

CONNECT2CE

Improved rail connections and smart mobility in Central Europe

Newsletter 7



May 2020

CONNECT2CE piloting cross-border services temporarily stopped

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the new public transport cross-border services developed in the framework of CONNECT2CE project have been halted until further notice. As soon as the national restriction measures are lightened, the services are expected to restart. In particular, due to the limitations on mobility and public transport posed by Italian, Slovenian and Austrian authorities, the MICROTRA train (Villach - Trieste) and the integrated ticket Trieste - Ljubljana have been suspended.

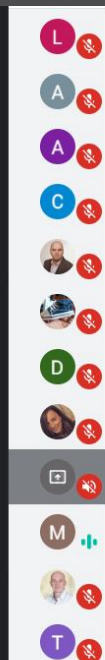
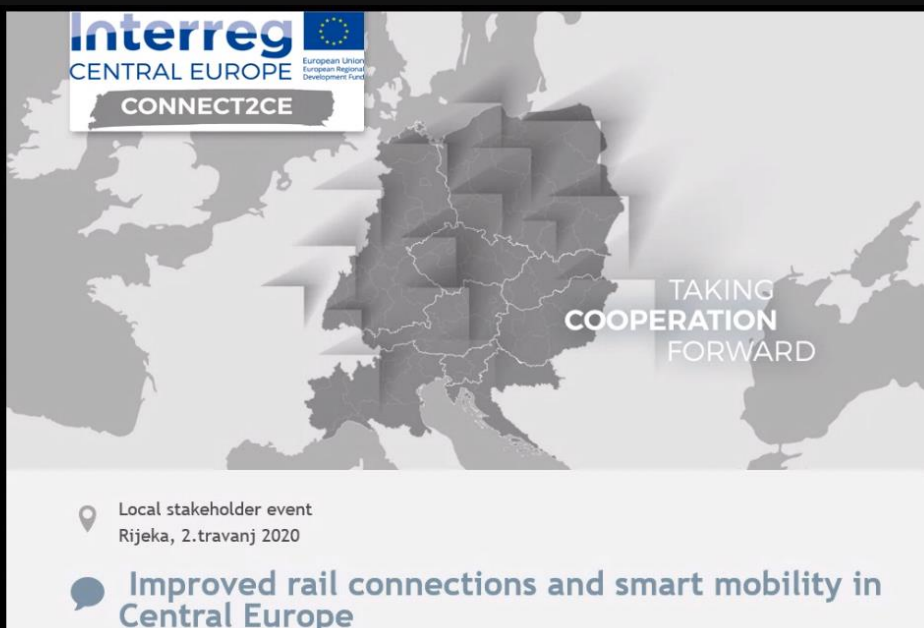


“An exit strategy is needed and the European Commission is working on guidelines to restart cross-border services” European Commissioner on Transport Adina Valean recently said. Guidelines will probably be set out by mid-May even though the timing strongly depends on the health situation.

CONNECT2CE and ICARUS online joint workshop

The Intermodal Transport Cluster (KIP) held a joint online workshop for CONNECT2CE and ICARUS (Interreg Italy-Croatia) projects on 2nd April 2020. The workshop consisted of a local stakeholder meeting for CONNECT2CE during which KIP presented the project, its pilot actions and the results of those pilot actions. Special mention was given to the pilot actions which were prolonged due to their success and those that made, and continue to make, an impact on transport operators and governments. For ICARUS this was a behavioural change event during which KIP presented the project, its pilot actions, and the reasons why a change of behaviour is necessary for improving sustainable transport.

Even during the COVID-19 emergency, we are working on promoting our projects, and this workshop served as a means to present the two projects from different programs and pull synergies between them, as both project are dealing with similar topics and problems.



CONNECT2CE Project Results

CONNECT2CE partners have been working hard over the last three years to reach the foreseen objectives. Thanks to their efforts and to the cooperation established with associated partners and stakeholders, several important results were achieved. All of these results were oriented towards the main project goal: solving the weak accessibility of regional, peripheral and cross-border areas of Central Europe to/from the main regional/national/EU transport networks and hubs and improving public transport services in those areas. The Project Results consist of Transnational tools, eight Pilot Actions, Transnational toolboxes, and finally, the Regional strategies.

Transnational tools are one of the first project results, created to improve peripheral and cross-border passenger transport in Central Europe. These are 3 transnational governance decision support tools jointly developed at the transnational level. Using these tools, each user should find the potential solution (based on best practices) on how to set-up, run and efficiently operate an attractive and competitive cross-border public transport system.



Trasnational tools for fostering regional and cross-border passenger transport in the CE area

This tool has been elaborated as an output of the Interreg Central Europe Project CONNECT2CE, cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Website: [CONNECT2CE](http://CONNECT2CE.com)

Transnational tool - General questions

Do you offer cross-border public transport connections in your area?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have more than one public body act as a regional competent authority for ordering public transport?

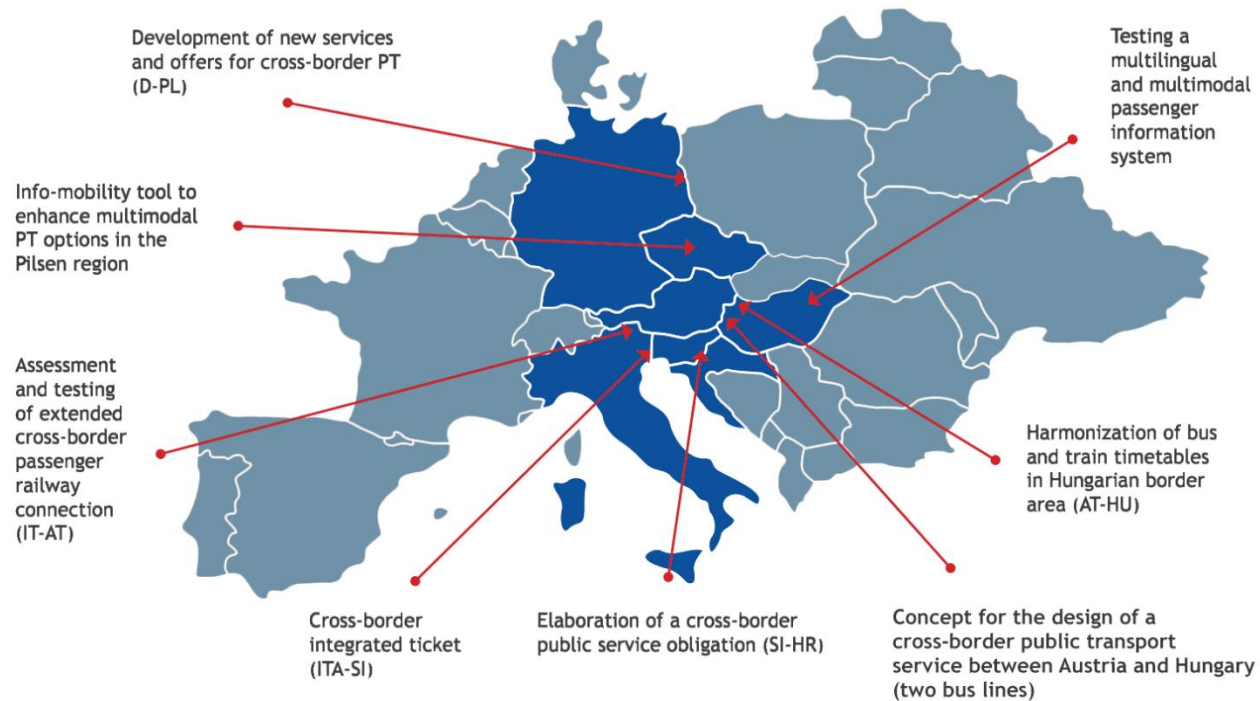
② Competent authority is the regional or municipal public body that is responsible for ordering public transport services in the area of research.

☐ Yes ☐ No

PSO and Timetable Harmonisation

[illegible]

Eight pilot actions enhancing peripheral and cross-border passenger transport accessibility were implemented all across Central Europe. The pilot actions were based on territorial needs assessments and have tested the transnational tools on three main topics: connectivity, multimodal integrated ticketing and application of Information communications technology to info mobility.



Transnational toolboxes for enhancing peripheral and cross-border public transport accessibility in Central Europe have been elaborated based on the previous project results, stakeholders consultation and lessons learned during the pilot actions. Three transnational toolboxes have been developed in total, and they elaborate the following:

- 1) Public Service Obligations/Public Service Contracts/timetable harmonisation/regional and cross-border public transport services;
- 2) Multimodal integrated tariff and ticketing systems;
- 3) Application of Information and communications technology to info mobility systems.



CONNECT2CE Regional strategies

Each of the ten CONNECT2CE's Regional strategies is characterized by the capitalization of the main results of the Stakeholders' Workshops and Territorial Needs Assessment into a more strategic approach and vision. The main aim of the Regional strategies is allowing the definition of more result-oriented approaches in the future definition of PT management and planning. All ten Regional strategies have been finalized and adopted, and can be considered one of the key results of the entire project. These strategies have translated the results of the pilot actions and the transnational toolboxes into one strategy for each region following the consultation of local associated partners, stakeholders and target groups, setting clear objectives and deadlines for the application of the project's results at the regional and national level.



The main results have and will be used by local, regional and national public authorities; infrastructure and (public) service providers; higher education and research; and international organisations, European Economic Interest Group under national law. To ensure the results achieved are further implemented in other realities, the strategies have been transferred to relevant target audiences at two levels:

- 1) local seminars organised by each project partner to the respective associated partners and stakeholders (municipal, regional, national governments, public transport operators not included in the partnership);
- 2) transnational targeted events organised by the Regional Management Burgenland, Public transport authority Berlin-Brandenburg & by the Central European Initiative - Executive Secretariat.

CONNECT2CE - „Improving rail connections and smart mobility in Central Europe”

CONNECT2CE's Digital Final Publication is out now and available to the general public. This report contains everything you need to know about CONNECT2CE, its pilot actions, results, results capitalisation and information about partners. You can find the full publication [HERE!](#)



CONNECT2CE - “IMPROVING RAIL CONNECTIONS AND SMART MOBILITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE”

FINAL REPORT

CONNECT2CE Virtual Final Conference

The CONNECT2CE Virtual Final Conference is an online event organized by CONNECT2CE's Lead Partner - Central European Initiative and will be held on 28th May 2020 on the GoToMeeting app. The event will focus on bringing you the most important information about the project, its pilot actions, transnational strategies and results achieved at the regional and cross-border level in the past three years.

The conference will begin with the general overview of the project which will be presented by CEI and will include the main steps completed within the project and a video presentation of the project.

Following the overview, CONNECT2CE's pilot actions will be presented by EURAC, FUC, HŽPP and KTI, and the strategic approach of the project will be presented by PIL. The Conference will then proceed to video testimonials off high-level stakeholders, presenting and launching an overview of the project results from external points of view and introducing the use and scope of the Mentimeter tool, followed by a round table discussion focusing on leading, ruling and developing public transport initiatives.

The Conference will conclude with final remarks on the main results of the project and what to look forward to in the future.



It is with great pleasure we invite you to join the CONNECT2CE Virtual Final Conference from your computer, tablet or smartphone on 28th May 2020 from 9:00 to 13:00. The registrations for the event are open and you can register [HERE!](#)

SAVE THE DATE!



CONNECT2CE Virtual Final Conference

Organized by the Lead Partner: Central European Initiative

28th May 2020
9:30 - 13:00

Join the meeting
from your computer,
tablet or smartphone
on [GoToMeeting.com](https://gotomeeting.com)



eurac
research



Stay healthy and stay safe!

- CONNECT2CE team



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For additional information visit:

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