



Fifth meeting of the Shift2Rail States Representatives Group

15 September 2016
White Atrium building, meeting room 2
Avenue de la Toison d'Or 56-60, Brussels 9:30-13:30

Minutes

9:30 – 9:45	Introduction
	<p>The meeting was chaired by Mr Haltuf, Chairperson of the SRG. In his opening remarks the Chairperson welcomed the participants and outlined the main points of the agenda. He also asked for an updated list of representatives to be uploaded in the S2R JU website.</p> <p>A list of participants is attached.</p>
9:45– 9:50	Approval of the meeting agenda and minutes of previous meeting
	<p>The SRG members agreed on the provisional agenda, which had been circulated on 29 July 2016 (document attached, as updated on 6 September 2016) and they all signed a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and confidentiality.</p> <p>Also the minutes of the previous meeting were approved (document attached).</p>
9:50 – 10:15	State of play
	<p>Mr Carlo Maria Borghini, Executive Director of the S2R JU, presented the latest developments related to the S2R activities including a short summary of the next steps. He particularly referred to the fact that as of 1 September 2016 all the projects stemming from the first calls for members have started their activities, following the successful preparation and signature of the respective grant agreements during the summer period. The grant agreements for the respective open calls are currently under preparation and the projects are expected to start activities in October/November 2016. He also briefly explained the process for the review of the multi-annual action plan (MAAP), which is now handled by a dedicated group (the so</p>

called “*Tiger Team*”) aiming, as a first step, at defining the high level objectives and the structure of the revised document. During the review process, the SRG will be consulted especially for the part of the document that includes the strategic links with the Master Plan. The Executive Director gave an overview of the next activities of the Governing Board, highlighting the issues that will be discussed in the next meetings, such as the adoption of the Annual Work Plan 2017 (AWP2017), the way forward concerning a possible 2nd call for associated members, etc. It was noted that after its set-up phase, the JU has now entered its normal cycle of activities and after the adoption of the AWP2017 and the respective call for proposals, the Governing Board will examine the outcome of the evaluation (in June 2017), while in parallel the works for the next AWP will progress (adoption of the AWP2018 in October 2017). The Executive Director also referred to the work of the System Integration Working Group (SIWG), which has been established to ensure coordination between the activities of each IP/CCA and to assist the JU in ensuring that the cross-cutting themes are properly mainstreamed across all IPs/CCAs. The first meeting of the SIWG took place on 14 September 2016 and important items were discussed such as the standardisation issues, intellectual property rights and other contractual arrangements, the cyber-security aspect and the communication technologies for the future railway system.

Moreover, it was explained that the transfer of the four “lighthouse” projects from the Commission to the JU is expected to be concluded before the end of the year. Nevertheless these projects are already in close contact with the S2R activities and all of them have been invited to participate in the Steering Committees of the IPs. The SRG took note of the information provided by the Interim Executive Director. The Chairperson noted the importance of the JU’s ongoing activities and asked the JU to continue the systematic information and consultation with the SRG.

On a question from NL on the cyber-security and on security in the physical sense, the Executive Director noted that the security is a broad issue that goes beyond the S2R activities and the JU is ready to cooperate with other bodies such as the Land Transport Security Committee, which is dealing with this topic. There is a technical demonstrator (TD2.11) dedicated to cyber-security and also a number of activities for the security in the physical sense, such as research on new station design, new material and new wagon design. He noted that further work, dedicated to security, will be planned in the future activities of S2R. The Commission highlighted the importance of cyber-security and noted that this issue needs to be taken into account in the current MAAP revision, as one of the main emerging trends. Traditionally the EU research programmes, such as H2020, consider cyber security as a topic that covers several sectors, including transport, therefore the corresponding funding is stemming from other budget lines, which cover much wider topics. Therefore coordination is necessary, as different initiatives may be undertaken in this field and the States, in cooperation with the JU and the Commission, should monitor this aspect.

AT referred to the MAAP review and informed the SRG on the work that has been carried out by experts. The results of this work were circulated to the SRG members prior to the meeting. SE noted that other States should follow the AT example and submit input on this matter. The Executive Director noted that the contribution of the States is welcome and asked for their input by the end of October. The MAAP review is planned to be discussed by the Governing Board at its meeting in March 2017, following a consultation process, which will include the SRG. The Chairperson

	<p>encouraged the delegations in this respect and noted that the active participation and frequent communication among the members is a challenge for the next period.</p> <p>On a question from AT, supported by DE and GR, concerning the statistics about the open calls, the Executive Director noted that many proposals of good quality were received, however due to budgetary constraints the JU was obliged to fund only one proposal per call topic. Some statistical figures were presented during the meeting and more detailed statistics are attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Referring to the good quality of some proposals UK recognised the fact that the budget availability is an important constraint for the JU; however the States could take initiatives to fund by themselves proposals, which were successfully evaluated but were not ranked as first in the final list. UK referred to the proposal with the acronym “Needs2Rail”, coordinated by a UK university, which was ranked above the threshold but was 2nd in the ranking list and asked from the States whose applicants participated in this this proposal (IT, FR, ES, CZ, CH) to coordinate in order to allow the realisation of this project.</p> <p>Regarding the next call for proposals the Executive Director explained that an info day will be organised in Brussels, on 19 January 2017, in order to inform interested parties and invited the States to organise similar initiatives at regional level (cluster of countries) in order to maximise the dissemination of information. UK noted that an info day for H2020 (in general) is planned on 11 November in London, with the participation of SE. The JU is willing to assist and participate in such events, while high publicity will also be given to the info day in Brussels (BE request).</p>
10:15 – 11:15	ANNUAL WORK PLAN (AWP) 2017
	<p>The latest version of the AWP 2017 was distributed to the SRG members prior to the meeting. This version took into account comments received from the SRG, and the Scientific Committee and compared to the initial version the text includes additional cross-IP and cross-TD synergies (cluster of relevant topics), certain budget adjustments and improved descriptions especially with regard to the links between the calls for members and the open calls, the TRLs, etc.</p> <p>On a comment made by AT, the Executive Director clarified that the term “industry members” is used to distinguish the industrial partners from the EU in order to avoid the term “<i>members other than the Union</i>”, which is not very practical in a text. In some languages this is erroneously interpreted as referring only to manufactures but in fact the “industry members” include also the users of the sector, who are equally important.</p> <p>SE noted the need for a simplification and streamlining of the application procedure for grants. The JU replied that considerable effort has been placed in clustering relevant topics, so as to reduce the administrative burden, however the proposals’ submission and evaluation system is the same used for all H2020 projects. The JU has put considerable effort to reduce the time to grant and this has already been achieved for the calls for members and eventually for most of the open calls. In the upcoming mid-term evaluation of H2020 the JU may be able to raise issues towards simplification, based on the experience gained. The Commission congratulated the JU for the reduction achieved in the time to grant and noted that the established</p>

	<p>evaluation process may be somehow time consuming but secures that only the excellent proposals are funded and that the best value for money is guaranteed.</p> <p>Following the discussions the SRG provided its positive opinion on the draft AWP 2017 on condition that there will be no major issues raised by the Scientific Committee or the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA). In such case and on request of at least one member of the SRG, a written procedure will be launched.</p>
11:30 – 12:15	Election of Chairperson and Vice - Chairperson
	<p>In accordance with the procedure foreseen in Article 2 of the Rules of Procedures of the SRG, Mr Miroslav HALTUF (CZ) was re-elected Chairperson of the SRG and Ms Monique van WORTEL (NL) was elected Vice-Chairperson.</p> <p>The participants congratulated the two members for their election and they thanked Mr Alessandro VIOLI (IT) for his work as Vice-Chairperson in the previous period.</p>
12:15 – 13:15	Information on ongoing/planned railway research and innovation activities
	<p>NL and UK presented their national initiatives on railway research and innovation activities (both presentations attached) and replied to questions asked by the participants.</p> <p>It was highlighted that sharing such information among the States is very important in order to exchange knowledge, promote synergies and to identify complementarities between the activities. The Chairperson invited more countries to volunteer for similar presentations for the next meeting.</p>
13:15 – 13:30	AoB
	<p>AT informed the participants of the next Transport Research Arena (TRA) event which will take place in Vienna, on 26-29 April 2017, as well as of the related “call for papers” for this event. Moreover, an info day will be organised in Vienna on 24 November 2016 (all relevant material attached).</p> <p>The JU noted that S2R will be present at Innotrans, where inter alia a presentation of the role of the SRG will be given by the Chairperson.</p> <p>The next meeting of the SRG will take place in Prague, on 21 March 2017 (a day before the International Rail Forum & Conference).</p>

Actions for the members:

Members are invited to send their input for the MAAP review by the end of October to the Chairperson (miroslav.haltuf@hcomp.eu) and copy to the JU (Georgios.Patris@shift2rail.europa.eu).