



IFSTTAR

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS
DES SCIENCES
ET TECHNOLOGIES
DES TRANSPORTS,
DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT
ET DES RÉSEAUX

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Objet : Recommendation letter for Mr. G. Havarneanu for the UIC and IRRB Young Researcher Award 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

I have known Grigore since November 2012, when I recruited him as an associated researcher at IFSTTAR-LPC on a 10-month contract. He joined our team in order to work with me and another colleague of mine on the European Project RESTRAIL (REduction of Suicides and Trespasses on RAILway property).

His main task was initially to carry out a research on new approach of soft measures for the prevention of trespasses, and to write the subsequent deliverable as part of the Work Package we were coordinating in the project. He also strongly contributed to the other ongoing and oncoming deliverables. For example, he has conducted with me a systematic literature review about safety measures to prevent railway suicide and trespassing accidents. Grigore Havarneanu contributed to the conception and design of the review, reviewed the papers, coded the relevant information and prepared the draft of the paper. The manuscript is now under review at the international journal Accident Analysis & Prevention and will hopefully be published this year.

After 10 months in our laboratory, Grigore Havarneanu continued to work on the RESTRAIL project, moving as research advisor to the International Union of Railways. He has gone further in the development of the toolbox for decision-makers. We are still collaborating on other RESTRAIL tasks and we are in the process of started a second journal article about effective measures to prevent railway trespass.

Grigore Havarneanu adapted very quickly to our team and to the other RESTRAIL partners, and has proven all the skills of a promising young researcher. He has published in journals as well as in the main international conferences on applied psychology, as well as on rail and transportation during the last year. This last years, he has participated very actively to disseminating across europe new knowledage generated by Restrail, as can be seen from the several talks and communication about trespass and rail suicide prevention.

Mr Havarneanu's work has provided a significant contribution to our understanding (and subsequently to potentially high developments) of more efficient prevention approaches and

means against person-train collisions due to trespass and suicide, using ergonomics and psychological approaches.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the main skills I have appreciated in the course of our collaboration: (1) scientific curiosity, leading Mr. Havarneanu to examine various theoretical frameworks to provide an original view and a set of promising tools for the railway community (and beyond) regarding how to prevent rail trespassing and suicide; (2) rigour and perfectionism in methodological decision making while carrying out the review of literature and interpreting the existing evidence; (3) capability to overcome the many strong difficulties inherent to the required collaboration between the various stakeholders, the different culture and disciplines associated to preventing railway trespass and suicide ; (4) a good capability to define and to respect objectives and deadlines.

Subsequently, I strongly recommend Mr Grigore Havarneanu for the UIC and IRRB Young Researcher Award 2014.

Jean-Marie Burkhardt,

Directeur de Recherche à l'IFSTTAR

Habilité à Diriger des Recherches

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned below the printed name and title.