Analisi tecnica dei corridoi ferroviari TEN-T di collegamento tra i porti del nord-est italiano e l’Europa centrale - Technical analysis of the TEN-T rail corridors connecting the Italian north-eastern ports to Central Europe

Abstract:
Infrastructure enhancements and related investments have a crucial role in the process of regional integration, as clearly highlighted by the TEN-T (Trans-European Network in Transport) policy. Through the funding of several projects, in fact, the European Commission promotes the interoperability and efficiency of the European transport system by removing bottlenecks, by improving cross-border and inter-modal connections and by overcoming technical barriers. In such a context, this article tries to explore the importance of well-structured and interconnected European transport networks by investigating the rail freight capacity of the routes from the Italian north-eastern ports of Venice, Trieste and Koper to three destinations in Central Europe, namely Wien, Budapest and Munich. The paper examines the technical characteristics of the routes (through the TEN-T rail corridors) from the three ports to the selected rail terminals, providing first an overview of the current bottlenecks of the system and then offering an analysis of planned investments (TEN-T projects) and related enhancements in terms of capacity. The research and its outcomes remind the importance of analysing the transport funds and interventions from an inter-modal point of view, in order to achieve a more efficient and sustainable transport system. To guarantee full support to the Motorways of the Sea and to ports competitiveness, for example, funding and interventions should be aimed at eliminating or relieving the current bottlenecks and the related limitations in terms of capacity.

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