



Newsletter Volume 2

May 2018

REGIONAL ANALYSES FINISHED

As baseline for further investigations TRANS-BORDERS starts with four regional analyses of cross-border traffic in the project regions, which are the border triangle Poland, Czech Republic and Germany as well as the border region South Carinthia and Koroška.

Introductory each regional analyses investigated the border regions with their Demographic development, the economy and tourism as well as the transport infrastructure in general. In the next step the quality of public transport connections, especially in cross-border transport, were described. On the one hand, the links to TEN-T were examined, highlighting existing cross-border routes and evaluating the regions' links to national networks. What the study areas have in common is that they are rather remote within their countries and current the quality of travelling does not match European standards.

Furthermore, the organization of public transport in each border region and its financing models were also compared. In past years there have already been convergences, particularly between Saxony, the Liberec region and Lower Silesia, on which further partnerships can be developed in the coming years.

Finally, the need for action was described and recommendations were made. The next steps are now the development of regional action plans and of financing models to improve cross-border passenger transport.

BEST PRACTICE OF CROSSBORDER PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN CENTRAL EUROPE

In spring of 2018 two transnational workshops took place, to get in contact with other peripheral cross-border regions with good solutions in public passenger services and to learn of similar concepts in Central Europe regions. TRANS-BORDERS first organized a best practice workshop in Villach (Austria) with a discussing session with regional experts of cross-border public transport was complimented by a full day excursion. The other workshop aimed to stakeholders in cross-border transport, took place in Liberec (Czech Republic).

During the Best Practice Workshop on 18th and 19th of April 2018, our project partners and regional experts get in contact with the cross-border train connection between Austria and Italy, the MICOTRA. This cross-border passenger service has its origin in the INTERREG IV A Italy - Austria 2007 - 2013 project. The aim was to shift traffic from road to rail with a joint planned cross-border test railway connection with two pairs of trains per day and a simple tariff structure. What makes the project so outstanding is the effort that was made for the application. In addition to newspaper articles, they developed radio spots and videos for trade fairs and cinemas.



The stakeholder event in Liberec run's in partnership with KORID LK, spol.r.o., the leading public transport planning institution of Liberec region. During this meeting, we discussed trends and themes related to specific problems in cross-border regions, especially in the German, Polish and Czech border-triangle. Different speakers presented the current status regarding the project regions in general as well as in terms of public transport. The peripheral location of the region of the border-triangle within their countries has also meant that the connections to the main transport corridors in Europe are deficient. Nevertheless, there are strong ambitions to improve the regions' links to national and international networks. For example, Saxony established a strategy commission and the poor condition of railways on the Czech side is solved by the Ministry of Transport and the Railway Infrastructure Administration at the study level.

Successful case studies in terms of cross-border transport systems in Central Europe and also within the border-triangle region were presented. Particular mention should be made of the Euro-Neisse ticket, which has been established as a joint tariff offer in Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland within the euroregion Neisse since 2014 and has laid an important milestone for cross-border cooperation and partnership.

WHAT IS UP IN THE NEAR FUTURE

On 07th November 2018 TRANS-BORDERS will organize a Midterm-Conference. This Conference is aimed to stakeholders, authorities and operations concerning to cross-border public transport. Further information will be available soon on our project website.

