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Drive2Transform

D.3.1.1 Kick-off Transnational Expert Groups

Version 1

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D.3.1.1 KICK-OFF TRANSNATIONAL EXPERT GROUPS

Document Information

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Content

1. Introduction

1.1. Objective

The objective of A3.1 and related D3.1.1 is the development of transformation scenarios aiming at specific stakeholders. These shall be based on the regional and transnational analyses and the scenario reports developed with the stakeholders.

To formally launch four thematic expert groups as a collaborative platform through an online kick-off event, during which working methods and objectives will be defined. Each thematic platform aims to involve a minimum of 10 businesses and include relevant advisory board members.

To establish four transnational expert groups each focused on one of the thematic areas: Electrification, Connectivity, Automation, and Platform Economy. These groups will consist of representatives from higher education, research institutions, businesses, and other relevant stakeholders, recruited through transparent calls promoted via partner channels. Advisory Board members with relevant technical expertise will also be invited to join. Each group will include participants from at least three different countries and be coordinated by a designated project partner, with active involvement from all relevant national partners. Leveraging their networks, partners will engage leading companies and research institutions, including OEMs and tier 1 suppliers, to ensure expert contributions across all thematic areas.

Figure 1: Possible Outcome of Expert Groups

The expert groups comprise top-tier professionals in their respective fields. The objective is to:

- *Share project information and gain practical insights from both industry and academia*
- *Exchange ideas on automotive transformation with (international) experts*
- *Collaborate on key topics such as trends, best practices, and cross-border use cases*

Within the project, Use Cases will be developed under work package A3.2, which will then be evaluated by the expert groups. Ideally, the experts will be able to present their own projects and share their best or good practices with us. These contributions could, ideally, be compiled within the framework of D2T and published as a white paper.

Disclaimer

When discussing innovation, strategy, and transformation, the terms **Scenario**, **Use Case**, and **Best/Good Practice** are often used—but they are **not interchangeable**. Each serves a distinct purpose and addresses a different layer of understanding. Together, they form a powerful framework for navigating complexity, planning for the future, and learning from experience.

Scenario – Thinking Ahead

A **scenario** describes a **possible future situation**. It is not about what is happening now, but about what might happen under certain assumptions. Scenarios help organizations prepare for different market conditions, societal changes, or technological shifts. They are valuable for strategic foresight and long-term planning.

- **Example:** "By 2035, 80% of all vehicles sold by OEMs will be electric." This is a hypothetical but plausible future that guides strategic considerations for product development, infrastructure, and regulation.

Use Case - Focusing on Application

A **use case** is a **specific, real-world application** of a concept or value creation logic. Unlike scenarios, use cases are grounded in action—they describe how something is or will be implemented. Use cases are especially useful when designing or validating business models and innovations.

- **Example:** "New battery production and recycling plants need to be built and operational to support the EV shift."
  This illustrates the practical application needed to make a strategic vision (like the scenario above) a reality.

Best/Good Practice - Learning from Success

A **best** or **good practice** reflects a **proven and successful method** already implemented. It differs from scenarios (which are forward-looking) and use cases (which are situational) by being based on experience. Best practices serve as benchmarks and learning tools for others facing similar challenges.

- **Example:** "Northvolt set up a battery production and recycling plant in Denmark." This is a successful, real-world implementation that others can study and potentially replicate.

A.1.1. In Summary:

Concept	Time Orientation	Focus	Nature	Example
Scenario	Future	Strategic vision	Hypothetical	80% EVs by 2035
Use Case	Present/near-term	Application of concept	Concrete & specific	New battery recycling plants
Best-Practice	Past/ongoing	Proven successful method	Evidence-based	Northvolt plant in Denmark

These three concepts **complement each other**: scenarios inspire action, use cases translate strategy into implementation, and best practices help improve through shared knowledge. Understanding their differences ensures more effective communication, planning, and collaboration in transformation projects.

1.2. Planning

Every quarter there is a 2-hour meeting on each topic where the experts from the different regions can coordinate their work.

calls promoted via partner channels. Advisory Board members with relevant technical expertise will also be invited to join. Each group will include participants from at least three different countries and be coordinated by a

2. Preparation and selection of experts

The Focus Group meeting was extensively promoted across all participating regions through the established networks and communication platforms of each project partner. Complementary outreach was conducted via the official Drive2Transform LinkedIn page, significantly enhancing visibility and stakeholder engagement.

A total of 83 professionals responded to the Expression of Interest for Experts. They represent a diverse range of backgrounds, including executives from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), academic researchers, and representatives of leading research institutions.

A structured and transparent selection process was implemented to identify the most suitable candidates. Key selection criteria included demonstrated expertise, a strong commitment to interregional collaboration, and active engagement with the project's objectives. Particular attention was paid to achieving a balanced representation in terms of geographical coverage and institutional diversity.

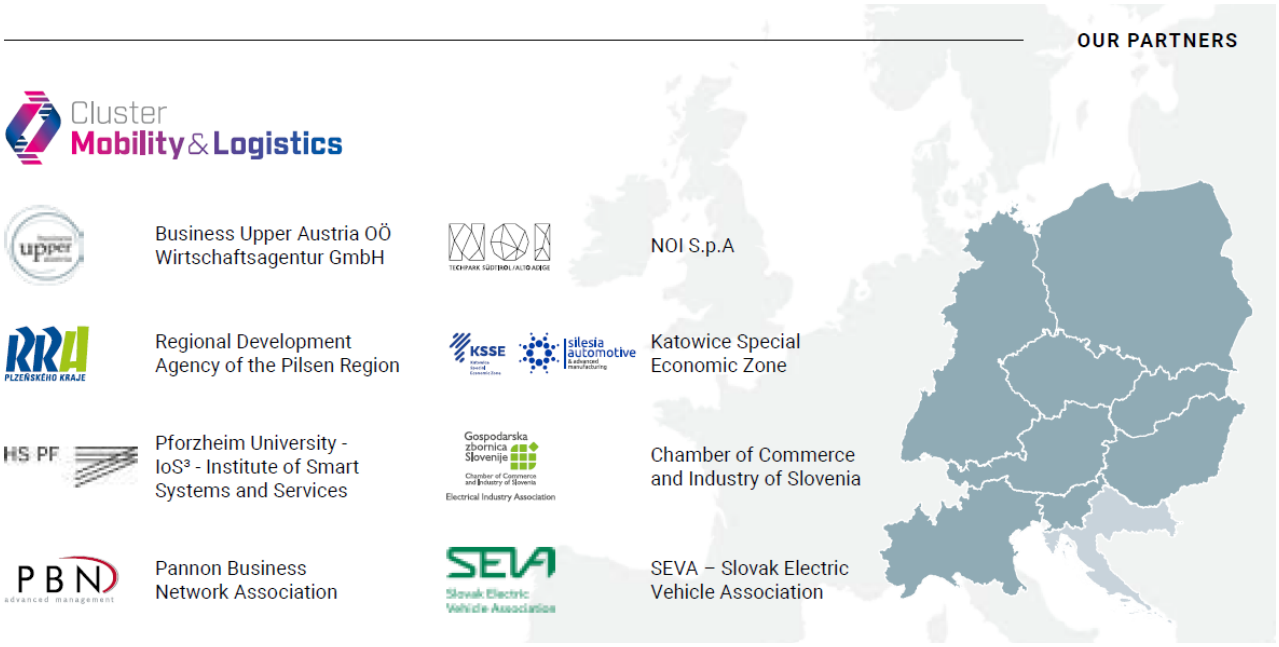
Ultimately, 50 experts were formally appointed to the Focus Group. While regional disparities in participation levels were observed, attributable to the varying concentration of relevant stakeholders across regions, the final composition ensured both thematic relevance and equitable representation. The selection process was conducted in close coordination with all project partners, ensuring alignment with the strategic goals of the initiative.

2.1. Evaluation Criteria for Group Composition

The composition of each group was assessed according to the following criteria, ensuring diversity, relevance, and alignment with the project's strategic objectives:

- **Minimum Business Participation**: Each group must include at least 10 companies to ensure sufficient industry representation and input.
- **Regional Diversity**: Each group must comprise participants from a minimum of three different regions, fostering interregional collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- **Company Size Balance**: A balanced mix of small and large enterprises is required within each group to capture a wide spectrum of operational perspectives and challenges.
- **Stakeholder Diversity**: Groups should consist of a broad range of stakeholders, including businesses, research and development institutions, public authorities, and other relevant actors.
- **Industry Representation**: Ideally, each group includes at least one Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and the leading Tier 1 suppliers to reflect the structure of the automotive value chain.
- **Expertise and Professional Standing**: Participants should demonstrate a high level of expertise and professional experience, preferably holding leadership positions within their respective organisations.
- **Sector Relevance**: All participants must be active in the automotive or mobility sectors, particularly within the context of the platform economy.
- **Thematic Alignment**: The focus and competencies of each group must be clearly aligned with the project's reference model and thematic priorities.

2.2. Experts sorted by region



Project Partner	Selected Experts
Business Upper Austria OÖ, Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH	12
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia	1
Cluster Mobility & Logistics (R-Tech GmbH)	13
Katowice Special Economic Zone	6
NOI AG	3
Pannon Business Network Associaton	2
Pforzheim University	5
Regional Development Agency of Pilsen	3
Slovak Electric Vehicle Association	5

3. Kick of Meeting preperation

To initiate collaboration and establish a shared understanding of the project's objectives, a dedicated kick-off meeting was organized for each of the four thematic areas covered by the initiative. These meetings were designed not only to launch thematic discussions but also to provide a structured environment for participants to begin networking and exchanging knowledge across regional boundaries. For each thematic area, responsibility for planning, coordination, and facilitation of the respective kick-off meeting was assigned to one or two project partners, ensuring focused attention and thematic alignment.

3.1. Time schedule

Invitations to the meetings, along with calendar blocks, were sent out to the identified experts in early April. This early notification strategy was implemented to provide ample time for participants to adjust their schedules and confirm their availability, given the diverse time zones and professional obligations involved. Special attention was given to ensuring representation from different regions, with a clear intention to foster inclusivity and balanced participation.

The four kick-off meetings were successfully conducted over the course of calendar weeks 19 and 20. Due to the international scope of the project and the regional diversity of the participants, the scheduling coincided with public holidays in certain countries, where local holidays during the meeting weeks affected expert attendance. Despite these challenges, participation across the meetings remained strong, and efforts were made to share summaries and relevant materials with those unable to attend.

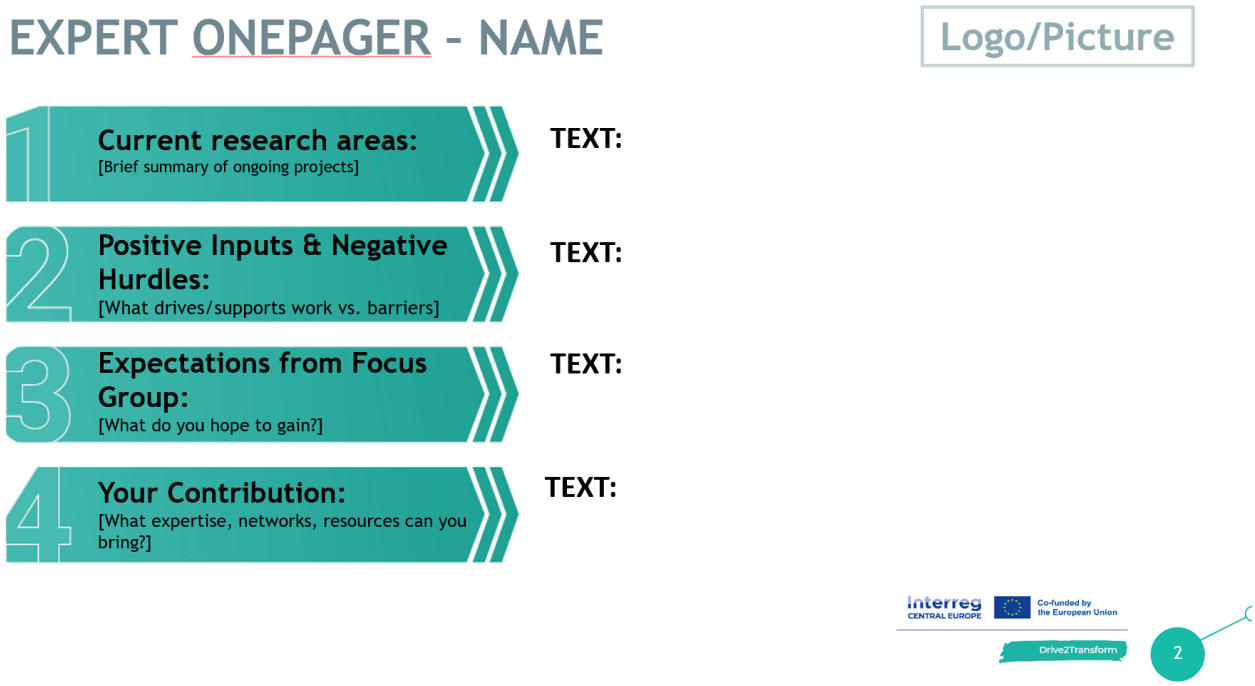
- 05.05.2025 2 pm - 4 pm: Platform Economy; Lukas Waidlich / Luc Schmerber
- 07.05.2025 2 pm - 4 pm: Connectivity; Filipp Frei / Johannes Brunner
- 12.05.2025 2 pm - 4 pm Uhr Electrification; Silvia Mihalikova
- 12.05.2025 1 pm - 3 pm Uhr Autonomes Fahren; Doris Straub / Stefan Hopfer / Luk Palmen / Ewa Dudzic-Widera

To ensure accessibility and reduce potential disadvantages for participants who could not join live, it was decided that each kick-off meeting would be held individually, rather than in a combined format. This allowed for a more focused discussion in each thematic area and made it easier to distribute tailored summaries to all invited experts afterward. Additionally, moderators and project partners remained available for any follow-up questions or clarifications, further ensuring that no one was left out of the process due to scheduling conflicts.

3.2. One Pager

Each meeting was carefully structured to encourage meaningful dialogue and facilitate initial connections among participants. A central element of the meetings was the introductory round, where experts were invited to briefly present themselves and outline their professional experience and current work. In preparation for this, a one-page briefing document was distributed to all invitees in advance. The document

outlined the thematic focus of the respective meeting and provided guidance for participants to reflect on how their expertise aligned with the topic, as well as how they could contribute to the overall goals of the project.



The atmosphere in the meetings was collegial and constructive, with participants expressing appreciation for the opportunity to connect with peers from other regions and disciplines. The structured introductions and focused thematic framing helped to stimulate early discussions and identify potential areas of synergy. Overall, the kick-off meetings were positively received and proved to be an effective mechanism for establishing the foundation of regional collaboration, setting the stage for the next phases of project implementation.

These initial gatherings demonstrated the value of early engagement and thematic alignment, confirming the project's strategic approach to stakeholder involvement. The momentum generated during the kick-off meetings is expected to support ongoing dialogue, strengthen interregional cooperation, and contribute to the successful realization of project outcomes.

3.3. PowerPoint, focus Group Meetings Structure and Agenda Overview

To ensure consistency and coherence across all four focus group meetings, a standardized structure was developed and implemented. A dedicated PowerPoint presentation was prepared to guide each session, serving both as an orientation tool and a framework to facilitate engagement. This consistent format aimed to support effective dialogue, promote comparability between groups, and provide a clear roadmap for participants.

The agenda followed during each focus group meeting included the following elements:

- **Welcome & Introduction / Goals**

Each meeting began with a brief welcome and introductory segment, during which the organizers outlined the objectives of the session and provided context for the focus group's role within the broader scope of the project. This helped participants align their expectations and understand the intended outcomes of their collaboration.

- **Drive2Transform Readiness Index – Results**

  The next section provided an overview of the Drive2Transform project, with a particular focus on Work Packages 1 and 2 (WP1 and WP2). A short explanation of the project's structure, goals, and methodology was given to ensure a shared understanding. This was followed by a presentation of key findings from the cross-regional survey, highlighting trends and differences across participating regions. These findings were used as a starting point for discussion and provided valuable insight into the current readiness landscape.

- **Expert Group Introductions**

  A significant portion of each focus group meeting was reserved for expert introductions. Participants were invited to present their professional backgrounds, relevant areas of expertise, and ongoing work. This segment not only allowed participants to get to know one another but also served as a platform to identify common challenges, highlight regional specificities, and explore initial synergies. Several shared barriers and differences emerged during these exchanges, prompting discussion around potential future cooperation and mutual learning opportunities.

- **Discussion: Topics for Future Meetings**

  In preparation for deeper engagement, the leader of WP3.1 introduced an interactive tool—specifically, a Miro board—to facilitate structured discussion. The board was pre-populated with key questions related to the thematic focus of each group. Experts were invited to contribute their thoughts directly onto the board during the session. This activity sparked valuable input and helped define priority areas and questions to be addressed in upcoming meetings.

- **Working Mode & Structure of Collaboration**

  Following the thematic discussion, the facilitators presented the proposed structure and methodology for continued collaboration within the focus group. This included an outline of working methods, potential formats for future sessions, and a clarification that additional focus groups would be convened on different thematic areas. The aim was to create a transparent and coordinated working environment that supports ongoing interaction.

- **Project Update & Opportunities to Engage**

  Participants were also provided with updates on the project's current status and next steps, along with information about concrete opportunities to remain engaged and contribute to the project's implementation. This helped maintain momentum and encouraged active involvement moving forward.

- **Wrap-Up & Next Steps**

  To close each meeting, a brief summary of the discussions was provided. The next steps were outlined, including timelines for upcoming focus group sessions and tasks to be completed by the participants. A final round of remarks allowed participants to share final reflections and provide feedback on the meeting format.

3.4. Miro: Project Management tool

To ensure that the initial focus group meetings were both productive and engaging, a set of four core discussion topics was carefully prepared in advance. These themes were designed to guide expert input, structure the dialogue, and help align contributions with the overall goals of the Drive2Transform (D2T) project. Recognizing the importance of interaction in a virtual environment, the project team selected **Miro**, a digital collaboration platform, to facilitate real-time contributions during the sessions.

The Miro board served as an interactive workspace where experts could share insights, reflect on challenges, and contribute ideas in a visually organized manner. Each focus group worked collaboratively on the same structured set of questions, enabling clear documentation of results and comparison across thematic areas. Despite the limited time available, the structured use of Miro enabled a high degree of participation and yielded valuable outcomes.

The four main discussion areas presented on the Miro board were as follows:

1. **Deep Dive Topic Identification**

   Experts were asked to identify specific topics, trends, or challenges that they considered particularly relevant to their professional focus and to the D2T project. Using the Miro board, participants placed digital sticky notes with their proposals and comments, allowing the group to cluster related ideas and visually map shared interests. These insights will inform the planning of future workshops and thematic deep dives.

2. **Presentation Contributions**

   Participants were invited to indicate any materials, case studies, or research they would be willing to present or share in future focus group meetings. The Miro board included a dedicated area for this purpose, where experts could write down potential presentation topics or resources. This helped identify opportunities for peer learning and positioned several participants as contributors for upcoming sessions.

3. **Suggestions for Additional Expert Contacts**

   To strengthen the knowledge base and expand the network of the focus groups, a section of the Miro board was reserved for suggestions of additional relevant stakeholders. Participants could list names or types of organizations (e.g., businesses, academic institutions, public authorities) that could be approached for future involvement. This input supports the project's goal of fostering interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration.

4. **Development of (Transnational) Use Cases**

   One of the project’s key ambitions is the development of practical, transnational use cases that can serve as models for regional innovation and sustainable connectivity. Experts used the Miro board to share ideas on promising approaches, technologies, or pilot projects that could be scaled or transferred across regions. Participants also indicated their interest in contributing to the co-creation or testing of such use cases, setting the stage for more hands-on cooperation.

The use of Miro not only enhanced the efficiency of the meetings but also made expert contributions transparent and accessible. It provided a collaborative space where all participants could engage equally, regardless of their location, and allowed for the real-time capture of ideas that would otherwise be difficult to manage in a traditional discussion format.

The insights and input collected through Miro will be systematically analyzed and integrated into the next phase of the project. This digital collaboration approach helped lay a solid foundation for future engagement

and demonstrated the potential of well-structured, interactive tools in facilitating expert dialogue across regions and disciplines.

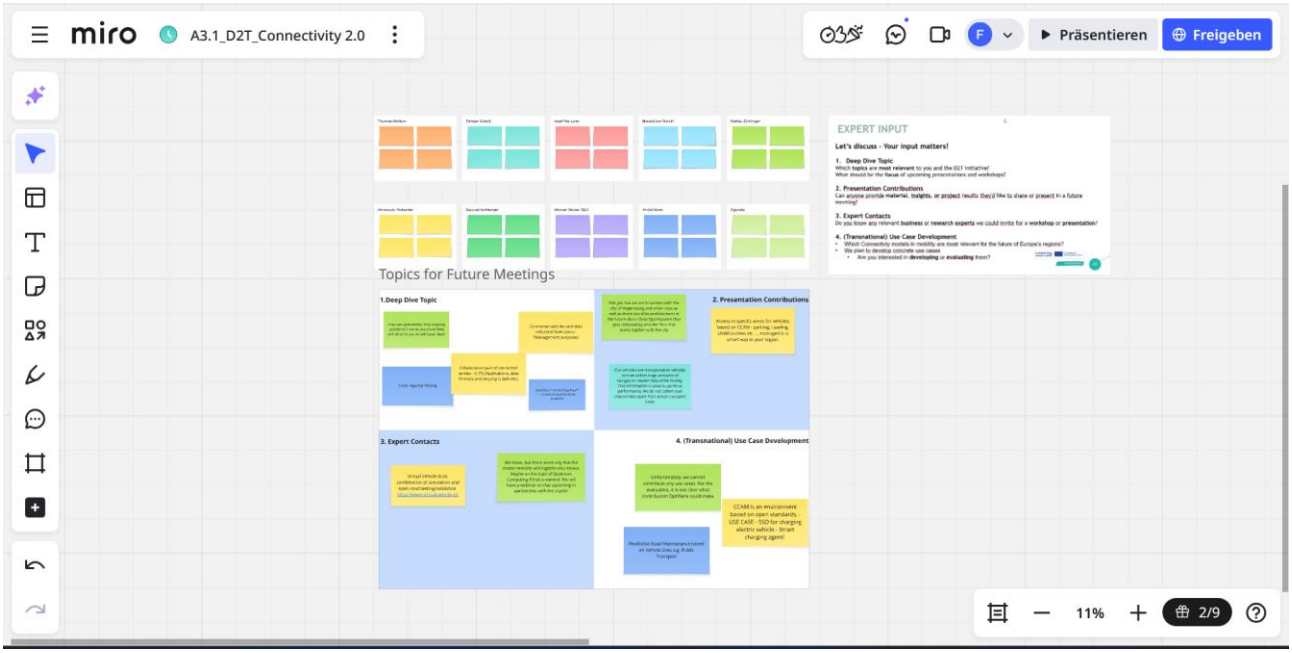


Figure 2: Overview of miro Board for Thematic Group Connectivity

4. Platform Economy Focus Group

The inaugural transnational thematic focus group meeting of the "Platform Economy" expert group, organized within the framework of the Drive2Transform (D2T) project, was successfully convened on May 5, 2025. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from multiple Central European regions, including policymakers, researchers, technology developers, and regional development agencies. The primary objective of the meeting was to explore the multifaceted challenges and opportunities associated with the advancement of connected vehicle systems—an essential component of the emerging platform economy.

Throughout the session, participants engaged in in-depth discussions addressing a wide spectrum of issues related to the technological, regulatory, and economic dimensions of connected mobility. These included infrastructure readiness, data interoperability, regulatory harmonization, cybersecurity, market fragmentation, and investment barriers. The meeting served as a platform for cross-regional knowledge sharing, enabling attendees to compare regional experiences and approaches to innovation.

One of the central themes of the discussion was the identification and analysis of region-specific barriers to innovation in the platform economy. Participants worked collaboratively to map out shared challenges and strategic interests, with the aim of aligning future initiatives and leveraging synergies across regions. This process was supported by a dynamic idea exchange, combining open oral discussions with interactive digital engagement tools, such as Mentimeter, to collect real-time feedback and facilitate inclusive participation.

The outcomes of the meeting not only deepened mutual understanding of the regional innovation landscape but also laid a solid foundation for ongoing interregional collaboration. Key takeaways included initial concepts for joint pilot actions, a shared agenda for future expert exchanges, and a roadmap for the co-development of practical use cases that align with both local needs and broader European innovation goals.

5. Platform Economy, Results

Participants engaged in a structured idea mapping exercise using a Menti board, providing a visual and interactive method to gather insights on core thematic areas. The discussion was divided into four categories

Go to https://www.menti.com/ and enter **6393 1327** code to join

1. Brainstorming – Identifying key topics
- Which topics in the field of platform economy are currently on your mind?

2. Trend Assessment – What's Your View?
- Which trend is overrated or underrated?
- Where do we see innovation potential or our own role as an organization?
- Rate from 0 (low) to 10 (high)

Figur2.: MantiMeter,as working tool

5.1. Platform Economy, Results: Deep Dive Topic

Participants engaged in a structured idea mapping exercise using a Menti board, providing a visual and interactive method to gather insights on core thematic areas. The discussion was divided into four categories

A. Deep Dive Topics for Future Meetings

Figure 3: Brainstorming to the Question "Which topics in the field of platform economy (Mobility) are currently on your mind?"

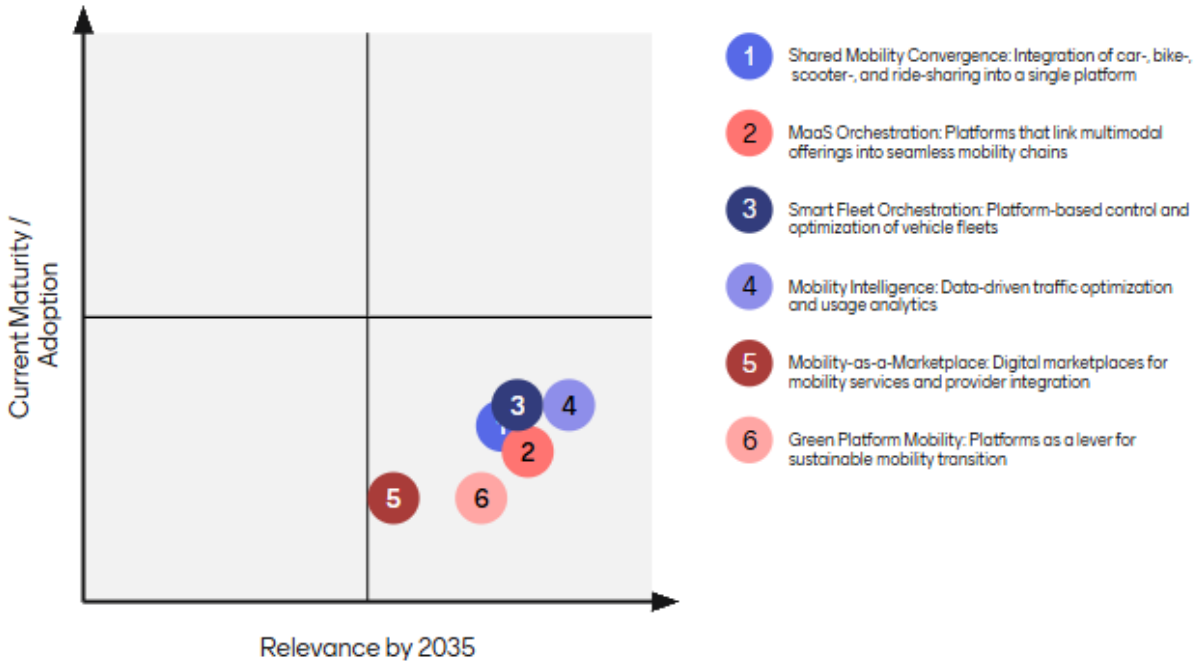


Figure 4: Rating on the question "Rate the Platform Economy (Mobility) Trends"

1. **Mobility Platforms and Solutions from the User Perspective**

- User Experience: Ensuring intuitive, efficient, and user-friendly interfaces and services.
- Accessibility: Providing inclusive access for all user groups, including those with mobility impairments or limited digital access.

- User Acceptance: Building trust and encouraging adoption through reliability, transparency, and convenience.

2. **Public Transport Systems**
   - User-Centered Design:
     - Seamless integration of multimodal transportation options.
     - Coordination between private and public mobility services to enable smooth travel chains.
   - Ecosystem Orchestration:
     - Strategic integration and management of diverse mobility offers, especially in smaller urban and rural areas.
   - Urban Planning and Mobility: Aligning transport systems with urban development goals to enhance liveability and sustainability.
   - Daily Commuting Challenges: Addressing reliability, punctuality, and capacity issues that affect regular travel behaviour.
3. **Traffic Data**
   - Leveraging real-time and historical traffic data to optimize traffic flow, inform infrastructure planning, and improve user information services.
4. **On-Demand and Autonomous Mobility Solutions**
   - Evaluating and learning from best practices and existing implementations abroad.
   - Assessing the potential for scalability, user benefits, and regulatory frameworks in the local context.

5.1.1. Platform Economy, Results: Presentation Contributions

the Expert Group strongly encourages all participants to contribute materials, insights, or project results they believe would be valuable for future discussions. These contributions can take the form of short presentations, case studies, research findings, or examples of regional best practices.

We are actively seeking to make future meetings as relevant and engaging as possible, and your input plays a crucial role in shaping the agenda. If you have a topic in mind, feel free to share it. All proposed topics will be considered, and to ensure fair prioritization, a poll will be launched (coordinated by Pforzheim University) to determine which topics should be addressed in upcoming sessions. Participants are very welcome to share, and the group will thoughtfully consider all suggestions.

5.1.2. Platform Economy, Results: Expert Contacts

We welcome suggestions for additional business or research experts who could contribute to future workshops or presentations. Expanding the network with relevant external voices is an important part of our effort to ensure diverse perspectives and enrich the discussions within the Expert Group. If you know of individuals—whether from academia, industry, public institutions, or innovation networks—who have valuable expertise or experience related to our focus areas, please feel free to recommend them. All suggestions will be carefully considered, and we'll follow up as appropriate to invite them to contribute to an upcoming session or workshop. Your input is greatly appreciated in helping us build a dynamic and impactful expert community.

5.1.3. Platform Economy, Results: (Transnational) Use Case Development

This is a key area of interest for the Expert Group, and we warmly invite your input. Identifying the most relevant platform economy models in mobility is essential to shaping sustainable, innovative, and regionally adaptable solutions for Europe's future. We are particularly interested in models that address challenges such as shared mobility, Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS), data-driven transport platforms, or cross-border integration. As part of the Drive2Transform (D2T) project, we plan to develop concrete, practical use cases based on these models. If you are interested in contributing to the development, evaluation, or testing of such use cases—whether through your expertise, regional insights, or project experience—we would be very pleased to involve you in that process. Your participation will help ensure the use cases are not only innovative but also grounded in real-world needs and opportunities across Europe's diverse regions.

5.2. Outlook

All presentation materials and relevant documents from the Expert Group sessions will be made available via the dedicated Microsoft Teams channel to ensure easy access and continued collaboration.

Experts are encouraged to propose potential topics for future presentations. To ensure alignment with group interests, submitted topics will be prioritized through a poll. Pforzheim University (PU) will launch the poll in preparation for the next meeting.

This process aims to foster inclusive agenda-setting and ensure that discussions reflect the collective priorities of the group.

To enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Expert Group activities within the Drive2Transform (D2T) project, the following action points will guide upcoming sessions and collaboration:

Future Meetings: **Ongoing on September 2025**	• **Prioritize Key Topics** Build on previously identified top priorities to guide future discussions. • **Rotating Focus Areas** Implement a structured rotation of discussion themes in upcoming meetings for deeper topic exploration. • **Stakeholder Engagement** All partners to actively involve relevant regional stakeholders to enrich dialogue and outcomes. • **Best Practice Contributions** Each expert to propose one best practice for group discussion and potential replication. • **Use Case Review** Examine and refine D2T project use cases with expert input and cross-border relevance. • **White Paper Development** Summarize key findings and best-in-class ideas from expert sessions in a dedicated white paper on the platform economy.

6. Connectivity Focus Group

The **Focus Group Connectivity** brought together a small yet highly specialized group of five experts. From the outset, it became clear during the introductory round that this thematic area represents a niche subject within the broader Drive2Transform project. The participants demonstrated deep domain expertise and contributed valuable perspectives, particularly during their personal introductions, where several relevant technical aspects were already actively discussed.

Although the experts from Slovakia were unable to attend the meeting in person due to a national holiday, they remained committed to the process. In advance of the session, they completed the one-page briefing document and submitted their contributions to the moderator. These written inputs were shared and briefly presented during the meeting to ensure their perspectives were included in the discussion.

The compact size of the group created a focused and professional setting, allowing for an open and dynamic exchange of ideas. The participants engaged actively with one another, sharing insights and raising critical points related to the challenges and opportunities surrounding regional and transnational connectivity. This productive environment facilitated the identification of common concerns as well as distinct regional considerations, laying the groundwork for future cooperation.

All participants in this session are marked in **bold and underlined** in the corresponding Excel attendance list to clearly identify those who took part in the discussion. Despite its limited size, the group demonstrated high levels of expertise and engagement, and the meeting successfully contributed to advancing the Connectivity workstream within the project.

6.1. Connectivity, Miro results

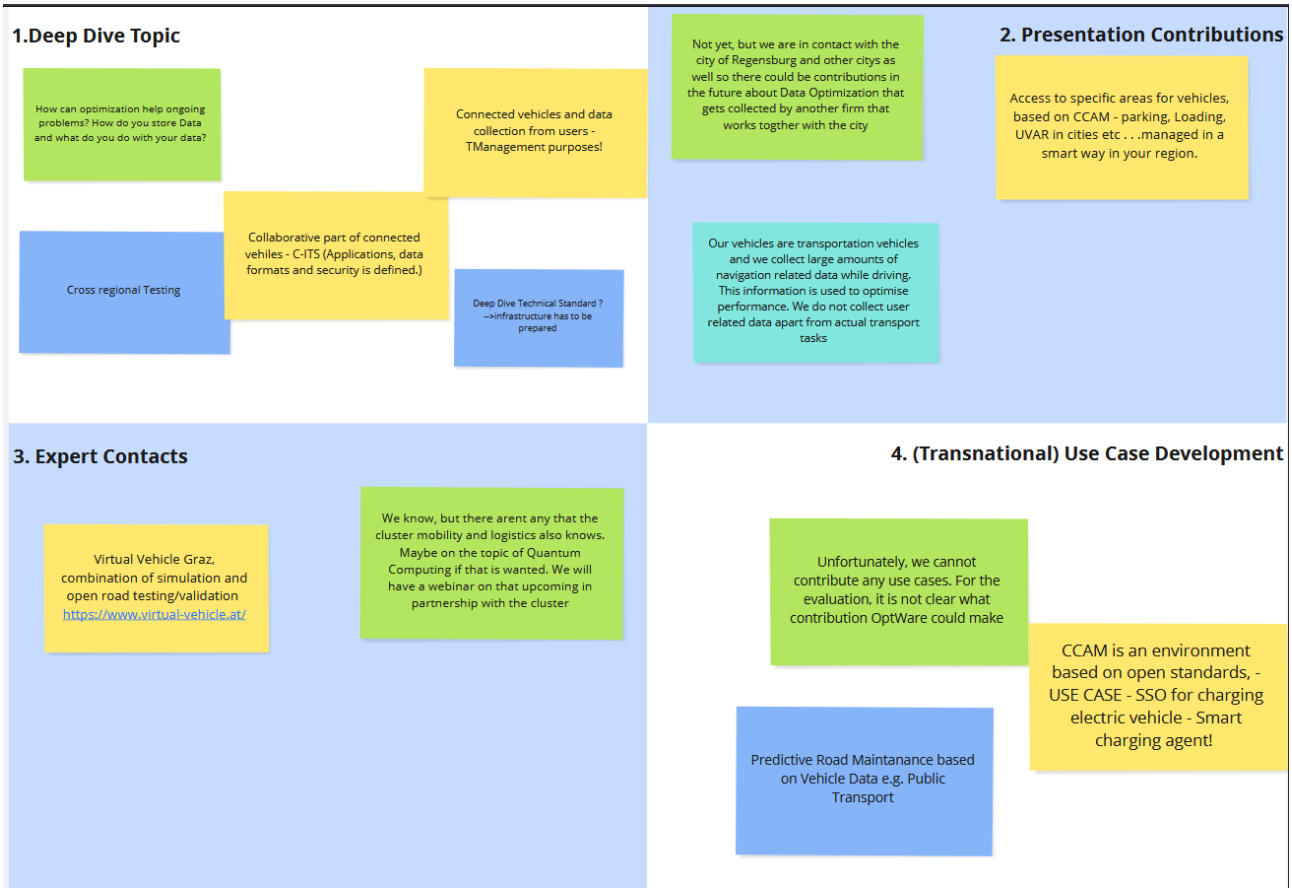


Figure 5.: Miro Board to combined work on.

6.1.1. Connectivity, Miro results: Deep Dive Topic

During the focus group session on **Connectivity**, participants collaboratively explored several critical subtopics, with a particular emphasis on optimization, data management, and the technical requirements of connected vehicle systems. These areas were identified as essential components for advancing cooperative intelligent transport systems (C-ITS) and ensuring the future readiness of regional infrastructure. The discussion was guided by structured prompts on the **Miro board**, which allowed participants to contribute insights and cluster related themes effectively.

The following focal points emerged as key themes during the session:

1. **Optimization and Data Management**

   Optimization was highlighted as a vital mechanism for addressing persistent challenges in the realm of connected mobility. By improving system efficiency and resource utilization, optimization processes have the potential to significantly enhance overall transport operations. Central to this effort is **data management**, including the storage, structuring, and use of vast amounts of data generated by connected vehicles and infrastructure systems. Experts noted that data is increasingly

being collected and analyzed for applications such as traffic prediction, real-time decision-making, and system-wide improvements in transport efficiency and sustainability.

2. **Connected Vehicles and Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS)**

   Connected vehicles were identified as a cornerstone of C-ITS frameworks, offering the potential to revolutionize how vehicles communicate with each other and with surrounding infrastructure. Within this context, the standardization of **applications, data formats, and security protocols** plays a crucial role. These technical specifications ensure seamless, real-time data exchange and interoperability across different vehicle types and systems. Participants emphasized that the effective use of user-generated data can contribute directly to traffic flow optimization, incident prevention, and improved road safety.

3. **Regional and Supra-Regional Testing**

   To verify the real-world applicability and scalability of C-ITS technologies, **testing at both regional and supra-regional levels** was deemed essential. These test environments allow stakeholders to evaluate performance under diverse conditions, assess compatibility between systems, and identify any operational or security vulnerabilities. The group agreed that collaborative trials across regions are necessary to ensure that systems not only function locally but are also **interoperable** on a broader European scale.

4. **Technical Standards and Infrastructure Requirements**

   The development and implementation of **technical standards** were discussed as foundational to supporting the widespread adoption of connected vehicle technologies. Participants highlighted the importance of preparing both **physical and digital infrastructure** to accommodate new demands. This includes smart traffic signals, roadside units, secure communication channels, and scalable data platforms. Continuous updates and alignment with evolving standards are required to maintain compatibility and to future-proof public infrastructure investments.

Together, these themes underscore the interconnected nature of technical, operational, and strategic planning in the field of connected mobility. The expert contributions during this session provided valuable insights for shaping future activities within the Drive2Transform initiative and for identifying opportunities for joint development of transnational use cases.

6.1.2. Connectivity, Miro results: Presentation Contributions

As part of the Connectivity Focus Group meeting, several experts offered insights into their ongoing work and potential contributions to the project. These real-world examples highlighted opportunities for data-driven optimization, collaborative engagement with cities, and the intelligent management of urban mobility systems. The presentations reflected a strong alignment with the core objectives of the Drive2Transform initiative and offered practical entry points for future collaboration.

1. **Collaboration with Cities on Data Optimization**

   Fabian Eichberger reported on his current engagement with various cities aimed at exploring new avenues for data-based optimization. These efforts focus on identifying opportunities where urban data—collected either directly by municipal authorities or through third-party providers—can be leveraged to improve transportation efficiency. The emphasis is on facilitating smoother operations for transport services through enhanced data availability and processing, ultimately leading to better decision-making and improved vehicle performance.

2. **Data Collection through Operational Transport Vehicles**

Another key contribution was presented, whose transport vehicles are actively involved in real-time data collection during regular operations. These vehicles gather large volumes of navigation and environment-related data, which are subsequently analyzed to enhance vehicle performance and optimize route planning. A clear distinction is made between operational and personal data—only transportation-relevant information is collected, in compliance with data protection principles. This use case demonstrated the value of field-based data as a resource for continuous system improvement.

3. **Managing Urban Access Based on CCAM Principles**

   An Expertintroduced an approach focused on improving access management for vehicles in urban and peri-urban areas. Based on the principles of **Cooperative, Connected, and Automated Mobility,** his work targets specific regulatory frameworks such as **Urban Vehicle Access Regulations**, parking controls, and loading zone management. The objective is to establish intelligent systems that dynamically regulate vehicle access in response to real-time conditions, thereby enhancing both traffic flow and regional mobility efficiency.

These contributions illustrate the practical potential of the D2T initiative to bridge strategy with implementation. By integrating local collaborations, field data collection, and smart mobility solutions, the project is well-positioned to support innovation in connected and automated transport systems across Europe.

6.1.3. Connectivity, Miro results: Expert Contacts

As part of the interactive session conducted on the Miro collaboration platform, experts shared valuable contributions related to the integration of advanced technologies in mobility systems, particularly focusing on simulation environments, real-world validation, and the emerging role of quantum computing. These insights provide a forward-looking perspective on technological innovation within the framework of the Drive2Transform project.

1. **Virtual Vehicle City- Combining Simulation and Real-World Testing**

   Experts highlighted **Virtual Vehicle City** as a key institution pioneering the combination of simulation and on-road testing to validate vehicle technologies. This integrated approach allows for testing under diverse scenarios and driving conditions, enhancing both performance and safety. The dual validation method enables a controlled yet realistic development environment for connected and automated vehicles. Experts referenced the center's capabilities as an example of best practice in advancing connected mobility infrastructure. More detailed information about the facility is available on the official **Virtual Vehicle City** website.

2. **Planned Webinar on Quantum Computing**

   In line with the interest expressed on the Miro board, a **webinar on quantum computing** is being planned in cooperation with the Mobility & Logistics Cluster. Experts proposed this format as a way to share knowledge, explore application scenarios, and initiate partnerships focused on the use of quantum computing in mobility-related domains. The webinar will serve as a starting point for structured exploration of this high-potential topic within the Drive2Transform context.

6.1.4. Connectivity, Miro results: (Transnational) Use Case Development

As part of the collaborative session conducted on the Miro board, experts contributed insights related to the identification and development of transnational use cases within the fields of **predictive road maintenance** and **smart charging for electric vehicles (EVs)**. The discussion also addressed the role of technology providers such as **OptWare** in contributing to the development and evaluation of such systems under the broader CCAM (Cooperative, Connected, and Automated Mobility) framework.

1. **Challenges for OptWare in Use Case Contribution**

   Experts noted that one of the current challenges facing is the need to clearly define specific use cases where their technology can generate substantial added value. While the Experts has technological capabilities relevant to mobility, its potential contributions to system evaluation and integration remain undefined. Experts suggested that further analysis is required to assess how tools and services could be meaningfully embedded into existing or emerging systems, particularly across regional and national contexts.

2. **Predictive Road Maintenance Based on Vehicle Data**

   A promising area for use case development is **predictive road maintenance**, especially within public transportation fleets. By utilizing vehicle-generated data, road surface issues can be detected at an early stage—before they develop into costly or hazardous conditions. This approach could significantly improve the **efficiency, safety, and reliability** of public transport operations. Experts emphasized that predictive maintenance has both operational and sustainability benefits and could be piloted as part of a broader transnational initiative.

3. **CCAM Environment and Open Standards**

   The CCAM framework was recognized as a key enabler for the integration of such advanced use cases. Experts highlighted the importance of **open standards**, which ensure interoperability between different technologies, platforms, and service providers. These standards create a common ground for the seamless deployment of new solutions, both at local and cross-border levels. They also support collaborative development and scalability, which are essential for broader implementation.

4. **Use Case Example: Single Sign-On (SSO) for EV Charging**

   Within the CCAM context, a specific use case discussed was the **implementation of a Single Sign-On (SSO)** system for electric vehicle charging. Experts proposed the development of an **intelligent charging agent** that could enhance the user experience by simplifying authentication and managing charging sessions more efficiently. The aim is to reduce charging time, streamline the process across providers, and increase adoption of electric mobility through improved service usability.

5. **Outlook**

   The Miro board contributions made clear that both predictive maintenance and EV charging optimization offer significant potential for transnational cooperation. By identifying concrete use cases and aligning them with CCAM principles, stakeholders can better target investments and partnerships. Moving forward, further refinement of these ideas will be necessary to transition from concept to pilot implementation.

7. Automation Focus Group

Stefan Hopfer and Luk Palmen welcomed the experts. After a short introduction about the role and objectives of the expert groups in the Drive2Transform project, Luk Palmen presented the methodology, and the outcomes of the work performed in the framework of the International Readiness Index.

Each expert presented his bio, including current fields of interest, positive inputs and perceived hurdles in the field of autonomous vehicles, expectations from the expert group and own contribution.

7.1. Automation, Results: Deep Dive

During a brainstorm session, the expert group participants wrote down topics for future meetings. Through voting, the following list of key topics was selected:

1. Beyond testing grounds – how to scale testing of solutions to reach market readiness and approval (homologation, certification)? Legal framework /Standardisation of test frameworks for components and solutions (6 votes)
2. Challenges and opportunities for SMEs in the autonomous vehicles value chains (4 votes)
3. New technologies for identifying the "unnoticed" (machine learning models, technical and legal issues to handle this challenge) (4 votes)
4. Understanding the vehicle surroundings right (lidar scanners, sensors, cameras, intelligent materials, artificial intelligence, …) – how should the "safety package" look like? (3 votes)
5. Autonomous vehicles test areas in Central Europe – examples, needs, opportunities (3 votes)
6. Data gathering, data processing, data sharing – cybersecurity issues, stakeholders, services (2 votes)
7. Public transport, taxi transport – where will be the next scaled implementation? (1 vote)

   Legal frameworks, cross-border agreements (1 vote) (see https://www.ccam.eu/projects/fa

8. Electrification Focus Group

The online kick-off meeting of the Electrification Expert Group was held on May 12 via the ZOOM platform, with a strong representation of 16 out of 18 selected experts. The group demonstrated diverse expertise, bringing together professionals from small and large companies, as well as universities. Their willingness to engage, exchange insights, and contribute to future discussions was evident, along with a shared appreciation for networking and knowledge sharing.

8.1. Electrification, OnePage Experts

The moderator provided an overview of the Drive2Transform project, presenting initial findings from WP1 and the accompanying survey. This sparked great interest among the experts, who requested further details about the project's insights.

8.2. Electrification, Results

In contrast to the smaller Expert Group meetings, the high number of participants in this session limited the available time for in-depth discussion of all planned agenda items. As a result, not all points could be explored to the same extent.

To ensure more effective engagement in future sessions, the team is currently considering two potential adjustments: either **splitting the group into smaller sub-groups** based on thematic relevance or **organizing multiple sessions** for the same topic. These changes aim to create a more interactive environment that allows all participants to contribute meaningfully to the discussion.

A key objective of the meeting was to **familiarize participants with one another, their motivations, backgrounds, and potential contributions** to the project. A majority (16 out of 18) submitted their **one-pagers** ahead of the session, while others successfully introduced themselves during the meeting. However, not all who submitted one-pagers were able to attend.

9. Conclusion

The initial series of Expert Group meetings demonstrated a high level of commitment and enthusiasm from external participants. Experts were actively engaged in cross-regional knowledge exchange and showed strong motivation to share experiences and highlight common challenges across thematic areas.

However, the meetings also revealed certain structural challenges. Due to the diverse nature of the thematic topics and varying numbers of experts per focus area, participation levels differed significantly between groups. This had a direct impact on the depth and quality of discussion in some of the kick-off sessions. The issue has been acknowledged, and adjustments are being made to improve consistency and balance in future meetings.

Despite these differences, the overall atmosphere was positive, with participants expressing satisfaction with the collaborative environment and the opportunity to engage with peers.

A further point of reflection emerged around the tools used for gathering input and facilitating discussion. While the WP3.1 leader utilized Miro for structured collaboration, other groups employed a variety of platforms, including Forms and Mentimeter. This lack of standardization has made it difficult to draw clear, comparable conclusions across the different focus areas.

To address this, the project team will identify a common digital tool to be used across all Expert Group sessions moving forward. This will support a more unified approach to documentation, simplify the facilitation process, and enable cross-topic comparison and analysis in subsequent phases

10. Next Steeps meeting.

Following each Expert Group meeting, a **summary report** is prepared by the respective moderator. This document captures the key discussion points, preliminary results, and identified follow-up topics. Once drafted, the report is shared with both **experts and project partners** for review and approval to ensure accuracy and shared ownership of the outcomes.

As part of the communication strategy, a **social media post** is published after each meeting. These posts serve to highlight the participating experts, showcase their contributions, and—where applicable—present initial results or outline the focus of upcoming sessions.

Looking ahead, the **next round of Expert Group meetings** is scheduled to take place in the **third quarter of 2025**, allowing time to incorporate feedback and prepare targeted follow-up discussions.

In the upcoming sessions, it is planned that best practices from a range of experts will be presented. These examples will serve as a basis for joint discussion and will be analyzed in relation to the specific needs and conditions of different regions. This collaborative examination will help identify transferable approaches and region-specific adaptations. The resulting insights will contribute to the development of a consolidated collection of best practices, which is intended to be published at the conclusion of the D2T project.

In parallel, dedicated use cases will be developed. These use cases may be created with direct input from the expert groups and, where appropriate, evaluated in collaboration with them. This dual-track approach—combining the identification of proven practices with the development of concrete applications—ensures both strategic relevance and practical applicability across diverse contexts