

Minutes of Meeting – 17th meeting of the Scientific Committee of Shift2Rail

Shift2Rail Scientific Committee

Project:	SC	Date/Time:	04 October 2021 09:00-11:00 AM
Meeting Type:	Scientific Committee	Location:	Hybrid meeting
Meeting Coordinator:		Issue Date:	

Summary of the Meeting

1 Introduction and welcome of the SC members

The Executive Director welcomed the participants to the 17th meeting of the Scientific Committee. The meeting was organised as a hybrid event, with a combination of physical and virtual attendance. The ERA observer also attended the meeting.

2 Approval of the meeting Agenda and previous MoM

The agenda of the meeting was approved. One point was added by Professor Corinna Salander on state of play on German Research Centre, included under item 8 of the agenda (AoB).
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3 Conflict of Interest: declarations

The declarations for Conflict of Interest (CoI) of the S2R JU Governing Board Decision n°07/2018 were sent out electronically to the SC members. The members of the SC sent the signed declarations to the Secretariat.

4 State of play – information from the Shift2Rail JU

Latest developments, ongoing activities, including S2R JU communication activities –European Year of Rail 2021, followed by an exchange of views

The Head of Research & Innovation informed the participants about the latest developments in Shift2Rail JU, including the operational and communication activities.

He informed the participants that Shift2Rail JU had launched two topics in its call for proposals of 2021 that resulted in selection of two projects: DACcelerate linked to the work performed in the DAC delivery programme, and Ben@Rail investigating socio-economical aspects that affect the attractiveness of rail for passengers. The Executive Director reminded that from the operational perspective the aim of the calls was to maximize the available resource of Shift2Rail JU. He also stressed that the ongoing Shift2Rail projects will be transferred to the Europe's Rail under the same conditions.

In terms of the Europe's Rail operational activities, the Head of Research & Innovation informed the participants that tenders and request for services have been launched to support the ramp-up work of the System Pillar of the future JU. In terms of the current S2R programme, he provided a short overview of the ongoing activities. As stressed, a series of demonstration activities is planned for 2022 and 2023 which will finalise the current programme.

	<p>In terms of the DAC delivery programme, the participants were informed that the Supervisory Board and the Programme Board decided on the selection of head coupler type. Scharfenberg latch design has been selected as the preferred European-wide DAC coupler head design. Selection had been preceded with a series of tests performed and assessed by relevant stakeholders. In the next months, the coupler will be evaluated against the LCC assessment and work is ongoing for finalising the geometrical technical specifications, but also activities started towards the selection of the most suitable DAC communication and energy systems.</p> <p>For the communication activities, he informed the participants that the current main event is the Connecting Europe Express (CEE). As stressed, the CEE and accompanying events aroused interest among the local authorities, governmental bodies and other entities.</p> <p>In terms of the Unique Train Prize, he highlighted that Shift2Rail JU had received a good number of proposals. Although not all proposals will be admissible and/or eligible, these that passed the admissibility and eligibility criteria will be further evaluated by the experts. He reminded that the process of selection consists of two parts, written application that has been concluded, and hearings which will be performed in the coming weeks. The written proposals that will pass the threshold in terms of quality of application will be invited to demonstrate their solution as part of a hearing with the jury. The winner of the prize will be invited to present an awarded solution at Innovation Days 2021. As informed, the Innovation Days will take place on 9th-10th December 2021. The event provides an opportunity to present the results of the current IPs/CCA activities of Shift2Rail JU.</p> <p>The Executive Director briefly informed about three major events planned for 2022. Firstly, the World Congress on Rail Research will take place in Birmingham in June 2022. Secondly, the InnoTrans will take place in September 2022 in Berlin. Finally, the TRA conference will be organised in November 2022 in Lisbon. The Executive Director stressed that the events provide an opportunity to present the work of the Shift2Rail JU. He briefly reminded about the Hackathon co-organized by Shift2Rail.</p>
5	<p>Preparation of EU-Rail</p> <p><i>status Single Basic Act, budget, Master Plan preparation, structure of Europe's Rail JU</i> <i>SC opinion to enhance scientific advice inclusion within the new EU-Rail</i> <i>SC consultation on the Master Plan</i></p> <p>The Executive Director informed the participants that he has been informed that the Single Basic Act (SBA) is considered to have a political agreement to go to the next steps. The text of SBA is currently under the legal revision and translation. In terms of decision-making process, the agreed SBA text is expected to be discussed at the Competitiveness Council at the end of November 2021. If the Council will reach the agreement, the SBA may be adopted by any other Council that will follow. It is expected that the text will be adopted in early December 2021. He also reminded that the first Governing Board of Europe's Rail is scheduled for 21st December 2021.</p> <p>In terms of future bodies of the Europe's Rail, the Executive Director informed the participants that in the current text there is no Scientific Committee foreseen as today. He referred to the article 89 of SBA that states following:</p> <p><i>"In addition, the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking may set up a scientific steering group or seek scientific advice from independent academic experts or from shared scientific advisory bodies".</i></p> <p>He stressed that the Governing Board of Europe's Rail will decide on what type of scientific advice will be maintained in Europe's Rail. He informed participants that he will propose to the Governing Board a two-step approach. In the first step, make use of "individual scientific advice" from independent experts. This approach would be required specifically for the adoption of Annual Work Plan 2022. As a second step, it will be proposed to launch a call for more structured scientific advice, e.g. in a form of Scientific Steering Group. The Executive Director invited the Scientific Committee Members to register their profiles in Expert Database for Horizon</p>

	<p>Europe. He also reminded that the Commission services ruled out the possibility to use the existing bodies of Shift2Rail JU as shadow bodies in the Europe's Rail.</p> <p>In terms of Master Plan preparation, the Executive Director informed the participants that after the meeting a draft text of Master Plan will be circulated among the Scientific Committee members. He reminded that the document will be shared at this stage under the provision of Article 11 of the Rules of Procedures of the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee members are kindly requested to provide their comments by 19th October 2021.</p> <p>The Executive Director briefly presented the structure and content of the Master Plan (MP). He provided a short introduction to the concepts behind the MP, with respect to the role of rail and objectives of the Europe's Rail JU. He briefly described the System Pillar and Innovation Pillar as two streamlines of the future work in Europe's Rail. He also briefly commented on the flagship areas and KPIs. He stressed that certain aspects of the scientific advice provided by the Scientific Committee have been initially taken into account and incorporated to the draft of MP (e.g. ERTMS). For Multiannual Work Programme, he informed the participants that the process of drafting is ongoing. Further realignment is needed in terms, however, the main parts are accepted.</p>
8	<p>AoB & closing</p> <p>Professor Corinna Salander provided the participants with a presentation on Rail Traffic Research in Germany in terms of objectives of German Centre of Railway Research (DZSF). She presented the political framework and the operational aspects of the institution. She provided the participants with the information on the current work and projects, including the research areas and range of experts. The slides will be provided.</p> <p>The Executive Director invited the Scientific Committee Members to present the progress in their countries at the November meeting.</p> <p>The Executive Director proposed to organise an additional meeting of the Scientific Committee in November 2021. This will be the last meeting of the existing Scientific Committee under the Shift2Rail JU framework. The participants expressed their consent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of the 18th SC meeting: 24 November 2021, 14h30-17h00.

Annex

Agenda 17th meeting SC (adopted)

Action nr.	Action	Related Topic	Due date	Action Owner
1	SC comments on draft Master Plan	Item 5	19 October 2021	SC