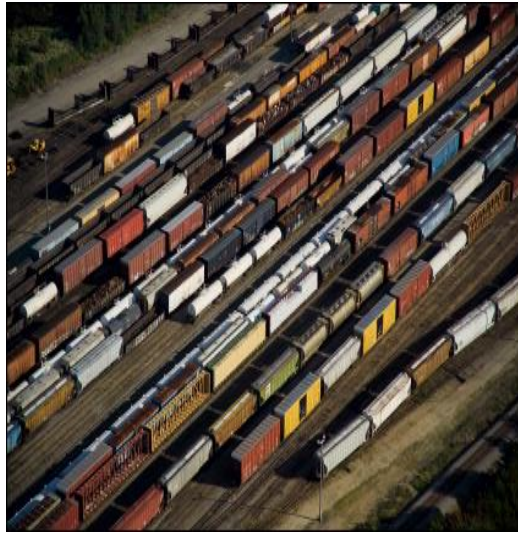


Viking Train: Connecting Baltic Sea and Black Sea



Quick info

Organizations
Lithuanian Railways
Belarusian Railways
Ukrainian Railways
Klaipeda Port Authority
Illichivsk Port Authority

Timeline
Operating since 2003

Geographical scope
Lithuania
Belarus
Ukraine

Funding
Public funding from national governments
EU funds (ISPA, CF, ERDF)

Main results (4 years)
Since 2003: Freight volume rising each year
41,185 TEU containers (2014)

The Challenge

Slow border crossing between European Union and Commonwealth of Independent States



Co-funded by the Marco Polo Programme of the European Union

Case overview

Starting in February 2003, Viking train has been able to make international cargo transit from Baltic Sea to Black sea regions smoother. The cooperation among Lithuanian, Belarusian and Ukrainian governments has yielded significant reductions in railway travel times in the route.

Besides upgrading those parts of transport infrastructure where bottlenecks existed, one of the biggest challenges was making border crossing easier.

National governments cooperation and a smart design in Kena border station has made custom clearing simpler and faster. Actions taken include development of new handling techniques, tailor-made Information Technologies that allows better information sharing among all involved actors in the route and a new customs procedure that eliminates paperwork, unifying European Union and Commonwealth of Independent States systems.