



Co-financed by the European Union Connecting Europe Facility

WHAT IS RAIL BALTICA?

Rail Baltica – Project of the Century

Rail Baltica is a greenfield rail transport infrastructure project aiming to integrate the Baltic States in the European rail network. The project includes five European Union countries – Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and indirectly also Finland. It will connect Helsinki, Tallinn, Pärnu, Riga, Panevežys, Kaunas, Vilnius and Warsaw. The Baltic part of the Rail Baltica project is referred to as the Rail Baltica Global Project. It is one of the priority transport projects of the European Union.



Rail Baltica – North-South railway axis

The Rail Baltica project is a symbolic return of the Baltic States to Europe. Up to World War II the Baltic States were connected to Europe with standard 1435 mm gauge railway. But since the switch to 1520 mm Russian gauge after the war they have been firmly tied to the East-West railway axis. Today most rail freight traffic in the Baltics originates from CIS countries, Russia in particular, and the 1520 mm system makes it difficult and costly to interconnect the Baltics with the rest of EU via Poland. Therefore, there is a full consensus on the need to fully integrate Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the single European railway area, eliminating the missing rail link of the EU's North Sea – Baltic TEN-T Core Network Corridor.



Tehnical Parameters

Rail Baltica is a new fast, conventional double-track electrified and ERTMS-equipped railway line with maximum design speed of 240 km/h on the route from Tallinn through Pärnu – Rīga – Panevėžys – Kaunas to the Lithuanian-Polish border, with a connection from Kaunas to Vilnius. The new railway line will be designed with 1435 mm gauge, thus complying with all Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs) requirements.

	Total length of line:	870 km of which: • 213 km in Estonia • 265 km in Latvia • 392 km in Lithuania
	Design speed:	• 240 km/h for passenger trains • 120 km/h for freight trains
	Standard gauge:	1435 mm
	Double track electrified:	2x25kVAC
	Axle load:	22.5 t
	Traffic management	ERTMS L2
	Maximum length of freight trains	740 m

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT?





Profit for both cargo and passenger rolling stock operators

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The total estimated cost of the project is **5.8 billion euro** in all three countries. That includes EU financing, currently projected at 85%.

The Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Rail Baltica Global Project carried out by Ernst & Young in 2017 reaffirms the project is financially and economically viable and highly beneficial.



What does that buy?

Measurable socio-economic benefits are estimated at **16.2 billion euro**, far outweighing the national co-investments. The assessed GDP multiplier effect the project would create is an additional 2 billion euro. Unmeasurable benefits will be substantial as well. So it is safe to say that altogether the benefits to society considerably exceed the capital and operational expenditures of the project.

* Based on the assumption that EU financing is 85%, subject to reasonable fluctuations.

HOW IS THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTED?



First train launch on the newly constructed railway line: planned in 2026.

Project Implementers

The Rail Baltica project is being implemented by the three Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.



Suppliers' Relationship

The Common Standards and Guidelines for the Rail Baltica Project give every member of the team a joint vision of our key principles. There are many players involved, many parties to unite. Setting procurement standard practices will ensure quality results from every player. Risk mitigation is key; mitigating risks such as inappropriate tender awards to contractors, conflict of interest or other missteps from fairness and transparency. Common Standards and Guidelines for procurement – Contracting Authority Code of Conduct and Suppliers' Code of Conduct – should guarantee the best results possible in the implementation of Rail Baltica.

SUPPLIERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY CODE OF CONDUCT



Procurement Plan

The Rail Baltica Global Project Procurement Plan is put together in accordance with the project implementation phasing – planning, design, construction.

Planning stage is mostly about route alignment-related

activities and several major studies in the three Baltic countries. Some studies of minor importance will also be commissioned during the subsequent phases.

Design and construction phases overlap, since some procurements of infrastructure items by Rail Baltica are planned as "Design & Build".



WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE?



railbaltica.org

info@railbaltica.org

+371 66 967 17

K. Valdemāra iela 8, 4th floor, Riga, Latvia



RailBalticaGlobalProject

linkedin.com/company/rb-rai

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@RailBaltica

Rail Baltica

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