



FlexiSHARE

First

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University of Applied Sciences Erfurt
Germany



Municipality of Mirosławiec
Poland



City of Stropkov
Slovakia



Municipality of Selnica ob Dravi
Slovenia



FlexiSHARE Project Successfully Launched with Kick-off Meeting in Selnica ob Dravi



Selnica ob Dravi, 17 & 18 February 2026 - Partner of the **FlexiSHARE** project gathered on 17 and 18 February for the official Kick-off Meeting, hosted by **Municipality of Selnica ob Dravi**. The event marked the beginning of 24-month cooperation at reducing “mobility poverty” in peripheral areas of Central Europe.

What is mobility poverty?

Mobility poverty occurs when people cannot access essential services, work, education, healthcare, or social activities due to inadequate, unaffordable, or inaccessible transport. It particularly affects older adults, young people, low-income households, and people with disabilities. Through FlexiSHARE, partners will test innovative transport solutions that can be scaled up and transferred across Central Europe.

Two Days of Planning for Better Connectivity

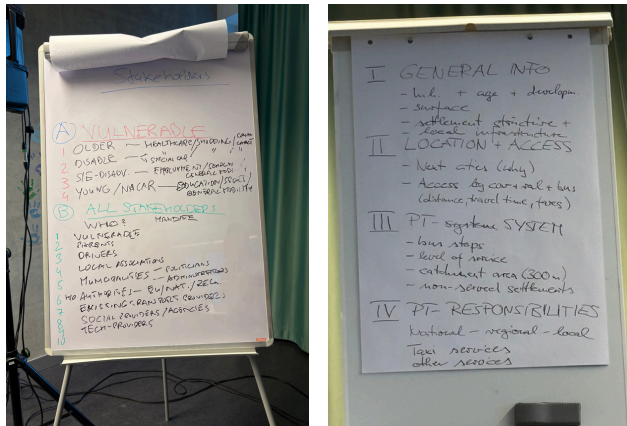
The main objective of the meeting in Slovenia was to present the local challenges of partners from Slovenia, Slovakia and Poland, to establish a shared understanding for developing inclusive and sustainable mobility solutions. Key discussions focused on:

- **FlexiRide Pilot Project:** Developing a Demand-Responsive Transport (DRT) model tailored to the specific needs of local inhabitants.
- **Scientific and Analytical Support:** Experts from the **University of Erfurt** presented the methodology for data collection and stakeholder mapping. Their role is crucial in ensuring that the project's solutions are grounded in research and a deep understanding of human travel behavior.
- **Including Vulnerable Groups:** Special attention will be given to the elderly, people with disabilities, low-income individuals and youth facing geographical isolation.
- **Community Engagement:** Planning workshops and methods to co-design transport services directly with future users.



Focus on Transnational Cooperation

The meeting was also attended online by Katerina Šrámková from Interreg Central Europe Joint Secretariat, who presented the programme's expectations regarding implementation and communication.



The host, Mayor Vlasta Krmelj, welcomed the partners by highlighting the municipality's achievements in sustainability, which will serve as a foundation for the project's pilot activities.



MEET THE PARTNERS: Faces of the FlexiSHARE Mission

While our partners come from different corners of Central Europe, they are united by a single goal: to ensure that no citizen is left behind due to a lack of transport. In this section, we take a "Street View" look at the local challenges our team is tackling.

Lead partner

Municipality of Selnica ob Dravi

Building on the success of the Kobanc mobility for seniors, the municipality is now turning its focus to its youngest residents. For children in remote areas, “mobility poverty” often restricts their potential, as lack of afternoon transport prevents them from attending music, sports or art classes while parents are at work.



Through the FlexiSHARE pilot project, the municipality aims to improve transportation for children by introducing a specialized transport-on-demand service. By providing flexible connections to the town center, the initiative strives to enable all young, regardless of where they live, to attend extracurricular activities and pursue their interests. This project ensures that every child has an equal opportunity to participate in the community's social and educational life.

What is the #1 mobility obstacle in your streets?

Lack of afternoon transport for children in remote hilly areas.

Which group is most affected by the lack of transport?

Children wishing to attend various after-school and extracurricular activities.

What is the main goal your municipality wants to achieve with FlexiSHARE?

To enable as many children as possible to attend extracurricular activities.



“Our goal is to enable youth, the elderly, and anyone facing transport challenges to fully participate in community activities.” - dr. Vlasta Krmelj, Mayor

Municipality of Mirosławiec Poland

In the Municipality of Mirosławiec, mobility poverty is not just a statistic; it is a daily reality for many residents, especially older people, people with disabilities, and those living in rural villages.



Public transport connections are limited, often do not match appointment times, and during school holidays or weekends some services are reduced or unavailable. Many residents told us that transport exclusion means being dependent on others for everyday activities such as visiting a doctor, shopping, handling administrative matters, or simply participating in community life. In a municipality with dispersed settlements and a low population density, flexible and demand-responsive transport solutions are essential for maintaining equal access to services and opportunities.

What is the #1 mobility obstacle in your streets?

Limited transport services matching residents' daily mobility needs.

Which group is most affected by the lack of transport?

Elderly residents, people with disabilities, and rural communities.

What is the main goal your municipality wants to achieve with FlexiSHARE?

Accessible, flexible transport for everyone, regardless of location.



"Transport should not be a barrier to healthcare, employment or social life. Through FlexiSHARE, we want to better understand the needs of our residents and develop practical solutions that improve everyday mobility across the municipality."

— Piotr Pawlik, Mayor

City of Stropkov Slovakia

In the town of Stropkov, mobility poverty is not just a statistic; it is a daily problem that mainly affects older people. For many seniors, even a simple trip to the doctor or the grocery store can become a serious challenge. An elderly woman living alone in a housing estate may still manage a short walk, but if she needs to visit a more distant medical clinic or carry heavy shopping bags home, it becomes a major difficulty. Not everyone has family nearby or neighbours who can help with transportation.

In smaller towns such as Stropkov, people often have no other option but to walk or use a car.

However, for seniors who no longer drive, this represents a significant problem. During winter, bad weather, or periods of poor health, many prefer to stay at home and postpone a doctor's appointment or a larger shopping trip. This reduces their quality of life and increases feelings of loneliness and dependence on others.



For this reason, the municipality recognises the need for more accessible and flexible transport services that better respond to the needs of older and vulnerable residents.

What is the #1 mobility obstacle in your streets?

Limited transport options for people unable to drive cars.

Which group is most affected by the lack of transport?

Elderly people living alone without access to a car.

What is the main goal your municipality wants to achieve with FlexiSHARE?

More flexible and accessible transport for vulnerable residents.



“For many older residents, even a simple trip to the doctor or grocery store can be difficult. With FlexiSHARE, we want to create transport solutions that are more flexible, accessible, and focused on real community needs.” — Ondrej Brendza, Mayor

University of Applied Sciences Erfurt Germany

The Transport and Spatial Planning Institute at the University of Erfurt sees ending mobility poverty across Europe as an important and worthwhile goal for public policy and interdisciplinary research.

After all, vulnerable members of our communities deserve the same right to move from A to B for essential daily purposes like all people.

Their longstanding involvement in a wide variety of research projects has shown them again and again that such problems can be tackled successfully in a collective and strategic manner.

Many good and proven practices now exist on local and regional scales across our continent, which can be used as productive impulses for our FlexiSHARE-pilot work.

The Institute is truly excited to work with our partners in Selnica, Mirosławiec, and Stropkov in order to improve the daily transport situation for old, young, disabled, and socio-economically disadvantaged people—not just for the duration of the project, but for good!

