



**SŽ – Tovorni promet /
SEESARI**
**How to connect SEE with
Central Europe - Challenges
and Opportunities**
Dr. Peter Verlič
April 2026

Who we Are



Slovenske železnice
SŽ-Tovorni promet

A reliable company, oriented to the expectations and needs of our customers

Comprehensive conventional and intermodal rail cargo / logistics services for major companies in Slovenia and abroad

The leading rail freight carrier in Slovenia (82% share in 2024) and the third larger Slovenian exporter

Rich tradition, knowledge and abilities, oriented towards future growth, a reliable, trustworthy and loyal partner

Almost 92 % of cargo in international transport

The leading carrier and integrator in SE Europe

Representative offices / branches in Vienna, Udine, Budapest, Sarajevo, Rijeka and Skopje, Si-Cargo Logistics Belgrade

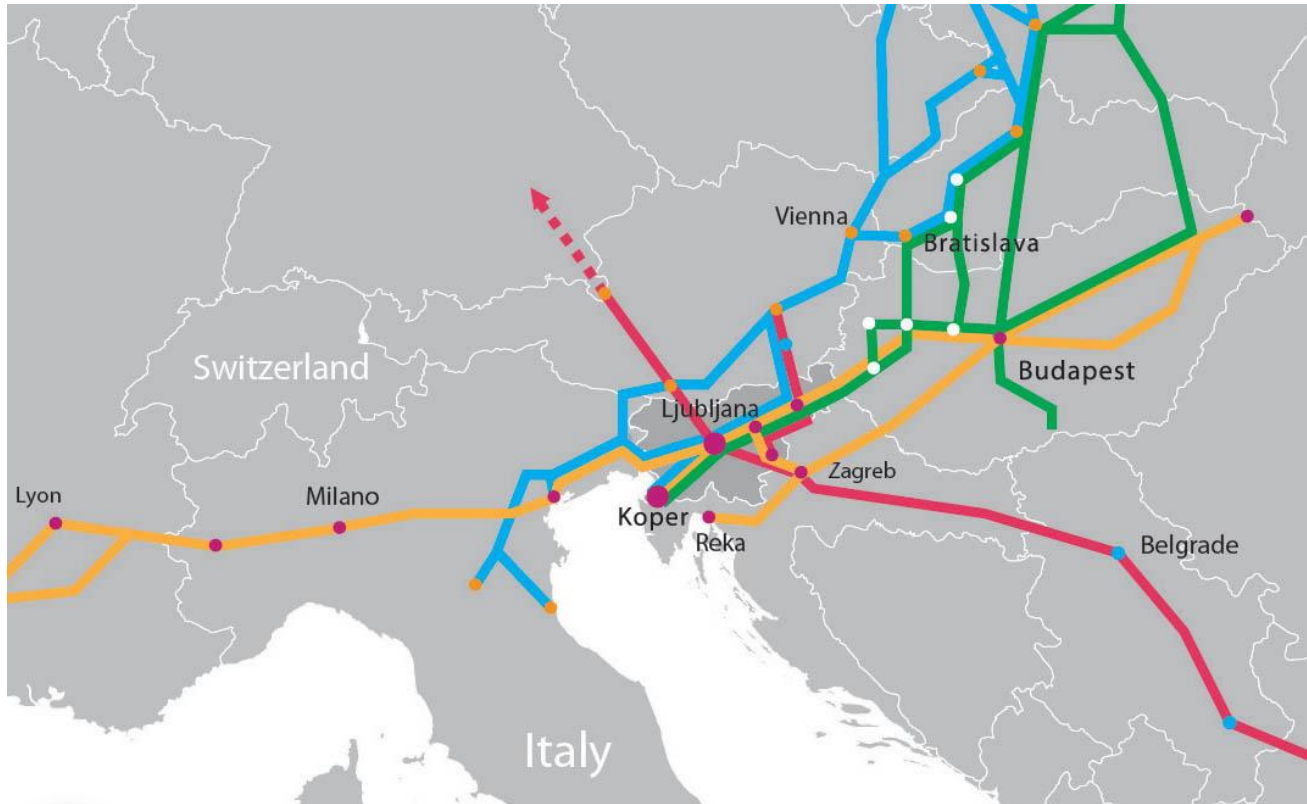
We work with customers from across Europe

Transports with our own traction in Slovenia, Austria and Croatia

We manage all the shunting activities and wagon delivery to/from the Port of Koper for all carriers in Slovenia

Three container terminals in Slovenia – Ljubljana, Maribor and Celje

Active Presence on International Markets



KEY MARKETS 2025

Cargo volumes of SŽ-TP

● Austria	5.7 M t
● Italy	3.6 M t
● Hungary	3.0 M t
● Slovakia	1.3 M t
● Serbia	0.8 M t
● Czech Rep.	0.5 M t
● Germany	0.5 M t

Situated at the centre of the European railway network

INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

Own traction:

- Slovenia
- Austria
- Croatia

Our Assets for Service Performance



Locomotives 144 (136 owned, 8 leased)

- Electric locos – 77 (69 owned, 8 leased)
- Diesel locos - 67



Wagons 2,536 (1,545 owned, 991 leased)



Warehouses (owned)

- Total area 18.600 m²



Transshipping machinery (containers)

- Overhead crane (Ljubljana)
- Reach stackers (Ljubljana, Maribor, Celje)

Strategic Location of Southeast Europe

Southeast Europe sits at one of the most strategic crossroads in the world — between Central Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

And yet, despite this position, it remains one of the least integrated parts of the European transport system.

The key issue is not the absence of infrastructure, but the lack of efficient, interoperable, and coordinated connectivity?

Key Challenges in SEE

- Low operational speeds on many rail corridors (often below 50 km/h)
- Ageing and partially modernised infrastructure
- Long border waiting times due to administrative and technical barriers
- Lack of interoperability (signalling systems, electrification, procedures)
- Fragmented governance and investment planning

These factors significantly reduce the competitiveness of rail transport.

Strategic importance of SEE

- Integral part of the TEN-T core and extended network
- Key region for EU enlargement and integration policies
- Important corridor for Europe–Asia trade flows
- Strong connection to Adriatic and Aegean ports (e.g. Piraeus, Rijeka, Koper)

Southeast Europe has the potential to become a major connectivity hub

The Infrastructure investments alone are not sufficient.

Key missing elements:

- Coordinated cross-border planning
- Harmonised technical standards
- Efficient operational procedures
- Shared regional vision

This is where SEESARI provides a solution:

- Platform for regional coordination
- Alignment of priorities and strategies
- Support for interoperability and integration

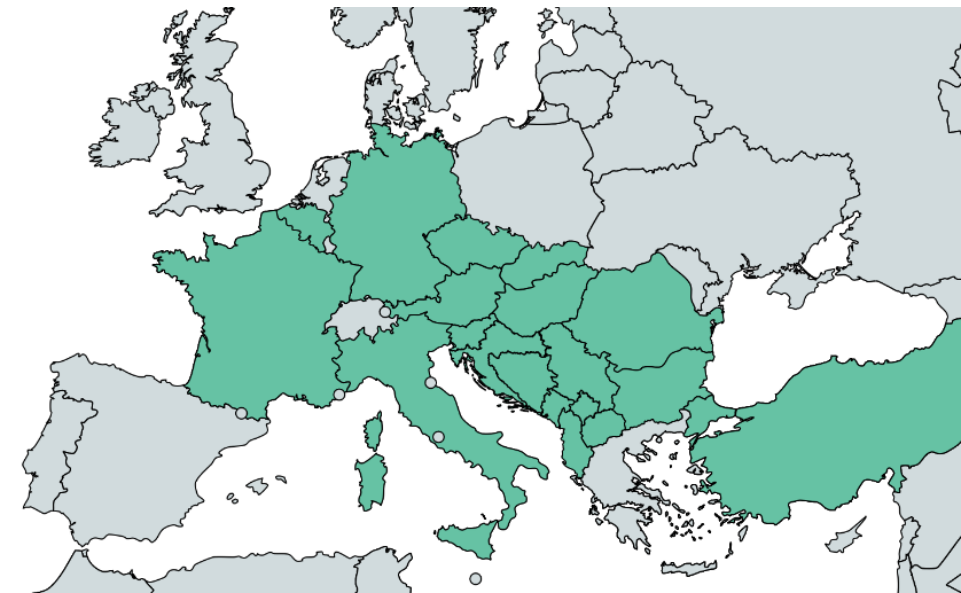


Cooperation in South East Europe through SEESARI initiative

SEESARI is the initiative for **supporting rail and transport development in South East Europe with focusing on railway research, development and innovation**

Partnership:

=> currently **more than 70 members from 18 countries** (railway transport operators and infrastructure managers, manufacturers and suppliers of technical equipment, financial institutions, research institutions, associations and interest groups connected with (rail) transport, national and regional authorities,..)



Role of SEESARI

SEESARI plays an important role in addressing these challenges:

- Brings together stakeholders from Southeast Europe
- Promotes coordinated development of rail and transport systems
- Supports interoperability and alignment with EU strategies
- Provides a platform for dialogue and joint initiatives

SEESARI acts as a catalyst for regional integration.



SEESARI MASTERPLAN – Strategic projects

Strategic projects:

- Digital automatic coupling / PioDAC
- ReVitaRail - Harmonization of regional railway lines and services
- Maintenance and standardization based rail diagnostics
- Information management system for freight transport
- High speed SEE - Development of high-speed rail in Southeast Europe
- Integrated cross-border ticketing and reservation system
- Regional Education Centre for development of knowledge of rail managers and experts

PioDAC

PioDAC – Digital Automatic Coupling Implementation

- Key innovation for the future of European rail freight
- Enables automated, digital, and more efficient train operations
- Improves safety, productivity, and capacity

Relevance for Southeast Europe:

- Supports interoperability across borders
- Facilitates integration with Central European rail systems
- Accelerates digital transformation of rail freight

Link to regional development:

- Aligns with EU rail modernisation objectives
- Strengthens competitiveness of rail transport
- Complements initiatives such as SEESARI



Save the date: SEESARI High-Level Conference & UIC Regional Days – Belgrade, June 2026



16–17 June 2026 | Belgrade, Serbia

Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Peter Verlič

peter.verlic@prometni-institut.si

