



Press release

Brussels, 24 January 2020

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking and the region of the Basque Country

The signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between Shift2Rail and the region of the Basque Country took place, Wednesday 22 January, during the [Basque Railway 2020 conference](#) in San Sebastián, bringing together over 400 rail professionals from across the sector. The objective of this new cooperation is to identify common priorities and potential synergies between the funding instruments that are available at the European Union, national and regional levels to move rail Research & Innovation forward and crucially promote market deployment.

“This Memorandum of Understanding is very important to us because it is a key opportunity to collaborate on concretely changing the way mobility and transport is run in Europe. We count on the collaboration with the Basque Country to enhance the leverage effect of the Research & Innovation we do in Europe. We want to move R&I results to a level where they make a positive impact on the way people are moving and connecting, and the regional and European economy is developing”, explains Mr. Carlo Borghini, Executive Director of Shift2Rail.

This cooperation agreement will maximise the opportunity for collaboration in rail Research & Innovation during the ongoing programming period under Horizon 2020, as well as in the new programming period that is expected to start on 1 January 2021 under Horizon Europe.

Commenting on the new agreement, Regional Minister of Economic Development and Infrastructure of the Basque Government, Ms Arantxa Tapia Otaegi, says *“The Memorandum of Understanding with Shift2Rail defines a key milestone for the Basque Country. We are a small region but with a large technological and industrial development, with a clear innovative approach and a consolidated railway sector. Our aim is to strengthen innovation in the railway sector and the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding enables a new and significant boost to its development in the Basque Country, helping also to reinforce the railway sector in the whole of Europe, thanks to the synergies created by this agreement of cooperation”*.

Shift2Rail believes that rail can become the backbone of the future sustainable carbon-neutral mobility and transport system, and working together with regions such as the Basque Country, where there is a key innovative hub, will make a significant contribution to achieving this.

Last year, Shift2Rail signed a similar Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic, and looks forward to building more opportunities for cooperation in the future.

More information:

Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking: <https://shift2rail.org>

Department of Economic Development and Infrastructure of the Basque Government: <https://www.euskadi.eus/gobierno-vasco/departamento-desarrollo-economico-competitividad/inicio/>

About the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R JU)

Shift2Rail is the first European rail public private partnership tasked with developing strategically focused research and innovation (R&I) and market-driven solutions, integrating these to create the railway systems of the future. With a total value of €920 million for the period 2014-2020, funded through the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union, Shift2Rail is promoting the competitiveness of the European rail industry, ensuring the attractiveness of rail as a safe and sustainable low carbon transport mode. This way, Shift2Rail aims to meet the changing transport/mobility needs of EU citizens and the economy.

Contact: Caroline KEARNEY (+32 2 541 83 74) - communication@s2r.europa.eu

White Atrium building, 2nd Floor - Av. de la Toison d'Or 56-60 - B1060 - Brussels
<http://www.shift2rail.org>

