

February 2016 | NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF RAILWAY TIMETABLING IN EUROPE

Redesign of the International Timetabling Process NEWSLETTER

RNE and FTE have agreed to jointly reform international timetabling as sponsors of the joint project 'Redesign of the International Timetabling Process' (TTR), together with the European timetabling community and with the support of ERFA (European Rail Freight Association). The objectives are: clear market orientation, greater reliability (incl. planning and execution of possessions), improved commitment to the international timetabling process by all parties involved, greater efficiency in terms of capacities and resources in order to avoid duplication of planning and/or work, and a larger rail market share thanks to a better use of existing track capacity (rather than adding new infrastructure).

The first phase of this ambitious project gave a prominent role to Railway Undertakings, who expressed their points of view, leading to a market requirements portfolio. The second phase worked out innovative answers to the questions raised in an interactive way within the rail community. This third edition of the project newsletter presents the current state of play.

The first and second issues of this newsletter can be consulted [here](#).

Second phase has just been completed

The project's second phase is now officially over. First, it handled two important change requests made by Railway Undertakings (RUs). Then a draft framework for a new international timetabling process, the main output of Phase 2, was intensively worked out.

Change requests

The first change request, as processed by the RUs, shows that more flexibility, especially in the freight sector, is in great demand. A more innovative approach — without any request deadlines — will be needed. The working title of this new approach is 'Rolling Planning'.

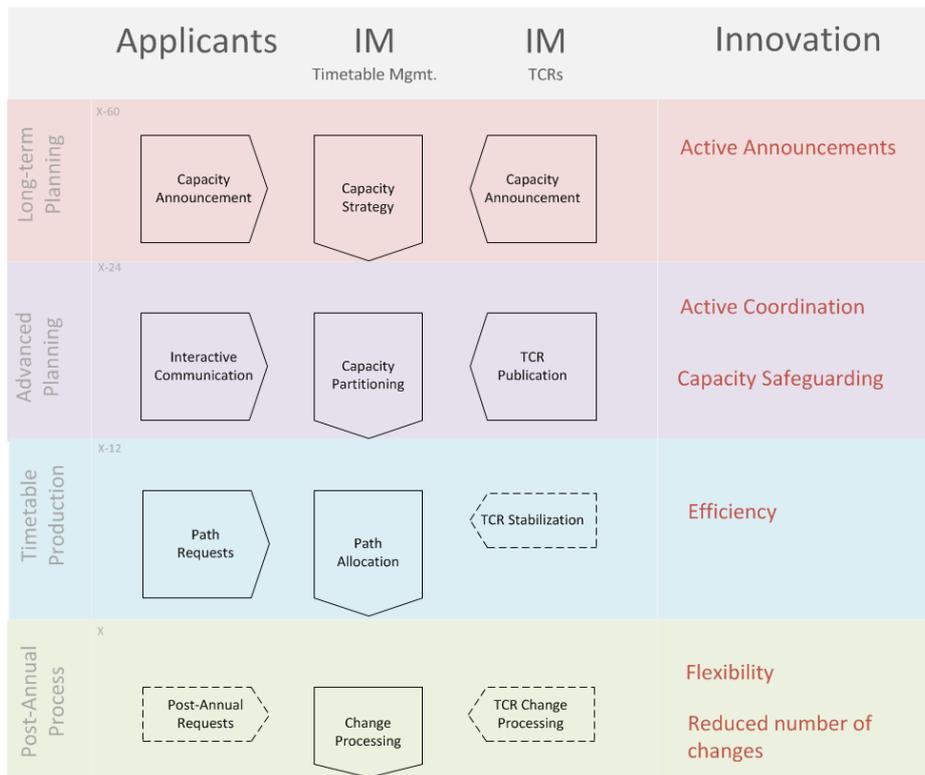
The second change request made clear that ticket sales to passengers have to be possible at a much earlier date than they are today — at least six months before a train is due to run.

Draft framework for new international timetabling process

The Infrastructure Managers (IMs) have developed major parts of the new framework and a high level view of the new timetabling process is now available. The outcome of the discussions clearly showed the need to partition capacity into a sophisticated scheme *prior* to the timetable production phase.

The framework is therefore made up of the following four phases (as the graphic below shows):

- » Long-term planning: leading to a common capacity strategy;
- » Advanced planning: leading to a capacity model; publication of all major and medium-sized TCRs (Planned Temporary Capacity Restrictions);
- » Timetable production: path allocation by IMs based on path requests by Applicants;
- » Post-annual process: post-annual requests and change processing.



Four phases of draft framework for the international timetabling process

Path request placement scenarios

To generate the most benefits for the entire sector when capacity is requested during the timetable production phase, three alternative scenarios are being investigated. They range from a single path request deadline for all traffic types to 'rolling planning' (path request at any time for any period).

You will find more details on the first project phase [here](#).

Third project phase started: assessment of framework for new process

This phase will assess the framework for the new international timetabling process against several criteria:

- » Business cases: quantify the benefits of different scenarios, define their pros and cons;
- » IT systems: Gap Analysis (comparison of actual system state and target system state) and Action Plan for closing the gaps;
- » Legal framework: Gap Analysis (comparison of actual legal state and target legal state) and Action Plan for closing the gap

Next events where the project will be presented or

- » FTE B Coordination Conference for Freight Traffic, 14-17 March 2016, Ljubljana
- » TTR Steering Committee Meeting, 23 March 2016, Vienna
- » FTE B Coordination Conference for Passenger Traffic, 21-24 March 2016, Ljubljana
- » TTR Plenary Information Meeting, 6 April 2016, Vienna

Keeping you informed

If you would like to know more about this joint RNE-FTE project and what it could mean for your company, or if you wish to contribute your views, please get in touch with:

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You may also consult the dedicated webpages:

www.rne.eu/ttrproject or www.forumtraineurope.eu/services/ttr-projekt/?L=1