RiFLE (a Rail Freight and Logistics Curriculum Development) is one of the newest Curriculum Development projects funded under the ERASMUS Programme of the European Commission, managed by the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture (EACEA). The project began on 1 October 2010 and will run for three years.

The objective of the RiFLE project is to develop Rail Freight and Logistics Curriculum for a complete cycle of study by using an innovative multidisciplinary approach, equipped with curriculum modelling tools. Specifically, the aim of this project is to develop Master courses to be delivered in the English language by the participating institutions as separate but shared programmes in their universities. The approach is to analyze, enhance and adapt existing courses already offered by the Universities of the participating institutions within a modern rail freight and logistics environment.

The innovative idea of this project is that the courses developed will run in all four participating institutions, and they will be compatible to allow for students to do some of their modules at one of the other universities. The project will also explore the possibility of a joint programme and degree. The first two years of the project will be the development phase, after which we will have a better view of what outcome is realistic (i.e., compatible modules ‘only’ or joint degree).

The courses developed will incorporate cultural and international elements of education, which are quite diverse and highly varied in Europe. The suggested scenario is that each university awards degrees to their own students, however intensive mobility to the other institutions will be encouraged, with full recognition of modules taken. Therefore, Erasmus Mobility Agreements among the four participants are envisaged be signed and staff and students mobility exercised.

The project is coordinated by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK), represented by NewRail at Mechanical and Systems Engineering. The other three partners are: University of Rome “La Sapienza” (Italy), Todor Kableshkov” Higher School of Transport (Bulgaria) and University of Applied Science in Ingolstadt (Germany).

RiFLE Paper Presented at International Conference in Maribor, Slovenia

A paper on “Innovative Concepts for Knowledge Exchange, Mobility and Expertise in Rail Freight and Logistics” (Marinov M, Zunder T, Schlingensiepen J, Ricci S, Karagyozov K, Razmov T, Dzhaleva-Chonkova A) was presented by Dr Marin Marinov, the project manager, at Highlight 2010: Sustainable Development in Logistics (ICLEEE) International Conference of Logistics, Economics and Environmental Engineering organized by the Vocational College of Traffic and Transport in Maribor, Slovenia, held on 19 November 2010. The paper can be found in the Conference Proceedings, pp.37-41 at:

http://posvet.prometna.net/tmp/ICLEEE_2010_Visja_prometna sola.pdf

The material presented was well accepted by the audience.
 RiFLE  Project Website Launched

The **RiFLE** project website has been made public and can now be accessed at [www.rifle-project.eu](http://www.rifle-project.eu).

The project website is thought of as a primary dissemination vehicle of the project and will be kept updated throughout the project lifetime. There you will find more details about the project, the participating organizations and team members, the publications of the **RiFLE** team, news about relevant activities and events.

A technical memorandum consisting of a stepwise approach for establishing a joint degree MSc programme and strategies for collaborative activities in rail freight and logistics higher education will be developed and published on the web page of the project.

### RiFLE Survey 1

The **RiFLE** team conducted a university survey to collect data for Educational Programmes in Transport and Logistics. To date, the survey benefited from 47 responses. The information collected is being analyzed now. The results will be announced shortly. The following Masters programmes are observed:

- Urban Traffic and Transportation Systems Engineering;
- MSc in Mega Infrastructure Planning, Appraisal and Delivery;
- Civil Engineering - Infrastructure Planning and Management;
- Logistics and Professional Certificate in Logistics Entrepreneurship;
- Logistics of Transport and Supply Chain Management;
- Railway Management Economics & Planning as one module of MScs in: Transport Engineering & Operations, Transport Planning & Policy, Transport & Environment;
- Organization of Transportations and Management on Transport (Industrial Transport);
- International Logistics Management (Bach), Supply Chain Management (Master);
- Introduction to the Railway System.

### Information about RiFLE

- Besides being presented on the websites of the universities from the project consortium, **RiFLE** was featured in the official web of the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers: [www.ses.gr](http://www.ses.gr).
- The **RiFLE** project has been featured in the Research Profile of the Todor Kableshkov Higher School of Transport published under the FP7 project TransBonus ([www.transbonus.net](http://www.transbonus.net)) and in the Bulletin of the Higher Education European Funding Services (HEEFs at [www.heefs.ac.uk](http://www.heefs.ac.uk)). The bulletins can be seen at: [www.rifle-project.eu/index.php/news-reader/items/rifle-project.html](http://www.rifle-project.eu/index.php/news-reader/items/rifle-project.html).

### Forthcoming Events

- The **RiFLE** team will gather to discuss progress in late April 2011. The meeting will be held by University of Rome “Sapienza”, Italy.
- **RiFLE** Workshop 1 on Educational Programmes in rail freight and logistics will be organized during the 20th International Scientific Conference TRANSPORT 2011, to be held at the Todor Kableshkov Higher School of Transport on the 4th & 5th of November, 2011. For further information, please consult the conference website: [http://vtu.bg/conference](http://vtu.bg/conference).
- The **RiFLE** project will be included in the HEEFs’ case study information bulletin (HEEFs at [www.heefs.ac.uk](http://www.heefs.ac.uk)).

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**RiFLE TEAM**

**Partner P1 - University of Newcastle upon Tyne**  
*Represented by NewRail at Mechanical and Systems Eng.* - [www.newcastle.ac.uk](http://www.newcastle.ac.uk)

- **Thomas Zunder** is the Rail Freight and Logistics Group Manager and Senior Research Associate. He has over 22 years experience in supply chain management, primarily logistics, procurement and distribution.
- **Dr. Marin Marinov** is a member of the Rail Freight and Logistics Group at NewRail. His Ph.D. thesis was on Analysis and Evaluation of Formation Yard Performances. He has worked as a teaching assistant and researcher in the Transportation Systems branch of the MIT/Portugal programme.
- **Mrs Karen McTigue** is the NewRail Marketing Manager. Her roles and responsibilities are to promote NewRail and its research and training projects via newsletters and the website and to organise meetings, workshops and conferences.
- **Dr. Dewan Islam** is a research associate with NewRail. He is involved in collaborative RTD projects such as BELOGIC and KOMODA which encompass intermodal freight transport, logistics as well as reducing greenhouse gas emission from heavy-duty vehicles. His PhD research focused on the development of intermodal freight transport system. He is the lead lecturer for International Logistics Module in postgraduate programme within the Business School of the University of Newcastle.

**Partner P2 - University of Rome “Sapienza” - “Sapienza” Università di Roma**  
*Represented by Department of Dipartimento Idraulica Trasport e Strade* - [www.uniroma1.it](http://www.uniroma1.it)

- **Prof. Stefano Ricci** is Civil Engineer. Associate Professor at University of Rome “La Sapienza”. Active in European research for European Commission DG TREN, Research and INFSO and in many transport sectors in Italy. EU projects: CLEANER-DRIVE, ECORAILS, ELEDRIVE, EURNEX, HERO, TILEMATT, UTOPIA.
- **Dr. Luca Rizzetto** is a research assistant at the Department of Civil, Building and Environmental Engineering (DICEA) of “La Sapienza”, consultant of the Italian Ministry of Transport for railway safety and regulations and consultant of Sviluppo Italia for the development of three ITS projects for Sicily Region. Recently he has worked on the following EU projects: TRIOTRAIN, EURNEX.
- **Dr. Stefano Impastato** is a researcher and temporary professor, consultant of the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation for Railway Safety and Regulations. EU projects: CLEANER-DRIVE, EURNEX, SELCAT.

**Partner P3 - Todor Kableshkov Higher School of Transport**  
*Represented by Department of Technology, Organization and Management of Transport* - [www.vtu.bg](http://www.vtu.bg)

- **Assoc. Prof. Kiril Karagyozov** is Head of Department, PhD, MBA (DESS-CAAE), a team leader of over 20 projects on the development of the railway infrastructure; new railway operation technologies; DSS in railway transport; capacity models of railway track and terminals; traffic forecasting; logistics; passenger, freight and fleet management; supply chain management; financial management; costing. Member of the Association of Logistics and ORNETWORK Group in European Operational Research Society. EU projects: ENACT (FP6), SUSTRAIL (FP7).
- **Assoc. Prof. Todor Razmov** is PhD in Management and Operation of Railway Transportation, participant in 21 projects related to engineering and technology development of railway transport, intermodal transport and determining the capacity of railway lines, analytical survey on CNT and consulting. EU projects: ENACT (FP6), SUSTRAIL (FP7).
- **Mirena Todorova** is a Senior Lecturer, expert in traffic forecasting methods and modelling, theory of material flows, transport flows, and standardization, technical and technological design of railway stations, theory of the effectiveness of the transport systems and logistic systems; organization of train traffic and GIS. EU projects: ENACT (FP6), SUSTRAIL (FP7).
- **Dr. Anna Dzhaleva-Chonkova** is a Senior Lecturer, PhD, Institutional Erasmus coordinator, Functional Dean for international students. Experience in projects as Coordinator of the project “Regional Program For Transport Staff Qualification”; team member of the ASO (Austrian office) project CONSTANT, LVD projects. EU projects: RTC (FP6), TransBonus and SUSTRAIL (FP7).
- **Zlatin Trendafilov** is a Senior lecturer teaching Technology and Organisation of the Transport, Theory of the Transport Flows, Modelling and Optimisation, Local and Global Communication Networks, a team leader of the working group “Computer Technologies in Transport” in the project “Regional Program for Transport Staff Qualification”, a short-term expert in Leonardo da Vinci Project “Computerised Laboratory in Science and Technology – ComLab” and in establishment of the GIS information database system under the Ministry of Education project “Methods and models of traffic forecast”, expert in web design.
- **Andrey Borisov** is a Senior lecturer of 20 years of teaching experience who has developed a number of courses, curricula and programmes for freight transport higher education and training. Participant in many projects applied in rail freight transport in Bulgaria; research interests in co-modal and inter-modal freight operations, traffic organization in factories and ports, supply chain transportation and logistics.

**RIFLE** is a new CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT project funded under the ERASMUS Programme of the European Commission. This project began on 1 October 2010 and will run for three years.
**RiFLE TEAM**

**Partner P4 - University of Applied Science in Ingolstadt**  
**Represented by Faculty M** - [www.haw-ingolstadt.de](http://www.haw-ingolstadt.de)

Prof. Jörn Schlingensiepen is Professor, PhD with experience in software engineering and data modelling from several research and standardization projects (e.g. ImportNET, MiKaDo, PDM-Collaborator, Development of ProSTEP IViP Recommendation 5 – PSI 5). He focused on the problems caused by different cultural background and domains of the participants. Also, he was the project manager of the project QualityCockpit that established a quality management system to ensure software and data model quality in industry.

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**Associated Partners**

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<th>Type of institution</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>Railway Administration and Executive Agency</td>
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<td>NGO/Charity in England &amp; Wales</td>
<td>Milton Keynes</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<td>ASSOFERR - Associazione Operatori Ferroviari e Intermodali</td>
<td>Large Enterprise</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Invitation**

We call upon rail freight and logistics professors and assistants, fellow researchers, policy and decision makers, and stakeholders to liaise with the project team and assist in understanding the current and future needs for rail freight and logistics higher education, training and promotion.

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**Contact details:**

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