

PRESS RELEASE

Visegrad Strategic Project Workshop: Current View on Transport Policy and Cross-Border Connections in Railway Passenger Service in V4 countries.

Workshop in Budapest, January 27, 2017

The Budapest University of Technology and Economics is hosting the second project workshop of the Visegrad Strategic Project: *Transport Integration for Prosperity. The Importance of Rail Connections for the V4 Internal Cohesion*. The project, in which seven universities from all the V4 countries are participating, aims at harmonisation of V4 transport policies. It will enable the improvement of coordination of this policy and also the improvement of cross border connections.



This workshop will focus on case studies drawn up by scholars from all V4 countries. The goal of the workshop is to bring fruitful discussion about presented transport-geographical and transport-political studies. First, there will be presented geographical analyses of cross border connections of all V4 borders. The geographical analyses focus on one hand on current cross border connections; on the other hand, they also explore potential for new railway connections between bordering regions.

In the transport-political section four case studies of V4 transport policies will be presented. The research is aimed at current legal position, organization of public railway transport and the way it is financed in individual countries. The regional administrations may play key role in the regional transport, therefore this research deals with both levels of governance. The studies also provide an overview of potential railway infrastructure improvements written down in national documents and related to cross border connections.

The goal of the workshop is to compare all case studies and provide a SWOT analysis of all V4 countries. During a discussion main remarks and railway transport policy goals for the summarizing policy paper will be proposed. The case studies, its presentation and discussion will be a basis for final policy paper summarizing both points of view on V4 countries – transport political and transport geographical.



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Program of the Workshop

Friday, 27.1.2017

(Stoczek u. 2., building St., 1111 Budapest)

- 9:00-12:00 **Presentations of transport-geographical section**
(4x 15 minutes presentation, 20 minutes discussion)
- 9:00 Opening speech (Tomáš Nigrin / Miklós Bánfi)
- 9:10 Polish-Czech borders geographical case study (Jakub Taczanowski)
- 9:45 Czech-Slovak borders geographical case study (Daniel Seidenglanz)
- 10:20 Coffee break
- 10:45 Polish-Hungarian borders geographical case study (Jakub Taczanowski)
- 11:20 Slovak-Hungarian borders geographical case study (Marcel Horňák)
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch
- 13:00-16:00 **Presentations of transport-political section**
(4x 15 minutes presentation, 20 minutes discussion)
- 13:15 Polish political case study (Marcin Król)
- 13:50 Czech political case study (Tomáš Nigrin, Jaromír Volf)
- 14:25 Coffee break
- 14:45 Hungarian political case study (Miklós Bánfi)
- 15:20 Slovak political case study (Jaroslav Mašek, Juraj Čamaj)
- 16:00-17:00 **Closing remarks and discussion**
- 17:00 End of the formal programme
- 19:00 Informal dinner

With kind support of the Visegrad Fund: <http://www.visegradfund.org>

Further information about the project: <http://www.itregp.cz/en/visegrad-grant>



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