

On occasion of the conferment of the UEEIV-EURAIL-Ing. Certificate Prof. Otfried Knoll, Head of Department of Rail Technology and Mobility at St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences, addressed his words to the congress participants.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All together we feel the lack of well-educated railway engineers as an ever growing problem. Railways as technical systems with high-developed complexity need fully-trained engineers urgently. The challenge is to provide tailor-made training facilities for that demand.

During my professional career I was lucky enough to study at a technical university and to get in parallel technical trainings in railway workshops as well as a full education for locomotive driver and for train dispatcher. After my studies, I've been employed as chief operations manager and as CEO in rail transport companies as well. Not only at these professional stages it has been useful to build up a portfolio of knowledge using my practical experiences from an early time. Now, entrusted with the lead of the department for Railway Technology and Mobility at St. Pölten UAS, I feel confident that on the one hand Universities off Applied Sciences with their practical-oriented study programs can contribute to fill the gap in the demand of engineers. On the other hand I'm absolutely convinced that only a good concerted action between Technical Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences and corporate training facilities in railway undertakings can cover all the training opportunities to be in need of railway companies as well as for public authorities and government agencies. I hope that both our newly elected chancellor and his minister of transport will do the right steps ahead to strengthen a further development that covers all the training facilities mentioned – the two of them are aware of the needs in the railway-oriented sector.

Today, I'm very glad to receive the EURAIL-Ing. certificate and I take pride in the words "I'm an EU-Rail-Engineer!"

Thank you!