

***FERRMED Study of Traffic and Modal Shift
Optimisation in the EU
FINAL REPORT PRESENTATION***

FERRMED CONFERENCE

Definition and determination of strategic socio-economic hubs

Brussels, November 29th 2023



Promotion du Grand Axe Ferroviaire de marchandises
Scandinavie-Rhin-Rhône-Méditerranée Occidentale A.S.B.L

MAIN ATRIBUTES OF THE EU STRATEGIC HUBS (I)

In order to determine where in Europe the biggest initial efforts should be concentrated, we define the concept of strategic socio-economic hubs. "Strategic" hubs are the hierarchically most relevant hubs in promoting European growth and competitiveness. We define EU strategic socio-economic hubs as agglomerations with:

- A significant population (at least 1 % of the EU population),
- good transport infrastructure (motorways, railways, sea or inland ports and airports with very strong international links
- efficient complementary facilities (universities and research centers, business schools, shopping districts, etc.).



MAIN ATTRIBUTES OF THE EU STRATEGIC HUBS (II)

The main attributes or characteristics of the EU strategic socio-economic hubs are related to logistics and industry. A key point is that they should be zones with highly diversified economic activity, including a wide variety of sectors, such as: aeronautical, agrifood, automotive, ceramics, construction auxiliary industry, electronics, iron and steel, logistics services, metallurgical, mining, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, railway rolling stock manufacturing, textile and clothing, etc., that allows reduced logistics costs and improves bi-directional flow balances.

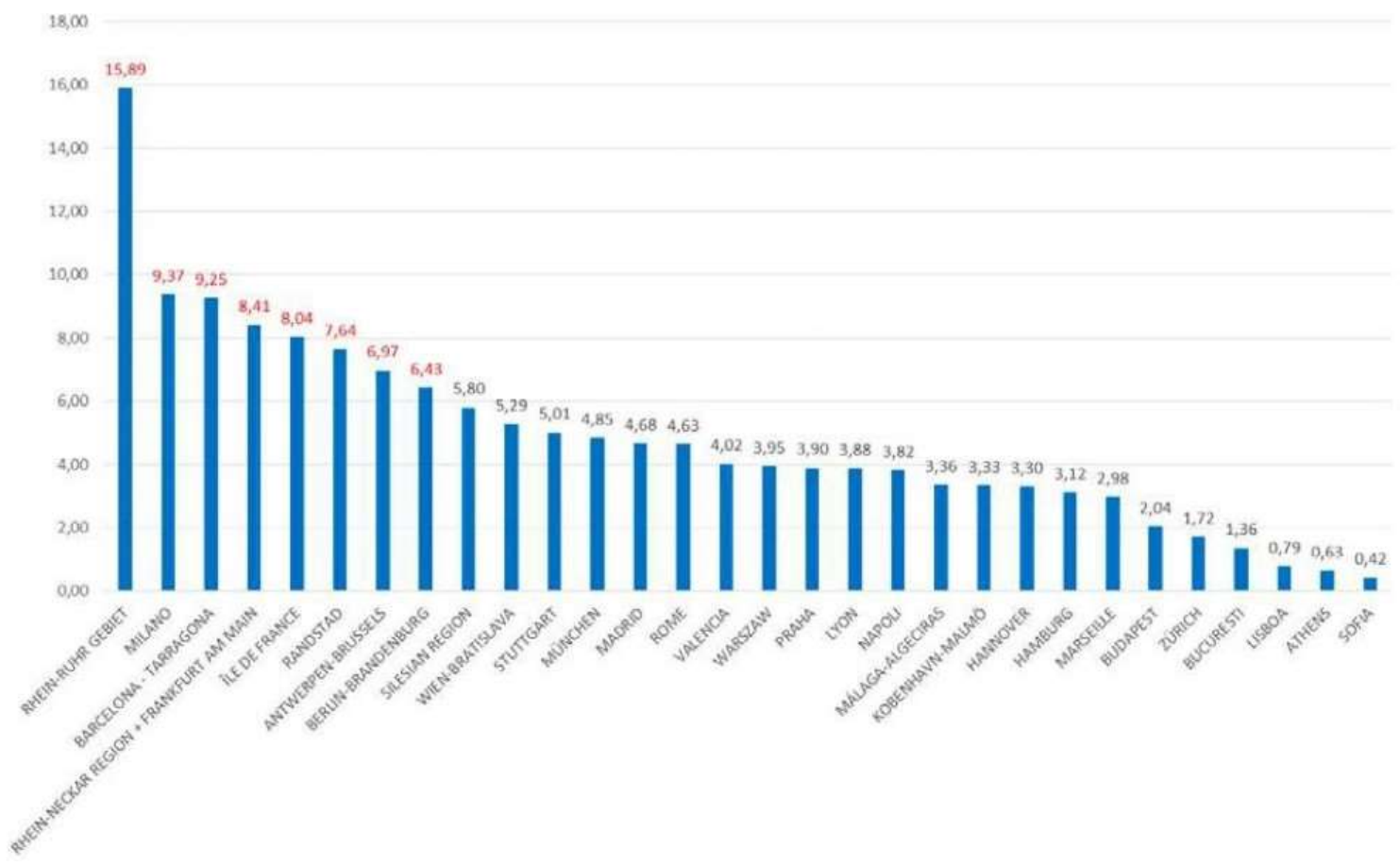


FACTORS USED AS SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Inflows, outflows:** total freight volume handled per day for distances over 300 km resulting from the matrix.
- **Manufacturing Gross Value Added (GVA):** the value added of manufactured goods produced in an area or an economic sector linked to manufacturing activities.
- **Population:** First filter to select the main EU urban agglomerations as candidates to become a Strategic Hub. For the Strategic Hubs, the population of their corresponding urban agglomeration has to exceed the 1 % of the EU population (4.5 m inhabitants). For the EU Interrelated Hubs, their population has to be between 0.5 % and 1 % of the total EU population (2.2 to 4.5 m inhabitants).
- **Combined Index:** value resulting from combining the population, GVA and inflow-outflow values.



RANKING OF EU STRATEGIC HUBS ACCORDING TO COMBINED INDEX



CLASSIFICATION OF THE HUBS

- **Trans-Eurasian Strategic Hubs**

Those that show the highest volume of connections with Asian hubs and score more than 6 in the combined Index:

- Rhein – Ruhr Gebiet
- Milan
- Barcelona – Tarragona
- Rhein – Neckar Region – Frankfurt am Main
- Île de France
- Randstad
- Antwerp – Brussels
- Berlin – Brandenburg

- **EU Interrelated Hubs**

EU Strategic Hubs with a Combined Index of less than 6.



EU STRATEGIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC HUBS

