



# NATIONAL BACKGROUND REPORT ON TRANSPORT FOR KOSOVO\*

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*KEY NOTES*

- Introduction
- The Transport S&T system
- Overview of Transport research activities
- Key drivers of Transport research
- Integration of country in the European Research Area in field of Transport
- SWOT analysis of the Transport research capacity
- Transport research priorities for Kosovo

**INTRODUCTION**

❖ *Transport Sector* is composed of three sub-sectors:

- ✓ Roads, with a network of 8,522 km classified as public roads, mainly single lane in poor condition,
- ✓ Railways, a system of 333 km situated in the North-South and East-West of Prishtina, and
- ✓ Air Transports with two airports, Prishtina International Airport (PIA) and Gjakova Airport for military purposes.

❖ *Transport Infrastructure* in Kosovo is in poor condition with insufficient road maintenance, rehabilitation and development, where

- ✓ Road transport covers over 95% of transport
- ✓ Railway infrastructure, movement, market and general services are of low quality.

❖ In the field of Trans-European Transport Network, Kosovo reached some progress participating in development of Core Transport Network and in South-East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO).



**THE TRANSPORT S&T SYSTEM**

Developing transport policies built by MTC

- ✓ have started in 2003 through “Program for development of transport policy in Kosovo”
- ✓ followed by another document titled “The Draft Kosovo Transport Policy and Plan ” in 2005.
- ✓ And by strategy named “Technical Support for MTC to continue development of Multi Modal Transport Strategy and Action Plan” launched In May 2007.

❖ The main priorities mentioned in documents are support development of links with European Transport Network and in this regard to ensure development of priority road network linking to zones of potential economic development. This will be possible by developing routes 6 and 7 linking Kosovo to SEE road network and to road corridors X and VIII of Trans-European Network (figure), which also link some main towns and economic centers within Kosovo .



*THE TRANSPORT S&T SYSTEM*

- ❖ *Policies for development of road infrastructure* envisage the following for medium term and long term:
  - implementation of program for improvement of road network;
  - initiation of main projects for core road networks such is construction of motorway "*Durrës-Vërmicë-Prishtinë-Merdare-Niš*",
  - Construction of new roads;
  - improvement of road maintenance and road safety;
  - development of a road network which integrates Kosovo to the Region and Europe.
  
- ❖ A feasibility study and evaluation about impact to environment for route R6 which links Niš with Prishtina and Albania and route R7 which links Montenegro with Prishtina and Skopje is finalized in 2007.
  
- ❖ These roads are in compliance with priorities of SEETO and are presented as priorities also in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for Kosovo 2009-2011.
  
- ✓ The Government intends to finance route R6 and R7 to be supported by donors and/ or public private partnerships (PPP).

*OERVIEW OF TRANSPORT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES*

❖ The overall intention of research policies in the field of transport in Kosovo is *"to contribute in economic development through establishment of efficient system of low cost and integrated multi modal transport (roads, railways and air transport) which is not harmful for environment"* .

❖ Key competences for research in general belong to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo, which allocates a budget for various researches including transport. While the most relevant institutions dealing with research in the field of transport are:

- *Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FME)*
- *Transport Planning Unit (TPU) with in Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC)*
- *Public/ Private Companies (list given in Annex II of Report)*

❖ The budget allocated for by KCB is very low, therefore all research projects were funded by international institutions and contracts were awarded to foreign and well-established companies (list given in Annex I of Report)

*KEY DRIVERS OF TRANSPORT SECTOR RESEARCH*

Transport Infrastructure in Kosovo in recent years is damaged due to lack of proper maintenance and lack of investments.

❖ **Road Transport** , which consists of transport of passengers (domestic and international) and transport of goods, including road transport of dangerous goods.; bus terminals and freight terminals; road infrastructure; road safety.

❖ **Railway Transport** , organised through Kosovo Railways (KR), a company that manages railway infrastructure and operates services for passengers and goods on commercial basis.

❖ **Air transport** - Kosovo has an international airport of civil aviation, which is Prishtina International Airport (PIA) licensed by the international civil aviation organization (ICAO), while in the future Gjakova airport after some adaptations is meant to become also international airport of civil aviation actually used by Italian Military Aviation after some adaptations

*INTEGRATION OF KOSOVO IN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT*

So far, integration of Kosovo in the European Research Area in the field of transport was very low, because Kosovo was not member of any Memorandum of Understanding regarding education and technology in particular in area of transport research.

Experts from Kosovo have participated in some conferences and symposiums of development nature held in SEE and EU countries in most of cases in observer's capacity.

Kosovo is an *active partner* to a platform supported by EU for implementation of Core Regional Transport Network for South East Europe (SEETO) within which road and railway transport is included.

As regards *air transport* UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo is a signatory of agreement for establishment of European Common Aviation Area (ECAA), whereas implementation of the first phase has started.

**SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSPORT RESEARCH CAPACITIES**

**Strengths**

- ✓ Department of Traffic operates within the FME,
- ✓ Establishment of Transport Planning Unit within MTC,
- ✓ Participation in scientific conferences on level of SEE and EU countries,
- ✓ Participation of research in international research bulletins.

**Weaknesses**

- ✓ Lack of commitment of research funds,
- ✓ Very low number of research in recent period,
- ✓ Lack of experts in the field of railways and air transport,
- ✓ Lack of cooperation with related research institutions of SEE and EU countries,
- ✓ Lack of skills in developing project proposals to be funded by EU .

**Opportunities**

- ✓ Transport sector is seen as national priority by institutions,
- ✓ Ongoing development of the National Research Program 2010-2015,
- ✓ Participation in EU research schemes,
- ✓ Integration of Kosovo into the European Research Area ,

**Threats**

- ✓ Economic crisis resulting in shortage of funds for R&D,
- ✓ Failure to earmark funds for research projects,
- ✓ Lack of organizational stability and stable policies,
- ✓ Lack of long-term political and economic stability the South East Europe,

*TRANSPORT RESEARCH PRIORITIES – local experts' readiness*

- Regulation of traffic with emphasizes in urban zones,
- Traffic Safety,
- Mobility and traffic urban plans,
- Maintenance and development of traffic infrastructure,
- Traffic planning and designing,
- Stationary traffic including buses and bus terminals,
- Traffic management,
- Traffic logistics,
- Road traffic and circulation capacity,
- Technology systems in integral and intermodal transport,
- Development of railway transport,
- Upgrade and quality level of air navigation,
- Impact of traffic in environment,
- Development of transport legal infrastructure in compliance with *acquis communitaire*.

*TRANSPORT RESEARCH PRIORITIES – future potential*

Priority 1: Development of integral and intermodal transport

Priority 2: Management of transport infrastructure

Priority 3: Management of traffic through intelligent transport systems including all transport modes

Priority 4: Development of IT for collection and processing of transport data

Priority 5: Research on telematic applications for transport

Priority 6: Research on new type of fuels



**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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