

	Tuesday 22/04/2025	Wednesday 23/04/2025	Thursday 24/04/2025	Friday 25/04/2025
	Markets and trends	Skills en young talent	Technical day	Innovations and next steps
	8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration SNCB offices, near Brussels-South station, 1060 Brussels	8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration, University of Antwerp Prinsstraat 13, Hof van Liere - Willem Elsschot zaal	8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration, Infrabel Academy, Dubois-Thornstraat 50, 1080 Brussels	8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration, University of Antwerp Prinsstraat 13, Hof van Liere - Willem Elsschot zaal
Timeline	9:00-09:45 Topic of the block Introduction to Antwerp Rail School 2025 Welcome and introduction by organisation, setting the scene	9:00-10:30 Topic of the block Soft skills in the rail industry Discuss the skills needed to make railways work best	9:00-10:30 Topic of the block Welcoming by Infrabel, and innovations from a technical perspective Discuss current technical challenges and innovations in railways	9:00-10:45 Topic of the block Next steps A broader perspective on groundbreaking innovations
Speaker 1 Subject	Prof. Dr. Jochen Maes, University of Antwerp Welcoming. State of affairs, rail transport in 2025; and beyond.	Jonathan Ngyuen, UNIFE Initiatives supported by the industry to address the EU's rail sector's skill gaps	Lander Decorte, Infrabel Opening remarks	Kris Neyens, VIL - Flemish institute for Logistics Hyperloop in the Benelux, any chance?
Speaker 2 Subject	Dr. Raimonds Aronietis, University of Antwerp Practicalities and agenda	Dr Mark van Hagen, NS (Dutch Railways) Soft skills - The positive impact of train staff on customer satisfaction	Koen De Gussemé, Infrabel Electricity and energy transition in railways	Judit Sandor, Shift2Rail Shift To Rail programme. An overview of results and impact
Speaker 3 Subject	Prof. Juan Montero, Florence School of regulation The EU's railway regulation, an economic perspective - single European railway area	Andrea Aglietti Zanon, Certifer The importance and impact of integrated safety in rail	Tony Ward, Infrabel From GSM-R to FRMCS. The future of railway connectivity	Christoph Klose, Siemens ERJU System Pillar. A European initiative promoting standardisation, interoperability, and the integration of advanced technologies
Timeline	09:45-11:15 Topic of the block The fourth railway package, new opportunities? What are the EU's intentions, where are the new market boundaries, and how did this operationalise already?		Bruno Vanlede, Lineas Testimonial by the head of fleet management on hybrid and other innovations in practice	Mario Huster, Siemens ATO (GoA2) to optimize traffic and energy flow (Signaling X & Sidytrac)
Speaker 1 Subject	Frédéric Nyssens, SNCB (Belgian railways) The new concession 2023-2032, new ambitions and impact on long-term planning.			
Speaker 2 Subject	Isabelle Van Looy and Arno Falque, Infrabel The challenges and opportunities of rail transport in the 21st Century			
Speaker 3 Subject	Kasper Jorgensen, EY Study on passenger and freight rail transport services' prices to final customers			
	11:15-11:30 Coffee break	10:30-11:00 Coffee break	10:30-11:00 Coffee break	10:45-11:00 Coffee break
Timeline	11:30-12:45 Topic of the block The fourth railway package, lessons learned from different EU Member States Getting insights from partially opened markets, in Europe.	11:00-12:30 Topic of the block Skills in the railway industry, good practices: diversity and inclusion Expanding the horizon	11:00-12:30 Topic of the block User experience. Cross border ticketing in the EU Barriers and chances	11:00-12:45 Topic of the block Next steps. Railway investments and networks
Speaker 1 Subject	Claudio Brenna, Technische Universität Berlin Price impact of high-speed rail competition between multiple full-service and low-cost operators on less congested corridors in Spain	Nina Wennink and Jana Cornelis, Lineas Attracting, onboarding, training and skills of new staff, a challenge // D&I	Alvaro Ungurean, (trip.com) Will rail overtake short-haul air travel in the long run, or not?	Alberto Mazzola, CER (Community of European Railways) Smart and affordable rail services in the EU: a socio-economic and environmental study for High-Speed in 2030 and 2050
Speaker 2 Subject	Vilem Paril, Politecnico di Milano Long-distance rail in Europe: Comparing the forms of head-on competition across Europe	Edith Jonkers, Infrabel Diversity and inclusion in Rail	Geert Vanbeveren, Siemens Mobility Improved customer experience (CX) in passenger railways. Use cases for last mile, disruption management. Data as added value to passengers and operators	Willems-Jan Zwanenburg, Rebel Next steps. Railway investments and networks
Speaker 3 Subject	Adriaan Roeleveld, NS (Dutch Railways) Market regimes and governance for domestic passenger transport by rail	Parinaz Bazeghi, UIC Lessons learned from the Translate4Rail and XBORDER Language project	Jon Worth, author and advocacy for railways Cross border travel by rail in the EU: barriers.	Keynote speech: Gareth Dennis How the Railways Will Fix the Future
	12:45-13:30 Lunch break provided by SNCB	12:30-13:30 Lunch break provided by Alpha Trains	12:30-13:30 Lunch break provided by Infrabel	13:00-14:30 Closing lunch provided by Siemens University Club, Prinsstraat 13, Antwerp
Timeline	13:30-15:30 Topic of the block The fourth railway package, practical challenges How to organise the ambitions in practice, on a dense railway network	13:30-15:30 Topic of the block Students presenting their research	13:30-15:00 Topic of the block Technical site visit Infrabel Academy	14:30-17:30 Topic of the block Technical site visit Port of Antwerp-Bruges
Speaker 1 Subject	Florent Laroche, University Lyon (TransportNET) Goodbye monopoly: The effect of open access passenger rail competition on price and frequency in France on the high-speed Paris-Lyon line	Master's students from the University of Antwerp received their assignment six weeks ago. Following the Antwerp Rail School, they will write a paper on their chosen topic. In this session, they present preliminary findings and seek feedback.	The Infrabel Academy is a training and development center established by Infrabel, Belgium's railway infrastructure manager. Guided site visit 3 guides, 2 in English and 1 in Dutch, 90-minutes tour.	Visit the rolling stock maintenance facility in Antwerp, Port of Antwerp Bruges' shunting yard and neutral hill A cooperation of SNCB, Lineas and Siemens (optional, but mandatory for students) Bus leaves at 14:45 sharp at Paardenmarkt 103 (church), Antwerp Back at Antwerp's Central Railway Station at 17:30
Speaker 2 Subject	Melissa Bloch en Koen de Keersmaecker, Infrabel Railway process and capacity in practice.			
Speaker 3 Subject	Elmer van Buuren, European Sleeper Lessons learned of a new Night-Train operator.			
Speaker 4 Subject	Warner Oldenziel, SMA Le système intégré des transports publics en Suisse et Belge (2050)			
	15:30-16:00 Coffee break	15:30-16:00 Coffee break	15:00-15:30 Coffee break	
Timeline	16:00-17:00 Topic of the block The fourth railway package. A debate on the future of railways, with lessons learned today in mind	16:00-17:00 Topic of the block Round table of educators and railway entrepreneurs How do we bridge the gap between education and the industry	15:30-17:00 Topic of the block Breakthrough innovations in the railway industry	
	Thomas Moerman, Infrabel Frédéric Nyssens, SNCB (Belgian railways) (tbc) Elmer van Buuren, European Sleeper Florent Laroche, University Lyon (TransportNET) Vincent Pouyet, Alpha Trains Warner Oldenziel, SMA Frederick De Backer, Lineas	Filip Degroote, Thomas More University College Mechelen Filip Aerts, KdG (University College Antwerp) Kristof Oeyen, TEX Rail Training België Lisa Carrette, Infrabel Bert Van Den Eynde, SNCB (Belgian railways) Guus de Boer, Alpha Trains Nina Wenninck, Lineas Jonathan Nguyen, UNIFE	Dr. Raimonds Aronietis, University of Antwerp Greening Flemish road transport through e-trucks and eHighways Dr. Mitchell van Balen, ERA (European Railway Agency) The impact of Digital Automatic Coupling (DAC) for the industry and operators Pieter Moelans, SNCB (Belgian railways) The use and benefits of remote diagnostics data in the maintenance of rolling stock Sam De Smet and Guillaume Hendrickx, OTIV Autonomous solutions for rail vehicles	
	17:00 - 18:00: network drink organised by SNCB Transport to Antwerp at own pace	17:30 - 19:30 Dennie Lockefer chair Free to join the event by University of Antwerp's transport department - Keynote speech 'war for talent in logistics' - Best Master thesis award 2024 - Complementary drinks and snacks	17:00 - 18:00 Transport to Antwerp at own pace	