



*Agenzia per la  
Coesione Territoriale*

**ETC REPORTS**

## Territorial Cohesion Agency

The contribution of the  
European Territorial  
Cooperation to the  
development of rail mobility

Report n.3 – March 2021



***2021 European Year of Railways***

Publication by Office 6 Projects and Tools Area  
Co-financed territorial cooperation operational programs, international activity, bilateral cooperation.



# WHY ETC'S REPORTS

The European Territorial Cooperation is implemented in our country through 19 operational programs which, in addition to the economic dimension of expenditure, also represent a collective impetus to create networks, understand contexts and develop solutions in a dialogue between States, territories, companies and institutions that represents a heritage that deserves to be known and valued.

From this premise, the idea of the ETC Reports was born: an opportunity to show what is happening within the projects and how this capital of knowledge can be put at the service of our country.



## **Paolo Galletta**

Office 6 Director  
*Co-financed territorial cooperation operational programs, international activity, bilateral cooperation.*

# European Year of Railways 2021



*Agenzia per la  
Coesione Territoriale*

Every year, since 1983, the European Union chooses a particular annual theme to celebrate and to be the center of the political debate. The aim is to raise awareness among citizens on a specific issue and encourage related public debate. On December 15th, 2020, the European Parliament approved the European Commission's proposal to designate 2021 as the European Year of Railways. The decision was adopted by the Council on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

2021 has been designated the European Year of Railways to stimulate the debate on the contribution of railways to the **European Green Deal**, to address environmental challenges and climate change and to contribute to the **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, which focuses on achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and on a more resource efficient economy. 2021 is a fundamental year for railway policies: it represents the first full year of implementation of the rules contained in the **Fourth Railway Package**. The legislative package aims to create a single fully integrated European railway area, by removing the remaining institutional, legal and technical obstacles and supporting economic growth. For this to happen, 90% reduction in transport emissions is required by 2050 and a significant share of 75% of inland goods currently transported by road will have to switch to rail or inland waterway transport.

Transport alone accounts for 25% of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU. However, railways are responsible for only 0.4% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the European Union. Rail networks are largely electrified, and it is the only means of transport that has significantly reduced its emissions from 1990 levels. Railways can also play a significant role in sustainable tourism.



# European Year of Railways 2021



*Agenzia per la  
Coesione Territoriale*

Rail transport connects isolated areas distant from the main inhabited centers, thus ensuring a cohesion of both internal and cross-border European regions. Despite this, only 7% of passengers and 11% of goods travel by rail. Antiquated infrastructures, outdated business models and high maintenance costs are some of the obstacles to be removed in order to build a single European railway area.

Thanks to the small number of accidents on tracks, rail transport is also the safest means of land transport: only 0,1 deaths per billion passengers per kilometer are caused by a train accident, accounting for 0,23 of bus accidents, 2,7 in cars and 38 in motorcycles (2011-2015).

**Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T)** need substantial investment and implementation to achieve sustainable goals.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown how rail networks can ensure rapid transportation of essential goods such as food, medicine and fuel in exceptional circumstances.

The sector has been hit hard by the crisis, with passenger numbers having dropped dramatically due to travel restriction measures. However, it will still have a role to play in sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

If we want the railways to become more 'attractive' to passengers and businesses and to help improve traffic congestion and air pollution, further support to this sector will be needed.







# EUROPEAN YEAR OF RAILWAYS



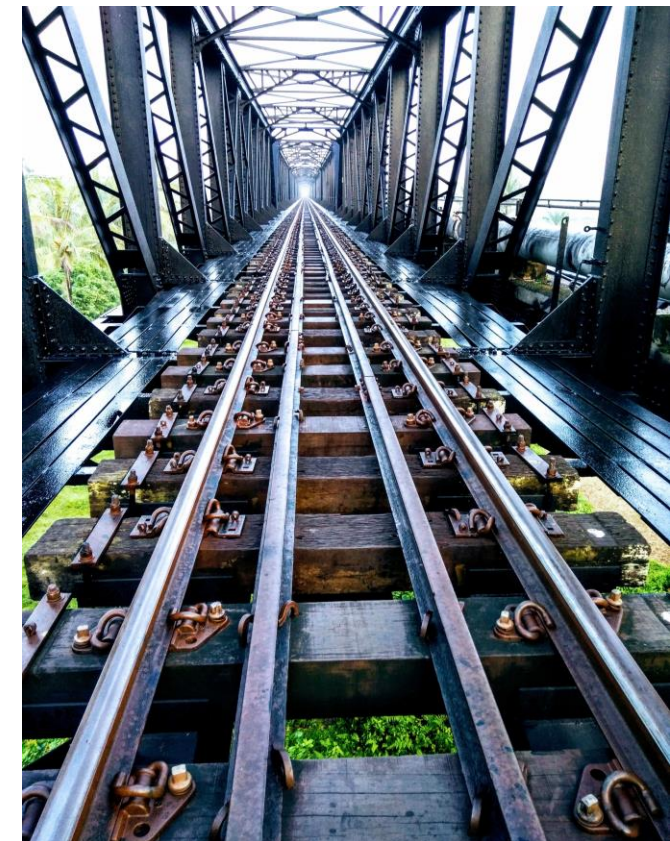
Find out more on: [https://europa.eu/year-of-rail/get-involved\\_it](https://europa.eu/year-of-rail/get-involved_it)

# ETC FOR RAILWAY TRANSPORT

The projects included in the report are funded under the **European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)** objective, a cohesion policy tool that aims to solve problems and find common solutions beyond the national context and to jointly develop the potential of the different territories. Cooperation actions are supported by the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** through three key components: cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation and interregional cooperation.

In this context, the ETC has financed projects that intervene in various areas of railway transport, identifying solutions for a better management of services. In particular, the projects have:

- 1 Identified **pilot actions** for the improvement of rail transport;
- 2 Identified **guidelines and/or action plans**;
- 3 Studied and identified elements of transferability of **good practices**;
- 4 Introduced integrated **pricing systems**;
- 5 Implemented actions for the activation of services such as **bike sharing and/or complementary services to rail transport**.





01

The CROSSMOBY project

*Description and project results*

02

The CONNECT2CE project

*Description and project results*

03

The Ge.T.R.I. project

*Description and project results*

04

The TRENO project

*Description and project results*

05

The ISTEN project

*Description and project results*

## CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT





# Interreg



UNIONE EUROPEA  
EVROPSKA UNIJA

## ITALIA-SLOVENIJA



### CROSSMOBY

Progetto strategico co-finanziato dal Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale  
Strateški projekt sofinancira Evropski sklad za regionalni razvoj

**Cross-border integrated transport planning and  
intermodal passenger services**





**Budget: 4.117.387,76€**

**Project duration:**  
**01.09.18**  
**30.11.21**

**LP**

**Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia - Infrastructure and Territory Central Directorate - Regional and local public transport service**

**PP**

- 01** Ca' Foscari University of Venice
- 02** Veneto Strade SpA - Public Relations Service, Infomobility, Community Funding and Relations with Entities
- 03** Urbanistični inštitut Republike Slovenije
- 04** Regional Development Center Capodistria
- 05** Posoški razvojni center
- 06** Ilirska Bistrica Municipality
- 07** European Group of Territorial Cooperation "Euregio Senza Confini r.l."

[Click here to visit the web page](#)

## The project

**CROSSMOBY**, funded by the Interreg V A Italy Slovenia program, addresses the issue of sustainable mobility with a result-oriented approach based on two levels of action: transport services and mobility planning. It provides a concrete answer to the **lack of sustainable cross-border public transport links along the Venice-Trieste-Ljubljana railway axis**, part of the Mediterranean Corridor. It contributes to producing a substantial change in urban and regional transport planning in the cross-border area, in the name of **sustainability**, as well as improving the ability of regions and cities to adopt and coordinate SUMP (Urban Sustainable Mobility Plans).

# The results of the Cooperation

## 01

CROSSMOBY has contributed to the development of a higher quality, safe, sustainable and less polluting cross-border mobility between Italy and Slovenia, by **increasing the supply of connections** between the two countries, with the activation of new railway services between Udine-Trieste-Ljubljana.

## 02

Starting from September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, with the collaboration of Trenitalia S.p.A. and SŽ - Potniški promet d.o.o., two trains per day - **8 stops in Slovenia and 6 in Italy** - have been introduced, with the capacity of 276 passengers and 30 bicycles. The new connections recorded 24,672 cross-border passengers in the first year of service (from 09.09.2018 to 31.08.2019).

## 03

The new railway services have allowed a further development of the **bike-train and bus-train intermodality**, both along the railway axis and starting from it, thanks to a series of pilot actions carried out in Slovenia, such as the installation of six e-bike-sharing and the activation of bike-bus and bike-boat services.





*Agenzia per la  
Coesione Territoriale*

02

**Interreg**   
CENTRAL EUROPE European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

**CONNECT2CE**

**Improved rail connections and  
smart mobility in Central  
Europe**







**Budget: 2.602.924,73 €**

**Project duration:**  
**01.06.2017**  
**31.05.2020**

**LP**

**Central European Initiative - Executive Secretariat**

**PP**

- 01** Regional Management Burgenland Ltd.
- 02** Hz Passenger Transport Ltd.
- 03** Intermodal Transport Cluster
- 04** Regional Authority Of The Pilsen Region
- 05** Kfi Institute For Transport Sciences Non Profit Ltd
- 06** Gyor-Sopron-Ebenfurt Railway Corp.
- 07** Slovenian Railways-Passenger Transport, Ltd
- 08** Institute Of Traffic And Transport Ljubljana L.L.C.
- 09** Public Transport Authority Berlin-Brandenburg
- 10** Udine Cividale Railways Company Ltd.
- 11** European Academy Of Bolzano/Bozen
- 12** Sistemi Territoriali Spa

[Click here to visit the web page](#)



## The project

**CONNECT2CE**, funded by the Interreg V B Central Europe Program, **contributed to the improvement of public transport services at regional and transnational level**, with particular focus on strengthening the connections between the main urban transport hubs and rural, peripheral and cross-border areas.

The project initiative, which involved 13 partners from Central Europe, faced this challenge by focusing mainly on three aspects: **improvement of connectivity, development of ICT applications for info mobility and integrated ticketing and pricing**, following a methodological approach in three phases: analysis of existing problems, pilot actions and definition of territorial strategies.

# The results of the Cooperation

## 01

Thanks to the CONNECT2CE project, 8 pilot actions were carried out. The first helped to **extend the route of the cross-border train Mi.Co.Tra (Villach/AT-Udine) to Trieste**. To offset the costs, particular attention has been paid to offering an attractive service for users: sustainable tourism and in particular cycle tourism are providing important synergistic opportunities. **At the local level**, however, the tests carried out provide key elements to support the dialogue with public transport operators and stakeholders interested to **promote sustainable tourism** through joint initiatives.

## 02

The second action on Italian territory saw the creation of an **integrated cross-border bus/train ticket** on the Ljubljana-Villa Opicina section.

## 03

The other pilot actions concerned the **creation of financial models, the harmonization of bus and train routes** aimed at increasing daily journeys, **the improvement of cross-border railway services** (Germany-Poland), a regional **info-mobility tool** in the Czech Republic and an information service for passengers in the HU-AT border region.



## CROSS-BORDER MANAGEMENT OF THE INTERMODAL TRANSPORT OF WASTE AND VIRGIN AGGREGATES





**LP**

IT – Province of Varese

CH - Canton Ticino - Department of the Territory - Environment Division - Waste Office (Bellinzona)

**PP**

**01** ARS AMBIENTE S.R.L.

**02** Carlo Cattaneo University - LIUC

**03** Research Center on operations, logistics and supply chain management Castellanza

**04** Lombardia Region- DG ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

**05** Canton Ticino - Department of the Territory - Environment Division - Waste Office (Bellinzona) "FFS CARGO SA (Balerna)"

**06** PROVINCE OF COMO Ecology and Environment Sector

[Click here to visit the web page](#)



**Budget: 1.547.178,51€**

**Project duration:**  
22.11.18  
21.11.21



## The project

The **GeTRI** project, funded by the Interreg V A Italy Switzerland program, aims to introduce **programming tools in the management of the transport of aggregates**, studying the use of intermodal systems that provide for the integration of road and rail transport. The objectives are to optimize the transport of aggregates with the intermodal system, to **improve the planning of cross-border management and to reduce the environmental impact** with positive effects on the territory also in terms of competitiveness of the area.

# The results of the Cooperation

## 01

### THE STUDY:

Through the life cycle analysis methodology (LCA), it has already been determined that **the use of rail transport in partial replacement of road transport** would lead to an improvement in environmental performance of 3-4% regarding the impact on climate change (GWP). **The environmental impact study** analyzed EU and international trends in freight transport and the potential impacts of the project actions. **Project externalities were also estimated** (costs associated with the main “side effects” due to transport activities such as congestion, accidents, air pollution, noise and the impact on climate change, etc.). The alternative scenarios show a clear improvement compared to the base scenario (-50%), thanks to the **environmental advantage of rail transport** compared to road transport (-80% per transport unit). The intermodal transport system, in the hypothesis considered in the study, certainly offers environmental advantages compared to that entirely on road.

## 02

### NEXT ACTIONS:

- 1 Analysis and data collection from a pilot case of **intermodal aggregate transport**.
- 2 Development of an **information system** for the real time traceability of the aggregates transport.



Promotion of tourist railway  
lines and historic trains







**LP**

Liguria Region

**PP**

**01** Office des Transports de la Corse OTC.

**02** Chamber of Commerce Foundation for Business, Research and Innovation - IRI

**03** Tuscany Region

**04** Région Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur - PACA

**05** Autonomous Region of Sardinia



**Budget: 1.079.127,20€**

**Project duration:**

**01.04.18**

**31.03.21**

[Click here to visit the web page](#)

## The project

**TRENO**, funded by the Interreg V A Italia Francia Marittimo program, faces the challenge of combining the charm of **historic and tourist railways**, built between the second half of the 1800s and the beginning of the 1900s, and the valuable elements that characterize the crossed territories. The richness of the attractiveness and niche productions of the territories concerned makes it possible to **enhance the hinterland of the Regions** and create development opportunities for the numerous micro and small local businesses, including those in the tourism sector, eliminating their seasonality. The Partners collaborate fruitfully by sharing experiences and strategies to outline a joint action plan necessary to increase the accessibility of the railways with the ultimate goal of **building the first cross-border network of historic and tourist Mediterranean railways**.

# The results of the Cooperation

## 01

One of the main activities carried out was the identification of potentials with cross-border significance related to historic trains, tourist railways and the specificities of the prestigious places crossed. To this end, **the analysis of the tourist offer of each partner territory was carried out** which allowed the identification of **good practices**, the design of **pilot actions** to be developed in each territory and the development of **guidelines** for the creation of a tourism offer with a cross-border value capable of producing a strong train-territory synergy and a sustainable tourism offer, connected to the railways and extended to the entire cooperation area.

## 02

### ACTIONS IN PROGRESS:

- 1 **The reactivation of the Crocetta station** of the Genoa-Caselle railway.
- 2 The creation of a **museum space** dedicated to the history of the railway.
- 3 **Improving accessibility to the Principe station** of the Principe-Granarolo railway.
- 4 In Tuscany, **the redevelopment of the Monte Antico station of the Siena-Grosseto line** to enhance the cycling and multimodal networks of the area.
- 5 In Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, actions have been taken to **facilitate the circulation of the steam train** and improve accessibility for users with disabilities.





## Integrated and Sustainable Transport in Efficient Network





ISTEN



Budget: 1.332.000,00 €

Project duration:  
01.12.2017  
30.11.2020

**LP**

Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria –  
Engineering Department of Information, Infrastructures  
and Sustainable Energy (DIIES)

**PP**

- 01** Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)
- 02** Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia
- 03** Institute for Transport and Logistics Foundation
- 04** Port Authority of Šibenik-Knin County
- 05** Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea
- 06** Port of Bar Holding Company
- 07** Port of Koper, port and logistic system, public limited company
- 08** Regional Council of Durres
- 09** Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A

[Click here to  
visit the web  
page](#)



## The project

ISTEN funded by the Interreg V B Adrion program, has as its main objective the identification of proposals, actions and **strategies aimed at creating an efficient network of integrated port-hinterland hubs in the Adriatic Ionian region.**

The project aims to improve intermodal connections between the seaports of the **Adriatic-Ionian area** and between the same ports and their respective hinterlands, in particular by favoring the connection to the TEN-T network corridors through the railway networks. This is achieved through **cooperation strategies aimed at promoting infrastructural** and service interventions between the different territorial contexts.

# The results of the Cooperation

## 01

**Context analysis** of ISTEN sites with reference to intermodal transport and evaluation of bottlenecks that hinder port-hinterland integration;

## 02

**ISTEN Toolbox:** methodology, guidelines and criteria for defining the technical, operational and technological conditions that make the port and its hinterland an efficient and integrated hub;

## 03

**Database of European best practices** aimed at integrating port-hinterland systems;

## 04

**Local action plans** developed by each project partner that describe the interventions necessary to overcome the bottlenecks identified in the analysis phase and favor the port-hinterland integration;

## 05

**Action plan** developed by systematizing and combining the proposed actions on a local scale in an overall vision, and aimed at identifying common strategies and actions for the ADRION area;

## 06

**Transferability plan.**





The projects listed in this report are the result of an initial survey carried out by the Territorial Cohesion Agency. They are by no means an exhaustive list, but they want to open a dialogue to be fed with reports, comparison and a joint effort to enhance and capitalize on what the ETC can do to enhance rail transport as a fundamental resource for integration between territories, sustainable tourism, innovation and integrated mobility.

The Territorial Cohesion Agency can facilitate contact with the managing authorities of the various programs and activate the Italian beneficiaries for more information on the projects mentioned.





Information on the activities for the ETC of the Agency for Territorial Cohesion are available at the following link:

<https://www.agenziacoessione.gov.it/lacoessione/le-politiche-di-coessione-in-italia-2014-2020/la-cooperazione-territoriale-europea/>

The Annual Report on the implementation of the ETC in Italy is available at the following link:

<https://www.agenziacoessione.gov.it/lacoessione/le-politiche-di-coessione-in-italia-2014-2020/la-cooperazione-territoriale-europea/relazione-annuale-cte>



*Agencia per la  
Coesione Territoriale*







# CONNECT. SOLVE. SAVE.

If you want to report a ETC project or initiatives to enhance the ETC results on the occasion of the European Year of Railways:

[area.progetti.uf6@agenziacoesione.gov.it](mailto:area.progetti.uf6@agenziacoesione.gov.it)