogation - Increase of DSA for United Kingdom on a specific occasion (WBIF and SSTP Strategic & Operational Board Meetings, London, 29 June - 02 July 2024)
28.06.2024	Decision	FIN	024	INT 024/1-04-2024	Decision no. 30 Green mobility summer school decision on derogation of rules for sponsored number of participants
26.08.2024	Decision	FIN	046	INT 046-04-2024	Decision no.31: Derogation - Increase of DSA for Slovenia on specific occasion (Bled Strategic Forum, Bled 2-3.09.2024)
24.09.2024	Decision	FIN	049	INT 049-04-2024	Decision no 32 on Derogation from Rule - TC Road, Sep 2024, Study visit: Norwegian public roads administration- Rules on Reimbursement
01.10.2024	Decision	FIN	053	INT 053-04-2024	Decision no. 33 on Derogation - Increase of DSA for Germany on specific occasion (Hamburg ministerial meeting, 08.10.2024)
10.10.2024	Decision	FIN	054	INT 054-04-2024	Decision no. 34 on Derogation - Increase of DSA for Bosnia and Herzegovina on specific occasion

<sup>8</sup> As per common set of rules on the reimbursement of expenses incurred by persons from outside the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community who are invited to participate in meetings of the Transport Community <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/rsc-dec-5-23.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> DSA rates are calculated as per 2022 rates published by the EC: [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/16b30948-4166-4846-98bb-aa055be5fd75\\_en?filename=Per%20diem%20rates%20-%2025%20July%202022.pdf](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/16b30948-4166-4846-98bb-aa055be5fd75_en?filename=Per%20diem%20rates%20-%2025%20July%202022.pdf)

					(Sarajevo safer to school event) 09.10.2024
20.11.2024	Decision	FIN	066	INT 066-04-2024	Decision no. 35: Derogation - allowing for reimbursement of expenses for 3 (three) participants from Regional Participant (Kosovo)
03.12.2024	Decision	FIN	072	INT 072-04-2024	Decision no 36: Derogation from rules on participation in capacity building event Montenegro- Rules on reimbursement
02.12.2024	Decision	FIN	076	INT 076-04-2024	Decision no 37: Derogation from rules concerning participation in Aviation conference in Vienna on specific occasion of reimbursement of DSA
20.12.2024	Decision	FIN	078	INT 078-04-2024	Decision no. 38: Decision on transfer of budget appropriations

## ANNEX – 2024 NEWSLETTERS

This annex presents all the newsletters the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport has distributed during the last year.

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We are happy to bring you closer to the Transport Community's activities with our redesigned monthly update.

This newsletter is created to be your go-to source for news, industry insights, and exclusive content. Ready to explore our achievements and future plans?

# 2024

## 2024: A Year of Sustainable and Green Mobility

As we started a new year, it's time for setting up the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's forward-looking ambition for 2024. The past year was a great journey in terms of growth and development. This year will be a decisive year, with a focus on sustainable and green mobility.

[Find Out More](#)



Just before the end of 2023, we released our third annual Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Report and the EU Acquis Progress Report adopted by the Ministerial Council at its meeting held in Skopje on 12 December 2023.

[Learn More](#)

During January, we kicked-off a [study on rail, bus, coach, and maritime passenger rights](#), and a [technical assistance to address multimodal freight terminal capacity needs](#) across the Western Balkans.



Upon the invitation of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, we [updated the Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks](#) on the progress of the Western Balkans in transport integration.



We also discussed road and rail developments along TEN-T Network in the Western Balkans with [DG MOVE Director for Land Transport, Kristian Schmid](#), highlighting the need to improve the pace of reforms in the region.



The significance of collaboration between the governments from the region and regional initiatives such as the Transport Community was recognised by the region's leaders in their [Joint Statement on the new Growth Plan](#).



## Work with us.

**HIRING:** There are five positions open at the Transport Community's Permanent Secretariat for which you may be a perfect fit. Learn more [here](#).

**PROCUREMENT:** There are open requests for expression of interest and tenders available on our website. Find out more [here](#).

## Stay Informed

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Your monthly go-to source for Transport Community's news, industry insights, and exclusive content is here. Dive into our activities and explore our achievements and future plans.

Enjoy your read.



## Transport Community Contributes to Leaders' Summit on New Growth Plan

Director of the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community, Mr Matej Zakonjšek, took part in the "Higher Growth and faster Convergence for the Western Balkans" Summit, hosted by Albania in Tirana on 29 February.

[Read more](#)

## Emergency Response

Together with the European Commission, we have organised the TAIEX Regional Workshop on 112 and e-Call in Skopje, North Macedonia. This workshop fostered closer integration of emergency and communication services in the Western Balkans six and Observing Participants. A few days before the workshop, we celebrate the [European 112 Day](#), too.

[Find Out More](#)

## Stakeholders Discuss Civil Society's Involvement in Large-Scale Infrastructure Project Implementation

To offer a comprehensive overview of institutional actors, mechanisms, and state of affairs of engagement of Western Balkans civil society organisations in the Economic and Investment Plan flagship projects, the Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI) and the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat have organised a workshop in Tirana.

[Learn More](#)

We have discussed integration of the Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine into the EU transport market with their ambassadors in Brussels during February. [Learn more.](#)



Our [Technical Committee on Railway](#) has held its [19th meeting](#) in Vienna for which the agenda was packed with forward-looking initiatives aimed at shaping the future of rail operations.





Civitavecchia in Rome, Italy on 29 February and discussed the process efficiency and effectiveness.



During February, we have also paid visits to the parliaments of [Albania](#), and [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), and had constructive discussions with lawmakers on key transport projects and EU reforms in the field of transport.

[Minister Radulović](#), to discuss reforms, projects, and upcoming joint activities.



## Work with us.

### PROCUREMENT

We are looking for a provider of high-quality travel services for the staff members of our secretariat and other individuals who are travelling on behalf of our organisation.

The tenders shall be submitted by 13 March 2024, 13:00h (CEST).

Find out more [here](#).

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Save the date for our

# GREEN MOBILITY SUMMIT

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
6 June 2024 - technical sessions  
7 June 2024 - high-level plenary session



## Save the Date for the Green Mobility Summit

Organised by the Transport Community in partnership with the German Federal Government and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the summit will foster discussions and knowledge exchange, raising awareness about the development of sustainable, digital, resilient, and eco-friendly transport infrastructure and operations. Our goal is to promote transport sustainability, reduce pollution, and enhance the health and well-being of our citizens.

[Read more](#)

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## Transport Community, CEFTA Take Green Lanes Forward

The Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community and the CEFTA Secretariat organised the Green Lanes Steering Committee Meeting, gathering the representatives from all CEFTA and neighbouring EU Member States' customs administrations, Western Balkans Ministries of Transport, and the European Commission.

[Read more](#)

6 June 2024, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



## 5th Social Forum

Engaging Social Partners and Civil Society for a Green Mobility Transition



## Save the Date for our 5th Social Forum

Join us at the 5th Social Forum, themed "Engaging Social Partners and Civil Society for a Green Mobility Transition," scheduled to take place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 6 June 2024.





Save the date for our

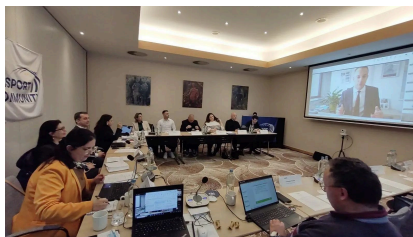
# GREEN MOBILITY SUMMIT

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
6 June 2024 - technical sessions  
7 June 2024 - high-level plenary session



## Reminder: Green Mobility Summit

Our Green Mobility Summit will foster discussions and knowledge exchange, raising awareness about the development of sustainable, digital, resilient, and eco-friendly transport infrastructure and operations.

[Learn More](#)

The Technical Committee for Transport of Dangerous Goods held its meeting in Brussels, focusing on crucial aspects of the transport of dangerous goods regulations. [Learn more.](#)



At the [5th meeting of the Western Balkans Rail Infrastructure Managers Network](#), the managers unanimously accepted the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and discussed other topics.



The Port of Brčko, a core TEN-T port in Bosnia and Herzegovina, [inaugurated a new crane](#), a product of modernisation efforts delivered through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF).



We join forces with CELBET to ensure smooth transport and trade, and effective border controls between the Western Balkans and the EU. [Click here](#) to see what we are focusing on.



Our Western Balkans partners and observing participants had a [two-day study visit in Brussels](#) to discuss enforcement of social legislation, tachographs, and driving and resting time rules.



The Niš-Dimitrovgrad railway upgrade project is about fostering regional integration, creating jobs, and supporting Serbia's long-term development goals. [The works were inspected this Thursday.](#)



At 48th International Road Conference CESTE 2024 held in Rovinj, [the TCT Secretariat Director delivered a keynote lecture](#) on targeted approaches for a safer tomorrow – towards Vision 0.



The TCT Secretariat Director [addressed the International Sava River Basin Commission](#) and underlined the river's importance for region's economy.



## Work with us.

### PROCUREMENT

There are open requests for expression of interest and tenders available on our website.

Find out more [here](#).

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April is almost behind us and we bring to your attention the latest Transport Community's news, and industry insights. Enjoy the read!



## Transport Community's Regional Steering Committee Convenes to Discuss Key Transport Policy Issues

The 23rd Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community took place in Brussels, Belgium on Wednesday, 3 April, addressing crucial policy matters aimed at enhancing transport networks and cooperation within the Western Balkans and between the region and the European Union.

[Read more](#)

## European Parliament Adopts Resolution on Growth Plan for Western Balkans



[More Information on Growth Plan](#)


**GREEN MOBILITY SUMMIT**

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
6 June 2024 - technical sessions  
7 June 2024 - high-level plenary session

## Register Now: Green Mobility Summit

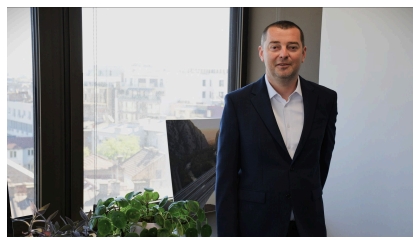
Our Green Mobility Summit will foster discussions and knowledge exchange, raising awareness about the development of sustainable, digital, resilient, and eco-friendly transport infrastructure and operations.

[Register Here](#)


In partnership with Slovenian authorities, we promoted the Safer to School guidelines in Tirana, addressing the issue of road safety around educational institutions. [Learn more.](#)



The [first meeting of the Western Balkans - Eastern Mediterranean European Transport Corridor](#) was organised during the Connecting Europe Days 2024, discussing its operationalisation.



We are happy to announce the [arrival of a new team member](#), a secondee from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Experienced in road safety, Tomislav will contribute to our road safety initiatives.



Our [Budget Committee](#), representing the Western Balkans and the EU, gathered for its 8th meeting, this time in Brussels, to steer strategic financial decisions.



Through 'Connected We Can' project, we actively engage with civil society to foster more inclusive implementation of Economic and Investment Plan. Two sessions took place in [Skopje](#) and [Pristina](#).



Our [Transport Facilitation Technical Committee](#) met in Belgrade and focused on Green Lanes, NextGen Action Plan, e-freight and other IT systems for transport facilitation.



Our [Road Technical Committee](#) held its 15th meeting in Bratislava where it discussed climate resilience in road projects, ITS deployment, NextGen Action Plan, and other topics.



In a productive [meeting with Magda Kópczyńska](#), European Commission's Director-General for Mobility and Transport, we discussed NextGen Action Plans and the Green Mobility Summit.

## OPEN TENDERS VACANCIES



### Work with us.

**HIRING:** We are looking for Waterborne Transport (Maritime, Inland Waterways) and Green Mobility Desk Officer. Learn more [here](#).

**PROCUREMENT:** There are open requests for expression of interest and tenders available on our website. Find out more [here](#).

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May is reaching its end. Our activities recap brings you the latest Transport Community news, and industry insights. Enjoy the read!



## Less than Week to Go: Green Mobility Summit

Our Green Mobility Summit will foster discussions and knowledge exchange, raising awareness about the development of sustainable, digital, resilient, and eco-friendly transport infrastructure and operations. This is your opportunity to secure a seat at the event.

[Register Now](#)

## Western Balkan Leaders and Ministers Commend Transport Community and CEFTA's Efforts to Enhance Green Lanes



European Union Member States and creating a Comprehensive roadmap on Green Lanes.

[Read more](#)



## Serbia Gets New Intermodal Terminal Financed by EU

Serbia's new intermodal terminal in Batajnica is now officially open, taking the Western Balkans transport to a new level. With roads and rails seamlessly connected, it is set to boost trade and economic growth eightfold. Alongside EU and Serbian officials, we took part in the opening ceremony.

[Read more](#)



In partnership with Slovenian authorities, we promoted the Safer to School guidelines in Pristina, addressing the issue of road safety around educational institutions. [Learn more.](#)



Representatives of the Western Balkans railway undertakings attended an [insightful training](#), getting insights into the DAC project through practical workshops, and knowledge exchange.



Through 'Connected We Can' project, we actively engage with civil society to foster more inclusive implementation of Economic and Investment Plan. The fourth session took place in [Belgrade](#).



Our [team met with Minister Goran Vesić](#) to discuss policy reforms and projects. Both the Minister and the TCT Secretariat Director underlined fruitful cooperation between their teams.





Together with the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), we organised [two training sessions on the European Vehicle Register](#) in Skopje and Tirana.



We celebrated [International Day of Women in Maritime](#) and women's achievements at sea during May in Durrës, Albania, awarding the outstanding women in Albania's maritime.



We got [a new team member](#)! With over 20 years of experience in financial management, budgeting, and accounting, Argita is an expert in donor compliance.



Just a few day later, [Darko joined the team](#), too. With his experience in transport infrastructure and TEN-T projects, Darko's professional expertise is a great addition to our team.

## Don't miss this news, too...

- We exchanged best practices in [transport of dangerous goods training](#), at a project event organised in Podgorica.
- [Road Directors from the Western Balkans met in Vienna](#) for their second meeting under the umbrella of the Transport Community.
- Our [Road Safety Technical Committee](#) and the Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory gathered in Vienna.
- At the [9th Congress of EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region](#), we presented the main challenges in railway transport policy reforms in the Western Balkans.
- We took part in the opening of the [5th Serbian Road Congress](#), and [Sarajevo Business Forum](#).
- To get ready for Seafarers Day, we announced a [series of events to be held in June](#).



## Work with us.

**HIRING:** We are looking for Rail and Multimodality Desk Officer. Learn more [here](#).

**PROCUREMENT:** There are open requests for expression of interest and tenders available on our website. Find out more [here](#).

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The month behind us was eventful and full of fruitful activities that make us #TogetherConnected. Our activities recap brings you the latest Transport Community news, and industry insights. Enjoy the read!



## Authorities Pledge to Advance Sustainable Transport Solutions

The Green Mobility Summit, held on 6-7 June 2024 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, brought together experts and leaders to discuss and promote innovative sustainable transport solutions. The event culminated with the endorsement of the [Declaration for Green Mobility of South East European Parties and Observing Participants](#).

[Read more](#)

## 5th Social Forum Discusses Social Partners and Civil Society's Engagement in Green Mobility Transition

[Continue reading](#)

## Sustainable Transport Tour Promotes Green, Healthy Ways of Transport

Organised by the TCT Secretariat and supported by the Railways of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), and Open Society Foundation, as part of the Green Mobility Summit, the Sustainable Transport Tour, an exciting and eco-friendly adventure through Bosnia and Herzegovina, underlined the importance of sustainable travel and regional cooperation.

[Read more](#)

In partnership with Slovenian authorities, we promoted the Safer to School guidelines in Podgorica, addressing the issue of road safety around educational institutions. [Learn more.](#)

## Albania moved up on the Paris MoU Performance list!

The Paris MoU Committee adopted new performance lists for flag States and Recognised Organisations to be used from 1 July 2024 in which [Albania's fleet has made an important leap.](#)





Through 'Connected We Can' project, we actively engaged with civil society to foster more inclusive implementation of Economic and Investment Plan. The final session took place in [Sarajevo](#).



From 13 to 15 June, together with our partners from Albania, we hosted a series of exciting events to celebrate [Maritime Week 2024 - Together Connected: Celebrating Maritime Heroes](#).



The [Green Lanes Steering Committee and the Technical Committee on Transport Facilitation](#) were held as side events of our Green Mobility Summit in Sarajevo.

As a warmup for our Green Mobility Summit, together with GIZ, we organised the [Green Practices in Transport and Sustainable Urban Mobility workshop](#).



Our [Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods](#) has met to discuss developments and challenges in the field of transport of dangerous goods.



Together with the Association of Traffic Engineers of Slovenia, we organised and took part in the Transport Engineering Days 2024 in Slovenia. Read more [here](#).

## Don't miss this news, too...

- We have got a new team member! [Goran joined us](#) to support and assist us and regional partners in legal matters.
- We organised a capacity building training on the [Maximum Abbreviated Injury Scale \(MAIS\)3+](#).
- At the [Burgas Connectivity Forum](#), organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, we underlined the vital role of transport in boosting regional integration.
- Within our Green Mobility Summit, [we gifted a bike stand to the citizens of Sarajevo](#) who bike, promote, and live sustainable mobility.
- Our experts participated in the [Space-Based Applications for Transport Monitoring and Management \(SPATRA\) stakeholders workshop](#).
- At an event organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia and the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce, we discussed the [role of Corridor X in the economic development of the Western Balkans](#).
- [We met with European Commission's Director for Neighbourhood East and Institution Building](#), Ms Adrienn Kiraly, to discuss the connectivity agenda for the TCT observers.
- Our Director took part in the International Conference [Advances in Traffic and Communication Technologies - "AI Crossroads: Shaping the Future of Traffic & Communications"](#) in Sarajevo.



# OPEN TENDERS VACANCIES



## Work with us.

**HIRING:** We are looking for an Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director and an IT Assistant. Learn more [here](#).

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July marked five years since the start of our work. It also saw fruitful meetings and events that made us more #TogetherConnected. Our newsletter brings you the latest Transport Community news and industry insights. Enjoy the read!



## Transport Community Celebrates 5 Years Since Start of Its Work

The Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community organised a reception on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of entry into force of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community and the kick-off of the presidency of Serbia over the TCT Regional Steering Committee on Wednesday, 10 July.

[Read more](#)

## 24th Regional Steering Committee Meeting Reviews Progress in Transport Integration

organisation's headquarters in Belgrade, where the contracting parties of the Transport Community Treaty convened to discuss progress in the integration of the transport between the Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the EU. The meeting highlighted several important initiatives aimed at enhancing transport safety, cooperation, and development in the region.

[Continue reading](#)

## Montenegro and Serbia Open Joint Rail Border Crossing in Bijelo Polje

As a milestone for connectivity in the Western Balkans, Montenegro and Serbia have commenced joint border control operations at the recently modernised Joint Rail Border Station Bijelo Polje. This initiative, effective from 8 July, marks the end of separate border checks at stations on either side of the border, streamlining rail traffic between Montenegro and Serbia.

[Learn more](#)

## Green Mobility Summer School Took Place in Pristina

Our Green Mobility Summer School has taken place in Pristina, gathering experts and participants from across the Western Balkans and the EU to explore sustainable mobility solutions. The four-day event brought together various participants to discuss strategies and policies for a greener future of transport.

[Read more](#)





The inaugural Steering Group meeting for the Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme has gathered to discuss enhancing transport safety and sustainability in the Western Balkans. [Learn more.](#)



We have met with the recently appointed [Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport of North Macedonia, Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski](#) and discussed the new government's priorities in transport.



We took part in the [WBIF Strategic Board meeting](#), presenting key developments in e-freight, ITS strategies and border crossing improvements across the Western Balkans.



We got [a new team member!](#) With over 17 years of expertise in waterborne transport and infrastructure financing, Dimo brings fresh energy and extensive knowledge to our team.



The Danube will become safer for inland waterways transport, as [the European Union and the Government of Serbia signed a 16m€ grant to remove sunken WWII German vessels](#) from it.



A [quadrilateral meeting between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia](#) took place in Kotor to discuss border-crossings facilitation.

## Don't miss this news, too...

- [We have met our colleagues from the European Union Agency for Railways](#) to plan joint activities in and for the Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.
- Our Director participated in and spoke at the [Belgrade-Nis railway modernisation project information day](#), organised by the EU Delegation to Serbia.
- At our premises, [we hosted the EIB representatives](#), Mr Lionel Rapaille, Director for Enlargement and Neighbouring Countries, and Mr Alessandro Bragonzi, Head of Representation for the Western Balkans to discuss joint activities.
- To discuss the integrated European rail network and how to achieve it, [we met with the Director of the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking](#).
- Discussion on the railway developments in the Western Balkans, as well as the joint activities, was in the focus of the meeting between the [Transport Community and UNIFE](#) - the European Rail Supply Industry Association.

- We saw dynamic discussions on transport development in the Western Balkans at the [Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Initiative meeting](#), organised by Konrad Adenauer Foundation.
- During our Green Mobility Summit in Sarajevo, [our Director spoke with the Young European Ambassadors](#).



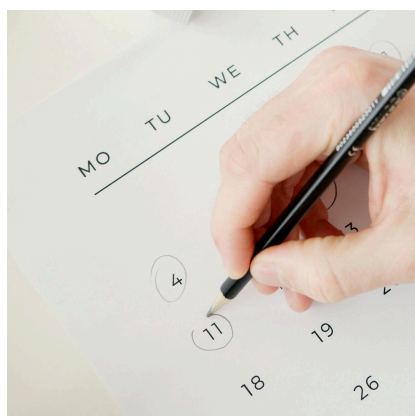
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Autumn has arrived, and this September brought fruitful meetings and events that kept us all #TogetherConnected. Our newsletter brings you the latest Transport Community news and industry insights. Enjoy the read!

P.S.

[Happy World Maritime Day](#) 🌊

This year, we mark 50 years of SOLAS, and focus on safety of those working in the maritime industry.



## Transport Community Marks Kick-off of European Mobility Week in Pristina

The Transport Community Permanent Secretariat joined the kick-off of the European Mobility Week in Pristina on Monday, 16 September, focusing on the event's 2024 theme – Shared Public Space.

[Read more](#)



## Budapest

The Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union organised an informal meeting of transport ministers in Budapest on 19-20 September 2024. The Transport Community Permanent Secretariat took part in this meeting, underlining the Western Balkans - Eastern Mediterranean Corridor's importance, and stressed the need for modernising rail, building capacities, and reducing waiting times at borders.

[Learn more](#)

## Western Balkans Eastern Mediterranean

### Western Balkan - Eastern Mediterranean Transport Corridor Gets European Coordinator

Nine European Coordinators have been appointed to help complete the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), including the appointment of Mr Marian-Jean Marinescu as the Western Balkans - Eastern Mediterranean Corridor Coordinator.

[Continue reading](#)

Our Deputy Director met with Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Transport to discuss infrastructure projects and transport legislative reforms. [Learn more.](#)



We had a productive day in Podgorica when our Director met with the [Minister of Maritime Affairs](#), and the [Minister of Transport of Montenegro](#) to discuss infrastructure projects and policy reforms.



premises when we discussed joint activities, especially the Green Lanes and its enhancement, as well as the Common Regional Market.



On the InnoTrans's margins, our Technical Committee for Railways met for its 21st meeting to explore leading rail industry and discuss policy and projects in the Western Balkans. [Learn more.](#)



[Quadrilateral meeting](#) between Albania, Greece, Kosovo\*, and North Macedonia discussed improvement of the Green Lanes and transport efficiency at road and rail border crossing points.

[Transport and Multimodality](#), had its meeting, while the day after, we [explored the future of the city's port as a key multimodal hub](#).



Within the European Mobility Week, the [Faculty of Traffic and Communications in Sarajevo](#), supported by TCT and GIZ, installed an innovative bicycle parking to promote sustainable mobility.



The [Western Balkan Rail Infrastructure Managers Network](#) discussed the future of railways in the region, during a panel discussion hosted by UNIFE at the InnoTrans.

## Don't miss this news, too...

- This month, we welcomed **three new colleagues** to the team! [Ilijana](#) joined us as our new Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director, [Vida](#) will be working with our observers as the Project Implementation Unit Rail and Multimodality Desk Officer, while [Ljubinka](#) is TCT Secretariat's new Road Project Officer.
- Our Matej Zakonjšek took part in this year's edition of the [Tirana Connectivity Forum](#).
- [Our team joined citizens of Novi Sad](#) for their European Mobility Week activities.
- Hosted by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs of Montenegro, the TCT Secretariat and International Maritime Organisation [organised a workshop](#) on the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers.
- At InnoTrans, we also met with our friends from the [EU Agency for Railways](#).
- During September, we celebrated the [fifth anniversary of our headquarters' inauguration](#).



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As every month, our monthly newsletter brings you the latest Transport Community news and industry insights. Presenting our October recap - enjoy the read!



## Transport Community Welcomes Approval of Western Balkan Reform Agendas

Five Western Balkan regional partners have committed to socio-economic and fundamental reforms as outlined in their Reform Agendas. The Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community remains committed to assisting the regional partners in the implementation of transport policy reforms and projects.

Here are the key points from the Reforms Agendas related to the field of transport.

[Read more](#)

## Connectivity on Its 10th Anniversary

The Western Balkans Summit of the Berlin Process concluded with the Leaders' Meeting on Monday, 14 October 2024. This year's edition also marked the 10th anniversary of the initiative, highlighting transport and connectivity as one of the key fields in regional cooperation.

[Continue reading](#)

## 1,261 Lives Lost across Western Balkans in Road Crashes Last Year

In 2023, 1,261 people lost their lives in road crashes across the Western Balkans, marking a 1.2% increase from the previous year, with 73.4 road deaths per million inhabitants. This contrasts the EU's average of 46 road deaths per million inhabitants.

[Learn more](#)

The Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme is now accepting project proposals from relevant ministries, government agencies, and public enterprises until 1 December 2024. [Learn more.](#)



To promote increasing road safety around schools, we gathered authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to present the Safer to School guidelines which offer ready to implement measures. [Read here.](#)



latest developments in the field, focusing on data collection and road safety solutions.



Bulgaria and North Macedonia have reaffirmed their commitment to the construction of Railway Corridor VIII, strengthening regional connectivity & mobility. [Learn more.](#)



We took part in the [first Danube Region Ministerial Meeting](#) where we focused on enhancing multimodal connectivity as well as greening of transport across the region.

between their key border crossing points, enhancing trade and mobility.



[Our Deputy Director met the Western Balkans-Eastern Mediterranean European Transport Corridor Coordinator](#), and discussed synergies in the corridor operationalisation.



The [9th meeting of our Budget Committee](#) took place at our premises this October, steering the strategic financial decisions of the Transport Community.

## Don't miss this news, too...

- This month, we welcomed **two new colleagues** to the team! [Marko](#) joined us as our new IT Assistant, and [Ružica](#) is TCT Secretariat's new Administrative Assistant.
- We gathered regional representatives and experts for [a workshop in Belgrade to discuss improving passenger rights in the region](#) by building a comprehensive roadmap for the rights enhancement.
- Representatives from the Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine visited the Norwegian Public Roads Administration to [explore ITS solutions and best practices in road management](#).
- We took part in [the first Green Agenda Ministerial Meeting for the Western Balkans](#).
- In Sarajevo, we organised a [workshop on the enforcement of rules regarding the road transport of dangerous goods](#). We also used this opportunity to meet with the [new EU Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and discuss the most important infrastructure projects and needed reforms.
- To discuss the enhancement of transport policies and projects, our team met with Serbia's [Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure](#), [Minister of Internal and Foreign Trade](#), and [Minister without Portfolio in charge of Gender Equality](#).
- We hosted the [European Labour Authority delegation](#) to explore cooperation on social issues and enforcement activities.
- Hosted by the Energy Community, we took part in the [meeting of regional organisations](#) to exchange on plans for the upcoming activities and reflect on possible synergies.
- Finally, we took part in a few conferences - [Rail Freight Conference in Belgrade](#), [Conference on the future of sustainable transport in Serbia](#), [3rd Regional Transport and Logistics Conference](#).



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The end of the month brings to you our monthly newsletter. The latest Transport Community news and industry insights are here for your read. Presenting our November recap - enjoy the read!

P. S.

This month, we also joined Bluesky! [Click here and give us a follow](#) ❤️



## 25th Meeting of Transport Community's Regional Steering Committee Endorses New Measures to Enhance Transport Connectivity in Western Balkans

The 25th Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community convened on 14 November 2024 in Brussels, to discuss advancing transport integration and policy coordination between the European Union, the Western Balkan regional partners, and observing participants – Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The meeting's primary focus was on the endorsement of the Transport Community's Next Generation Action Plans for the period 2025-2027.

[Continue reading](#)



## Advancing Regional Integration through Enhanced Passenger Rail Services

The Central European Initiative (CEI), in cooperation with the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community, gathered stakeholders in Trieste on 8 November to discuss advancing regional integration through enhanced passenger rail services along the route Trieste–Ljubljana–Zagreb–Belgrade and across the Western Balkans.

[Learn more](#)

## Key EU Recommendations to Fast-Track Transport Reforms in Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine

Here are the key highlights from the European Commission's Enlargement Package, outlining the major recommendations in the field of transport for each of our regional partners and observing participants.

[Read more](#)





It's been two years since Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine joined the Transport Community as observing participants. Since then, we've been hand in hand and got #TogetherConnected.



We took part in the first Western Balkans - Eastern Mediterranean European Transport Corridor Forum, together with EU Member States, regional partners, and experts. [Learn more.](#)



Transport ministries, road authorities, and environmental agencies from the regional partners and observing participants gathered to explore European [sustainable road projects practices.](#)



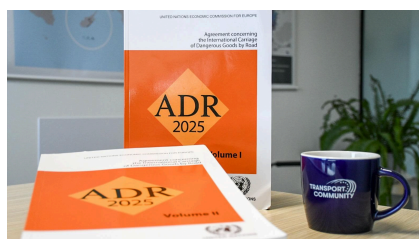
We joined the 20th COSAP conference in Belgrade which gathered MPs from South East Europe to discuss regional cooperation and transport integration across the region. [Learn more.](#)



Journalists from across the Western Balkans joined us for a media workshop to explore the role of transport connectivity in shaping economic growth and EU integration. [Learn more.](#)



Over 40 professionals from the Western Balkans gathered in Belgrade for FIDIC training to master the gold standard in project and contract management. Read more [here.](#)



The translation of the [2023 ADR \(Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road\) into Montenegrin](#) is now available for use of professionals and experts.



An EU Taiex Expert Mission brought together maritime experts from Croatia and Montenegro to ensure [compliance with quality standards of the STCW Convention.](#)

## Don't miss this news, too...

- The 17th meeting of our [Technical Committee for Roads](#) gathered representatives from the Western Balkans, and observing participants to discuss the policy alignment with the EU



- [Regional connectivity and transport facilitation](#) were in the focus of multiple events we organised and attended in Vlorë, Albania earlier this month.
- From Brussels to the Port of Antwerp, our regional partners were discussing how to make transport more attractive and inclusive across the Western Balkans. Learn more by [clicking here](#).
- We gathered transport professionals for the [Workshop on Multimodality](#) to tackle some of the most pressing challenges in mobility and transport.
- At the [CORTE Enforcement Working Group](#), transport experts and enforcers discussed the implementation of the smart tachograph and other social issues regulations.
- In Brussels, we hosted a [workshop on electronic freight information exchange](#) to explore the latest on eFTI regulations. Click on the link above to learn some interesting figures on how transport can help preserving the environment.
- We met representatives of the EU Member States at the Council of the European Union ([working party on the Western Balkans Region](#)) to discuss region's integration into the EU transport market.
- During November, we met with the [Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of North Macedonia](#), [Montenegro's Minister of Transport, Ms Maja Vukičević](#), [Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Montenegro, Mr Filip Ivanović](#), and [Mr Johann Sattler, the European Union's Ambassador to Montenegro](#) to discuss both transport policies and projects.
- In Brussels, our [Project Steering Committee](#) discussed the progress in involvement of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine in the activities of the Transport Community.
- Finally, we marked [World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims](#), [World Sustainable Transport Day](#), and congratulated the [newly elected European Commission](#).



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# SEASON'S GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2025

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As 2024 comes to a close, we wish you joy, peace, and smooth travels this holiday season.

Here's to 2025 bringing us all even closer #TogetherConnected.

Check out our December recap for the latest news and industry insights. Enjoy the read!



## Steering Committee Endorses New Plans for Enhancing Transport Infrastructure Projects

Our Regional Steering Committee brought together representatives of the Transport Community, European Commission, regional partners from the Western Balkans, and observing participants from Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine for its 26th meeting on 16 December 2024. The meeting discussed and endorsed key plans and reports aimed at enhancing transport infrastructure and connectivity across the region.

[Continue reading](#)

## EU-Western Balkans Summit Highlights Transport Integration, Transport Facilitation as Priority Integration Areas

The EU-Western Balkans summit gathered the leaders of the EU and the Western Balkans on 18 December 2024 in Brussels to reaffirm the EU membership perspective of the Western Balkans as well as to pursue a renewed momentum in the strategic partnership between the two regions. The summit discussed a variety of topics, highlighting transport-related policies and integration, with a particular focus on transport facilitation.

[Learn more](#)

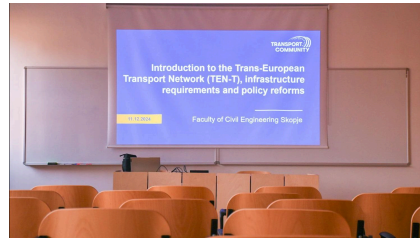
## Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine Explore Revised TEN-T Regulation and New KPIs



(TEN-T) Regulation. Bringing together nearly 70 transport experts and policymakers from the Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, the event explored the revised TEN-T Regulation, its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and findings from the latest corridor studies.

[Read more](#)


Rail professionals from Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine are now eligible to apply for seconded traineeships at the European Union Agency for Railways. [Learn more and apply.](#)



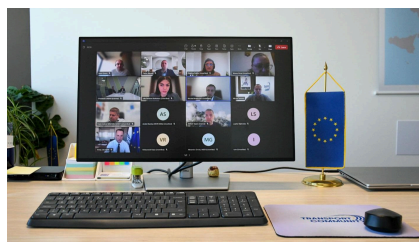
The Faculty of Civil Engineering in Skopje welcomed our experts for a seminar introducing the Trans-European Transport Network policy to the Faculty's students and professors. [Learn more.](#)



Our Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods gathered for its [16th meeting and a workshop](#) on the Regulation concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail.



Together with the European Union Agency for Railways, we were organised two trainings which gathered over 50 railway experts to boost railway safety and infrastructure development. [Learn more.](#)



We launched our so far largest technical assistance for the Republic of Moldova aimed at preparing Moldova's National Intelligent Transport System Strategy. [Learn more.](#)



At the Vienna CESEE Airport Forum, we discussed how the Western Balkans airports can drive EU integration, strengthen connectivity and align with TEN-T and Green Deal goals. Read more [here.](#)



We had a productive meeting with Mr Edin Forto, Minister of Communication and Traffic of Bosnia



We also [met with Mr Liburn Aliu](#), Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

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