

ACCESS 2 MOUNTAIN Newsletter No.5

November 2013

A couple of pilot projects completed - capitalisation underway

Since the last newsletter was edited in April, the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project partners have successfully continued their regional pilot activities. **Nationalpark Gesäuse's** GSEISPUR, a demand-oriented mobility platform, was well received in its first months. **Maramures** published attractive new packages involving the recently introduced e-bike rental service. At the 5th partner meeting, which took place on 14-15 May in Baia Mare, the project consortium had a chance to get an insight into the newly developed bike and multimodal transport infrastructure. **EURAC** is investigating the potential for e-mobility in the pilot region of Corvara/South Tyrol. The **Mostviertel** region is further consolidating partnerships between the Mariazell railway and other regional players. In the **cross-border region of Kosice-Miskolc**, small-scale investments have created first visible effects and raised the awareness of sustainable multimodal transport. The **Rzeszow region** (PL) is analyzing potential future measurements to improve railway connections across the Slovak border. For a more detailed insight into regional pilot projects please go to www.access2mountain.eu. The final six months of the project will be used to ensure that feedback loops will facilitate the identification of lessons learned, so that recommendations can be made and addressed to stakeholders and politicians at different levels. As a final output at project level, a **common Charter** will be adopted at the **Final Conference on 1-3 April 2014**.



Draft version of the Transport Protocol finalised

Two further meetings of the **Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Transport** were convened in Vienna, the most recent one on 1-2 October. The WG agreed on a final draft version of the **Protocol on Sustainable Transport** which will be circulated by the ISCC among the Parties with a view to submit it to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) for consideration for the forthcoming 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) in the Czech Republic, on 24-26 September 2014. Another highlight will be the **“Scientific Workshop on Mountain Mobility and Transport” in Vienna on 11 December** in combination with a back-to-back-meeting of the Carpathian and the Alpine Convention. Dedicated to the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project and the topic of “Sustainable tourism and accessibility in mountain areas”, it will provide an opportunity for an **exchange of experiences** in the development, decision-making and implementation process of sustainable mobility solutions and measures **between the Alps and the Carpathians**.





Karpaty, Chinadievo © Gejza Legen



6th partner meeting in Chinadievo © Gejza Legen



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A trip through the Zakarpattia region (Ukraine)

The Zakarpattia Ukraine is a land of rolling hills, rivers and fertile soil. Folk traditions and modern times live together in harmony in a multicultural and multi-ethnic society. The **6th ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project partner meeting** took place in **Chinadievo** in a beautiful rural natural park with the ancient Schönborn Palace, now converted into health spa, in its midst. In a dedicated exhibition, the project partners presented and demonstrated regional pilot actions, including small-scale investments realised in the past few months, and exchanged experiences with the challenging task of working as a stakeholder and raising awareness. UNICAM held a separate training session for the practical application of the **decision-support tool for regional mobility management**. The following study tour introduced to the project partners the beauties of the Tisa valley in the southern part of the region. A slow train ride made the trip particularly enjoyable and tasting the local specialities was a treat for everyone.

The meeting was hosted by the **Carpathian Foundation Ukraine (CFUA)**, one of two 10% project partners who are sponsored by the project partner EURAC. The CFUA is one of five member organisations of the cross-border-regional CF Network that promotes good relations, social stability and economic progress in four western provinces of Ukraine (Zakarpatska, Lvisvska, Ivano-Frankivska, Chernivetska).

Polish-Slovak border region: study identifies high potential for an integrated system of sustainable multimodal transport

The integration of regional and transnational railways between Poland and Slovakia is one of the key challenges within the framework of the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project. The latest analysis issued by the Rzeszow Regional Development Agency is considered to be an important basis for the implementation of activities in the near future.

The study identifies possibilities for **combining narrow gauge railways and traditional railway lines** as well as alternative transport routes in the Polish-Slovak borderland in an **integrated system of multimodal transport**. Thanks to the already existing infrastructure, the development of such a system would not be too costly. The most significant initiative seems to be a **promotional campaign** aimed at making the connection possibilities more popular with a common tariff policy for carriers, thus making travelling through the borderland region more convenient. The analysis also calls for increased cooperation and partnerships between transport bodies and local authorities.



Narrow gauge railway, Tisa valley © Romain Molitor



Poster exhibition of regional outputs © GDL Photo



Integration of railways in the Polish-Slovak border region © BFRF



Podkarpackie region

foto Tomasz Kuzniec



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Feasibility and first implementation of intermodal routes in the Hungarian-Slovak border region

A feasibility study analysed the framework conditions in the cross-border region of North Hungary and the Kosice region (SK) in terms of multimodal transport possibilities and proposed measures within **three cross-border multimodal corridors**:

- 1.the Slovak Karst/Aggtelek (Slovenský kras): Hrušov - Jablonov nad Turňou - Silická Jablonica (SK) / Szögliget- Bódvaszilas (HU)
- 2.the Slanské Hills (Slanské vrchy): Slanec - Slánska Huta – Izra – Byšta and Skároš - Vyšná Myšľa (SK) /Pusztafalu - Füzér (HU)
- 3.Kosice (SK) - Miskolc (HU)

These routes focus primarily on **interconnecting peripheral areas with their regional centre** – the city of Kosice (SK) and the city of Miskolc (HU) respectively - by sustainable means of transport. The routes will bring benefits not only for tourists but also for locals, who have been informed about the new transport connections at a series of awareness raising events, which were held to inaugurate **small showcase projects** such as bike racks put up recently at narrow gauge railways on both sides of the border. Results of the feasibility study will be included in the ongoing development of **further action plans**.

Sustainable transport in East Serbia

The second 10% project partner is the **Timok Club**, a non-profit and non-political citizens association with the mission to secure the sustainable and environmentally friendly development of the Timok region in East Serbia. Within ACCESS2MOUNTAIN, Timok Club performed (as an important basis for future measures) an **analysis of regional transport systems and traffic flows**. In the course of this study, existing and **potential capacities** in the region were investigated and **deficiencies** analysed. Despite its natural treasures, Eastern Serbia (Timok region; Borski and Zajecarski Districts) is one of the least developed regions of the Republic of Serbia. Existing transport services do not support tourism in a sustainable manner, especially in regard to the accessibility of remote tourist attractions. The region has **considerable potential for intermodal transport development** due to existing but only moderately used rail infrastructure. Car traffic still prevails, accounting for the largest share among the transport modes in the region. In order to promote alternative, environmentally friendly transportation modes, especially near and within valuable natural areas, significant investments in infrastructure reconstruction and environmental protection are needed.



Common presentation of the study results



Multimodal connections © Miskolc Holding plc.



Timok region © Aleksandra Siljic



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Project Partners

- Lead partner U-AT - Environment Agency Austria, AT
- ERDF partner bmvit- Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, AT
- ERDF partner Gesäuse - National Park Gesäuse, AT
- ERDF partner Mostviertel - Mostviertel-Tourism Ltd., AT
- ERDF partner Miskolc Holding - Miskolc Holding Local Government Asset Management Corporation, HU
- ERDF partner UNICAM - University of Camerino, IT
- ERDF partner EURAC research – European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano, IT
- ERDF partner CJIT Maramures - County Center for Tourism Information, RO
- ERDF partner ARR-KE - Agency for the Support of Regional Development Kosice, SK
- 20% ERDF partner RARR-PL - Rzeszow Regional Development Agency, PL
- 10% partner TIMOK -Timok Club, RS
- 10% partner CFUA - Carpathian Foundation Ukraine, UA

The project enjoys widespread support at transnational, national and regional level: the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention, European Federation of Museum and Tourist Railways, Ministries of Environment (AT, IT), Ministries of Transport(SI, PL) and other observers at the regional level of the project partners.

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Upcoming Highlight(s)

- 11 December 2013: SWOMM „Sustainable tourism and accessibility in mountain areas“, Vienna International Center/AT
- 22-24 January 2014: 7th Partner Meeting, Kosice/SK
- 1-3 April 2014: Final Conference,** Gesäuse/AT - *More details coming soon!*

Downloads, Links

- Feasibility study on crossborder multi-modal routes Kosice-Miskolc *NEW!*
- Study on the integration of narrow-gauge railways in the Polish-Slovak border region *NEW!*
- GSEISPUR www.gseispur.at *NEW!*

For more events, links and downloads visit

www.access2mountain.eu



Work sessions at the 6th partner meeting © komobile w7 GmbH

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