



Newsletter Volume 3

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CROSS-BORDER SUMMER TRAIN BETWEEN SLOVENIA AND AUSTRIA

In order to connect the regions of Koroška in Slovenia and Carinthia in Austria, our project partners have tackled the cross-border seasonal traffic service as a pilot project. Just a few years ago, there were discussions to abandon cross-border railway line between Maribor-Prevalje (Slovenia) and Bleiburg/Pliberk (Austria). However, our previous regional analyses showed a strong interconnection of both regions, especially in leisure, education and commuting traffic. A cross-border train can support sustainable mobility in the attractive cross-border tourism region.



In the 2018 summer season, Slovenian Railways added Saturday trains between Maribor and Bleiburg. This is a result of key national and regional stakeholders cooperation within TRANS-BORDERS project in pilot area Slovenia - Austria. Our partners held a press conference in June to raise awareness for the service. In this season, 746 passengers travelled on summer train and 202 bicycles were transported. Based on analyses we are aware that there is still a lot of untapped potentials and we will try to further improve results with the pilot project, that will support cross-border connections and also serve as a backbone of both cycling routes.

REGIONAL ACTION PLANS

Based on the regional analyses elaborated previously, we are now focused on the regional action plans and pilot actions to improve cross-border passenger transport. We have drawn up corresponding to the regional analyses four bilateral action plans for the regions in the border triangle Poland, Czech Republic and Germany as well as the border region South Carinthia and Koroška.

These action plans define clear objectives with which each regions with their specific requirements can be connected to the Trans-European Transport Network. In addition, the action plans outline measures to be initiated and thus serve a guideline for the implementation of the defined aims.

PROJECT MID-TERM CONFERENCE IN BAUTZEN, SAXONY

On 7 November 2018, we welcomed representatives from politics and planning, interest groups and the press as well as numerous other interested parties to our Mid-Term Conference in order to present the results so far and future steps. The conference dealt with the requirements and possible solutions for a sustainable cross-border public transport in Central and Eastern Europe.

Our project partners presented bilateral action plans in order to realize more and high-quality cross-border public transport in the future. The implementation of some of these action plans has already begun, for example the train service for cyclists between Carinthia and the bordering Slovenian region of Koroška. In addition, various options for improving the comfort of the Dresden - Wrocław railway line were investigated against the background of the still missing electrification on the German side. Other infrastructure projects and ideas in the border triangle were also presented and discussed by our local experts.



The conference was used to look beyond our project areas to get to know best practices and experiences of established transport services. Lennard van Damme, project manager of the German - Belgium - Dutch joint project EUREKARAIL explained the similarities of technical and ticketing challenges in this border area. Ludger Sippel, an expert from the consultancy KCW, introduced a study on missing links in rail passenger transport between the member states of the European Union. The study revealed that only one-third of the existing border crossings are used for rail transport. The untapped potential of cross-border networking between regions has hardly been recognized before. In their contributions to the discussion, the experts underlined the conclusions of this study to reactivate these rail border crossings and to create new attractive offers.

WHAT IS UP IN THE NEAR FUTURE

We are now up to concretize our pilot projects due to the impressions of our conference. In addition, we will now develop the financing models for cross-border passenger transport services.

