

## Reviving Europe's international rail network

Department: Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Research group: Innovation Studies

Supervisor: Toon Meelen

Email address: [A.A.H.Meelen@uu.nl](mailto:A.A.H.Meelen@uu.nl)

Telephone number: +31 30 253 75 33

### Project description

Long-distance travel is one of the hardest sectors to decarbonize. In spite of many calls for improvements to international rail connections, an integrated European rail network of high-speed, inter-city and night trains is still lacking. This project considers how the political economy of rail influences the development of the European rail network. Traditionally, rail traffic has been the domain of national, publicly owned companies. Due to liberalization, also new private companies have entered international rail. In this project we investigate the relative merits of a national public versus liberalized organization of infrastructure and services in European rail. We also explore the alternative logic of organizing rail as a “European public good”.

In the project, your tasks can involve:

- Conducting qualitative research interviews with key stakeholders in the European rail sector
- Qualitative content analysis of newspaper articles
- Organizing a workshop with European stakeholders
- Reviewing literature on international rail, political economy, sustainability innovation, and transport geography

### Job requirements

- A willingness to undertake exploratory research
- Experience with qualitative interviewing
- Organizational skills



### References

Witlox, F., Zwanikken, T., Jehee, L., Donners, B., & Veeneman, W. (2022). Changing tracks: identifying and tackling bottlenecks in European rail passenger transport. *European Transport Research Review*, 14(1), 1-12.