

TRANS-BORDERS+



1st Newsletter

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Introduction



Welcome To TRANS-BORDERS+

Welcome to TRANS-BORDERS+, a collaborative European project aimed at improving cross-border public transport and connectivity in Central Europe. This initiative focuses on addressing mobility challenges in two interconnected border regions. The first region links Saxony (Germany) with the Liberec Region (Czechia), an area with rich cultural and economic ties but limited transport integration. The second region connects Carinthia (Austria), Slovenia, and Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy), where public transport improvements can significantly enhance cross-border access. Our mission is to develop sustainable, efficient, and user-friendly transport solutions that bring people and regions closer together. By fostering cooperation among stakeholders and implementing innovative pilot projects, we aim to demonstrate how cross-border mobility can support economic growth, environmental sustainability, and regional cohesion.



The Partners

Who we are?

TRANS-BORDERS+ unites 10 partners from 5 countries, including ministries, transport associations, and regional development agencies. Together, we work towards a common goal: smarter, greener, and better-connected regions.

From where we are?

The TRANS-BORDERS+ project brings together partners from five European countries, including **Germany, Czechia, Austria, Slovenia, and Italy**. Each partner contributes unique expertise and regional insights to address the shared challenges of cross-border mobility. By combining the strengths of these nations, we are working collaboratively to improve transport connections, enhance accessibility, and create a sustainable future for cross-border regions. Together, we aim to build a better-connected Central Europe through innovation, shared knowledge, and effective partnerships.

Mission

TRANS-BORDERS+ is committed to creating seamless and sustainable cross-border public transport systems that bring communities closer together. By improving connectivity and accessibility in rural and peripheral regions, the project supports economic growth, strengthens social cohesion, and promotes sustainable development. Through collaborative pilot projects and innovative solutions, we aim to demonstrate how cross-border mobility can enhance the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.



Vision

Our vision is to establish a modern, efficient, and environmentally friendly cross-border transport network that serves as a model for sustainable mobility in Europe. By integrating innovative technologies and fostering regional cooperation, we strive to connect people, businesses, and communities across borders. The ultimate goal is to create a better-connected Central Europe where transport solutions are inclusive, accessible, and aligned with the needs of both current and future generations.



Our Project

Our Pilots

Toolbox Bus Stop

We introduce an innovative toolbox designed to transform traditional bus stops into modern multimodal mobility points. The toolbox provides practical, cost-effective solutions to improve passenger experience, including better wayfinding, digital integration, and enhanced connectivity with other modes of transport. By enabling a shift from basic stops to efficient hubs, the project supports seamless travel across borders while ensuring sustainability and ease of implementation.

Open Journey Planners

We are pioneering the development of Open Journey Planners (OJPs) tailored to the unique needs of different cross-border regions. By adopting diverse approaches and innovative solutions, the project ensures that each OJP is designed to address specific regional challenges and opportunities. In some regions, the focus is on integrating real-time and static data to provide seamless travel information. In others, efforts are directed at enhancing digital interfaces to connect existing local and national travel systems.

Our Pilots

Enhancing Cross-Border Bus Services

TRANS-BORDERS+ is introducing innovative cross-border bus services to strengthen regional connections and improve mobility between neighboring countries. These services aim to create seamless travel experiences by integrating multimodal transfer points and responding to local needs.

Gorizia-Nova Gorica Bus Service

A cross-border bus route connecting the Italian city of Gorizia with the Slovenian city of Nova Gorica. This service aligns with the 2025 European Capital of Culture initiative, promoting regional cooperation and offering frequent connections across the shared urban space.

Tri-National Bus Line

A bus service linking Slovenia, Italy, and Austria, designed to support both daily commuters and tourists. This seasonal service will connect key intermodal terminals, such as Tarvisio and Villach, enhancing access to the Julian Alps region.

Austria-Slovenia Bus Line

An upgraded service between Lavamünd (Austria) and Velenje (Slovenia), addressing gaps in frequency and capacity identified through user feedback. This bus line will operate daily during the summer, ensuring connections to intermodal hubs such as St. Paul in Lavanttal.



Work Package I

Strategies and Stakeholder Engagement

WP1 focuses on developing comprehensive strategies and fostering collaboration among key stakeholders to address cross-border mobility challenges. It is vital for ensuring that all project activities align with the specific needs and priorities of the regions involved.

Key activities include:

- **Stakeholder Involvement:** Organizing workshops, meetings, and consultations to gather input and build consensus among public authorities, transport providers, and community representatives.
- **Strategy Development:** Crafting transnational strategies to improve public transport and mobility services across borders, ensuring long-term sustainability and regional integration.
- **Policy Alignment:** Working with local and national authorities to align project outcomes with broader regional and EU mobility goals. By prioritizing collaboration and shared planning, WP1 lays the foundation for the successful implementation of all project activities.



Work Package II

Enhancing Cross-Border Travel Information

WP2 focuses on improving the availability, quality, and accessibility of travel information to support seamless cross-border mobility. By leveraging digital tools and innovative solutions, this work package addresses the need for better travel coordination in border regions.

Key activities include:

- Open Journey Planners (OJPs): Developing and implementing OJPs tailored to regional needs, enabling real-time travel information and seamless route planning across borders.
- Integration of Systems: Linking regional and national travel information systems to provide a unified platform for public transport users.
- Data Quality Improvements: Ensuring accurate and complete static and real-time data for better route planning and decision-making.
- Stakeholder Collaboration: Engaging transport operators, tourism organizations, and local authorities to support the implementation of advanced travel information systems.



Work Package III

Improving Public Transport Stops and Services

WP3 focuses on enhancing cross-border public transport services by modernizing infrastructure and introducing innovative mobility solutions tailored to the unique needs of border regions.

Key activities include:

- **Bus Stop Upgrades:** Developing a smart toolbox to transform existing bus stops into high-quality mobility points without major investments. These improvements focus on accessibility, passenger comfort, and digital integration.
- **Innovative Cross-Border Bus Services:** Planning and implementing new and upgraded bus lines, such as the Gorizia-Nova Gorica service, a tri-national line connecting Slovenia, Austria, and Italy, and enhanced connections between Austria and Slovenia.
- **Multimodal Integration:** Designing solutions that link bus stops with other transport modes, ensuring seamless and sustainable travel for passengers.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborating with regional authorities and transport operators to align technical standards and promote the adoption of pilot solutions.



First Period



Meetings

Kick-off Meeting Dresden

Held in Dresden on 13-14 June 2024 at the Saxon State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour, and Transport, this meeting introduced the project team, finalized the work plan, and established management structures. A guided tour of the Dresden Transport Museum provided insights into regional transport history and innovation.

Thematical Kick-offs

Each work package conducted online thematic kick-off meetings, bringing together experts to align goals and approaches for WP1, WP2, and WP3.

Regular Webinars

WP2 hosts ongoing webinars to exchange knowledge on Open Journey Planners, discuss data quality improvements, and share implementation strategies.

Partner Meeting Vienna

Organized in Vienna on 19 November 2024 at AustriaTech, this meeting focused on project progress, technical discussions for WP2 and WP3, and finalizing pilot plans for bus services and infrastructure upgrades.

WP1 - Completion of the Analysis Report on Legal and Technical Preconditions for improving cross-border mobility. Establishment of stakeholder working groups to guide the development of transnational strategies.

WP2 - Initial webinars conducted on the Open Journey Planner (OJP) framework, focusing on regulatory requirements and technical structures. A state-of-the-art analysis was initiated, addressing data quality and completeness.

WP3 - Development of a joint methodology for analyzing bus stop infrastructure in pilot regions. Data collection for the transformation of stops into multimodal hubs has commenced, with progress reported from Saxony, Liberec, Carinthia, and Koroška.



Outlook

Period 2

In the upcoming phase, TRANS-BORDERS+ will focus on turning plans into action. The project will finalize strategies to enhance cross-border public transport, ensuring that activities align with regional and community needs. Open Journey Planners, designed to provide real-time travel information, will be tested in pilot regions to make cross-border travel easier and more accessible. Work will continue on developing a toolbox to transform traditional bus stops into modern mobility points, improving the travel experience without major construction efforts. Preparations for new cross-border bus lines will advance, including routes connecting Slovenia, Austria, and Italy, as well as the service between Gorizia in Italy and Nova Gorica in Slovenia, scheduled to start in 2025. Public events and workshops will highlight the progress of the project, allowing communities and stakeholders to provide valuable feedback. This phase will bring visible results, strengthening connections across borders and making sustainable and efficient transport a reality for the regions involved.

About Us

Project manager

A Message from the Project Manager

As the Project Manager of TRANS-BORDERS+, I am honored to lead this significant initiative aimed at transforming cross-border mobility in Central Europe. Our mission is to improve public transport, strengthen regional connections, and make cross-border travel seamless and accessible for everyone. With our first achievements in place, we are now moving towards pilot actions that include innovative mobility stops, new cross-border bus lines, and advanced travel tools like Open Journey Planners. These efforts will not only improve mobility but also foster stronger cooperation and opportunities for communities in our border regions. I warmly invite all stakeholders, partners, and citizens to actively engage with TRANS-BORDERS+. Your insights, feedback, and collaboration are vital to ensuring that we create transport solutions that truly meet the needs of our regions and contribute to a more connected and sustainable future.

Steffen Nestler, Project manager



Meet the Team



SMWA - Saxon State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport



RRA - Regional Development Agency for Koroška



VKG - Transport Association Carinthia



AKL- Office of the Carinthian Government



ATE - AustriaTech



ZVON - Transport Association Upper Lusatia / Lower Silesia



PRC - Soča Valley Development Centre



MZI - Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of Infrastructure



FVG - Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia



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