

European experience on the High Speed Railways field and its possible application to the PECO countries.

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Abstract

Over the last two decades railways have made important efforts among the EU15 countries to improve the quality of the daytime interurban train services. In special, this effort has been devoted to the construction of new infrastructures suitable for high speed traffic.

The incorporation of new countries to the European Union to constitute the EU25, allows to considerate the convenience to approach the railways policy in the PECO (Central and Eastern European Countries) space in a similar way than the policies carried out in the EU15

This paper analyzes the experience available, synthesizes the guidelines used in the EU15 countries and applies them to the PECO countries for their relations of higher interest. Particular attention is put on the Czech Republic case.

The conclusions of the research, carried out by the authors in the Center for Innovation in Transport (CENIT) during the year 2004, alerts of the risks of a direct extrapolation of the EU15 countries experience to the PECO countries.