

Jan Hyliš
Member of the Regional Council
Žižkova 57, 587 33 Jihlava, Czech Republic

Jihlava, 4 March 2019

RUMOBIL: Rural Mobility in European Regions Affected by Demographic Change

Declaration on the implementation and sustainability of the project results in the Vysočina Region

The Vysočina Region supports public transport and strives, in the long run, to ensure high-quality public transport services for its territory, in the surrounding of major regional settlements as well as in peripheral and rural areas that face problems with depopulation and unfavourable demographic development.

Public transport significantly contributes to balanced development of the whole regional territory, which is why the regional self-government aims at building and sustaining high level of standard and quality in public transport services for all inhabitants of Vysočina.

To foster fulfillment of these objectives and enhance accessibility of municipalities - in particular those located in rural and least populated parts of Vysočina - and to improve their connection to transport networks of national and European importance, the Vysočina Region has got involved in the transnational project RUMOBIL and cooperates with foreign partners on exchange of experience, sharing best practices and development of innovative solutions and approaches to transport planning in regions with mostly rural character and dispersed settlement structure.

I, the undersigned, member of the Vysočina Regional Council, responsible for transport, declare that the principal RUMOBIL outcomes, i. e.:

- The adopted RUMOBIL Strategy, which brings proposals of innovative model solutions and measures to improve public transport in rural regions (in terms of transport network integration, tariff systems, new specific services, measures to support infomobility and social cohesion);
- Public transport demand prognosis, elaborated with regard to demographic development trends and taking into consideration specific features of the Vysočina territory;

- Experience gained through implementation of the pilot action, which focused on verifying demand for new connections of public bus transport in the Vysocina Region, in the context of a territory with fragmented settlement structure and in relation to preparation of a new regional integrated transport system „Public Transport of Vysocina“,

will be capitalized by relevant regional self-governing bodies with a view to continuously enhance accessibility of Vysocina and to improve public transport services for the inhabitants. In this sense, the long-term sustainability of the project results will be guaranteed. The above-mentioned outcomes have been reflected in the transport optimisation and tariff integration, titled „Public Transport of Vysocina“, which was approved by the Vysocina Regional Assembly, resolution No. 0423/03/2018/ZK, on 15 May 2018, and they will further be adequately taken into consideration when preparing regular amendments of key strategic documents of the Vysocina Region, relevant for the field of transport (in particular the Transport Plan of the Vysocina Region for the period 2022 – 2026, Development Strategy of the Vysocina Region).

Jan Hylíš

Member of the Vysocina Regional Council

responsible for transport and road administration

Supplement to the Declaration on the implementation and sustainability of the project results in the Vysocina Region

Key elements of the RUMOBIL project results to be capitalized in development actions in the field of transport

RUMOBIL Strategy

The adopted RUMOBIL has been built on the identification of innovative solutions and type measures. Recommendations to develop public transport in regions of predominantly rural character follow the best practices in the central Europe, current state of technology and estimated trends of economic and demographic development, and they take into consideration actual needs of public transport users.

Type measures, outlined by the RUMOBIL Strategy, to be applied in the Vysocina Region, with regard to its specific regional features, contain, in particular:

- Solution No. 1 „Transport network coordination and integration“ (in terms of service planning, intermodal nodes and public transport stakeholders' involvement)
- Solution No. 2 „Tariff system“ (in order to create and promote integrated systems)
- Solution No. 4 „Infomobility“ (in terms of information services for passengers, by means of traditional communication campaigns as well as modern information technology)

Public transport demand prognosis

When planning public transport services and their development, the Vysocina Region will take into accounts results of the elaborated prognosis. The prognosis presents estimation of possible future development of passenger transport demand in several scenarios, depending on availability of statistical data, and it works with three time horizons (2020, 2025, 2030) and two development trends (standard one and conservative one, according to estimations of motorization development).

The common features of all scenarios are unfavorable trend of demographic development, decreasing share of public transport in the overall transport output and low use of public transport.

Further valuable inputs and suggestions to future development of public transport have emerged from the qualitative survey, made among the inhabitants of Vysočina as a part of the prognosis elaboration.

Conclusions from the demand prognosis

The transport demand prognosis also proposes solutions and measures to foster optimisation of public transport network and services. The conclusions show that the Vysočina Region should strive to resolve the following needs and problems:

- to stop the decline in passenger numbers in the public transport
- to improve effectiveness and coordination of public transport services
- to enhance the image and prestige of public transport
- to ensure modern infrastructure with sufficient capacity

In compliance with its conception documents relevant for the field of transport, the Vysočina Region will therefore develop and support:

- integration and coordination of public transport services
- higher attractiveness and promotion of public transport
- modernisation and revitalisation of both basic and accompanying transport infrastructure

Pilot action to verify demand for new connections of public bus transport

The pilot action aimed at verifying real demand for new connections of public bus transport, which provide transport services for rural areas in the Vysočina Region. In the period from March 2017 to June 2018, three type of lines were tested:

- lines to support commuting to work or schools in important regional centres (Jihlava, Třebíč, Havlíčkův Brod)
- line running in typical rural areas in relation to commuting (surrounding of Velké Meziříčí)
- line operating in an area attractive for tourism, with direct interconnection to railway (Světlá nad Sázavou, Lipnice nad Sázavou)

After careful evaluation of the pilot action, all pilot connections are supposed to be included into the emerging transport optimisation and tariff integration, titled „Public Transport of Vysočina“.