

## Extract of NEWOPERA Aisbl history and heritage

The Newopera project visionary idea was launched at an F&L meeting in Lisbon in year 2000. A working group for elaborating this idea of a European Rail Network dedicated to freight was formed. Despite original scepticism DG Move defined Newopera concept "the greatest strategic and visionary project on transport mobility on which to engage the EU Commission in future decades". The EU Commission in order to make progress on this concept in 2001 promoted the foundation of ERRAC of which Newopera was active member thereafter participating to dedicated working groups for establishing European Research priorities. CER provided further support through PERFN Preferential European Rail Freight Network. Newopera became a winning project of EU FP 6 program. The Newopera project research work lasted four years. After its conclusion in 2007 NEWOPERA Aisbl was founded. No doubt TEN T originated from all this process work and researches during many years providing useful data, market needs, strategic agendas, simulations, economic and environmental evaluations, investments with relating required IRR. In 2014 Newopera was instrumental for the establishment of the European Rail Network for Competitive Freight legislation voted by the European Parliament. From the original idea, 25 years have gone by with Newopera having been key in many others innovative projects forcing the European Transport and Logistic system at large to make a significant step change towards efficiency, competitiveness sustainability and technology innovations.

vision 2050, wagons and system technologies, rail yards reorganization, transport simplification, customer services' connectivity, modern supply chain business requirements, logistics evolution on fast changing business environment, safety and security, block chain and artificial intelligence applied to freight, have been the Newopera innovative research theatres up to these days. All carried out activities and documents' repository are still available on [www.newopera.org](http://www.newopera.org) website activated for this purpose, to stay alive.

The Common denominator of all these research projects has always been the strong market uptake implementation characteristics. This is coherent with the experience and expertise of the Newopera Aisbl members all of them business practitioners with long managerial track records in global all modes transportation, logistics, supply chain integration management. Nowadays there are in excess of new 15000 km High Speed Lines in operation, These new HSL make available capacity for freight on the existing ones, defining the new passengers HSL the biggest investment for freight ever made. The Newopera dream (New European Wish Operating Project for European Rail Axis) together with the first ERRAC strategic agenda objective, thought impossible at that time, is now completely fulfilled.

## Heritage

The Newopera Aisbl members dedicated this 25 years journey a lot of time, energy, effort and enthusiasm. Having become older people they decided that this wonderful and valuable experience must come to an end also considering that the original mission has been accomplished. According to the Newopera Aisbl statute any remaining active after liquidation must be destined to NON profit associations having statutes similar to Newopera. Two associations have been identified responding to these requisites.

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They will pick up the Newopera Aisbl heritage by transferring to younger generations the principles of innovations and modernization responding to the needs of an evolved Society as is the one we are living in. These principles synthesized in the Newopera Aisbl statute, will continue to live through the establishment of:

"The Newopera Prize for Rail Freight and Intermodality" for MSc and PhD students of the Rail Freight sector activated by Eurnex e.V. for the years to come.

"Tutions in the combined transport field" in collaboration with Genoa University open to new generations' professionals for improving safety and security activated by C.I.S.Co. for the years to come.



All above Newopera projects have been a game changer for European mobility. Physical network optimization, sea/dry ports, nodes, terminals management, operators Integration, longer faster heavier trains on the existing rail network, single wagons transport industrialization, rail capacity network expansion, freight transport and passengers mobility