

April 2007

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## **Certification – Fashion trend or practical necessity?**

**A Georgian saying goes:**

**Knowledge is worth more than gold,  
more sharp than a sabre and  
mightier than a cannon**

To possess knowledge alone is worth nothing, one must put it to good use. Especially in our modern times, characterized by an overflow of input and information, it is all the more important to give a bright head the attention he or she deserves. All according to the motto: „Do good and talk about it.“ Unfortunately, the skills of engineers in the area of self-marketing are not well enough developed. Certification of the European Railway Engineer „EURAIL-ING“ has proven quite effective in that regard since 1999.

A query among certified expert colleagues about the implications of the certificate on their professional development has had the following answers as a result:

- Improvement of career opportunities
- Proof of own expert competence
- Better chances during applications
- Improvement of position within the company
- Improved acceptance among customers and colleagues
- Involvement in especially important projects

The number of certified engineers is increasing from year to year.

Especially during the period of time from January 2006 until February 2007 a marked increase of interest has been registered. 68 documents of certification have been handed out so far.

An important part of that is due to the internationally active, German engineer office DB International GmbH (formerly known as DE-Consult), which manages important big projects worldwide and belongs to the main contractors of the DB AG. Despite their impeccable reference-projects and a well known reputation it is one of the main interests of the management to provide proof of qualification

for personnel hired during the contract acquisition process. A well founded argument informed engineers about the objective and means of certification and invited them to submit an application. The result has shown that the employees have been open-minded receptively to this measure. The meaning of this can also be measured by the fact that the application fees have been covered by some companies.

The involvement of the railway and planning company Erfurt mbH must also be named here. Also, here the meaning and importance of certification has been acknowledged. Directors and further engineers of the company are certified EURAIL-ING. Moreover a sponsorship of two Albanian railway engineers has been assumed. This is an example that could be implemented as well by other companies.

Certifications are being processed in the meantime in other areas of railways. There are certificates for examiners of railway conductors and expert trainers of the different railway-technical areas. These certificates are being granted by the TÜV in Germany.

A lot of activities are being organized by UEEIV on a European level in order to enhance the public knowledge of the certificate. Meetings with railway administrations and companies who are contracting for railways as well as all UEEIV-Seminars certification for EURAIL-ING are being used as platforms to make the certificate known to a broad public. First reactions are showing that the departments of companies who are awarding contracts are paying more and more attention to the existence of certified expert personnel on the side of the contracting companies.

Furthermore, talks have been held with the Community of European Railways (CER) which has presented itself quite open to the topic.

The activities will be continued in order to achieve an official recognition by publication from CER or UIC.

The EU-guideline 2005/36/EG of the European Parliament and the council about the acknowledgement of professional qualifications explicitly points out the special knowledge of railway personnel. It is comforting that the cross border exchange of engineers of track bound traffic is being awarded such an importance that railway engineers are being mentioned explicitly.

Contacts to the European Parliament are being used in order to achieve a precise nomenclature by the guideline.

Parallel to these activities the process of information of all railway engineers about possibilities of certification is being continued. Expert publications and each and every expert meeting should be

made instrumental in this quest. International expert publications like the EI (the railway engineer) already show their respective authors with the title EURAIL-ING.

Via certification UEEIV is supporting companies in their desire to recruit expert personnel in order to secure a high level of quality during the implementation of their services.

The Japanese writer, Hisako Matsubara, said: „Always conduct yourself so that others may keep their appearance – better yet – so that they can enhance theirs“

One of the means of doing exactly that is the certification of the personal faculties of a railway engineer.

Dipl.-Ing. Wilfried Lorenz, EURAIL-ING  
Head of steering committee

## UEEIV – Session of the presidency in the Czech Republic

The presidency of the Union of European Railway Engineer Associations– UEEIV –, which is constituted by members from different nations, met at the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 for its 1<sup>st</sup> session of the year 2007, in order to discuss and decide on further objectives for the tasks at hand. After Salzburg / Austria at the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006 the session has been held this time in Prague. Of the hosting national association, the Czech society of engineers of transport, the member of the board, **Jiri Sedláček**, CSVTS has been invited to the hotel Opera, and was welcomed, besides the other members of the presidency and the president **Heinrich Salzmänn**, ÖVG who has not been able to participate, by **Peter Brinkmann**, VDEI. Brinkmann chaired the session of the presidency which took place in a round table atmosphere in his capacity as head of the secretariat general. After the usual report of the president and the referral to the UEEIV-Strategy-Symposium 2006 in Brussels as well as the publications in the internet, treasurer **Sebastian Rutz**, GDI delivered his report about the final financial status 2006 and the actual financial status 2007. The other members of the presidency reported about events and developments in their respective countries. The upcoming UEEIV-events of the year 2007 were discussed in great detail, the seminars in the Czech Republic, Hungaria, Albania, Romania and Bulgaria, an excursion to Vienna and the session of the board of



View of the discussion during the session of the presidency in Prague. Dr. Gerard Presle/ÖVG/A (third from left) reports about activities in Austria.

this year as well as the general assembly of UEEIV which only takes place every three years and is held jointly with the hosting French membership association AFFI at the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in Strasbourg. Positive news could be reported from the development of the certification for EURAIL-ING, where the volume of applications has increased substantially. Furthermore, Peter Brinkmann pointed out the good cooperation with supporting members, the publication of a new Union-Report and important information for all railway administrations that are interested, companies and associations about the activities of UEEIV in the internet.

## UEEIV - Seminar in Prague

An internationally well attended railway industry seminar has been held by the Union of European Railway Engineer Associations – UEEIV – in cooperation with the Czech membership association SD CSVTS, the society of engineers of traffic, at the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 in the office building of the Ministry of transport and the general directorate of the Czech railway AG, CD, in Prague. During the welcoming remarks made by the member of the board **Jiri Sedláček** of the Czech society, honorary president **Josef Windsinger** of UEEIV, as well as **Josef Bazala**, chairman of the board and general director of CD, and **Jan Komárek**, general director of the national railway infrastructure AG, both railway chairman led the participants into the topic of the seminar „Modern and rational railway in the Czech Republic” with their special speeches. They were concerned with guidelines, reducing of losses, core activities and last but not least the upcoming investments for a modern and rational



View of some of the international participants of the seminar at the Czech railway CD

railway.

After the speech „Infrastructure priorities of TEN- and PAN-railway corridors“ by Josef Windsinger followed the opening of the Photo-, Model- and Video-exhibition with press reception and afterwards press conference.

The railway industry speeches were first of all concerned with „Components for maintenance reduced construction“ of the Swiss company Schwihag. After the speech of the company Leonhard Weiss „Automated track and switch renewal“ it was the turn of the company Volker-Rail Germany with the speeches „SuperWeld Abbrennstumpfschweissen“ and „USt Ultra-Sonic-Treatment“. The company Tiefenbach



Speakers during the opening of the seminar (left to right): member of the society Jiri Sedláček, GenDir. Jan Komárek/SZDC, Chairman and GenDir. Josef Bazala/CD, Josef Windsinger and Peter Brinkmann of UEEIV.

spoke about „Signal-technological installations in secondary areas and cost efficient components for main and secondary lines“.

Further track-topics were presented by the company GMB-Wiebe under the title „Quality control of tracks and monitoring of fissures in concrete switches“ and Rail.One International under the title „Solid track – a low maintenance track“.

The 2nd day was most of all dedicated to speeches about the registration of and experiences with the operation of the 3-System-electrical power unit CD 680 (Pendolino). In this context the company Skoda presented the „Conception of the 3-System-electrical locomotive 380 (CD) Type Skoda 109E with regard to the new revision of the norm TZI“.

**Dr. Andreas Schöbel**, EURAIL-ING, of the TU Vienna introduced the topic „Technical train monitoring for the increase of infrastructure availability“ and **Peter Brinkmann**, member of the presidency of UEEIV, spoke about the „Status of certification „EURAIL-ING“.

The concluding speech with the topic „Development of European railways at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century“ was delivered by Jiri Sedláček.

During the course of the seminar the president of the Czech society, former minister **Dr. Kvetoslava Korinková**, welcomed the participants from Bulgaria, Romania, Austria, Switzerland, Germany and the Czech Republic.

In the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> day a reception took place for all participants of the seminar in the historical government salon at the reception building of the main railway station of Prague.

## Visitation of technical infrastructure projects at the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007 in Vienna

### Thursday, 26th April 2007



- 09:30** Bus-trip to the Wienerwald-Tunnel  
**10:00 - 10:15** Division into 3 groups with the following procedure accordingly (rotation):  
**10:15 - 13:30**
- 1. Project introduction NBS Vienna – St. Pölten, Wienerwaldtunnel as well as project Lainzer Tunnel**
  - 2. Visitation of Wienerwaldtunnel Eastern section (Vortriebsarbeiten)**
  - 3. Visitation of Lainzer Tunnel; Switch hall (Oberbauarbeiten)**
- 13:30** Lunch
- 14:45** Trip approx. 20 minutes to Infobox – lecture approx 1 hour  
Apr. 16:30 Return trip to hotel and free time  
**19:00** Trip to a Heurigen-Restaurant in Vienna  
Trip to and return with public transport (included in fee)

### Friday, 27th April 2007



- 9:30 - 12:00** Visitation of climate-wind channel as well as climate chamber in Vienna Leopoldau with guide  
Rail Tec Arsenal is testing railway vehicles, road vehicles and others in the climate wind channel (Trip to and from with public transport – included in fee)
- ca. 12:30 Snack and return journey

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## UEEIV-Events 2007

15th and 16th March	Prague / Czech Republic	UEEIV-Seminar with CS VTS-SD/CD "Modern and Efficient Railway in the Czech Republic"
26th and 27th April	Vienna / Austria	2-day Excursion „Visitation of Technical Infrastructure-Projects “
10th and 11th May	Budapest / Hungary	UEEIV-Seminar with UVWV/MAV “Structural and Technical Development as well as Coordinated Modernization of the Long-haul and Regional Traffic of the Hungarian Railways”
24th and 25th May	Durres / Albania	UEEIV-Seminar with SIH/HSH "Infrastructure and Rolling Stock Im- provements in Albanian Railway"
21st and 22nd June	Bucharest / Romania	International UEEIV-AIFR-Conference and exhibition “Romanian Railways in the Year of Romania's Integration in the European Union - Present and Perspectives”
12th and 13th Sept.	Zilina / Slovakia	UEEIV-Seminar with EIVS/ZSR "Modernization of the Slovakian Rail- ways"
11th and 12th October	Sofia / Bulgaria	UEEIV-Seminar with NGRTE/WTVV/BDZ „Railway-Forum 2007 - Bulgarian Railway in the European Union – Compatibility and investments“
24th October	Strasbourg / France	UEEIV-Meeting of the Board and General Meeting
24th and 25th October	Strasbourg / France	Railway-technical Colloquium of AFFI-VDEI also under patronage of UEEIV „German-French Railway-Engineer Competence - leading the way for Europe's Railways“

## News from the Member Associations

### REPORT about the actual status of activities of WTVV

Within the scientific-technical society of traffic (WTVV) 2670 members are organized. They consist of experts, scientific specialists, lecturers and manager from the transport area, who are organized into 7 scientific-technical societies of the central agency (300 members), four national sectors (more than 700 members), 46 corresponding organizations (approx. 900 members) and 10 societies of regional organizations of WTVV (650 members). The youth organization of WTVV consists of 120 active members - students, advanced students working on a Ph.D., lecturers and young experts of transport societies.

In comparison with the year 2005 the amount of members of WTVV in the year 2006 has increased of 120 members.

The last year has seen many activities. They have been characterized mainly by the preparations of Bulgaria for the integration into the European Union and have also been influenced by the ongoing tasks of the infrastructure sector.

8 eminent scientific-technical conferences have been held, numbering more than 720 participants, 5 honor events with 140 participants and 5 discussion rounds regarding the topic of strategy for the development of the transport sector in Bulgaria in reference to the year 2015 and the harmonization of the Bulgarian and the European transport laws have also been held.

The following events have been held in close cooperation with the ministry of transport and leading transport societies:

- Seminar under the topic: „Creation of prerequisites within the transport sector for the implementation of the law regarding the support of scientific research "(1<sup>st</sup> March 2006 Sofia) as well as a Seminar under the topic: „Increase of efficiency and usage of mechanization in order to conserve the railway infrastructure " (19<sup>th</sup> April 2006 Sofia);
- Scientific-technical conference and discussion regarding the „Strategy of the development of the transport sector in Bulgaria 2007-2015" (19<sup>th</sup> May 2006 Sofia);
- Railway-Forum 2006 under the topic: „Infrastructure, technologies and comfort of

the railway transport of passengers" (9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Veliko Tarnovo) in cooperation with UEEIV and NGS RTE.

The cooperation with the ministry of traffic, the scientific-technical partner association and railway organizations have been improved significantly. The topics of all activities have diversified and experts a positive influence over the process of the European integration.

Starting 1st January 2007, Bulgaria is a full member of the European Union.

This will pose new challenges to the transport sector and will most of all decide the direction of activities of WTVV this year.

In the year 2007 the restructuring of the Bulgarian railways should be implemented and completed. 7 new sub-structures of BDZ and NRIC are already implemented and working effectively. WTV has been contributed actively to the discussions regarding their functions and tasks as well as the amendments to the railway law.

In cooperation with the ministry of traffic an international scientific-technical conference has been held 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007 under the topic “Transport infrastructure and transport logistics” including an exhibition „Transport and logistics“ (13-17.02.2007).

Scheduled events:

1. General assembly of WTVV 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007. (at the time of the publication of the Union-Reports 1/07 it has been announced that Dipl. Ing. Kiril Ermenkov has been reelected as chairman of the board of WTVV. The editorial conference congratulates)
2. Seminar „Perspectives of the production of means of automatization of the railway" -17<sup>th</sup> April 2007
3. Conference of the Russian railway transport in Bulgaria – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007
4. Youth-forum 2007 - „The young generation in the transport sector and the challenges of the European Union" – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007

5. Railway-Forum 2007 under the topic „Bulgarian Railways in the European Union - Interoperability and investment“, in cooperation with UEEIV and NGS RTE -11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Sofia.

In the year 2007 numerous Bulgarian experts of the transport sector and leading managers will participate in a number of international events, seminars

## Report about the activities of NGS RTE / Bulgaria

The Bulgarian membership association – society of track constructing engineers (NGSRTE) has held its regular general assembly with reports and elections at the 30th March 2007. First of all, the report of the chairman of the concerning the activities of the guild as well as the financial report have been sanctioned. Further objectives, the program about future activities and the budget for the next term of office have been discussed and decided upon.

At the end of 2006 the 15th anniversary of NGS RTE has been celebrated. It must be stressed that NGS RTE has developed itself as a financially independent and autonomous organization with social importance which is also acknowledged internationally and which is willing and able to take on the challenges that arise due to the entry of Bulgaria to the EU and to master them. Furthermore it has been made clear that an excellent cooperation exists between UEEIV, NGS RTE and WTVV. The motto for the future activities of NGS RTE has been defined as follows: „The professional guild and the realities of the market within the European Union“.

The achievements of the board have been judged positively overall. It is exactly for this

and conferences. They will also contribute to the preparations and participation of WTVV in the session of the board and general assembly of UEEIV in Strasbourg at the 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

Dipl.-Ing. Kiril Ermenkov, EURAIL-ING  
Chairman of the Board of WTVV

reason that the board has been reelected for a new two-year term of office. Prof. Dr. Dipl. Ing. Mario Galabov is the old and new chairman of the board, his deputies are Dipl. Ing. Ivan Gogev and Dipl. Ing. Naiden Konov.

The assembly of members of NGS RTE has supported the renewed candidacy of Mr. Dipl. Ing. Kiril Ermenkov, who has been reelected as chairman of the board of WTVV at the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007, as member of the presidency of UEEIV during the elections of October 2007.

Moreover it has been decided during the assembly of the members to constitute a commendation in the name of the founders of NGS RTE Doz. Dipl. Ing. Mirtscho Mirtshev and Dipl. Ing. Kiril Enev for new engineers or students of track construction. It is the objective of that measure to support and develop the work of the students and new engineers in the field of track construction, to perfect their experiences, qualifications and knowledge and to advance the prestige of the profession of the track engineer.

Prof. Dr. Dipl. Ing. Mario Galabov  
Chairman of the board of NGS RTE

*The presidency of the UEEIV congratulates the new elected boards of the two Bulgarian associations, especially the two presidents, Mr. Dipl.-Ing. Kiril Ermenkov, EURAIL-ING and Mr. Prof. Dr. Dipl.-Ing. Mario Galabov*

## News from the Supporting Members

### VolkerRail Germany GmbH new Supporting Member of UEEIV

We are happy to welcome, VolkerRail Germany GmbH as a new supporting member. The company has been represented during several UEEIV-seminars in the past. During these events, VolkerRail Germany GmbH has always been represented very successfully by Mr. EURAIL-ING Anton Schmidl.

*We all would like to ask all our Member Associations and Supporting Members to send us contributions in similar form as the short reports above, so that we are able to report currently about the newest developments in our Union Report*

## Impressum

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**UNION OF EUROPEAN RAILWAY ENGINEER ASSOCIATIONS**  
**UNION DES ASSOCIATIONS EUROPÉENNES D'INGÉNIEURS FERROVIAIRES**

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### To our member associations and supporting members

Please keep us updated about changes of contact as soon as possible.  
We welcome suggestions and contributions for our Union Report.