



Introduction

The **Spanish Railways Technological Platform (PTFE)** is an industry-led tool at the service of the railway sector, set up to define a “long-term vision” and the “Strategic Research Agenda”, with the aim of achieving the scientific and technological advances required to ensure the competitiveness, sustainability and growth of the Spanish railway sector. Its main mission is to align the strategies of the various agents, concentrate R&D and innovation efforts, and reduce the fragmentation in research fields. Since its creation in 2005 it **has evolved from a more “project oriented” scope to a “market uptake” approach**, working intensively in opening new regional and activity business areas, without missing its sectorial representation activities.

At national level, the PTFE works closely together with the technological platforms of other transport modes and with those with which the railway sector may benefit from cooperation, to facilitate the analysis of cross-modal issues and detect possibilities for technology transfer.

The **technical secretariat** of the Spanish Railways Technological Platform is **performed by the Spanish Railways Foundation (FFE)**, a non-profit public foundation constituted on the 20th of February 1985.

The PTFE is supported by the **International Innovation Unit (UII)** of the Spanish Railways Foundation in developing its international promotion and coordination with the European and International R&D sphere. In this framework, the PTFE participates actively at the **European Rail Research Advisory Council (ERRAC)** and is available to provide support to the FFE in their work done in the **International Rail Research Board IRRB** of the UIC.

Objectives

The PTFE pursues the following objectives:

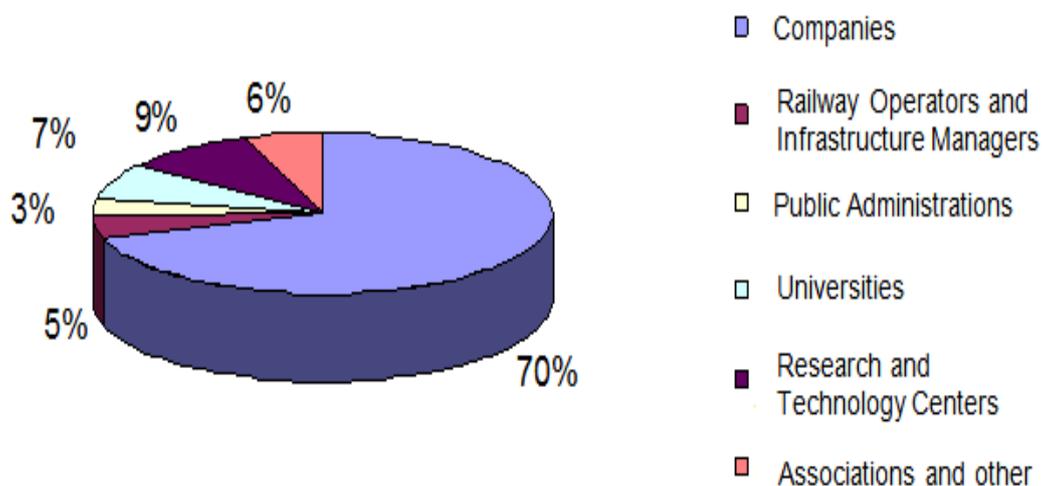
- Define the R&D and innovation priorities for the Sector.
- Promote R&D and innovation, coordinate public and private investments.
- Integrate R&D and innovation agents (joint projects, technology transfer and flow of information).

- Identify R&D and innovation projects which are consistent with the objectives of the PEIT (Spanish Strategic Plan for Infrastructures and Transport).
- Promote joint projects between the different elements of the Science-Technology-Enterprise system which may fit into national and European calls for proposals.
- Extend and optimise the way in which companies use public and private research infrastructures.
- Identify training shortcomings and coordinate training plans.
- Advise public administrations and cooperate with them in the development of sector-specific policies and other actions as required.
- Promote intermodality between railways and other forms of transport, so as to contribute to sustainable transport.
- Promote the participation of Spanish companies in European consortia.
- Defend Spanish interests through coordination actions with ERRAC.

Contribute to the development of Spanish research centres and groups which are competitive at the European level.

Members

The number of entities member of the Spanish Railways Technological Platform has grown continuously since its creation in 2005, counting nowadays with 352 members (figure of September 2012), comprising the vast majority of the Spanish Railway Sector Entities involved in R&D. The distribution between type of entity is, according to the number, as shown in the following figure:

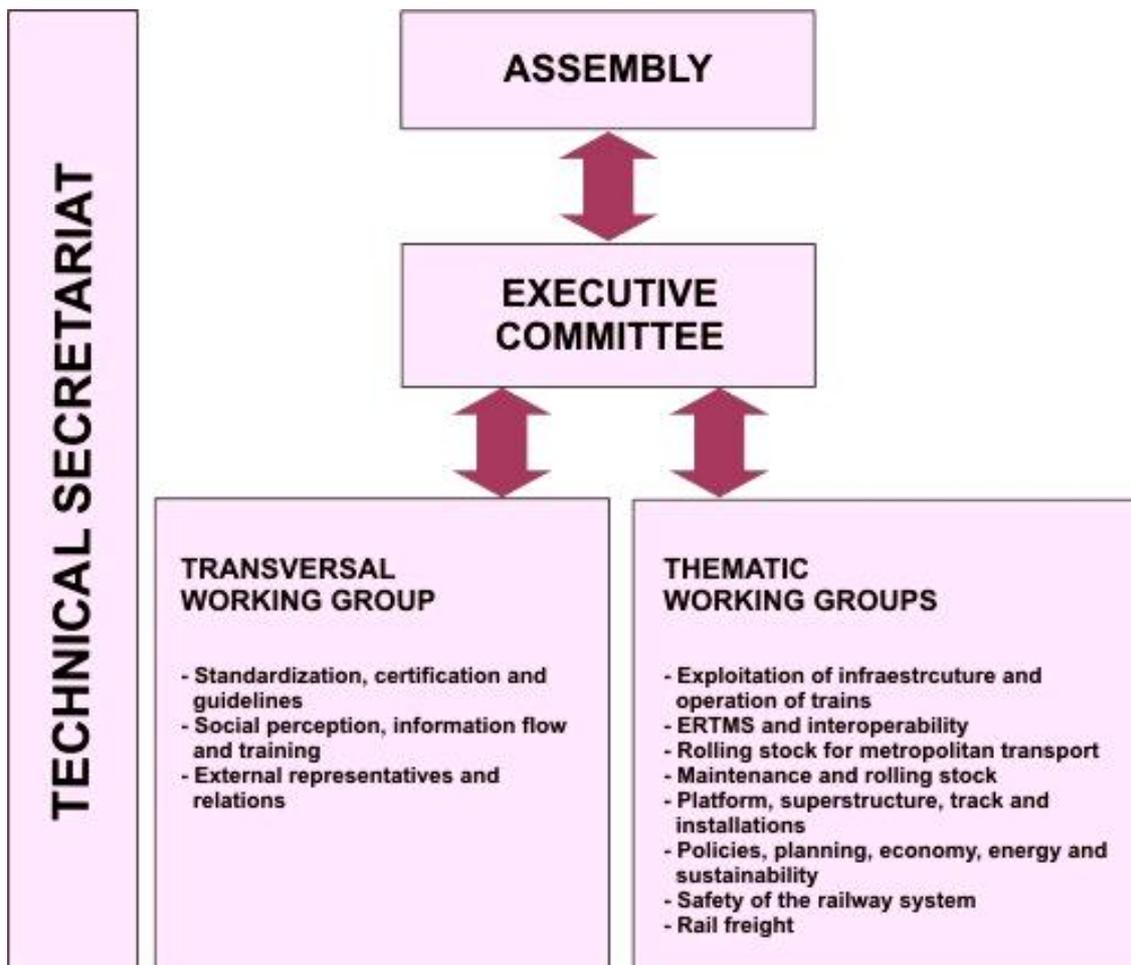


Organization

The governing bodies of the PTFE are:

- The **General Assembly**, constituted by all the members of the platform and meeting on a yearly basis with the mission of guiding the PTFE and deciding on its actions;
- The **Executive Committee**, whose mission is to coordinate and manage the Platform. It is integrated by the representatives of the Spanish National Ministries of Economy and Competitiveness and Public Works, ADIF, RENFE OPERADORA, FFE and the leaders and co-leaders of the PTFE working groups.
- The **PTFE's Working Groups**. The members of the platform can propose the creation and join the working groups of their area of interest. Since 2005 the number and thematic of the working groups has vary depending on the needs of the sector and the new challenges and opportunities faced.
- The **Technical Secretariat**: the Spanish Railways Foundation provides technical, organizational and administrative support to the PTFE.

Hereafter, a graphic representation of the governing bodies of the PTFE is shown:



Key documents



The Spanish Railway Sector defines through the PTFE the “Strategic Research Agenda for the Railways Sector”, which is permanently being updated.



During the PTFE Annual Assembly 2012 the following document was presented “R&D Capacity Catalogue of the Spanish Railway Sector”, containing information as key entities, projects and contact details.

[Available in English. To download go to: <http://goo.gl/E4FOE>]

Opportunities for European entities

The Technical Secretariat of the PTFE is at the disposal of the European entities interested in Spanish Railway R&D to provide information on key developments, support matchmaking, facilitate the identification of partners and the creation of joint projects or any other activities related to its objectives.

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