



Inter-Connect project: the 3rd project meeting in Zagreb

On 12-13 December 2018, the HZ Putnicki Prijevoz (Croatian Railways - Passenger Transport) hosted in Zagreb the 3rd project and steering committee meeting of Inter-Connect project (Intermodality Promotion and Rail Renaissance in Adriatic – Ionian Region), financed under the Interreg ADRIATIC-IONIAN Programme 2014-2020 and supported by ERDF and IPAII funds.

Being almost at the middle of project's implementation, project partners had the chance to discuss the already achieved results and the ongoing activities, the next steps and to present an update on the state of play of the 8 examined cases promoting intermodality and rail-use.

Municipality of Igoumenitsa, which is also the project's lead partner, presented the administrative and financial progress opening the floor for the discussion on the implementation of the technical work packages of the project.

The discussion for the technical parts of the project started with the presentation of the 8 Inter-Connect cases by the respective cases' leaders (Igoumenitsa, Region Emilia Romagna, Trieste, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Bar, Durres, Belgrade). Each responsible partner made a sum up of the activities that have taken place highlighting the next steps.

HZ Putnicki Prijevoz presented the final study on policies supporting Intermodality and rail use. The report revises the existing policy frame and aims to be a useful guide for transport stakeholders, revealing EU directions and national alignments on intermodality promotion.

The Regional Development Agency of the Ljubljana Urban Region presented the final report on capitalization of previous findings on passenger's intermodal transport and lessons learned. The purpose of the activity was to collect good practices from participating regions and transfer this knowledge among partners and other interested parties. Key takeaways of the report were the need to involve stakeholders from the private and public sectors at all stages of mobility planning and the importance of knowledge transfer from different EU projects as well as to align International, European and national strategies in order to find common grounds of action.

CERTH/HIT, the technical coordinator of the project, presented the overview of the data collection activity (transnational and regional/local transport demand and supply data) that is partially based on the survey designed at transnational level addressing tourists' and locals' connectivity needs and experience. Based on the achieved results of the project so far, CERTH/HIT presented also the Inter-Connect toolkit, a tool designed with the scope to gather in one stop-shop all the knowledge on



passengers' intermodality promotion for building authorities capacities on effective connectivity plans development.

The Institute for Transport and Logistics (ITL), in coordination with the Emilia-Romagna Region focused on the transferability analysis for adopting best practices and success stories in promoting car-free alternatives and implications for future actions. A detailed case studies' assessment methodology was presented to all the project's partner and discusses in order to define the most interesting aspects to be analyzed.

Finally, the CEI-Executive Secretariat, responsible for the project's communication & dissemination activities, gave an overview of the implemented and remaining actions, stressing the need for intensified involvement from partners in the realization of specific activities.

The next meeting is foreseen to take place in Bar, Montenegro in July 2019.

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