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DRT service in the Appenini area

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MAIN CHALLENGES IN THE BOLOGNA APPENNINI AREA



- The pilot project will be done in a mountain area including 12 villages and many scattered houses. In this area, public transport covers mainly students and workers needs, connecting villages to local schools and train stations.
- During weekends and off-peak hours, this area suffers a poor PT service: this affects also touristic accessibility to many different attraction (outdoor activities, museum, skiing facilities, etc.)

EXPERIENCES WITH DRFT SERVICES IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF BOLOGNA

Some DRT services already exist in the metropolitan area of Bologna, covering many villages in the flat area ot the countryside.

These are "semi-flexible" DRT, with predefined stops, routes and timetable, but with single journeys activated on demand.



PLANNED ACTION IN SMACKER

In the SMACKER area, a fully flexible DRT service will be established, improving a first experimental service already running. The mountain area, which is quite extended, will be divided into some subareas with 1 or 2 buses each, to increase effectiveness and offer a higher quality level.

Sub-areas and destinations will also change from summer to winter because of different turistic/residents' needs depending on the period of the year.



EXPECTED RESULTS OF BOLOGNA PILOT ACTION



The pilot action will give more travel opportunity to tourists and residents during weekends. The sub-areas will gravitate around a train station each, and this will connect in a more effective way the service area with the city of Bologna, giving people the possibility of using an intermodal train+DRT service transport solution.

This contributes to sustainable mobility in the Bologna Metropolitan area, which already offers sustainable transport solutions (bike and e-bike sharing, car sharing, etc.) mainly in the plan area: the ColBus extends sustainable transport modes also to the Apennines and thus improve inclusion for residents too.

NEXT STEPS AND OPEN ASPECTS



DRT service will not cover all the users' needs (e.g service during late evening/night, impossibility of covering some destinations that are too far, some residents' needs), because of budget cap and technical limitations.

After this pilot, if results will be satisfactory, it will be easier to find additional resources and further improve the services in order to satisfy such additional needs.

