

OUTPUT FACTSHEET

Project index number	CE0100054	Acronym	SUSTANCE			
Output type ("x" to be included)	Strategy/ action plan	Yes	Pilot action		Solution	
Output number (O.xx)	O.1.1	Output title	Transnational action plan for better cross-border Public Transport connectivity			
If the output target is > 1 in the AF, please specify the output(s) described in the factsheet						
Output delivery date	March 2026					
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/sustance/					

Summary description of the output

Please present the output by addressing the following topics.

Territorial challenges and needs in the regions specifically addressed by the output
(max. 700 characters)

Across the participating regions, public transport is often infrequent, indirect and slow. Many cross-border routes are poorly connected or missing altogether, and rural areas in particular suffer from limited travel options. Access to travel information is inconsistent, and cooperation between neighbouring countries is not always well coordinated. These challenges make everyday mobility difficult, increase dependence on private cars, and weaken the connection between regions.

Main aim(s) of the output and how it contributes to tackle the identified challenge(s)
(max. 500 characters)

The action plan provides measures with aim to make travel easier and more reliable in cross-border and remote areas in Central Europe. It brings together the findings of public transport accessibility studies and pilot projects in five study areas, identifies what limits public transport performance, and proposes practical improvements. These include better coordination between countries, clearer passenger information, more direct services, and operational measures that help shorten journeys and improve service quality.

Technical description of the output (e.g. scope, main features, innovative elements etc.)

(max. 1500 characters)

The action plan summarises all key work carried out in the SUSTANCE project. It builds on a method that measures how easy it is for residents and visitors to reach important destinations using public transport. This method looks at several factors: travel time, how often services run, how direct the routes are, and the availability and integration of travel information.

Five areas across Central Europe were analysed using this method, covering both cross-border routes and rural regions. The plan presents the main findings from these assessments and from pilot activities such as new train services, additional departures, improved information tools and digital applications.

Based on these experiences, the action plan outlines both short-term and long-term measures. Short-term actions focus on better timetables, new connections and improved travel information. Long-term actions include upgrades to railway lines, better coordination between institutions, investment in modern rolling stock and improved integration of different transport modes. The plan also supports ongoing use of the online Public Transport Accessibility Tool, which helps authorities analyse and compare accessibility in a consistent way.

Involvement of target groups during output development and/or implementation

(max. 700 characters)

Public transport authorities, regional and local governments, railway and bus operators, digital service providers and tourism organisations all actively contributed to the project. They shared data, commented on proposed measures, participated in workshops and tested new services and digital tools. Their input ensured that the proposed solutions reflect real needs and can support everyday travellers, commuters and tourists more effectively.

Cooperation dimension of the output, i.e. joint development within the partnership and, if applicable, joint implementation (see output indicator definitions in chapter 1.3.3 and Annex 2 of the programme manual)

(max. 700 characters)

The action plan was created through close cooperation between partners from Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Austria and Hungary. They jointly developed and verified the accessibility assessment method by coordinating data collection, comparing results across regions and implemented pilot activities. Establishing cross-border train services and harmonising cross-border multimodal travel information required particularly close coordination, showing the value of working across national boundaries to improve transport services.

Results - expected change and lasting effects in the territories generated specifically by the output, its uptake by relevant organisations and benefits for target groups

(max. 1000 characters)

The proposed measures are expected to make travel more convenient and better connected, especially in rural and border regions. Pilot activities have already shown improvements, through deployment of more direct train connections and better digital information for passengers. Over time, the measures implemented in the pilot actions are expected to encourage more people to use public transport, reduce car dependency, support tourism and strengthen links between neighbouring regions. The methodology and digital tools developed in the project will remain available, helping authorities continue improving accessibility well beyond the project period.

Ownership and durability of the output after the project end, considering financial and institutional support including, if applicable, maintenance

(max. 700 characters)

The tools and approaches developed within the project remain available to regional authorities, transport planners and operators. As many elements of the action plan are already integrated into ongoing regional and national strategies, further improvements are expected to continue over time. The online accessibility tool will remain accessible for at least five years after the project's conclusion, while the project's outputs, included in the Transnational Action Plan on connectivity, are openly available and will support long-term planning as well as the ongoing maintenance and updating of recommended measures.

Transferability of the output to other territories, sectors or target groups and planned measures for supporting such transfer

(max. 700 characters)

The approach used in the action plan was designed from the very start to be easily applicable in other regions across Central Europe and beyond. The proposed measures are not tied to the specific conditions of the five study areas but were developed with a broader, transnational perspective in mind. The tools, applied methods and lessons learned that support these measures are flexible and freely available to everyone. They can be easily used in different regions, and the tested solutions—such as new train services, better timetables, improved travel information and small mobility hubs—can be replicated in other rural or cross-border areas. The project's guidance further ensures that other regions can adopt and tailor the solutions according to their own needs.

Related final deliverable(s) (Number(s) and title(s) to be included)	D.1.4.2: Transnational action plan for better Cross border Public Transport connectivity
Output web link (if applicable)	
GPS coordinates (if applicable)	