The International East West Transport Corridor Association was launched in June, 2010. The aim of the EWTCA is to establish and develop transportation and logistics networks between Europe and Asia (with focus on the Baltic Sea Region). At the same time the Association is an innovative instrument of regional and inter-regional cooperation among business, academia and public sector. The members of the Association are from 13 states, namely, Belarus, Belgium, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine.

Since businesses usually have short-term perspectives, the key motivation for EWTC Association was to add more medium and long-term perspectives to the corridor and contribute to the improvement of its functions and capacity. Moreover, the Association could maintain a necessary dialogue with governmental and international institutions which could not be successfully maintained by individual companies and improve cooperation among stakeholders. Such cooperation needs a clear and transparent management structure. Moreover, coordinated activities are necessary for the development and branding of the corridor. The EWTC association contributes to sustainable development by connecting the hubs and facilitating transport needs of growing markets (along the route) between southern part of BSR and Asia.

Establishment of the EWTCA allows to strengthen the cooperation between transport undertakers, logistics companies, intermodal transport operators, shippers and consignees, national, regional and domestic authorities, science and research institutions along the EWTCA. Mostly functions of the Association comply with the key priorities of the new European Commission White Paper on Transport and the realization of a green corridor concept through the formation of intermodal transport corridor flows linking Europe with the third countries, namely with China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.
The EWTCA is a triple-helix organisation of stakeholders from the public, private, and the academic sector promoting the EWTC (in BSR) concept with the main mission to stimulate new business opportunities along this corridor and profiling the brand of EWTC. The core of the product of EWTC Association is quality of cooperation between the EWTCA partners and the extension of partnership: the wider and better the cooperation and the better the integration of provided services, the better is the product. This is done through a wide range of activities, the most important of which are: dissemination of information and development of dialogues on offers and needs with the partners.

EWTC Association experts have the capacity to take active part in the harmonization and simplification of the activities, i.e.:
• Establishment of the methodology for identification of administrative bottlenecks;
• Development of a common information network (along the corridor) for document management;
• Proposal of harmonized solutions for transport documents;
• Development of proposals for the implementation of relevant international policy conditions for the EWTC and national solutions affecting competitiveness of the corridor. Among the key tasks of the Association are promotion of inter-modality and development of green transport ideas.

List of relevant transport modes involved: sea, sea port, railways, inland terminals, road.
The main transport and logistics actors across the corridor are: universities (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Wismar University of Technology), railways companies (Lithuanian Railways, Ukraine Railways, Kazakhstan Temyr Zholy), Forwarders, Logistics, Transport Associations (Companies)(Asia Continental Landbridge Logistics Association Council, JSC Plaske, Tuuchin Co.), Maritime, ports, companies and Associations (DFDS Sea ways), Regional Administrators, Municipalities (Region Blekinge, Karlshamn city Municipality, Baltijsk Municipal District), and etc.

More Best Practice cases and information about BESTFACT can be found at: www.ewtcassociation.net

Network of EWTCA partners