

# TRANS-BORDERS

Improving accessibility in peripheral cross-border regions



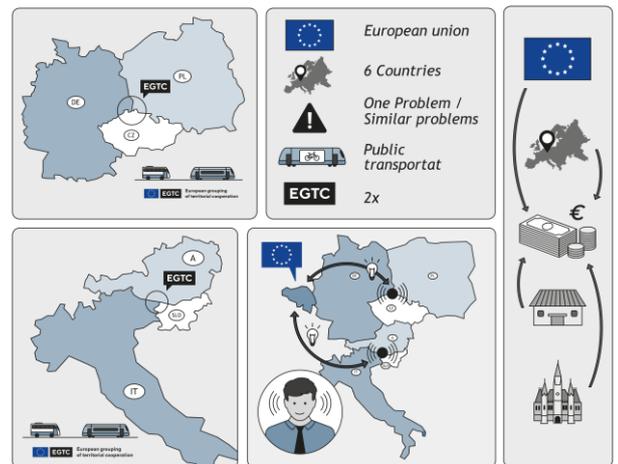
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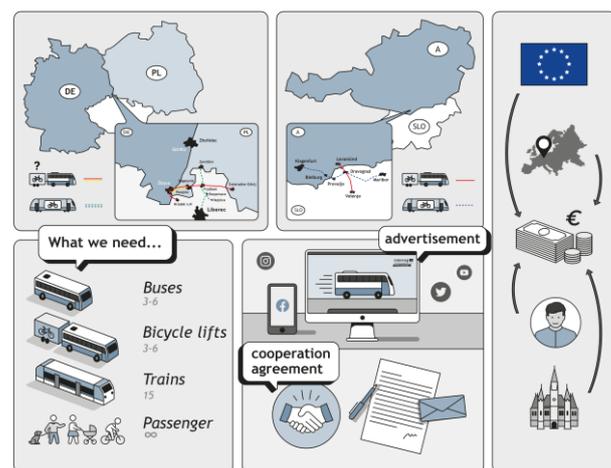
### FINAL CONFERENCE AND EVALUATION OF OUR ACHIEVED RESULTS

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the final conference of TRANS-BORDERS took place in an online format. The specific project objectives of TRANS-BORDERS were on the one hand to professional inter-ministerial and inter-departmental cooperation (more governance) and on the other hand, the Contribution to attractive and competitive cross-border passenger transport solutions. We have worked hard for a total of four years to be able to turn this goal into reality.

Cross-border transport systems, especially in tri-border areas, are very complex issues that also require trilateral solutions. Existing cross-border structures and programs do not necessarily cover these needs, because various actors and stakeholders need to be involved and convinced on each side of the border. Due to TRANS-BORDERS, we were able to demonstrate that, to strengthen more governance, EGTCs are an appropriate European institutional solution. However, the establishment of an EGTC is a long-term process, which we are now in a position to demonstrate. In TRANS-BORDERS case there was examined the possibility of extension of EGTC NOWUM covering long Czech-Polish-border. The aim was to extend it to neighboring areas regions in Germany and the Czech Republic. It appears it would be too wide and the focus would not be concentrated appropriately. So we created a specific concept for an EGTC in the border triangle Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic based on existing structures, which has to be followed up after the end of the project.



Besides, we were able to implement measures in many respects. For example, we achieved an Amendment to the law in Slovenia on the operation of cross-border bus services. We achieved also the preparation and forthcoming signature of a trilateral memorandum for joint efforts to develop the TEN-T comprehensive network (Lower Silesia, Liberec region, and Eastern Saxony) which goes beyond the planned German-Polish objectives.



To attractive and competitive cross-border passenger transport solutions we gathered ideas and planned public transport systems on this basis, did pilot operations, and evaluated them for at least:

- two new public transport services between Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic
- two new public transport services between Carinthia and Koroska
- one new public transport service between Görlitz and Zgorzelec.

Further insights into strengthening cross-border transport relations were gained from other pilot projects. We did for example a showcase of a three-country connection via missing links (Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany) and examining the use of hybrid trains between Saxony and Lower Silesia to reduce travel time between Dresden and Wrocław.

To support the trains as a core of the cross-border public transport there are not only improved tracks that enable the quick connection between the cities, time tables with smooth connectivity between busses and trains are necessary as well. The Exchange point needs to be as comfortable for a passenger to stay in public transport instead of going the whole journey by car. The access of passengers to the trains should be short and smooth without a difference if they come on foot, by bike, by bus or by car. With all these experiences we have carried out the Implementation of mobility nodes in Carinthia and Construction plans for a Mobility Centre in Boleslawiec and for barrier-free access at railway stations combined with comfortable transfer possibilities Bus/train at railway stations in Liberec kraj.

The partners of TRANS-BORDERS would like to take this opportunity to thank all actors and stakeholders involved. Our achieved goals, with significant contributions to increase the comfort and attractiveness of public transport, for environmentally friendly and competitive solutions and to deepening territorial cohesion in the European Union, are an incentive for further joint activities to expand and deepen what has been achieved.

