



Transport and infrastructure in Poland: the current state and projects for the future

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Abstract

The paper illustrates the current state of the transport infrastructure in Poland, with special attention to the road, rail and airport infrastructure. It highlights the recent trends in freight and passenger transport and discusses the project for improving and updating the transport networks. Though some improvements are taking place, funds availability remains the main problem for the enhancing of the current poor state of the transport infrastructure.

Keywords: Transport infrastructure; Road transport; Poland; Project financing.

1. Introduction

Transport infrastructure is widely recognised as factor determining the level of socio-economic development of a country and its economic growth. An undeveloped infrastructural network causes barriers to the free movement of people, goods, services, capital and production factors. The existing transport network in Poland appears to have a negative effect on the localization of foreign industries and services, on international trade with EU and bordering countries and on the competitiveness of Poland.

2. Recent transport trends

Data from the official government statistics indicate that the total volume of freight transport, both in tonnes and in tonne-km, had a negative trend in the period 200-2002 (Table 1). The year 2003 presents a slight increase, but at levels still lower than in the year 2000. It is interesting to note that in tonnes the main decrease has taken place in road transport and to a minor extent in inland waterways transport, whereas rail and maritime transport have increased their volume. On the contrary in tonne-km, road is

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