

H2020 Research and Innovation action

Topic: MG-8.3-2016 Assessing future requirements for skills and jobs
across transport modes and systems

Grant Agreement number: 723989

Start date: 01 October 2016

Duration: 36 months

Skills and competences development of future transportation
professionals at all levels SKILLFUL

Deliverable D7.3

Advisory Board and Stakeholders Reference Group Actions Report



This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 723989

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Due Date	Month 13 (October 2017)
Delivery Date	30.11.2017
Task number	7.5 and 7.6
Dissemination level	Public

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Control Sheet

Version History			
Version	Date	Editor	Summary of Modifications
1.0	2017/10/28	Armando Carrillo Zanuy	
1.1	2017/11/17	Claudia Ciuca	Added part of Advisory Board from FEHRL
2.0	2017/11/20	Armando Carrillo Zanuy	Accepted part of the Advisory Board from FEHRL, acceptance of changes after the review of CERTH

Final Version released by		Circulated to	
Name	Date	Recipient	Date
SKILFULL Deliverable 7.3	20.11.2017	Coordinator	20.11.2017
		Consortium	22.11.2017
		European Commission	22.11.2017

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
AB	Advisory Board
SRG	Stakeholders' Reference Group
FEHRL	Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories
EURNEX	European Rail Research Network of Excellence
GA	Gant Agreement
ETP	European Technical Platforms (ACARE, ALICE, ERRAC, ERTRAC and Waterbone)

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Activities Report

-This Deliverable has its first version on Month 13, it will be updated on Month 25 and finalised on Month 36-

The present deliverable reports the activities concerning the establishment and feedback obtained from the SKILLFUL project's Advisory Board (AB) and its Stakeholders' Reference Group (SRG). Both groups have been tailor-made for the SKILLFUL project and represent a unique opportunity to develop and guide research activities in terms of a balanced output that is interesting for transport enterprises, universities, educators and other touched upon actors.

This activities' report refers to two separated, although cooperating, actions which are the AB and the SRG.

1 Report on the Advisory Board

1.1 Introduction

An Advisory Board was set up and its role, responsibilities and support have been defined. The Advisory Board consists of high level experts in the area of training from US, Australia, China and Europe.

With its broad expertise, the Advisory Board ensures that the SKILLFUL Consortium is progressing along the correct path by offering crucial and substantial contribution to the development and progress of the project. They will convene at least three times during the project at relevant key project milestones (first year, mid-term and final demonstration). Regarding the first year, an Advisory Board Meeting has been already realised, in Brussels at the 19th of October, with the participation of 3 of its members (namely Prof. George Giannopoulos, Mrs. Laurie McGinnis and Prof. Sheldon Qiu)

1.2 Aims of Advisory Board

The aim is to use this external group as expert pool for a successful implementation of SKILLFUL results. Its role is to monitor and oversee the progress of the project, to help the Consortium not to diverge from its target and to provide assistance where necessary in light of the experience of its members.

The Advisory Board will certify if and when the training programme will be appropriate and ready for implementation.

1.3 Composition of Advisory Board

The Advisory Board consists of 6 independent experts, with wide recognition and proven expertise in the fields of road safety; automation and international cooperation.

The composition of the Advisory Board is as follows:

1	<p>Prof. George Giannopoulos, Head of Advisory Board of CERTH/HIT, Greece (President).</p>	<p>Prof. George A. Giannopoulos has extensive experience in Transport engineering and Transport Policy issues having participated in more than 200 relevant studies over the last 30 years, in most of which as coordinator. He has also published more than 200 scientific papers and articles in scientific Magazines and Conferences, as well as 10 books 2 of which in English. He has an extensive international recognition and experience, and he is a well-known personality in his field both internationally and at European level. He has an extensive and long lasting relationship with EU institutions and is quite familiar with European Transport policy and European transport issues and problems.</p>
2	<p>Dr. Sam Elrahman, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), NY/DOT, USA.</p>	<p>Dr. O.A. Elrahman has over 30 years of public service, practical, and academic experience in transportation research, policy analysis, education and training. Such experience included leading, managing & conducting research, educational and training projects in his role as a public official at New York State Department of Transportation and as a Senior Research Scholar at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Throughout his career, he has maintained an active role in national and international transportation networks including the Transportation Research Board of the US National Academies. He is currently the Co-Chair of the TRB Standing Committee on International Cooperation.</p>
3	<p>Dr. Sheldon Qiu, College of Metropolitan Transportation, Beijing University of Technology, China.</p>	<p>Dr. Sheldon Qiu is an Assistant Professor in the College of Metropolitan Transportation, Beijing University of Technology. Among the areas of study and research are also the transportation policies and regulations, the infrastructure and transportation assets management, the automated pavement survey and pavement evaluation standards, the transportation/traffic modeling and urban land development, the optimization studies for logistics and transportation engineering and the interaction between users and transportation infrastructure.</p>
4	<p>Prof. Michael Reagan, ARRB Group, Australia.</p>	<p>Prof. Mike Regan is Chief Scientist-Human Factors for the ARRB Group, Australia's national government-owned road transport research agency. He holds an honorary appointment as Adjunct Professor with the University of New South Wales in Sydney and is the Immediate Past President of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia. Mike is a psychologist with more than 20 years' experience as a transport safety researcher and research manager. He has specialist expertise in driver training and licensing, and is the author/co-author of around 230 published documents, including three books.</p>
5	<p>Gerard Waldron, ARRB Group, Australia.</p>	<p>Transport industry veteran and current managing director of the Australian Roads Research Board (ARRB). He has led the way for ARRB's research direction, and also began the Australian Driverless Vehicle Initiative which works with government and policy-makers to help determine the best route for implementing autonomous vehicles.</p>

6	Laurie McGinnis, Director, Center for Transportation Studies University of Minnesota	Ms. McGinnis is the director at the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies. She leads the Center in identifying program opportunities, securing funding, directing programs, and establishing future directions in transportation research, education, and outreach with involvement of over 150 faculty and research staff from 33 departments. Nationally, McGinnis is active in the Transportation Research Board, where she currently serves as a member of the Policy and Organization Group and as chair of the Research and Education Section. She has also served as a member of several national TRB project oversight committees, most recently for the project “Framing Surface Transportation Research for the Nation’s Future.” In addition, she is a member of Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS), where has previously held positions on the National Board of Directors, the International Advisory Board, and the local WTS Minnesota Chapter Board.
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1.4 Feedback from Advisory Board

Members of the Advisory Board (AB) have been involved in a number of SKILLFUL activities of the past 12 months. Some of them are:

1.4.1 Feedback regarding the educational/ training programs for the transportation professionals

As part of the work of WP2 (Benchmarking and critical review of training schemes, curricula and tools), the SKILLFUL consortium sought for information concerning the recording of educational/ training programs for various positions of transportation professionals. For this purpose, the consortium developed templates (four templates for each transport mode), including some jobs transport related, in order to fill in corresponding training programs (where they exist). The primary focus was Europe but valuable information was also received from Australia through one of the AB members, Prof Michael Reagan from ARRB Group, Australia, as well as from USA through Dr. Sam Elrahman.

1.4.2 Feedback from WP2 Road Workshop

WP2 of the project organized a Workshop titled “Future Requirements & Training Challenges in Road Transport Employment” on September 26 2017 in Thessaloniki, Greece. One of the experts invited to the workshop was, Prof George Giannopoulos, the Chair of the SKILLFUL Advisory Board.

1.4.3 Feedback from 1st Advisory Board meeting

The 1st AB meeting took place in Brussels on 19 October 2017. The main aim of the meeting was to inform the members of the results of the 1st year of the project, collect feedbacks on the results and seek guidance about the next steps of the project. The following members of the AB took part in the meeting:

- Prof George Giannopoulos

- Dr. Sheldon Qiu
- Ms Laurie McGinnis

The AB members gave their views, among others, on issues related to:

- Future transportation jobs
- The skills that will be required for the future jobs

It was also highlighted that there needs to be a clear view on the scope of SKILLFUL, through a distinguish between training and education. A very interesting aspect of the meeting was the feedback from China (Dr Qiu) and the USA (Ms McGinnis) about what is being done in their countries regarding skill developments in the transportation industry.

1.4.4 Feedback from 1st SKILLFUL Conference

The 1st SKILLFUL Conference took place in Brussels on 20 October 2017. The aim of the conference was to present the results of the first year of the project as well as the future plans which includes an overview of the planned pilot tests. The conference aimed to gather the views of end-users (SMEs, research centres, universities etc), suppliers (training centres etc) as well as policy makers so that they are able to influence the project outcomes.

Four members of the AB took part in the conference:

- Prof George Giannopoulos
- Dr. Sheldon Qiu
- Ms Laurie McGinnis

Presentations were given that will provide input into the work of SKILLFUL.

The keynote speech was given by Prof George Giannopoulos. His presentation titled “Innovation gaps and game changers in Transport: Perspectives for future European Transport Research”. In his presentation, he described:

- the ever-elusive challenge of transport sector integration between different management administrations, service providers, infrastructure owners and operators etc
- the ever-elusive goal of an integrated look of the transport sector (cross-modal, passenger – freight, urban – interurban, transport – land use).

He mentioned the fact that, apart from integration, there are other gaps e.g. those identified by The EC Transport Advisory group e.g. addressing the nexus of problems in urban transport, climate change mitigation and adaptation, managing the impact of demographic trends etc.

In his presentation, he also focused on identifying the areas with the greatest needs for knowledge and training. They include:

- Managing the new transport innovation landscape.
- Maturing of the new technologies and their interface with the transport system
- Efficiency, resilience and effectiveness of the transport system through more integration

At the end of his presentation, he mentioned two important aspects that need to be included in the educational and training curricula of Transport Engineers and planners:

They are:

1. There is the need to include in the educational curricula of transport engineers and planners as well as other more vertical disciplines dealing with transport related subjects (e.g. mechanical engineering, management sciences, etc) more “horizontal” courses on relevant areas such as:
 - ✓ Handling and managing big data.
 - ✓ Inter-relationship between (transport) technology and social acceptance / behavioural change.
 - ✓ Inter-relationship between research and the innovation ‘value chain’ (with the object of ensuring that know-how is transferred on research outputs find a practical application).
 - ✓ Integration of Transport systems and services: The challenges – the objectives – the tools and procedures.
2. There is the need to include in the training curricula of transport engineers and planners as well as other more vertical disciplines dealing with Transport related subjects:
 - ✓ The need for integration and the ‘dismantling of silos’ in transport.
 - ✓ The principles governing the planning and management of Transport
 - ✓ The nature – objectives – management a governance issues of Transport research

In her presentation titled, “National Network for the Transportation Workforce”, Ms Laurie McGinnis gave an overview of the goals of the Center for Transportation Workforce Development, which she heads. The Center aims to attract, retain and advance transportation workforce. Some of the programs executed by the Center include:

- K-12 Student Programs
- Post-Secondary Student Programs
- Professional Practitioner Programs: these programs, in line with what is being done in SKILLFUL, aims to increase the number of highway construction professionals as well as increase advancement opportunities for current highway construction workforce.

She also described a recently started program, National Transportation Career Pathways Initiative, which aims to engage students in the post-secondary educational continuum to choose transportation career pathways. The demonstrations will leverage insights from employers to empower students to first learn about critical transportation occupations and then develop the skills to meet the related workforce challenges.

Dr Sheldon Qiu’s presentation was titled “Synthesized Development of Urban Transportation and Municipal Infrastructure in China”. He highlighted the issues faced at the urban level in China (air pollution, water pollution, traffic jam etc.) and described the initiatives underway to address them. In the past, all the urban development plans were independent, on-way communication. Recently, planning for economic development, resource, zoning and land use, transportation (roadway,), municipal and utility engineering, and environment are synthesized.

He mentioned the fact that lack of inter/multi-discipline professionals is one of the challenges being faced in urban development. The trend in personnel training was also mentioned, which includes strong technological skills, especially on information technology.

2 Report on the Stakeholders' Reference Group

2.1 Introduction

A large group of people –according to GA composed of at least 40 external entities; at least 20 of which Industrial- with different expertise in transportation subjects need to be informed of the regular activities of the project, via newsletter, direct e-mail, workshop invitation and questionnaire distribution.

Their opinion is being taken into account during the development of the project and the definition of the objectives. The composition of the SRG is a balanced sum of experts recommended by the members of the Consortium, with emphasis on attracting several Members from the various ETPs. They do not formerly meet but are invited to take part in the Consortium Workshops and public debates.

2.2 Aim of the SRG

The SRG aims at having a large directory of contacts of transport professionals, which are able to participate in the activities of the project that require an external input. The SRG main aim is to connect the SKILLFUL project with the needs of the companies or entities that regularly make use and/or offer training, education programs, formation courses, etc. By this it is possible to understand the actual needs and limitations that the formation –and use thereof- has in the current and future transport sector. The SRG is informed about the development of the project and their reactions are taken into account for further activities of the project.

In order to comply with these aims the SRG is:

- A target for dissemination
 - SRG members are recipients of the project newsletters
 - SRG members are invited to conferences and workshops of the project
 - SRG members are part of the mailing lists that receive intermediate and specific results of the project
- Participant of the questionnaires

The SRG members are invited to complete and submit questionnaires of the project for surveying the market in terms of demand and offer of courses, formation possibilities, training, pilot test results and demand thereof.
- Source for contacts when cross-fertilizing with:
 - Intermodal, multi-modal aspects
 - Project workpackages
 - Other similar projects

2.3 Composition of the SRG

The SRG is comprised primarily by 3 groups:

1. End users

These are basically industries, SMEs, research platforms and associations that make use of the trained professionals at all levels.

2. Training suppliers

These are education companies, research centres, universities, training centres etc.

3. Policy actors

These are National and international (EU) Bodies, Committees, DGs, etc.

The SRG is the result of the inputs from each member of the consortium of SKILLFUL, it took around 1 month to have a balanced list of contacts and these are being actualized during the project. At the present the SRG has reached a total number of 216 members, the following graphs portray some key characteristics of them.

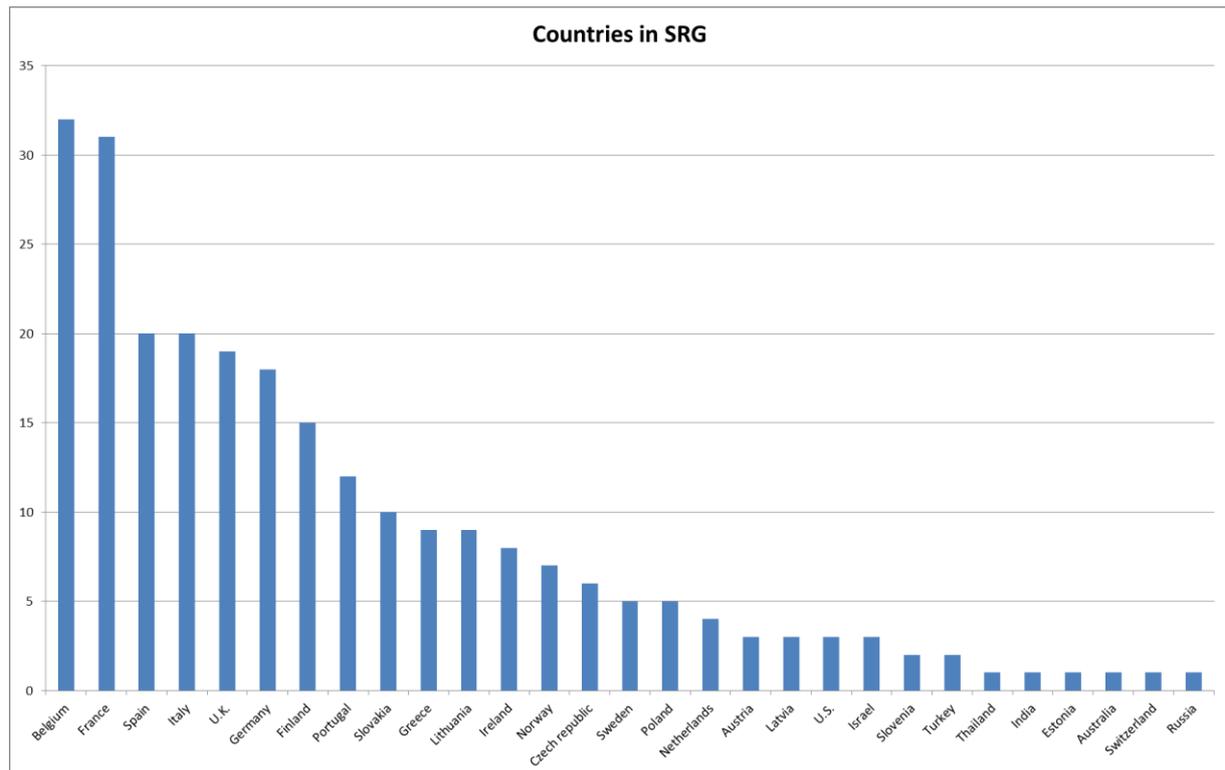


Figure 1: SRG composition by country of origin

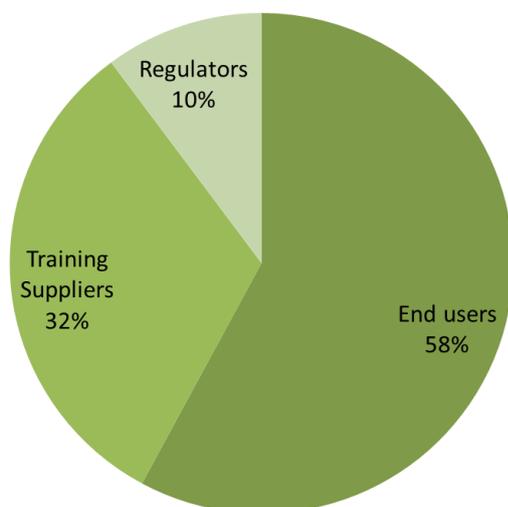


Figure 2: SRG composition by type of user/provider/regulator

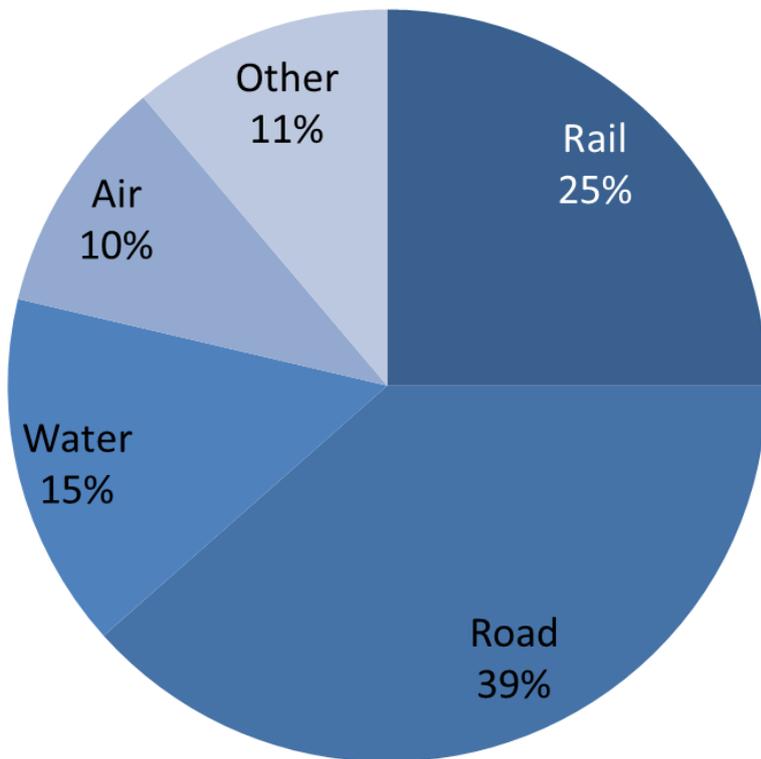


Figure 3: SRG composition by mode

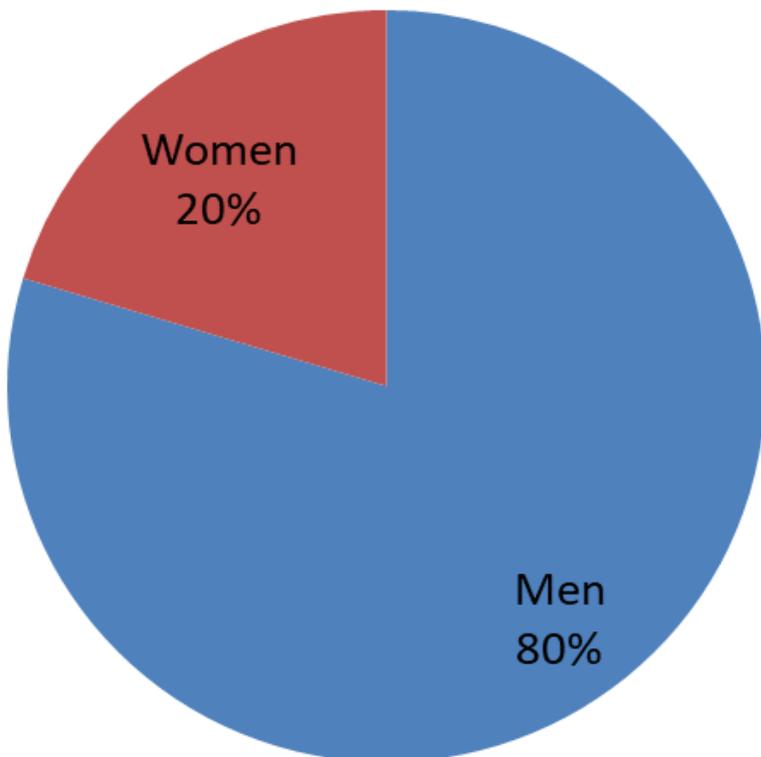


Figure 4: SRG composition by gender*

* This unbalance men/women reflects the actual situation in the transport sector and requires further actions to be taken to achieve a more balanced picture, SKILLFUL project works in this direction as well.

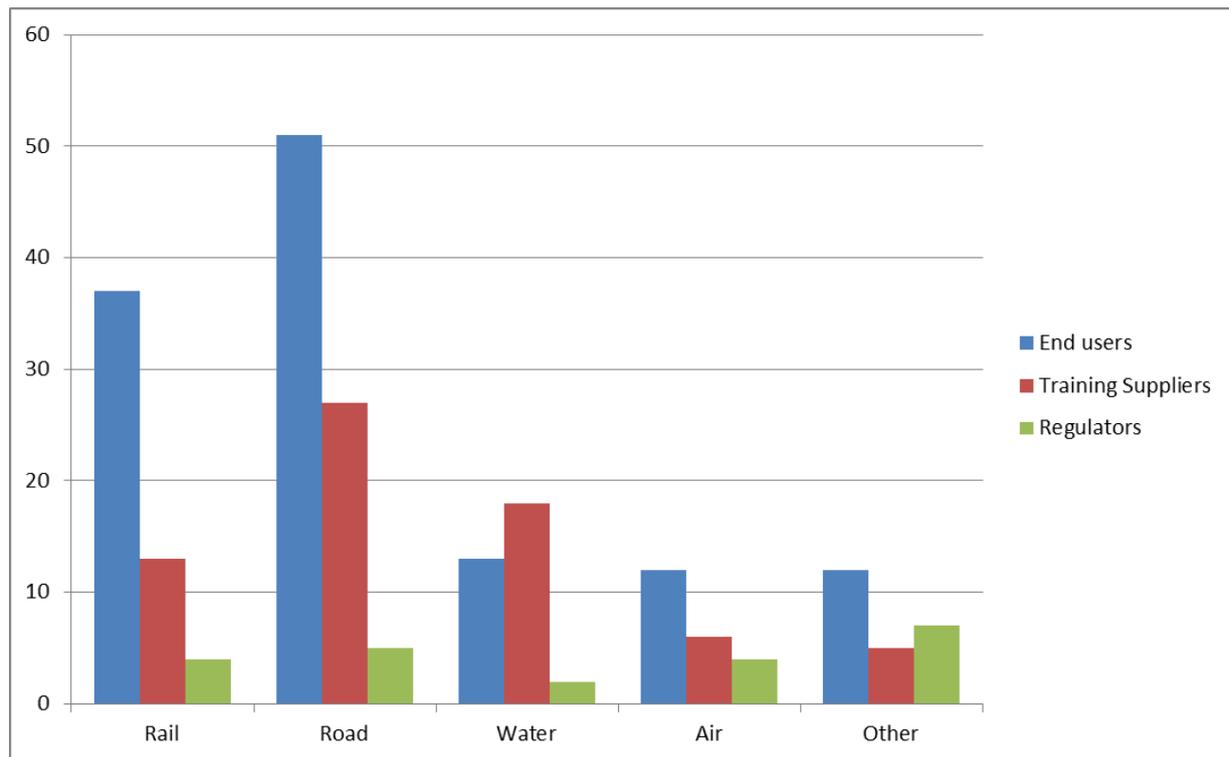


Figure 5: SRG composition by market/mode

2.4 Inputs from the SRG

The participation of the SRG members in the activities of the project is obviously voluntary, the communication with the SRG is being done primarily by email, a possibility to abandon the SRG (drop mailing list) has been facilitated to the members but till date no one has solicited it. The reaction of the SRG is acceptable as they have been partially responding to the communications.

The SRG has been activated / used till date for:

- Dissemination purposes
 - SRG members recipients of Newsletter 1, June 2017
 - SRG members recipients of Newsletter 2, October 2017
- Questionnaires completion
 - Pan-European Transport Master Curriculum
- Workshop invitations:
 - Rail Workshop: 11 Participants
 - Road Workshop: 16 Participants
 - Intermodal Workshop: 17 Participants
 - Maritime Workshop: 9 Participants
 - Air Workshop: 20 Participants
- Conference invitation
 - 1st SKILLFUL Conference 20 October 2017



2.5 Conclusions SRG

The project team of SKILLFUL considers the involvement of the SRG key issue when involving stakeholders in the progress of the project. Especially important will be the external feedback when starting the pilots for demonstration, by this some persons of the SRG will be invited to take part in the courses (pilots) as observers or judges taking in account their opinions once finalized.

-This report will be actualized in month 25th of the project-