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**WHAT IS SECTORAL  
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME  
FOR TRANSPORT ?**

**(USOP)**

**WHAT  
KIND OF  
TRANSPORT**

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The European Union (EU) and Turkey have been working together in the transport sector for 14 years. This cooperation has resulted in joint projects serving to make transportation multi-dimensional, more balanced, efficient, safer, eco-friendly and rational.

Candidate countries, among which our country, are offered grants under the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) to realise these joint projects. A joint budget is drawn up with Turkey's financial contribution to EU funds. Candidate countries are expected to align with the EU acquis in the framework of the projects financed by grants.

**“Projects under USOP are co-financed by Turkey and the EU!”**

The portion of this budget allocated for the transport sector is disbursed under the “Sectoral Operational Programme for Transport”, also known as “USOP<sup>1</sup>” umbrella programme. USOP operates with a vision to ensure economic and social development as well as to create a competitive, accessible, and sustainable transport system that is aligned with EU standards in our country. The programme adopts our country's transport sector priorities, the areas for which the funds will be used as well as the projects, budgets, implementation timelines in line with EU principles and policies.

**“USOP receives 350 million euros in funds under IPA II.”**

What has USOP achieved and continues to achieve with the allocated funds?

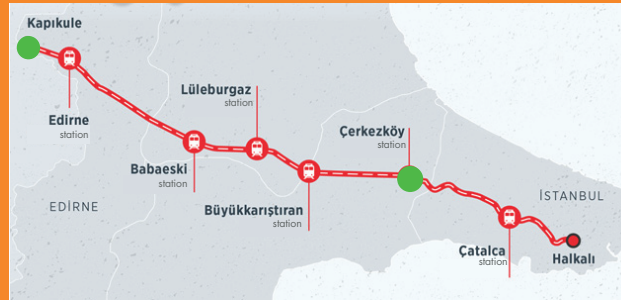
- It accelerates Turkey's harmonisation process with the EU transport policies.
- It ensures efficient, comfortable, rapid, and safe passenger and freight transportation.
- It increases the share of railways in transportation.
- It works with municipalities to help citizens have better transport systems in their province of residence.
- It completes railway infrastructure projects.

Operating as the tendering and contracting authority of all projects implemented with EU funds in the transport sector, USOP supports the integration of our country's railways with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T<sup>2</sup>) by connecting Asia with Turkey, and Turkey with Europe.

## ONGOING PROJECTS

### Construction of High Speed Railway Line between Çerzeköy-Kapıkule (ÇE-KA)

An important part of Halkalı-Kapıkule Railway Line



#### What will be the benefits of this project?

- Once this project has been finalised, the route stretching from Halkalı to the Bulgarian border will connect Europe and Turkey.
- Durations as well as costs of importation and exportation activities of the businesses in the region will be reduced.
- Citizens will be transported safely, contributing to reduced carbon emissions and popularising of different modes of transport in the region.
- Capacity and speed of freight and passenger transportation will go up.

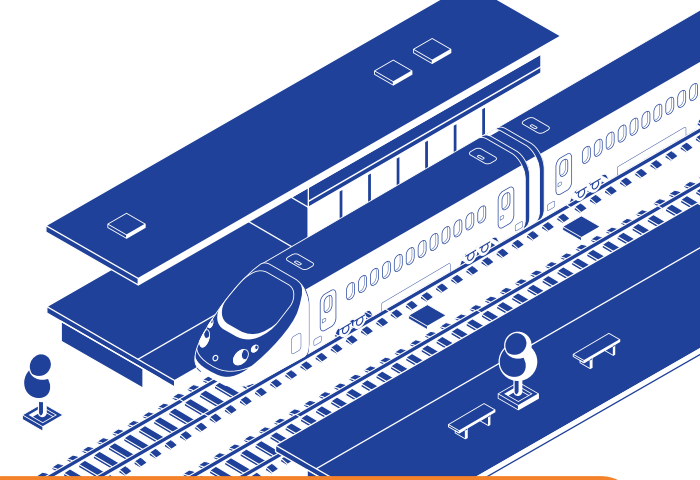
#### Projects to be implemented by municipalities will start soon!

USOP supports not only infrastructure and railway projects, but also Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) practices. Having been introduced to the official EU agenda a decade ago, SUMP consists of strategic urban plans which

- are based on safety and environment,
- encourage inclusive public transport,
- aim to increase the number of cycling lanes and walkways,
- intend to zero out carbon emissions.

Contrary to conventional approaches, SUMP aims to develop broad strategies that take into account the views of citizens and stakeholders while developing urban transport strategies; bring together transport, environment, economic development, social policy, health and energy sectors on a common layer; require the collaboration of the public and private sector players.

USOP is also implementing five different technical assistance projects focused on building the institutional capacity of the MoTI<sup>3</sup>.



**“Together with the EU, we have accomplished a lot of projects under USOP, touching lives.”**

## FINALISED PROJECTS

### Rehabilitation and Signalisation of Irmak-Karabük-Zonguldak Railway Line Project

€ 228,3 Million Euros    415 km    2016

### Modernisation of Samsun-Kalın Railway Line Project

to increase the standards and safety of the line

€ 326,9 Million Euros    378 km    2019

### Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Köseköy-Gebze Section of the Ankara-Istanbul High Speed Train Project

€ 212,1 Million Euros    56 km    2014

<sup>1</sup> USOP is a programme which is developed by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (MoTI) and whose content and funding is approved by the European Commission. The programme developed for IPA I (2007-2013) period is named as Transport Operational Programme (TOP).

<sup>2</sup> Main objective of the TEN-Transport (TEN-T) is to build the physical infrastructure of the ‘Single European Transport Area’ in an effort to facilitate free movement of persons, goods, and services among the Member Countries.

<sup>3</sup> For more information please visit [op.uub.gov.tr](http://op.uub.gov.tr)