



Event	Interview
Interviewee	Mr. Mykola Lukhanin Deputy head of the Ukrzaliznytsya – The State Railway Administration of Ukraine
Date	15 April 2009

Eunite Ukraine (EU): How does the EURO 2012 influence plans of the Ukrzaliznytsya on the national railway infrastructure development?

Mr. Mykola Lukhanin (ML): The state program of preparation and hosting the EURO 2012 stipulates certain projects of railway infrastructure development, for instance upgrading the rolling stock, and modernization railways on key passenger routes of the EURO 2012, reconstruction the railway stations, introduction the system of online booking and purchase train tickets through Internet, conducting foreign language courses for railway staff etc. But it should be mentioned that all projects mentioned above, probably except only the latter one, have been planned before Ukraine was honored the right to host the EURO 2012. Back in 2004 the Government of Ukraine adopted a concept of gradual modernization of the national railway infrastructure for 2005-2015.

Ukraine has more than 22 thousand kilometers of railway tracks. Distances between cities are huge. And an average train speed we got is rather slow. For instance an average speed of passenger trains is about 65 kilometers per hour. Thus the necessity of introduction the high speed train connection on our key passenger routes was caused by the internal demand of the market, and the EURO 2012 just gave us another strong impulse to speed up the process of modernization our railway infrastructure.

EU: What plans on the rolling stock upgrading does Ukrzaliznytsia have for 2009?

ML: Last year we have purchased 180 passenger cars and 15 locomotives. For this year we plan to purchase about 170 new passenger cars.

EU: Which train stations would be reconstructed / renovated by 2012?

ML: Kiev has today very modern well developed central train station. To handle a rapid growth of the passenger flow of the capital we initiated construction of an additional train station on the left bank of Kiev, as well as the construction of a new bridge across the Dniper river. Both these projects are underway.

Also we plan a major reconstruction of the Donetsk central train station. There we plan to separate local and intercity routes as it is already done at Kiev central train station.