



CONFERENCE

WB6 EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

20 DECEMBER 2022

VENUE: ALEKSANDËR MOISIU UNIVERSITY, DURRËS

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CONFERENCE ON WB6 EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

20 DECEMBER 2022, ALEKSANDËR MOISIU UNIVERSITY IN DURRËS

Background

Under the framework of SAGOV Plus, Cooperation and Development Institute organises the conference “**WB6 European Transport Corridor**” on 20 December 2022 from 10:30 to 15:30 on the premises of Aleksandër Moisiu University in Durrës. The event will cover Corridor VIII, as the only European Transport Corridor that connects the Adriatic Sea and the Black Sea through Southeast Europe and that passes through NATO countries, with focus on its rail component. The event will commence with a keynote speech on the state of affairs of the progress draft Regulation for the development of the trans-European transport network, from WB6 ETC from Lucas Bosser, Director of Transport from Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM).

The **first panel** will provide an update on the situation of the main railway sections in Albania and Montenegro that are part of / connected to Corridor VIII. Rail authorities from North Macedonia will be invited to share the progress in the North Macedonia part while representatives from Italy (Puglia Region) will present the EU MS situation mostly in the Port of Bari. The goal will be to provide a comprehensive state of affairs on what has been done so far for Corridor VIII from the countries in question, and the future plans in this direction. The panel will be complemented by a discussion on a concrete example: the state of affairs of the section Tirana-Durrës extension to Rinas, Albania.

The **second panel** will bring in EU and other stakeholders involved in critical infrastructure focusing on how the EU programs interact with the national initiatives of the countries of the region and how we can further improve their cooperation for better efficiency and higher impact. The panel will be composed by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, the coordinator for the negotiating chapters 14 “Transport” and 21 “Trans-European networks” for Albania and a representative from a specialised NGO (it being CSO / Media / Think Tank/etc). Further in the discussion European Investment Bank representative will share with the participants how the EIB Transport Lending Policy converges with and reinforces EU initiatives and illustrate it with Corridor VIII project(s).

The event will be organized in order to raise awareness and promote rail connectivity (especially in Corridor VIII) vis-a-vis of decision-makers - in EU, WB6 and at national level; of representatives from international financing Institutions; from academia and other stakeholders involved in the connectivity sector etc. By advocating and supporting regional connectivity in the rail and maritime transport, and reinforcing the position of the Centre of Excellence for Maritime Affairs, SAGOV Plus Project contributes to the capitalization of the achievements of SAGOV project.

SAGOV Plus is a 6-months project supported by the Interreg-IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro funded by the European Union. The project is led by Cooperation and Development Institute and implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Capital Investments of Montenegro and the Special Structure for Territory Cooperation of Puglia Region.

PROGRAMME

20 DECEMBER 2022, ALEKSANDËR MOISIU UNIVERSITY IN DURRËS

Venue: Street Currila, 3rd Floor, Conference Room

(draft)

TIME (CET)	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10:30-10:40	Welcome Note and Presenting SAGOV Plus	Stela Ademi, Project Manager, CDI Albania
10:40-10:50	Short Presentation of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro	Davide Marcianò/ Legal Officer, JS Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro (tbc)
10:50-11:10	State of Affairs of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the on Union guidelines for the development of the Trans-European transport network	Lucas Bosser, Director, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, France (online)

Panel 1 on: WESTERN BALKANS EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR IN RAIL

11:10- 12:10	<p>This panel discussion will provide an update on the situation of the main railway sections in Albania and Montenegro that are part of / connected to Corridor VIII. Rail authorities from North Macedonia will be invited to share the progress in the North Macedonia part while representatives from Italy (Puglia Region) will present the EU MS situation mostly in the Port of Bari. The goal will be to provide a comprehensive state of affairs on what has been done so far for Corridor VIII from the countries in question, and the future plans in this direction.</p> <p>Moderator: Ardian Hackaj, Director of Research, CDI Albania</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zana Joca, Head of Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania • Driton Rusi, Assistant Director, Public Enterprise for Railway Infrastructure Railways of Republic of North Macedonia • Djorde Otasevic, Advisor, Ministry of Capital Investment, Montenegro (online) • Claudio Polignano, Expert, Stuttura Speciale Cooperazione Territoriale, Puglia Region • Ornela Liperi, Editor in Chief, Monitor Magazine
12:10 – 12:30	Case Study: Presentation of the section Tirana-Durrës with extension to Rinas.	Bashkim Kasoruhu, Head of Project Implementation Unit at Albanian Railways

12:30-12:40	Q &A	
12:40-12:45	Panel Conclusions	Ardian Hackaj, Director of Research, CDI Albania

12:45-13:45	<i>Buffet Lunch</i>	
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Panel 2 on: INCREASING CONVERGENCE WITH EU: INSTITUTIONAL, NORMATIVE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE		
13:45- 14:50	<p>This panel will bring in EU and other stakeholders involved in critical infrastructure focusing on how the EU programs interact with the national initiatives of the countries of the region and how we can further improve their cooperation for better efficiency and higher impact. The panel will be composed by representatives of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, the coordinator for the negotiating chapters 14 “Transport” and 21 “Trans-European networks” for Albania and a representative from a specialised NGO (it being CSO / Media / Think Tank/etc).</p> <p>Moderator: Stela Ademi, Project Manager, CDI Albania</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altin Fuga, Head of Unit, Office of Prime Minister, Directorate for the support of EU accession • Slavica Knezevic, Director, Railways Infrastructure of Montenegro • Eneida Elezi, Expert, Albanian Railways • Martina Hakl, Desk Officer Transport Community Permanent Secretariat (online)
14:50-15:00	Case Study: EIB Transport Lending Policy – Supporting and financing railways in the Western Balkans.	Petia Manolova, EIB representative in Albania, European Investment Bank
15:00-15:20	Q & A	

15:15-15:30	Take Aways and Conclusions	Stela Ademi, Project Manager, CDI Albania
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