

International Railway Passenger Hubs

S2: RAIL: New trends in rail transport in the
Danube Macro-Region

Danube Region Transport Days 2024

Boosting sustainable transport and
connectivity



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Background

Rationale for development of the workstream



- Workshop: The development of international passenger rail transport in the context of ITC resolution No. 264
- Discussed the role of international rail passenger transport and the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the future evolution of rail passenger transport.
- Speakers from national and international institutions as well as from the railways shared their experiences and identified challenges and possible solutions going forward.
- Participants noted the importance of this work and discussed the need for further work and requested the creation of a new **Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs – GE HUBS**



Activities on International Railway Passenger Hubs

Objective



- To facilitate the growth of international passenger transport by rail by offering passengers stations (hubs) with harmonized high-level parameters and services that can be recognized when arriving at, and departing from, cities.



Activities on International Railway Passenger Hubs

Main tasks (1)



- A. Identify the technical and service parameters necessary for the definition of an “International railway passenger hub or hubs”;
- B. Identify which stations on the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) network should be defined as an “International railway passenger hub” and its type as appropriate;
- C. Identify what legal instrument or tool should be used to define and implement these “International railway passenger hubs” and draft the necessary legal provisions;

Activities on International Railway Passenger Hubs

Main tasks (2)



- D. Analyse the legal framework governing international passenger transportation in order to identify restrictions hindering the development of international passenger transport by rail in East – West traffic and prepare recommendations for its improvement;
- E. Prepare a document (recommendations, joint action plan, ECE ITC resolution) on measures to support international rail carriers in the context of the crisis caused by the pandemic of the new coronavirus infection COVID-19;
- F. Propose a way forward in the form of a report to the Working Party on Rail Transport for consideration.

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Outputs achieved (1)



Identified of stations on the AGC to be defined as “Hubs”:

- Prepared a definition for an International Railway Passenger Hub.
- Identified a list a stations to be identified as Hubs (proposed new annex III).
- Added in the list, intermodal connections to other services.

Identified of technical and service parameters for:

- Passenger facing station facilities.
- Connectivity and accessibility for international passengers.
- Necessary infrastructure for railway operators.

Activities on International Railway Passenger Hubs

Outputs achieved (2)



- Agreed to amend the AGC rather than create a new Convention.
- The work done by OSJD provided detailed analysis on the legal framework for international passenger transport.
- Preparation of a document on support to international rail carriers in the context of the pandemic.

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Railways at the centre of a post-pandemic recovery
Measures to support international rail carriers



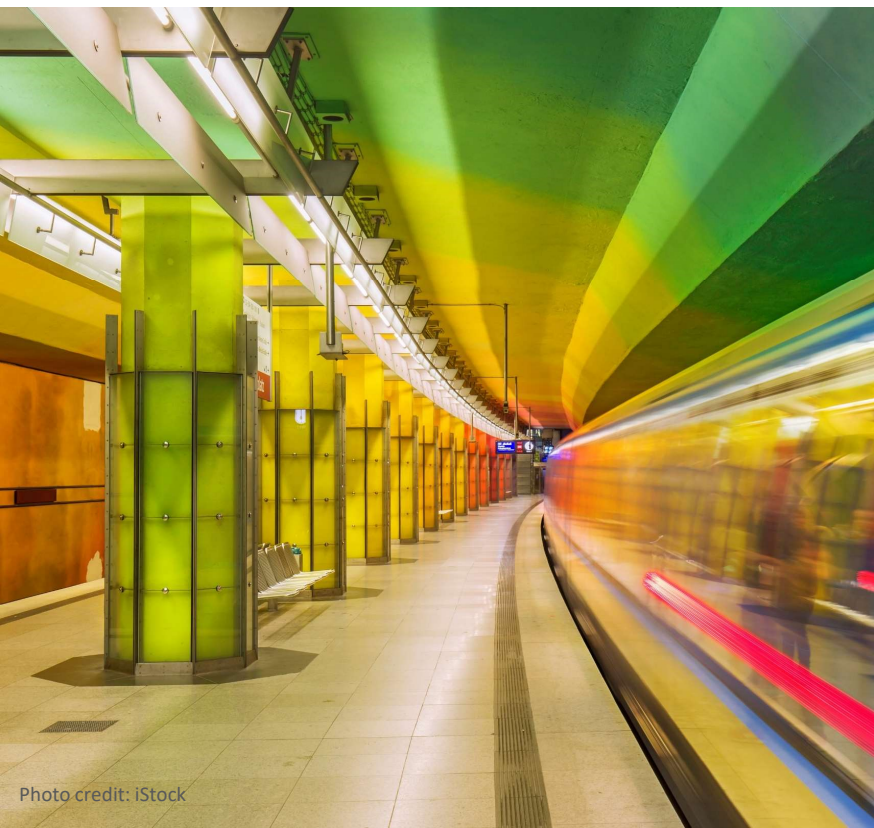
A way forward



Next steps

- Amendments notified to the Depository in New York March 2024.
- **Contracting Parties are invited to send their instrument of acceptance to the UN.** (Template available)
- Follow-up activities in a new Group of Experts on Passenger Information in Stations and Hubs which started work in April 2024.
 - Focusing on the development of guidelines for passenger information.
 - Second session 3-5 May 2025





Thank you

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