



FERRMED

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

"How to solve the stagnant rail freight share in the EU"

To solve the stagnant rail freight share in the EU - ESC, FERRMED, IRU, MCrit and UIRR - are launching an Stakeholders' Alliance to implement the +FIRRST System.

THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE FERRMED STUDY (2024)

To achieve the Decarbonization Green Deal and socio-economic and environmental targets of the EC in freight transportation, the recommendations of the FERRMED Study of Traffic and Modal Shift Optimisation in the EU are key:

1. To concentrate investments where there is the most significant land freight traffic (intermodal terminals, bottleneck solving, new lines, loading and track gauge adaptation, longer trains, ERTMS, Rolling planning, digitalization, safety parkings, etc).
2. To properly interconnect the main and intermediate EU logistics hubs with a "Fast, Flexible, Integrated Rail-Road System of Transport" (+FIRRST) organizing intermodal rail-road transport in the form of Mobility as a Service (MaaS) as the best way to convey daily demand suitably.
3. In order to properly implement the +FIRRST System in the EU, a previous international Pilot Test is intended to be carried out.

TRANSPORT PERFORMANCE IN THE EU EXTENDED CORE NETWORK (ECN)



- First priority (18,040 km)
- Second priority (8,500 km)
- Third priority (50,700 km)

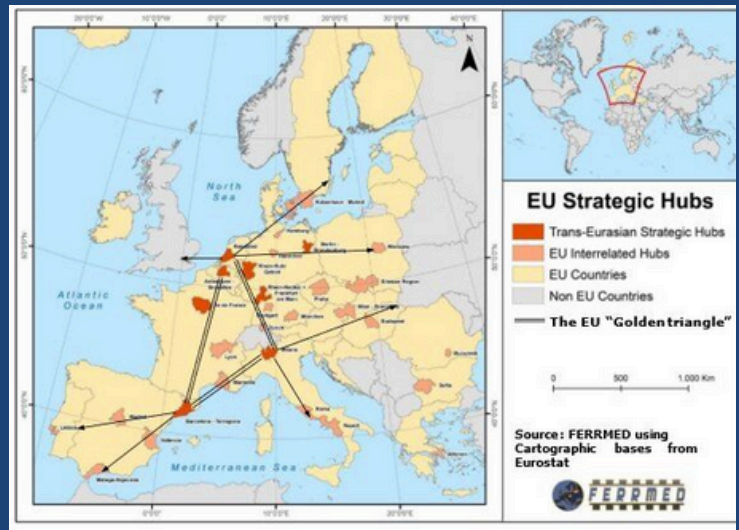
EU Core Network (aggregated): **77,240 km**

EU Central Backbone Network: **18,040 km (23,3 %)**

EU Extended Backbone Network: **8,500 km (11 %)**

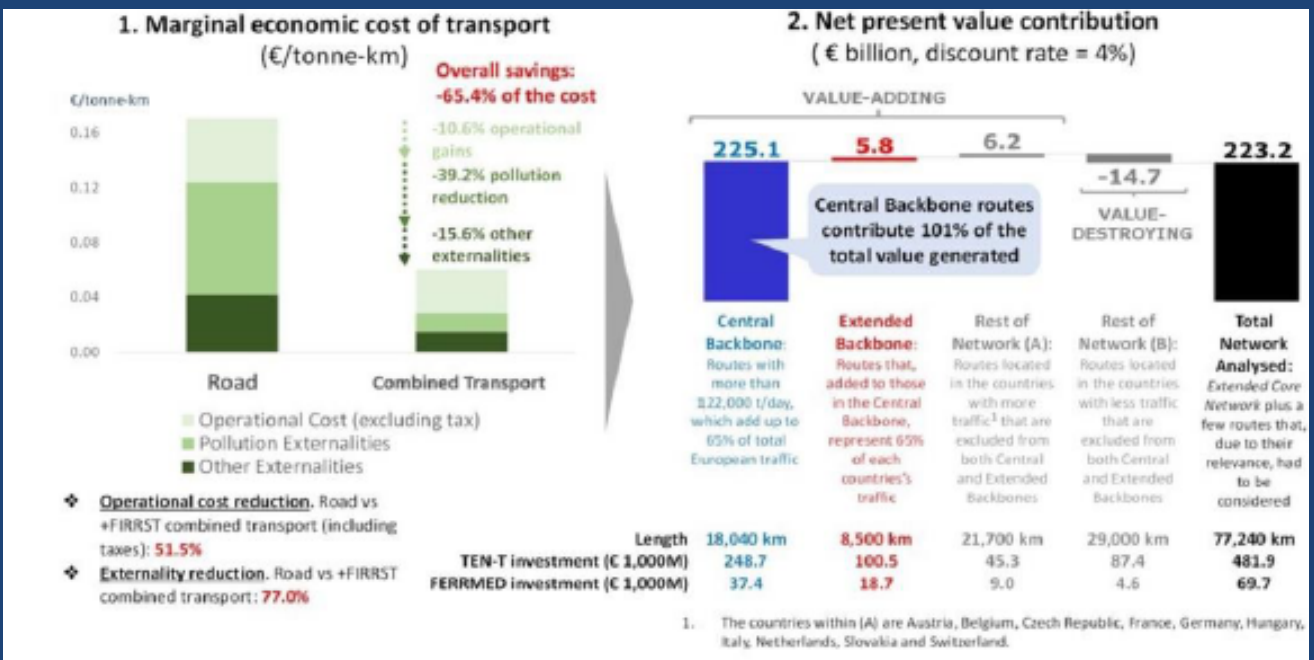
Backbone Network 65 % threshold: **122,000 tonnes/day**

ESTRATEGIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC HUBS



CONCLUSIONS IMPLEMENTATION

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EVALUATION IN TERMS OF NVA

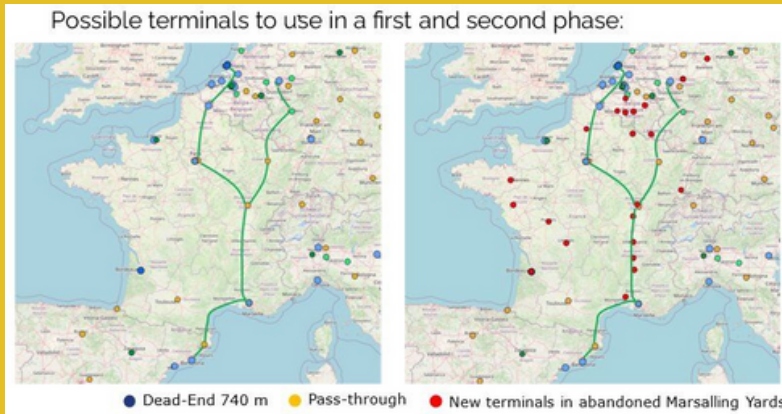


A STRONG STAKEHOLDERS' ALLIANCE IS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP THE INTERNATIONAL +FIRRST PILOT TEST

1. The **primary purpose** of this Alliance is to realise the pilot test of the +FIRRST implementation in the catchment area of the two proposed rail routes:

a. Rotterdam-Antwerp-Brussels-Lille-Paris-Dijon-Lyon-Marseille-Montpellier-Barcelona.

b. Duisburg-Düsseldorf-Köln-Koblenz-Luxembourg-Metz-Nancy-Dijon-Lyon-Marseille-Montpellier-Barcelona.



+FIRRST PILOT TEST ROUTES



2. The **objectives** of the Alliance are:

A. To **facilitate** collaboration and communication among stakeholders.

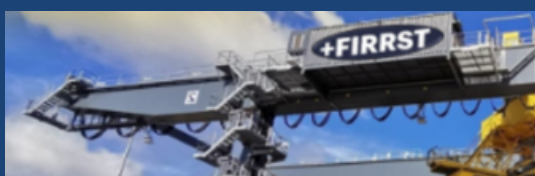
B. To **involve** the stakeholders in the **realisation of the +FIRRST Pilot test**. In this regard, three sorts of stakeholder are envisaged: Promoters, Implementers and Supporters. The promoters, together with the implementers and main supporters, will:

- Produce a **detailed definition of the +FIRRST Pilot test** (operation, software, infrastructure, rolling stock, etc.).
- Create a detailed, **3-phase implementation plan**:
 - 1st phase a) Removing cross-border barriers.
 - b) Implementing +FIRRST using selected existing intermodal terminals.
 - 2nd phase. Implementing +FIRRST using selected existing intermodal terminals and additional +FIRRST terminals built in abandoned or semi-abandoned marshalling yards.
- Identify sources of **funding**.
- **Specify actions** of the parties involved in the +FIRRST Pilot Test development and implementation.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE



	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Constitution of the Stakeholders Alliance	████████				
Creation of the task force for the test development		████████			
Selection of funding sources		████████			
Preparation of the documentation for the call for proposals		████████			
Approval of the call for proposal			██████		
Test Study development			████████		
Approval of the test development plan				██████	
Start of the First phase of the test				★	
Test development and control/assess "First phase"				████████	
Preparation for second phase taking into account first phase assessment (as well as additional terminals)				██████	██████
Construction of +FIRRST terminals in existing marshalling yards				████████	
Start of the second phase of the test					→



+FIRRST SYSTEM, EXPLANATORY VIDEO LINK:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9HDhzWyYZA>

3. The membership of the Alliance is as follows:

Promoters	Implementers	Supporters
ESC, FERRMED, IRU and UIRR with the help of MCrit.	Shippers, rail operators, road transporters, infrastructure managers, intermodal terminals, logistics operations, flow control centres, etc.	Any organizations interested in the project, e.g: associations related to transport and logistics, main ports, business associations, specialized media, involved MS, involved regions, etc.

So far, more than thirty organisations have already agreed to join the Alliance. Among them: ATEIA-OLTRA, Autoridad Portuaria de Cartagena, BEST, CALSINA-CARRÉ, Cambra de Comerç de Reus, Cambra de Contractistes d'Obres de Catalunya, CECOT, CERTIFYDOC, CIMALSA, Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona, FETEIA, FOMENT DEL TREBALL, Gremi de Transports i Logística de Catalunya, IN MOVE, LFP Perthus, Nestlé, PIMEC, Rail Group, S.A. DAMM, SEAT (Volkswagen Group), SERTRANS, SYNERGY, the Ports of Barcelona, Tarragona, Cartagena and Duisburg, TRADISA, UETR (European Road Transport Association), Zuid Holland.

Stakeholders' Alliance Promoters



From left to right: Ralf Charley Schultze (UIRR Director General), Raluca Marian (IRU Director EU Advocacy and General Delegate of the Permanent Delegation to the EU), Joan Amorós (FERRMED President) and Godfried Smit (ESC Secretary General)

The Stakeholders' Alliance is a key step in rolling out the +FIRRST System across Europe. By gathering public and private actors, the Alliance aims to test, optimize and scale new rail freight solutions that can make transport greener and more efficient!

+FIRrst STAKEHOLDERS' ALLIANCE LETTER OF SUPPORT



Brussels, 10 February 2025

+FIRrst STAKEHOLDERS' ALLIANCE

Letter of support

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the ESC, IRU, and UIRR, we express our support to FERRMED and MCRIT to further explore how its +FIRrst concept as developed in the Study Traffic and Modal Shift Optimisation in the EU, can be proofed in real operational and business conditions.

ESC, IRU and UIRR have been continuously working towards further improving the conditions for a fast, flexible, combined transport, as part of a resource efficient, environmentally friendly, and intermodal / multimodal freight transport in the EU.

We are committed and prepared to cooperate with FERRMED, MCRIT, and other potential future partners, to:

- Step 1: Identify the key priorities to be included in the proof-of-concept.
- Step 2: Look for funding opportunities for a proof-of-concept linked to the +FIRrst system.
- Step 3: Use the identified key priorities to bring together an appropriate potential research project consortium.

Godfried Smit
Secretary General,
European Shippers Council

Joan Amorós
President FERRMED

Raluca Marian
Director EU Advocacy & General Delegate,
IRU Permanent Delegation to the EU

Andreu Ulied
General Director
MCRIT

Ralf-Charley Schultze
Director General,
UIRR, the International Union of Combined Rail-Road Transport

+FIRrst STAKEHOLDERS' ALLIANCE

Letter of support

Partners

Signature of the institution
representative:

Logo of the institution:

Date:

REGISTRATION FORM TO JOIN THE ALLIANCE

<https://ferrmed.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/StakeholdersAlliance-Letter-of-Support.pdf>

UPCOMING FERRMED CONFERENCES

FERRMED Conference

LAUNCHING OF +FIRrst INTERNATIONAL PILOT TEST STAKEHOLDERS' ALLIANCE

FERRMED FAST, FLEXIBLE INTEGRATED RAIL-ROAD SYSTEM OF TRANSPORT

Barcelona, June 19th, 15.00 h
SIL BARCELONA 2025

15.00	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of Ministerio de Transportes y Movilidad Sostenible (Spanish Government) - Representative of Conselleria de Territori (Generalitat de Catalunya) - Representative of DG MOVE (European Commission) - Sr. Joan Amorós, FERRMED President
15.25	Presentation of the +FIRrst System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why +FIRrst? - +FIRrst characteristics and base requirements - Explanatory video
15.40	Stakeholders' Alliance for +FIRrst system implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - +FIRrst system international pilot test - Stakeholders' Alliance, objectives and main functions - Stakeholders' Alliance members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoters • Implementers • Supporters
15.50	Round table with representatives of the Alliance (Shippers/Logistics operators) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DAMM, DSV, HUPAC, METRANS, SEAT, SYNERGY, CIMALSA - Moderator: ESC
16.30	Round table with representatives of the Alliance (Terminals/Infrastructure Managers/Railway operators) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ADIF, BEST, CAPTRAIN, CONTARGO, NOVATRANS, SNCF Réseau, VITA - Moderator: UIRR
17.10	Round table with representatives of the Alliance (Road transporters/forwarders/Business Associations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CALSINA-CARRÉ, FETEIA-OLTRA, Foment del Treball, SERTRANS, SME UNITED, UETR - Moderator: IRU
17.45	Q & A
18.00	End of the Conference

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With the collaboration of:

Language of the Conference: English/Spanish