



PRESS RELEASE 13/2025

---

## **SafeTravellers EU project holds the first phase of the railway pilot tests at the UIC Headquarters in Paris**

(Paris, 4 November 2025) The EU co-funded project SafeTravellers (“Secure and Frictionless Identity for EU and Third Country National Citizens”) marked the successful completion of the first round of testing for its innovative technologies through a railway pilot organised by UIC in Paris, France.

The project is a Horizon Europe-funded research and innovation action which commenced on 1 January 2024, for a 36-month period. It aims to develop advanced technologies to transform border crossing experiences, combining a novel way of citizen identification based on multi-modal biometrics and improved identity verification by border authorities based on novel mechanisms to detect identity and travel document fraud and attacks on biometric systems.

The three-day railway pilot event, organised and hosted by UIC, simulated border checks on a passenger train with volunteers acting as rail travellers and actual border guards conducting the simulated controls. *“This allowed us to test the project technologies for specific railway use-cases which would eventually facilitate smoother rail journeys. Our pilot is essential for the future adoption of such technologies by railway operators together with Border Authorities. It also contributes to the European Union’s long-term vision for secure, seamless and multimodal cross-border mobility, reinforcing passenger trust in rail as a reliable and future-ready mode of travel.”* said Grigore Havârneanu (UIC – Railway Pilot Leader).

Richard Chisnall (European Association of Airport and Seaport Police – Project Pilot Leader) further explained: *“Pilots, in representative environments with experienced practitioners, are essential to validating practical solutions. In pilots, we assess the suitability of novel technologies, and the user experience of both travellers and border guards, at Land, Sea, Air and Rail crossing points. We identify if system-improvements are needed, and how the workflow integrates into daily operations. We also take measurements of key operational parameters; like throughput.”*

Finally, Carolina Marques (Project Coordinator) highlighted that SafeTravellers *“introduces novel technologies, built on the Self-Sovereign Identity approach, empowering travellers to control their own data through a secure mobile application. The system safeguards privacy, ensures data integrity, and protects against potential security threats throughout the journey. Fully compliant with*

*EU legislation and designed to be financially sustainable, SafeTravellers aims to deliver clear and reliable validation results to border authorities”*

SafeTravellers can be followed on [LinkedIn](#) and on the [project website](#).

This project is co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

#### UIC's role in the project

In SafeTravellers, UIC acts as an overarching representative of rail end-users through its Security Department and Platform. UIC helped collect the needs and requirements of the railway sector with respect to border security and define the rail use cases. UIC Security Department also leads the project's fourth pilot which focuses on enhanced identification on railway premises. Finally, UIC supports the project's communication, dissemination and exploitation of results in its European region.

#### About UIC

UIC is the worldwide organisation for the promotion of rail transport at a global level and for the collaborative development of the railway system. It brings together more than 200 members across all 5 continents, and includes rail operators, infrastructure managers, railway service providers, and more. UIC maintains close links with all stakeholders in the rail transport sector around the world, including manufacturers, railway associations, and public authorities, as well as with other domains and sectors whose experiences may be beneficial to rail development. UIC's main missions include understanding the business needs of the rail community, developing innovative programmes to identify solutions to these needs, and preparing and publishing documents such as reports, specifications, guidelines, and IRSs that facilitate the implementation of innovative railway solutions.

## **CONTACTS**

UIC Communications Department: [com@uic.org](mailto:com@uic.org)

Grigore Havârneanu, Deputy Director of the Security Department: [havarneanu@uic.org](mailto:havarneanu@uic.org)