

TRANS-BORDERS+



2nd Newsletter

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Welcome To TRANS-BORDERS+

Welcome to the second issue of the TRANS-BORDERS+ newsletter!

With the project now one year underway, we are excited to share recent developments, new pilot activities, and upcoming milestones. Since June 2024, our partnership has been working across two central European border regions - Saxony - Liberecký kraj and Carinthia - Friuli Venezia Giulia - Slovenia - to improve cross-border public transport through digital innovation and better infrastructure. A particular highlight was the launch of a cross-border electric bus pilot line between Gorizia (IT) and Nova Gorica (SI) in February.

TRANS-BORDERS+ is proof that European cooperation makes a real difference—especially in places where borders still pose barriers to everyday mobility.



A photograph of four people from behind, standing in a grassy field under a cloudy sky. They are all making heart shapes with their hands raised above their heads. The image is used as a background for the title.

Milestone 1

Laying Smart Foundations

TRANS-BORDERS+ has reached its first key milestone. Together, partners analysed the current state of bus stops and public transport services in both pilot regions. The result: a clear picture of where we stand - and where we need to go. From infrastructure quality to ownership and accessibility, the groundwork is laid for transforming basic stops into smart, multimodal mobility points. This joint effort sets the tone for cross-border change.

Shaping Mobility Futures

With the analysis complete, the project is shifting gears. The first pilot planning report is ready - guiding upcoming investments and the launch of real-world solutions. Next steps include testing new bus lines, designing future-ready stops, and preparing digital tools like Open Journey Planners. TRANS-BORDERS+ is moving from insight to action. The future of border mobility is taking shape.



Setting Shared Directions

Defining Common Goals

A major outcome of the first project phase is the development and adoption of the **Transnational Strategy for Public Transport in Border Regions**.

Designed jointly by all partners, this strategy defines a common vision for smarter, greener and more connected mobility across borders. It sets out key priorities, such as digital integration, sustainable infrastructure, and user-friendly services - tailored to the realities of rural and peripheral areas.

The strategy now serves as a compass for all pilot activities and long-term planning. It ensures that regional efforts are aligned - and that cross-border cooperation turns into lasting progress. ➞ [Transnational Strategy](#)



Spotlight: The E-Bus for Gorizia/Nova Gorica

Pilot goes live

Crossing City Borders

After months of joint planning, the first visible result of TRANS-BORDERS+ is on the road: a fully electric cross-border bus now connects Gorizia (Italy) and Nova Gorica (Slovenia). The service was launched in spring 2025 as part of Work Package 3 (WP3) and marks the transition from preparatory work to real-life testing. It is the first of several planned pilot actions aiming to improve mobility and accessibility in rural and border regions. The pilot demonstrates the project's core idea: mobility without borders, made possible through cooperation, shared investment, and regional commitment.

LINEA TRANSFRONTALIERA URBANA
CROSS-BORDER URBAN LINE
ČEZMEJNA MESTNA LINIJA

GORIZIA - NOVA GORICA



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La **linea transfrontaliera urbana GORIZIA - NOVAGORICA** è cofinanziata dal Programma Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE – Progetto TRANS-BORDER+ di cui la Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia è partner.

The cross-border urban line GORIZIA - NOVA GORICA is co-financed by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme – TRANS-BORDER+ project, in which the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia is a partner.

Čezmejna mestna linija GORIZIA - NOVA GORICA je sofinancirana iz programa Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE – projekta TRANS-BORDER+, pri katerem je Avtonomna dežela Furlanija Julijska krajina partner.

TRANS-BORDERS+



GO! 2025

Mobility meets Culture

This new service is more than a transport solution - it's part of a cultural moment. In 2025, Gorizia and Nova Gorica jointly hold the title of European Capital of Culture, and the E-Bus directly supports this celebration.

Running daily across the city border, the line ensures easy, climate-friendly access to cultural events, institutions, and public spaces on both sides. It reflects how mobility can serve people, heritage, and place - while staying quiet, green, and modern. The connection also symbolizes the cultural unity of a divided city, now visibly moving together.



In this edition, we speak with Mr. Luca Di Benedetto, General Director APT Gorizia, about the launch of the electric cross-border bus between Gorizia and Nova Gorica - and what it means for the region, its people, and the future of cross-border transport.



Bringing Borders Closer - The New Cross-Border E-Bus Service

TRANS-BORDERS+: What makes the new cross-border E-Bus service so special?

Mr. Di Benedetto: This service marks a real breakthrough for the region. For the first time, residents and visitors can travel sustainably across the border between Italy and Slovenia using an eco-friendly electric bus, enhancing everyday mobility and fostering stronger ties between communities.

TRANS-BORDERS+: Since when has the service been operating, and what has been the response so far?

Mr. Di Benedetto: The cross-border urban line was established in 2002, when Slovenia was not yet part of the European Union. The service has undergone several changes over the years and has now become the symbol of sustainable cross-border mobility and the ambassador of GO!2025 on the territory.

In fact, the new service was redesigned precisely with the European Capital of Culture 2025 in mind and has been operational since February 2025. The response has been very positive from both residents and visitors: the extensive connection to all points of interest in the two cities and the environmentally friendly choice of using electric buses are appreciated.

TRANS-BORDERS+: How does this initiative contribute to the goals of Trans-Borders+?

Mr. Di Benedetto: It perfectly embodies the project's aims: smart mobility, low-carbon transport, cross-border integration, and innovation. It shows how cooperation projects like Trans-Borders+ can create tangible improvements for citizens.

TRANS-BORDERS+: Any other innovative features of the service?

Mr. Di Benedetto: We have adopted smart mobility solutions such as digital ticketing and real-time passenger information to make travel even more convenient and inclusive.

TRANS-BORDERS+: What are the future plans for the cross-border E-Bus service?

Mr. Di Benedetto: We aim to consolidate the service also in future years after the conclusion of the activities related to the European Capital of Culture, always adapting it to the mobility needs expressed by a particular territory such as the cross-border one.

TRANS-BORDERS+: One last message for our readers?

Mr. Di Benedetto: Cross-border cooperation makes a real difference. We invite everyone to experience the new service and support a greener, more connected Central Europe!



Meetings

Workshop Görlitz

On January 28, 2025, the transnational workshop "Toolbox Mobility Points" took place in Görlitz. Representatives from Germany, Austria, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic worked together on further developing a toolbox for modern, accessible, and digitally connected mobility hubs. In addition to expert presentations the focus was on exchanging ideas about challenges and solutions as well as agreeing on a joint roadmap. An excursion to cross-border mobility points provided valuable practical insights. The workshop marked an important step toward new solutions for public transport in border regions.

Bi-weeklys

As part of WP2, biweekly online meetings were held throughout the reporting period to ensure coordination and effective exchange among partners. These meetings supported progress tracking, joint work on deliverables, and early identification of challenges, contributing to efficient and high-quality results. On January 17, 2025, an internal learning session was held as part of the activity on the assessment of regional travel information services. The findings were documented in the joint review report on travel information systems and form the basis for defining pilot activities in the next project phase.

Meetings

Partner Meeting Gorizia

On April 15, 2025, the Trans-Borders+ project team met in Gorizia, Italy, for its second Partner Meeting. With 20 participants from across the consortium, the meeting focused on reviewing the progress of the Work Packages, aligning on upcoming deliverables, and strengthening collaboration. Key discussions included the finalization of the Transnational Strategy (WP1), updates on travel information systems and pilot planning (WP2), and the continued development of the mobility points toolbox (WP3). Partners also exchanged on potential synergies with other Central Europe projects like [EnCLOD](#) and [BorderLabs CE](#).

Transnational Meeting Gorizia

On April 16, 2025, our Transnational Congress took place in Gorizia, Italy, bringing together stakeholders from across Central Europe to explore innovative solutions for cross-border mobility. The event served as a platform for exchange on digital travel information systems, accessible mobility points, and joint strategies to improve regional transport connections. The congress emphasized the importance of cooperation and innovation in overcoming mobility challenges in border regions, marking an important milestone in the project's efforts to create a more connected and inclusive transport system.



About Us



A Message from the Project Partner KORID LK

Our company's task is to be an interface between the regional government, transport companies, and passengers in the Liberecký kraj (North CZ).

We recognized the need for seamless data presentation across national borders. Korid cooperates with ATE, leading the Open Journey Planner (OJP) initiative, to find a smooth way to present the timetable and real-time data through popular applications commonly used by passengers in neighboring Saxony and Silesia.

In partnership with VON and SMIL and hints from Carinthia and Slovenia, we are elaborating the new standards for bus stop infrastructure, which may become a useful toolbox for Municipalities and Professionals, hopefully regardless of the national specific regulations. A pilot implementation of an investment in the Czech project area will serve as a model for future development.

As for the project team,

Zuzana Kubicová, Project Manager of KORID



Meet the Team



SMIL- Saxon State Ministry for
Infrastructure and Regional Development



RRA - Regional Development Agency for
Koroška



VKG - Transport Association
Carinthia



AKL- Office of the Carinthian
Government



ATE - AustriaTech



VON - Transport Association
Upper Lusatia / Lower Silesia



PRC - Soča Valley Development Centre



MZI - Republic of Slovenia,
Ministry of Infrastructure



FVG - Regione Autonoma
Friuli Venezia Giulia



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