

The October selection of news about enhancing connectivity in the Western Balkans is below, just for you. Here is our October recap. Enjoy the read!

Tirana hosted the **Berlin Process Leaders' Summit** which was a success on 16 October 2023. We used this opportunity to stress that for the Western Balkans to use new global connectivity opportunities, it needs to, together with the EU support, work on upgrading ports in Albania and Montenegro, modernise rails across the region, work on enhancing border crossing and adopt EU legislation and standards. By focusing on these four points, we can make the region grow economically and prosper.



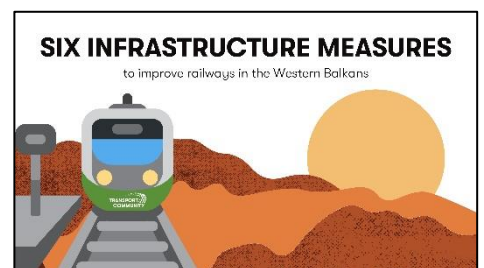
The regular 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the **Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community**, a body that ensures proper implementation of the Transport Community Treaty, gathered in Vienna on 18 October. The meeting endorsed the Action Plans and the EU Acquis Progress Report for 2023, discussed the main conclusions from the 2023 report on the development of indicative TEN-T extensions of the comprehensive and core network in the Western Balkans. This was also the first meeting chaired by North Macedonia within its presidency over the Transport Community. Learn more details [here](#).



The **Global Gateway Forum** brought together representatives of governments from the European Union and from around the world with the private sector, civil society, leading thinkers, financing institutions, and international organisations in Brussels on 25 and 26 October 2023. We moderated a high-level session on transport corridors at the event and discussed challenges, implications, and implementation issues of key corridors. Find out more [here](#).



At the Regional Steering Committee meeting, the regional partners committed to work on the recommendations from a study conducted by the Transport Community and put rails back on track(s). Find out what are the six concrete infrastructure measures to improve the railways across the Western Balkans [here](#).





With Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit's (GIZ) Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe: Energy, Transport, and Climate Protection (ORF-ETC), we organised two events on enhancing sustainable transport across the region. A [regional workshop in Belgrade promoted sustainable urban mobility plans](#) among municipalities and associations of cities and municipalities, and government officials from across the region, while the [Western Balkan green parliamentary groups visited our headquarters for sustainable mobility discussions](#).



We launched a comprehensive series of training programme aimed at facilitating smoother border crossings on the EU-Western Balkans borders. It includes all pairs of EU-Western Balkans partners, and the first training sessions took place beginning of October.

More details about the series are available [here](#).

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**There are two upcoming conferences we are organising, and you should not miss the chance to register and take part in.**

Click on the photos to learn more and register.



To continue work of progressing towards safer transportation practices in the Western Balkans, the **2nd regional workshop on improving the safety of transporting dangerous goods** was held from 24 to 26 October 2023. Hosted in Tirana, this event gathered relevant stakeholders and authorities from across the region and saw fruitful cooperation between the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) from the Netherlands and the Road Transport Task Force in Albania. More details are available [here](#).

In partnership with the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) and the Association of the European Rail Supply Industry – UNIFE, we organised a **study visit for railway experts** from the Western Balkans, the Republic of Moldova, and Türkiye, in Germany from 10 to 12 October, focusing on alternative fuels for railways, with a specific emphasis on **hydrogen fuel cells and battery electric technologies**.

Find out more [here](#).



The picturesque shores of the Danube River in Golubac, Serbia, have set the stage for a gathering of key inland waterway transportation stakeholders. On 10 October, we hosted the **workshop on infrastructure development and opportunities for improving navigability of the Sava and Danube rivers** to discuss the pursuit of a sustainable and efficient inland waterway network.

Learn more about the workshop [here](#).



The **Technical Committee on Railways** of the Transport Community successfully concluded its 17th meeting held in Zagreb, Croatia, on 5 to 6 October 2023. The meeting brought together a diverse group of representatives from South East European Parties, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Union Agency for Railways, and private sector stakeholders, marking a milestone in shaping the future of rail transportation in the region.

Read more [here](#).



During the month, we also met stakeholders, and our partners and friends, discussing our cooperation for a shared goal – better, safer, and more sustainable transport across the Western Balkans. Among our counterparts were [Minister Vesić of Serbia](#), [Minister Staikouras of Greece](#), [European Commission's Director-General for Mobility and Transport Kopczyńska](#), [Former European Commissioner for Transport Bulc](#), [European Labour Authority](#), colleagues from the [Energy Community](#). Our [Budget Committee](#) met, we took part in the [9<sup>th</sup> Western Balkans Civil Society Forum in Thessaloniki](#), and we celebrated [60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Plovput](#). Finally, a [TAIEX study visit on recognition of seafarers' certificates](#) took place in Malta.

**Don't miss the opportunity to work with us.** We launched two open calls for tenderers - [Technical Assistance on Strengthening Regulatory Framework for Passenger Rights in the Western Balkans](#) and [Technical Assistance on Multimodality, Terminal Assessment, and Digitalisation](#). Click on the links to learn more details and apply.

That's all for now. Stay tuned for the next recap – the next edition of our newsletter which will be out by early December 2023!

**#TogetherConnected**