Objective

Research and Innovation (R&I) at European level is mainly carried out under the “Horizon 2020” initiative. In the rail sector, Shift2Rail is the first European rail initiative that seeks R&I and market-driven solutions by accelerating the integration of new and advanced technologies into innovative rail products. Shift2Rail manages various R&I “Innovative Programmes” (IP) with a total financing of about €900M and involves more than 300 organisations. The most relevant IPs for Infrastructure Managers are those on “Advanced Traffic Management and Control Systems” (IP2) and on “Cost Efficient, Sustainable and Reliable High Capacity Infrastructure” (IP3). A new multiannual initiative of “Shift2Rail 2.0” is currently under discussion.

Involvement of Infrastructure Managers

Some IMs are involved in various Shift2Rail projects. Two EIM members, Trafikverket and Network Rail, are among the founders of Shift2Rail.

EIM in action

› EIM is a member of the Advisory Board of the IP3 Programme and supports the Shift2Rail initiative;
› EIM advocates to increase the participation and visibility of IMs in Shift2Rail 2.0. It also promotes the alignment of the output of Shift2Rail projects with the new EU green priorities, the standardisation platforms and the activities of ERA;
› EIM liaises with its members that are active in Shift2Rail: FTIA, IP, Network Rail, ProRail and Trafikverket.

Opportunities

› IMs can promote their needs through their contribution to the relevant IPs and participate in the projects;
› Collaborative work together with manufacturers and railway undertakings enhances mutual understanding and innovation uptake.

Challenges

› The participation in the future S2R 2.0 is too low;
› The market uptake of Shift2Rail projects result is too slow;
› Lack of coordination between S2R, European Standardisation organisations and the EU Agency for Railways (ERA).

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