European Railway Clusters Initiative

Shift²Rail Stakeholders hearing Brussels September 12th, 2013
Summary

- Introduction
- ERCI: Why? Who? What?
- ERCI today and tomorrow in the European landscape
- Shift²Rail: support, contribution, expectations
ERCI : Why that initiative?

- R&I clusters initiatives launched in different Member States
- But today: no real cross-fertilization, fragmentation, lack of cooperation between the clusters and their members… in a world of open innovation and globalized markets
- Clusters do not always have the necessary critical mass and innovation capacity to grow into world-class excellence
- EU Commission seeking for inter-clustering cooperation to avoid redundancy and to promote efficiency
Who are they?

9 European R&I driven clusters focused on:

- **Railways, mobility and multimodality.**

  - **i-Trans** : Northern France
  - **BTS** : Verbund Initiative Bahntechnik Sachsen – Germany
  - **CNA** : Cluster Bahntechnik Bavaria – Germany
  - **TSB** : Innovationsagentur Berlin GmbH – Geschäftsbereich Verkehr und Mobilität - Germany
  - **RTCA** : Railway Technology Cluster Austria – Austria
  - **Railgrup** : Rail Industry Cluster of Catalonia – Spain
  - **Rail Alliance** : West Midlands – UK
  - **Southern Railway Cluster** – Poland
  - **DITECFER** : Distretto per le Tecnologie Ferroviarie - Italy
Differences but shared values

We are different: history, culture, organizations, focus, funding, size, maturity,…

But we share:

- Our passion for transport, innovation and cooperation
- Our conviction that together we’ll be stronger and bring more to our members

We believe that:

- Our successes in our regions can become an asset for Europe if:
  - We talk together and trust each other
  - We work together
  - We set up joint projects, are involved and contribute to the major European initiatives
ERCI Joint actions

• Worked on competencies and complementarity mapping

• Topics identified: energy management, interoperability, standardisation, mobility and passenger information, intelligent traffic management and control systems, … first joint projects being developed

• Lobby and get recognition at European level: Commission, ERRAC, UNIFE,…

• Expressed our strong support to the JTI Shift²Rail to the Commission, to the Parliament and signed a MoU with UNIFE
ERCI today for tomorrow

- Extend the current cooperation agreement to important European railway countries
- Coordinate with existing platforms and networks (ERRAC, UNIFE, EURNEX, UIC,…).
- Work on the mainstream of Horizon 2020, on Shift²Rail and bring our contribution (embark SME’s, make tools and platforms available)
- Speed-up coordination, communication and boost big companies to work together with SMEs and research institutes on close-to-market projects.
Some key reasons for a strong support: need of step changes, of continuity, critical mass, more market orientation and shorter time-to-market (feasibility evaluation, prototyping, large scale demonstrators...), more pragmatic call processes.

Contribution: years of experience in collaborative R&I projects throughout Europe with a special focus on embarking industrial SME (technology providers, innovative equipment manufacturers, suppliers,...) as key players in the innovation and supply chain.

Expectations: time has come now for a quick decision to go ahead! We need to find a way to be associated to the work (e.g. Specifications and Requirement Groups) and to the benefits.
Together towards a better railway system:

cooperation, solidarity, continuity, innovation

www.eurailclusters.eu