

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report represents the findings and conclusions of the external support provided by the Advisory Board (onwards AB) as defined in the DoW, which carried out their activities during 2016, 2017 and eventually will participate in the project final event during the TRA¹2018 (April 2018).

The report first presents in Section 1 the main goals of the AB. It also introduces briefly the framework of the IT2Rail project with Shift2rail and the IP4 programme.

Section 2 describes the Ab itself: the members that were part of the group, the meetings and the Minutes from each meeting.

Section 4 advances the key conclusions based on the AB meetings.

The report concludes that the Advisory Board in IT2Rail provided interesting strategic pieces of advice, key not only for the project itself but mainly for the following developments within Shift2Rail IP4. These advices are proposed in 3 sections:

- Firstly, section 3.1 summarizes key areas for a wide implementation of the IF. These areas were spotted as the main challenges to overcome before proposing an implementation at EU level. They were: “IF knowledge”, as this technology is generally poor know in the transport sector; and “business attractiveness”, as more efforts should be focused on disseminating the attractiveness that this technology may proposed in the transport sector at all levels (local, regional, national and supra-national; travellers, operators, suppliers, etc.);
- Secondly, section 3.2 presents some horizontal aspects that may be applied/considered in IT2Rail to improve the project;
- Thirdly, section 3.3 addresses several IP4 recommendations;
- Finally section 3.4 proposes an analysis of the methodology used. Special attention has been to aspects that could be improved, such as communication aspects. Other areas of improvement, considering the degree of uncertainty linked to a research project, may not be as easy to solve, such as the schedule. However, they were signalled. Finally, some suggestions; when possible, were made, to overcome the inaccuracies committed in this project, as part of its “light-house” nature (so the first one in a bigger programme).

¹Transport Research Arena (transport event).