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ConnectTA

Technical Assistance to Connectivity in the Western Balkans



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Connecta: a TA to contribute in filling in the gaps of project preparation and transport reform measures in WB6 in the frame of Connectivity Agenda.

Its purpose is:

- ***Bringing high priority energy and transport infrastructure projects to maturity for investment co-financing; and***
- ***Supporting the preparation and implementation of short and medium term regional reform measures in the transport sector***

The Connecta mechanism is an organised interaction between **four groups of stakeholders** to achieve a common vision:

- EU (DG NEAR, DG MOVE)
- IFIs (EIB, EBRD, World Bank, KfW, CEB)
- Regional Organisations of Transport and Energy (SEETO and EnCS)
- WB6 Beneficiaries

General

- ❑ Contracting Authority: EC – DG NEAR
- ❑ KoM: at 20-1-2017
- ❑ Duration: 48 months
- ❑ Budget contracted: around 7 mil EUR (possible extension up to 25 mil EUR)
- ❑ Area covered: Western Balkans (WB6), focus on regional approach
- ❑ Sectors covered: Transport – Energy (focus on transport)
- ❑ Consortium: led by MMD (plus COWI, WYG and more)
- ❑ Key experts: TL-Transport, DTL-Transport, Energy
- ❑ Pool of NKEs for specific sub-projects/assignments
- ❑ Coordination with: WBIF-IPFs, IFI CO, SEETO-EnCS and EC/IFIs TAs
- ❑ **Missions in WB6 countries performed during February/March**
- ❑ **Inception Report (draft) submitted to DG NEAR on 20-3-2017 – Approved on 28-3-2017**



Transport Sector

Scope of work (as per ToR)

- **Preparation of documentation for priority infrastructure projects (along core network), preferably matured for co-financing, mostly:**
 - Bridging gaps (documentation, physical)
 - Small scale FS, designs or other TA services
- **Support in connectivity transport reform measures (in the context of SEETO CRMMP) on core (mostly) and comprehensive networks, in the areas of:**
 - COMING SOON: Intelligent transport systems, road/rail maintenance, road safety
 - POTENTIAL LATER: Effective border crossings/one stop shops/IBM, network resilience
 - POSSIBLE FUTURE: Railway reform, transport facilitation



Connectivity Transport Reform Measures

- Currently, concrete progress on reform measures (adoption/implementation) is a pre-condition for co-financing of infrastructure development in WB6
- Targets are to approximate EU legislation and Acquis and proceed to reforms that will ensure integration and harmonization of WB6 with EU (mostly along TEN-T indicative extensions in WB6) but also between WB6 participant States
- **Connecta will support specific reform actions, mostly by preparing plans and strategies at regional level (in line with EU Directives and standards) but also by assisting RPs to develop their own**
- *Overlapping with other initiatives and relevant TAs (EC, IFIs) will be avoided*

Connectivity Transport Reform Measures

Short-Medium Term Assignments of Connecta

- Strategic framework for implementation of ITS on TEN-T core network in Western Balkans
all transport modes and interfaces
- Preparation of 5 year maintenance plan for the indicative extension of TEN-T Road/Rail core networks in Western Balkans
roads and railways
- **Preparation of road safety Inspection and Audit plans for the core/comprehensive road networks in Western Balkans and Pilot**
roads

Connectivity Transport Reform Measures

Fact finding (inception) missions in WB6

- Focused more on ITS, maintenance and road safety, but also rail reform, border crossings and network resilience were covered
- Meetings with EUD, NIPAC/NIC TS, IFIs, line Ministry, public companies
- Information gathered
 - Status of approximation of EU legislation
 - Strategic and policy documents
 - Institutional set up
 - Actual/planned physical implementation of specific components/actions
 - Recent/ongoing/planned TAs (mostly by EC, World Bank, EBRD)

Due to the short missions period, only general info was gathered – more detailed info during the specific assignments

Connectivity Transport Reform Measures

Fact finding (inception) missions in WB6 - Road Safety

- Not yet (or partly) transposition of Directive 2008/96/EC
- New Law on Road Safety in ALB, in other countries in preparation
- Establishment of Road Safety Agency/Council in WB6 countries, except MNE and FBiH
 - Not yet functional in some cases (ALB, KOS)
 - Not independent (but within Ministry) in other cases
- RSI-RSA certification
 - Not much progress, except ALB and RS of BiH (already few RSI licensed)
 - Unclear which institution will provide certificates, in most countries
- Accidents data collection method
 - Manual in ALB, based on CADaS in SRB and on IRAP in MKD

Connectivity Transport Reform Measures

Procedure and time schedule for each assignment

Under the reservation of confirmation by DG NEAR

- Receipt of draft ToR from SEETO (**done**)
- Review and comments by CONNECTA (**done**)
- Agreed ToR between SEETO and Connecta (**almost complete**)
- Review by EC (and copy to IFIs) – Approval of ToR
- Submission of work plan/resources/NKEs-CVs by Connecta
- Administrative Order by DG NEAR
- Start of assignment

Anticipated start of initial 3 assignments end April/beginning May, targeting in submitting IRs before Trieste Summit (July)

Road Safety

Expected initial assignment

- ***Preparation of Road Safety Inspection and Audit plans for the core/comprehensive road networks in Western Balkans and Pilot***
- **Status**
 - Draft ToR received by SEETO on mid March
 - Comments on ToR sent by Connecta few days later
 - Discussions for ToR agreement almost completed
- **Indicative Plan**
 - Start beginning/mid of May
 - IR after 4 weeks
 - Completion after 12 months (without approval period)

Road Safety – RSI and RSA assignment

Scope – Components - Results

- **Prepare a three-year RSI plan for the core and comprehensive network and pilot RSIs on high accident sections**
 - Prepare a three-year Plan (2018- 2020) for road safety inspection for the core and comprehensive road network (SEETO RSI Guidelines, EuroRAP)
 - Undertake road safety inspections using SEETO's Road Safety Inspection Guidelines on 10% (higher risk) of the core/comprehensive network (and covering all WB6)
- **Carry road safety audits as per the Directive 2008/96/EC on projects on the core and comprehensive road network**
 - Prepare a plan to undertake road safety audits, at various stages as per the Directive 2008/96/EC and SEETO's Road Safety Audit Handbook for new projects (with documentation at CD and/or PD stage)
 - Undertake Road Safety Audits for a sample of 6 projects, one in every SEETO member



CONNECTA Project team

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