

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Page 2

DREAM\_PACE: The Final Event

Pages 3

What Is Next for DRT?  
Takeaways from the Final Event

Integrating DRT 3.0 into  
SUMP: The New Topic  
Guide

Page 4

Presenting the  
DREAM\_PACE Legacy  
[www.drt4all.eu](http://www.drt4all.eu): The DRT  
Solutions Toolbox

Page 5

DREAM\_PACE Videos:  
Capturing Our Journey  
and Results

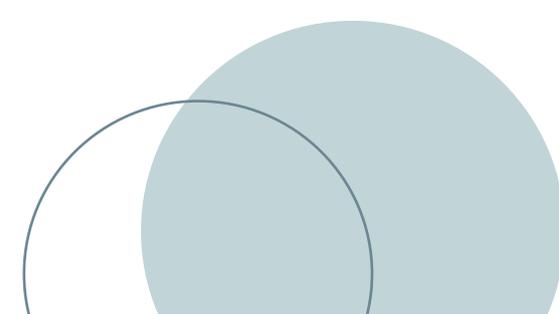
Page 6

Just A Goodbye And A  
New Beginning

# A JOURNEY COMES TO A CLOSE

This sixth and final edition of the DREAM\_PACE newsletter marks the conclusion of a collaborative European journey dedicated to advancing Demand-Responsive Transport (DRT) as a key enabler of inclusive, efficient, and sustainable mobility across Central Europe. Over the past years, DREAM\_PACE has brought together public authorities, research institutions, mobility operators, and policy experts to jointly explore how DRT can evolve from isolated pilots into a stable, well-integrated component of public transport systems. Through six Living Labs operating in diverse metropolitan, peri-urban, and rural contexts, the project has tested governance models, planning approaches, digital solutions, and operational frameworks for DRT. These real-world experiences have demonstrated that, when strategically designed and well integrated, DRT can address accessibility gaps, strengthen public transport networks, and respond flexibly to local mobility needs.

This final edition brings together the project's key milestones and reflections. It features highlights from the [DREAM\\_PACE](#) Final Event in Berlin, where stakeholders discussed the future role of DRT in Europe, as well as consolidated takeaways from the Living Labs and the project's broader EU-wide consultation process. While DREAM\_PACE formally comes to an end, its outcomes live on through continued collaboration, the [www.drt4all.eu](http://www.drt4all.eu) platform, and a growing European community committed to flexible, inclusive, and future-proof mobility.



# DREAM\_PACE: FINAL EVENT

The DREAM\_PACE consortium successfully concluded the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE project with its Final Conference in Berlin. Hosted in the vibrant academic setting of Technische Universität Berlin, the event marked an important milestone for the project and offered a moment to reflect on several years of collaborative work. The conference sparked inspiring discussions and clearly demonstrated how far DRT has progressed—from innovative pilot projects to a maturing and increasingly strategic mobility solution within Europe’s transport landscape.

With around 70 stakeholders attending in person and many more joining online via live streaming, the conference reached a broad, diverse, and highly engaged audience. Policymakers, public authorities, researchers, transport operators, and mobility practitioners came together to exchange experiences, share insights from different regional contexts, and discuss pathways for scaling DRT solutions. High-level and highly insightful speakers enriched the programme, contributing to a lively and forward-looking dialogue on the future of DRT, its integration within public transport systems, and its capacity to respond to some of Europe’s most pressing mobility challenges, including accessibility, operational efficiency, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

A clear and shared message emerged from the discussions: **DRT is entering its maturity phase**. To unlock its full potential, DRT now requires stronger coordination between actors, clearer governance frameworks, and deeper integration with existing public transport networks and planning instruments—while preserving the flexibility that makes it such a powerful solution across urban, peri-urban, and rural contexts. When well designed and strategically embedded, DRT can strengthen public transport systems, improve first- and last-mile connectivity, and contribute to more resilient and future-proof mobility services.



Giuseppe Liguori, DREAM\_PACE Project Coordinator, SRM, opens the Final Event



Final Event’s speakers, Tamás Zoltán Halmos, BKK; Giorgio Fiorillo, SRM; Monica Marconi, Autoguidovie

The Final Conference also provided an opportunity to connect DREAM\_PACE results with broader European policy discussions and to highlight how project outcomes can support long-term deployment beyond the project’s lifetime. Recordings of the Final Event, along with **four short wrap-up videos** summarising DREAM\_PACE results, are available on the [DREAM\\_PACE YouTube channel](#), ensuring continued access to the project’s key messages and insights. A sincere thank you goes to all participants, partners, speakers, and contributors who made this Final Event a true success and helped bring the DREAM\_PACE journey to a meaningful and inspiring close.

Follow us to stay updated!   

# WHAT IS NEXT FOR DRT?

## TAKEAWAYS FROM THE FINAL EVENT

In November 2025, we had the pleasure of bringing the DREAM\_PACE project to a close with our Final Event on DRT in Berlin. The event gathered policymakers, public authorities, mobility experts, researchers, and project partners from across Europe to reflect on the project's achievements and to exchange views on the future of DRT within evolving public transport systems.

Our key message was clear and widely shared: DRT is no longer a 'nice pilot' - it has become a strategic tool for fair, resilient, and future-proof mobility in Europe. Throughout the discussions and presentations, several core insights emerged from DREAM\_PACE results and from the hands-on experiences gained through the Living Labs:

- **Integration, not isolation:** DRT delivers the greatest value when it is embedded within regional public transport networks and aligned with Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP). Rather than competing with fixed-route services, DRT is most effective when acting as a flexible feeder to rail and bus systems, improving network coverage and accessibility.
- **Smart use of technology and data:** Advances in digital platforms, real-time routing, booking systems, and shared data standards now make DRT services more scalable, interoperable, and cost-efficient. These tools enable better coordination across operators and regions, supporting long-term service stability.
- **Different areas, different solutions:** Metropolitan, peri-urban, and rural areas require tailored DRT service designs that respond to local demand, density, and travel patterns. At the same time, all contexts benefit from a shared strategic framework that supports coherent governance, coordination between actors, and long-term planning.
- **From pilot to policy:** DREAM\_PACE strategies, Action Plans, and the upcoming "DRT 3.0 in SUMP" Topic Guide are designed to help cities and regions move beyond experimentation and towards stable, long-term deployment of DRT services.

The Final Event clearly confirmed that DRT is no longer a question of if, but of how—and how fast—it can be effectively scaled across Europe to meet today's and tomorrow's mobility challenges.



Final event's round-table „DRT Experiences from Europe: How to scale up“: Lukas Foljanty, DB; Alessandro Luè, PoliMi; Denis Grasso: ITL; Tialle Groen. Mpac

## INTEGRATING DRT 3.0 INTO SUMP:

### THE NEW TOPIC GUIDE

DREAM\_PACE has released a new **Topic Guide on Demand Responsive Transport (DRT 3.0) in Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP)**. Link: [https://www.interreg-central.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/D3.1.3-Topic-guide-DRT-3.0-in-SUMPs\\_Final.pdf](https://www.interreg-central.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/D3.1.3-Topic-guide-DRT-3.0-in-SUMPs_Final.pdf)

The guide translates three years of project experience and six Living Labs into practical, step-by-step advice for cities and regions that want to plan DRT as part of their public transport system - not as a stand-alone pilot. The publication is aimed at **local and regional authorities, public transport authorities and operators, planners and consultants**. It introduces the DRT 3.0 concept - flexible, data-informed and user-centred services that are fully integrated into wider mobility strategies and support goals such as accessibility, social inclusion and territorial cohesion.

Structured along the four SUMP phases, the guide offers:

- A SUMP-based action checklist to integrate DRT from baseline analysis to implementation and monitoring.
- Guidance on service design, governance, funding and digital platforms.
- Recommended indicators to monitor mobility, operational and integration performance.
- Examples and lessons from DREAM\_PACE pilots and international practice.

Together with the **DRT4All Solutions Toolbox**, the Topic Guide forms a concrete support package for authorities and operators who want to move from experimentation to long-term, scalable DRT solutions. The document will be available online via DRT4All and DREAM\_PACE channels - and we invite readers to use it in their planning processes and share their own experiences with DRT 3.0.

# PRESENTING THE DREAM\_PACE LEGACY

## WWW.DRT4ALL.EU:

### THE DRT SOLUTION TOOLBOX

With the conclusion of DREAM\_PACE, the project's knowledge, tools, and results continue to live on through [www.drt4all.eu](http://www.drt4all.eu) - a central European platform created to support the long-term advancement of Demand-Responsive Transport beyond individual projects, funding cycles, and pilot initiatives. The platform serves as a one-stop hub for all things DRT, bringing together the project's strategic insights, practical resources, and real-world lessons in a clear and accessible format for stakeholders across Europe.

At the heart of the platform lies the DRT Solutions Toolbox, a comprehensive set of guidance materials designed to support **public authorities, transport planners, mobility practitioners, and decision-makers** at every stage of DRT development. Whether you are exploring DRT for the first time, designing a new service, optimising an existing one, or seeking to embed it into Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP), the toolbox offers actionable resources to move from concept to implementation, and from pilot to long-term, scalable deployment.

The toolbox covers all key dimensions of successful DRT delivery, including:

- **Governance and institutional setup:** Guidance on decision-making structures, roles, responsibilities, and coordination between actors.
- **Planning and service design:** Strategies for designing routes, zones, schedules, and service models tailored to urban, peri-urban, and rural contexts.
- **Digitalisation and data management:** Tools and recommendations for integrating booking systems, real-time routing, interoperability, and shared data standards.
- **Operations and performance monitoring:** Insights on service management, key performance indicators, and continuous improvement.

Built on the hands-on experience of six diverse Living Lab regions - from dense metropolitan areas to rural and peri-urban territories - the toolbox translates complex project insights into practical, adaptable guidance. These regional experiences provide valuable examples of how DRT can be co-designed with local stakeholders, coordinated with existing transport networks, and implemented efficiently to meet real mobility needs.

Through DREAM\_PACE, partners co-developed strategies, Action Plans, and pilot solutions, reflecting a wide variety of institutional, operational, and geographical contexts. These results now form a shared European knowledge base, supporting replication, scaling, and policy integration of DRT services well beyond the project's lifetime. Cities, regions, and mobility operators can draw from this knowledge to accelerate DRT adoption, improve service quality, and foster inclusive, flexible, and sustainable transport systems.

Whether you are just beginning your DRT journey, refining an existing service, or seeking to integrate it into wider mobility planning, [www.drt4all.eu](http://www.drt4all.eu) provides a practical, user-friendly, and fully accessible entry point. By connecting lessons learned, tested solutions, and actionable guidance, the platform ensures that DRT is not only a temporary pilot but a strategic, resilient, and long-lasting component of Europe's mobility future.



[www.drt4all.eu](http://www.drt4all.eu)

# DREAM\_PACE VIDEOS: CAPTURING OUR JOURNEY AND RESULTS

To ensure that DREAM\_PACE results remain accessible beyond technical reports, workshops, and project events, the consortium produced four short, dedicated videos designed to present the project's core ideas and outcomes in a clear and engaging way. Each video focuses on a key dimension of Demand-Responsive Transport implementation, translating complex project insights and real-world experiences into easily understandable messages for a broad audience.



- **DREAM\_PACE Mission & Vision for Implementing DRT:** Presenting the project's overall ambition and its contribution to more inclusive and sustainable mobility systems. [Watch Now](#)
- **DREAM\_PACE Strategy, Results & Main Outputs:** highlighting the key achievements, tools, and strategic outputs developed throughout the project. [Watch Now](#)
- **Stakeholder Participation in the Living Labs:** showcasing how co-creation and stakeholder engagement shaped DRT solutions across diverse regional contexts. [Watch Now](#)
- **Challenges on the Path to Successful DRT Implementation:** reflecting on barriers encountered and lessons learned when moving from pilots to scalable services. [Watch Now](#)

These videos provide a concise yet engaging overview of what DREAM\_PACE set out to achieve, the concrete results it delivered, and the key lessons learned throughout the project's lifetime. By combining strategic insights with practical examples from the Living Labs, the videos illustrate how Demand-Responsive Transport can be planned, implemented, and integrated into wider public transport systems across different territorial contexts.

Designed with policymakers, public authorities, mobility practitioners, and other stakeholders in mind, the videos offer an accessible entry point for anyone seeking a quick introduction to DRT or a clear summary of DREAM\_PACE outcomes. They distil complex concepts, project results, and real-world experiences into short, easy-to-understand formats that can support awareness-raising, internal discussions, and knowledge sharing. Looking for a short, easy-to-share explanation of DRT and the main results of DREAM\_PACE? These videos are the perfect starting point—and a practical resource to spark further exploration and action.

# JUST A GOODBYE AND A NEW BEGINNING

DREAM\_PACE will officially come to an end in the coming weeks, marking the conclusion of a collaborative journey that has spanned regions, institutions, and disciplines across Central Europe. While the formal project framework draws to a close, the work initiated through DREAM\_PACE continues—shaping how Demand-Responsive Transport is understood, planned, implemented, and governed in the years ahead.

Over the past years, DREAM\_PACE has brought together a strong and diverse community of public authorities, researchers, transport operators, mobility planners, and policy experts. Through close cooperation, shared learning, and continuous exchange, the project has created a common language around DRT and strengthened trust between actors who are essential for its long-term success. By working across borders and institutional settings, partners collectively explored how DRT can evolve from fragmented pilot services into a stable, reliable, and integrated component of public transport systems.

Central to this journey were the six Living Labs, where co-design, testing, and real-world implementation allowed ideas to be translated into practice. These Living Labs demonstrated that while DRT solutions must be tailored to local conditions—whether urban, peri-urban, or rural—they also benefit from shared strategic frameworks, coordinated governance, and supportive policy environments. The strategies developed, Action Plans co-created, and operational insights gained will continue to inform mobility policies, investment decisions, and innovation processes well beyond the project's lifetime.



Beyond its strategic contributions, DREAM\_PACE has delivered practical tools, guidance, and evidence that support cities and regions in addressing pressing mobility challenges. From improving accessibility and social inclusion to strengthening public transport networks and responding flexibly to changing mobility needs, the project has shown how DRT can contribute to more resilient and sustainable transport systems. These outcomes live on through continued collaboration, shared knowledge, and dedicated platforms such as [www.drt4all.eu](http://www.drt4all.eu), ensuring that DREAM\_PACE results remain accessible, transferable, and actionable for a wide European audience.

To keep the DREAM\_PACE legacy alive, all Project and Associated Partners have signed a Letter of Intent committing to continue cross-border cooperation after the project ends. We will maintain and enrich the public repository and DRT toolbox at [www.drt4all.eu](http://www.drt4all.eu) for at least three years (until 28 February 2029), and keep promoting the “DRT 3.0 in SUMP” Topic Guide and other key outputs. Partners will also convene annually online to exchange updates on DRT deployment, share lessons learned, and disseminate results through their communication channels—ensuring DREAM\_PACE impacts continue well beyond its funding period.

We extend our sincere thanks to all partners, stakeholders, speakers, and followers who accompanied us on this journey and contributed their expertise, time, and trust. DREAM\_PACE may be coming to an end, but the path toward smarter, people-centred mobility continues—stronger, clearer, and better connected than ever.



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Italy



SRM Networks and Mobility

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