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MAINLINE European research project on railway infrastructure, maintenance, renewal and improvement: Final workshop held on 30 September at UIC HQ in Paris!

(Paris, 30 September 2014) The International Union of Railways (UIC), coordinator of MAINLINE the European research project on railway infrastructure, maintenance, renewal and improvement, was pleased to host its Final Workshop at Paris UIC HQ on 30 September.

The project started in October 2011 for three years, with a total budget of about 5 M€ and a funding support of 2.9 M€ from the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. The consortium brought together key partners from both the Sustainable Bridges and INNOTRACK projects, together with new partners with specialist knowledge of railway assets, degradation mechanisms and environmental impacts. The 19 partners came from industries, infrastructure managers, universities, SMEs and governmental organisations.

MAINLINE stands for **Maintenance, renewal and improvement of rail transport infrastructure to reduce economic and environmental impacts**. The MAINLINE project was initiated by UIC in order to develop methods and tools that will contribute to a more cost efficient and effective improvement of European railway infrastructure based on whole life considerations. The objectives were to:

- facilitate the use of improved assessment and life extension without increasing risk,
- improve existing knowledge on damage and deterioration mechanisms in order to significantly reduce their effect on asset performance
- identify and implement new cost effective replacement/renewal construction methods and logistics
- identify and compare new surveying and monitoring technologies
- develop methods to determine the whole life environmental and economic impact.

During the workshop the final results and practical outputs were presented and distributed to the participants, including:

- a **Life Cycle Assessment Tool (LCAT)** that will evaluate whole life environmental and economic impact for maintenance and renewal activities of three assets – bridges, track and earthworks – and the corresponding user manual
- a **Guideline to the application of new technologies** to extend the life of elderly rail infrastructure
- a **Guideline for replacement** of elderly rail infrastructure

The project final results are available on the website <http://www.mainline-project.eu/> and summarised in the MAINLINE final book: http://www.mainline-project.eu/IMG/pdf/mainline_final_book.pdf.

The consortium has produced **32 deliverables, of which 26 are public**. The final report including a final publishable summary and a plan for the use and dissemination of foreground will be available in November.

To conclude, MAINLINE has highlighted opportunities for possible work in the areas below:

- Data gathering from different asset types
- Fusion of data with modelling
- Creation of a consistent data hierarchy for assets in Europe
- Creation of formal degradation curves for materials/elements
- Further refinement of LCAT models
- Creation of LCAT models for different assets
- Promotion of Lowest Life-Cycle Costing principles.

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