COMPARISON OF RAILWAY REFORM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA and IN SELECTED EU MEMBER STATES

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Abstract
On May 30, 2013, a new Railways Act in the Republic of Serbia enters into force (Official Journal RS, no. 45/2013). It contains the main elements set out in the Railway Development Directives. The law should improve the efficiency of the railway system in Serbia and liberalize the market and allow the introduction of a number of operators, which would create more competition. The main objectives of the new law are to improve the efficiency of the railway system in Serbia and its integration into the market of transport services and the integration of Serbian Railways in the EU railway system. The methodology we use allows identification of countries with which Serbia has comparable economic data and, on this basis, comparisons are permissible. For the purposes of this study, the following criteria for comparability may be used: Territory and population of the state; Length of railways in service at the end of 2016; Staff engaged in rail transport; Productivity. The main characteristics of the rail systems studied and used in the description are as follows: Degree of administrative and functional separation of the infrastructure manager; The distinction between passenger and freight rail transport; Degree of detachment of railway rolling stock management by railway operators; Participation of private companies on the rail transport market. In Serbia has been significant progress in the process of improving organizational structures. The process of exploring the opportunities for organizational improvement and the gradual improvement of the vertical and horizontal organization should continue.

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