

“International Comparison of Accessibility and Service Provision in Railway Passenger Transport”

Railway transport plays a key role in achieving sustainable mobility. However, the availability and quality of railway services vary considerably between countries. While national indicators and evaluations exist, a consistent cross-country comparison of railway service levels is lacking. The service level shall be defined as a combination of different criteria describing the quality of railway provision, including at least the accessibility of railway stations and the frequency of train services.

The objective of this thesis is to develop and apply a methodology for comparing railway service levels in different countries. Based on open railway timetable data and spatial population data, indicators describing the accessibility and frequency of railway services shall be derived. The methodology shall be applied to at least five different countries including Germany. The results shall quantify the share of the population in each country that has access to different railway service levels and enable an international comparison.