Visegrad Strategic Project: Transport Integration for Prosperity. The Importance of Rail Connections for the V4 Internal Cohesion

Report from the Workshop, Warsaw, January 14-16, 2016

Warsaw School of Economics hosted the first project workshop. Marcin Król, the representative of the hosting institution Warsaw School of Economics, cordially welcomed all the participants. All six cooperating universities sent out researchers to the workshop. Tomáš Nigrin, head of the project, represented Charles University in Prague. There were also present Martin Kvizda, Zdeněk Tomeš and Daniel Seidenglanz, who were representatives of Masaryk University from Brno, Marcel Horňák from Comenius University in Bratislava, Miklos Bánfi from Budapest University of Technology and Economics and Jakub Taczanowski from Jagellonian University in Cracow.

The project has been divided into two thematic sections – political and geographical. The research matrix of the first one was presented by Tomáš Nigrin. This research will be focused on national transport policies of the V4 countries, legal status of railway sector and future development in national policy plans. The key research goals in the second section were presented by Daniel Seidenglanz. The research in geographical section will aim at present cross border transport situation in V4 countries, quality of the connections and options of future development.

During the fruitful discussion all scholars clarified some unsettled points in both geographical and political sections. For example, the scope of the research was narrowed primarily to bordering regions. Similarly was debated an issue of tariff policy and it was concluded to incorporate it into political part of the research. All scholars agreed that there is present a research gap in the Central Europe in the field of transport policies and this project can fill the gap. The main output of the project is to produce a policy paper with recommendations for V4 governments. All participants will meet again in January 2017 in Budapest, where they will present case studies of V4 countries.

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Further information about the project: http://www.itregep.cz/en/visegrad-grant