



**International Institute for
Applied Systems Analysis**
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DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN EURASIA

5th Workshop within the IIASA project

*“Challenges and Opportunities of Economic Integration
within a Wider European and Eurasian Space”*

WORKSHOP CONCEPT

15-16 September 2015



This workshop discusses transportation corridors in Eurasia and opportunities for cooperation around transport and infrastructure projects in the Eurasian region.

In 2013, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria launched a project on **Challenges and Opportunities of Economic Integration within a Wider European and Eurasian Space**. The goal of this international and interdisciplinary project is to discuss and analyse possible futures of economic integration within the Eurasian continent. European and Eurasian cooperation also extends to the key Asian players, such as China, Korea and Japan, as well as to the USA.

The envisaged multidisciplinary approach of the project includes economic and political, technological, institutional, sectoral – energy, infrastructure, finance and investment, etc.– and demographic aspects of Pan-European/Eurasian development.

The project has been discussed and initially supported by the European Commission, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and some other European and Eurasian institutions.

The currently running two-year pilot phase of the project consists of a series of workshops at which specific aspects of integration are discussed by scientists and stakeholders representing all interested regions. Four workshops on

- *Methodology for Assessing Effects of Regional Economic Integration*
- *Trade Policy Regimes*
- *Non-Tariff Barriers and Technical Regulations, and*
- *Futures of Energy in Eurasia in a Global Context*

were already held at IIASA in 2014-2015. To date, all together they attracted more than 150 recognized scientists, experts, stakeholders and policy-makers. The fifth workshop on the *Development of transport and infrastructure in Eurasia* aims to discuss and analyze transportation corridors in Eurasia and opportunities for cooperation around transport and infrastructure projects in the Eurasian region. Currently, shipping by sea is the main channel for transporting goods between Europe and the Asia Pacific, while land corridors through Central Asia are seldom used. It is not only suppliers and consumers that may benefit from activating transcontinental transport corridors, they can also support economic growth of the transit countries. A number of projects were suggested and require systematic assessment in all relevant dimensions from economic to social, to environmental.

The workshop focuses on major aspects related to transport and infrastructure development in Eurasia and it will:

- Review the nexus of economic integration and modernization of passenger and freight transport and logistics infrastructure; including railways (notably, high-speed ground transportation), automobile roads, air and maritime transport ; and discuss corresponding economic, national security, social and environmental impacts;
- Discuss the future of transportation corridors in Eurasia: prospects for cooperation between countries around the construction, modernization and further development of Eurasian transport corridors (such as Great Silk Road, Maritime Silk Road, Trans-Siberian Railway, The Northern Sea Route) until 2030, in particular, developments of trans-border transport infrastructures and perspectives of the Trans-Eurasian transit;
- Reflect on the opportunities for cooperation, feasibility and possibilities for win-win solutions in the context of large infrastructure (gas pipelines, waterways, etc.) developments in Eurasia.