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Connecta

Technical Assistance to Connectivity in the Western Balkans



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

Its purpose is to:

- ***Bring high priority energy and transport infrastructure projects to maturity for investment co-financing; and***
- ***Support 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)
- 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 MEURO 7 (possible extension up to MEURO 25)
- ❑ Area covered: Western Balkans (WB6), focus on regional approach
- ❑ Sectors covered: Transport – Energy (at the moment focus on transport)
- ❑ Consortium: led by Mott MacDonald (plus COWI, WYG plus 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**

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Transport Sector

Scope of work (as per ToR)

- **Preparation of documentation for priority infrastructure projects (along core network-indicative TEN-T extensions to WB6), preferably matured for co-financing, mostly:**
 - Bridging of gaps (documentation, physical)
 - Small scale feasibility studies, designs or other TA services
- **Support in connectivity transport reform measures (in the context of SEETO CRMMP) on core and comprehensive networks, in the areas of:**
 - STARTING SOON: Intelligent transport systems, road/rail maintenance, road safety
 - POTENTIAL LATER: Effective border crossings, network resilience
 - POSSIBLE FUTURE: Railway reform, trade facilitation

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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 participating States
- **Connecta will support specific reform actions, mainly by preparing plans and strategies at regional level (in line with EU Directives and Standards) but also by assisting Regional Participants to develop their own**
- *Overlapping with other initiatives and relevant TAs (EC, IFIs) to be avoided*

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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

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Connectivity Transport Reform Measures

Fact finding (inception) missions in WB6

- Focused more on ITS, maintenance and road safety, but rail reform, border crossings and network resilience were also covered
- Meetings with EUD, NIPAC/NIC Technical Secretariat, IFIs, line Ministries, 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 duration of the missions, only general info was gathered – more detailed info during the specific assignments

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Connectivity Transport Reform Measures

Procedure and time schedule for each assignment

- Receipt of draft ToR from SEETO **(done)**
- Review and comments by CONNECTA **(done)**
- Agreed ToR between SEETO and Connecta **(done)**
- 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 mid/end May, aim to submit Inception Reports before the Trieste Summit (July)

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Road Safety

Expected initial assignment

- *Preparation of Road Safety Inspection and Audit plans for the core/comprehensive road networks in the Western Balkans and Pilot*
- **Status**
 - ToR agreed between SEETO and Connecta
 - ToR submitted to EC for approval
 - Work plan and team under preparation
- **Indicative plan**
 - Start mid/end of May
 - IR after 4 weeks
 - Completion after 12 months (excluding approval period)

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Road Safety – RSI and RSA assignment

Scope – Components – Results (1/2)

- *Prepare a three-year RSI plan for the core and comprehensive network and pilot RSIs on sections with high rate of accidents*
 - Map existing core/comprehensive networks in Western Balkans
 - Compile list with all RSI undertaken (and recommendations provided) during last 3 years (2014-2016) including those that followed EuroRAP/iRAP methodology
 - 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)

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Road Safety – RSI and RSA assignment

Scope – Components – Results (2/2)

- **Carry road safety audits as per Directive 2008/96/EC on projects on the core and comprehensive road network**
 - Compile list of all new road projects under preparation (with available documentation) along core/comprehensive networks
 - 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 Conceptual Design and/or Project Design stage)
 - Undertake Road Safety Audits for a sample of 6 projects, one in every SEETO member state
- **Support Regional Participants in preparing new crash data collection and analysis systems**
 - Road map for establishing national systems for continuous road crash data collection

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Intelligent Transport Systems

Expected initial assignment

- **Strategic Framework for implementation of ITS on TEN-T core/comprehensive networks in Western Balkans**
- **Status**
 - ToR agreed between SEETO and Connecta
 - ToR submitted to EC for approval
 - Work plan and team under preparation
- **Indicative Plan**
 - Start mid/end of May
 - Inception Report after 4 weeks
 - Completion after 15 months (excluding approval period)

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Scope – Components – Results (1/2)

➤ *Covers all transport modes and their interfaces and mainly concerns ITS road applications, ERTMS, VTMS and RIS as well as ICT applications*

➤ **Activities**

- Identify user needs and specific objectives at national level
- Assess ITS status, needs and priorities for specific services in WB6
- Develop regional ITS vision and key strategic directions to ensure harmonized regional development
- Recommend EU standards and specifications relevant to specific ITS applications for WB6
- Recommend necessary legal approximation with EU

Scope – Components – Results (2/2)

➤ **Activities (cont)**

- Estimate costs and benefits from ITS deployment (infrastructure, operational, institutional)
- Carry out impacts assessment from introduction of ITS in WB6
- Develop regional ITS strategic framework as well as road maps and deployment plans for each Regional Participant and transport mode and in accordance with national strategies
- Provide guidance and assistance to Regional Participants for preparation of national ITS strategies including capacity building

Maintenance Plans

Expected initial assignment

- **Preparation of 5 year Maintenance Plans (2018-2022) for the indicative extension of TEN-T Road/Rail core/comprehensive networks in Western Balkans**
- **Status**
 - ToR agreed between SEETO and Connecta
 - ToR submitted to EC for approval
 - Work plan and team under preparation
- **Indicative Plan**
 - Start mid/end of May
 - IR after 4 weeks
 - Completion after 16 months (excluding approval period)

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Maintenance – Road/Rail Plans assignment

Scope – Components – Results (1/2)

- **Road Core/Comprehensive network Maintenance Plans 2018-2022**
 - Scoping and needs assessment per Regional Participant
 - Analyze maintenance needs in core/comprehensive network in WB6
 - Carry out financial analysis under different budget scenarios including cost breakdown per road category (corridor, route)
 - Develop common pavement and structures maintenance guidelines in the region in line with EU best practice
 - Support Regional Participants in preparing their own maintenance plans reflecting their specific development characteristics
 - Provide analysis and recommendations for setting Road Asset Management Systems (RAMS) and Performance Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC)

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Maintenance – Road/Rail Plans assignment

Scope – Components – Results (2/2)

- ***Rail Core/Comprehensive network Maintenance Plans 2018-2022***
 - Scoping and analysis of maintenance needs in core/comprehensive network in WB6
 - Assessment of Business Plans of Infrastructure Managers (IM) as per 2012/34/EU compliance
 - Design implementation scenario for an IM asset register as per 2012/34/EU
 - Carry out financial analysis under different budget scenarios including cost breakdown per road category (corridor, route)
 - Analysis of IM current contracting strategies and recommendations including comparative analysis of 2 different contracting arrangements
 - Analysis and recommendations for setting RAMS in the region
 - Support Regional Participants in preparing their own maintenance plans reflecting their specific development characteristics

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Effective Border Crossings

Expected initial assignment

- ***Not defined yet***

- **Status**
 - Draft ToR to be prepared by SEETO
 - Draft ToR to be sent to Connecta for review-comments
 - Timing?
- **Indicative Plan**
 - Start in September?
 - Completion after ? months (to be defined in ToR)

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THANK YOU FOR LISTENING
AND WE WISH YOU A RESTFUL
1ST MAY

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CONNECTA Project team

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