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Preface



The papers of the Scientific Student Conference Interoperability of Railway Transport – IRICoN 2016 are concerning new results coming from the project Interoperability of Railway Infrastructure Competence Network (IRICoN) which was coordinated by Technical University in Brno in collaboration with the Technological platform "Interoperability of Railway Infrastructure" and was closed in 2015. The project was supported by the operational programme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports – Education for Competitiveness under the priority axis – Tertiary Education, Research and Development. The aim of the project was to improve the quality of human resources for research and development and improve training of target groups, consist of students and young professionals in the field of interoperability of railway infrastructure. Necessity of the project was supported by the research interests of students and academic staff of technical universities and research institutes.

The project enables to involve young experts in advisory groups for members of the governing organs of the European network interoperability, which was established for the preparation and implementation of the interoperability of the European rail system.

The project has set up expert groups called the Mirror Groups, which reflect the activities of the trans-European rail networks in the areas of: (i) Infrastructure, (ii) Management and Safety, (iii) International Railway Research Board, (iv) Energy, (v) System Solutions and (vi) Research.

Preparing members of the target groups took the form of: (i) traineeships for young researchers at foreign universities or at European institutes aimed in railway interoperability (ii) organizing workshops and training sessions with the participation of domestic and foreign experts, (iii) participation in international conferences on railway transport, (iv) fellowships at leading foreign railway sites, (v) workshops aimed at exchanging the latest information about news in railway transport and (vi) additional training focused on project management in the field of railway research. Besides the aforementioned activities there was created portfolio of complementary activities for the target groups aimed at transfer of technology and improving knowledge in the field of control and legislation in the field of research and development and for evaluation of scientific results.

The aim of our conference is to exchange knowledge and connections of scientific and technical potential of universities, research and design institutes together with professional potential of construction and manufacturing companies to promote innovation in rail services in accordance with the requirements of Technical Specifications for Interoperability trans-European rail system in subsystems of infrastructure, energy and management and safety. An important aim of the conference is also to contribute to higher education and professional qualifications of future graduates master and doctoral studies, which will enable them to participate on the management, coordination and other activities in the area of interoperability of the European rail system.

Otto Plášek for the scientific comittee