A couple of pilot projects completed - capitalisation underway

Since the last newsletter was edited in April, the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project partners have successfully continued their regional pilot activities. Nationalpark Gesäuse’s GSEISPUR, a demand-oriented mobility platform, was well received in its first months. Maramures published attractive new packages involving the recently introduced e-bike rental service. At the 5th partner meeting, which took place on 14-15 May in Baia Mare, the project consortium had a chance to get an insight into the newly developed bike and multimodal transport infrastructure. EURAC is investigating the potential for e-mobility in the pilot region of Corvara/South Tyrol. The Mostviertel region is further consolidating partnerships between the Mariazell railway and other regional players. In the cross-border region of Kosice-Miskolc, small-scale investments have created first visible effects and raised the awareness of sustainable multimodal transport. The Rzeszow region (PL) is analyzing potential future measurements to improve railway connections across the Slovak border. For a more detailed insight into regional pilot projects please go to www.access2mountain.eu. The final six months of the project will be used to ensure that feedback loops will facilitate the identification of lessons learned, so that recommendations can be made and addressed to stakeholders and politicians at different levels. As a final output at project level, a common Charter will be adopted at the Final Conference on 1-3 April 2014.

Draft version of the Transport Protocol finalised

Two further meetings of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Transport were convened in Vienna, the most recent one on 1-2 October. The WG agreed on a final draft version of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport which will be circulated by the ISCC among the Parties with a view to submit it to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CICIC) for consideration for the forthcoming 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) in the Czech Republic, on 24-26 September 2014. Another highlight will be the “Scientific Workshop on Mountain Mobility and Transport” in Vienna on 11 December in combination with a back-to-back-meeting of the Carpathian and the Alpine Convention. Dedicated to the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project and the topic of “Sustainable tourism and accessibility in mountain areas”, it will provide an opportunity for an exchange of experiences in the development, decision-making and implementation process of sustainable mobility solutions and measures between the Alps and the Carpathians.

For more events, links and downloads visit www.access2mountain.eu

CONTACT

Lead Partner

Environment Agency Austria
Agnes Kurzweil, DI
T: +43-(0)1-313 04-5554
F: +43-(0)1-313 04-5400
E: agnes.kurzweil@umweltbundesamt.at

Project Management
komobile, Romain Molitor, Dr. DI
Christine Zehetgruber, DI; David Knapp, DI MA
T: +43 (0)1 89 00 681 -51/42
F: +43 (0)1 89 00 681 -10
E: access2mountain@komobile.at
A trip through the Zakarpatia region (Ukraine)

The Zakarpatian Ukraine is a land of rolling hills, rivers and fertile soil. Folk traditions and modern times live together in harmony in a multicultural and multi-ethnic society. The 6th ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project partner meeting took place in Chinadievo in a beautiful rural natural park with the ancient Schönborn Palace, now converted into health spa, in its midst. In a dedicated exhibition, the project partners presented and demonstrated regional pilot actions, including small-scale investments realised in the past few months, and exchanged experiences with the challenging task of working as a stakeholder and raising awareness. UNICAM held a separate training session for the practical application of the decision-support tool working as a stakeholder and raising awareness. The meeting was hosted by the Carpathian Foundation Ukraine (CFUA), one of two 10% project partners who are sponsored by the project partner EURAC. The CFUA is one of five member organisations of the cross-border-regional CF Network that promotes good relations, social stability and economic progress in four western provinces of Ukraine (Zakarpatska, Lvivska, Ivano-Frankivska, Chernivetska).

Polish-Slovak border region: study identifies high potential for an integrated system of sustainable multimodal transport

The integration of regional and transnational railways between Poland and Slovakia is one of the key challenges within the framework of the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project. The latest analysis issued by the Rzeszow Regional Development Agency is considered to be an important basis for the implementation of activities in the near future. The study identifies possibilities for combining narrow gauge railways and traditional railway lines as well as alternative transport routes in the Polish-Slovak borderland in an integrated system of multimodal transport. Thanks to the already existing infrastructure, the development of such a system would not be too costly. The most significant initiative seems to be a promotional campaign aimed at making the connection possibilities more popular with a common tariff policy for carriers, thus making travelling through the borderland region more convenient. The analysis also calls for increased cooperation and partnerships between transport bodies and local authorities.

Feasibility and first implementation of intermodal routes in the Hungarian-Slovak border region

A feasibility study analysed the framework conditions in the cross-border region of North Hungary and the Kosice region (SK) in terms of multimodal transport possibilities and proposed measures within three cross-border multimodal corridors:

1. the Slovak Karst/Aggtelek (Slovensky kras): Hrušov - Jablonov nad Turnou - Silická Jablonica (SK) / Szőlőgés- Bödvaszilas (HU)
2. the Slanské Hills (Slovenské vrchy): Slanec - Slanska Huta – Izra – Byšta and Skároš - Vyšná Myšľa (SK) /Pusztafalú - Fűzér (HU)
3. Kosice (SK) - Miskolc (HU)

These routes focus primarily on interconnecting peripheral areas with their regional centre – the city of Kosice (SK) and the city of Miskolc (HU) respectively - by sustainable means of transport. The routes will bring benefits not only for tourists but also for locals, who have been informed about the new transport connections at a series of awareness raising events, which were held to inaugurate small showcase projects such as bike racks put up recently at narrow gauge railways on both sides of the border. Results of the feasibility study will be included in the ongoing development of further action plans.

Sustainable transport in East Serbia

The second 10% project partner is the Timok Club, a non-profit and non-political citizens’ association with the mission to secure the sustainable and environmentally friendly development of the Timok region in East Serbia. Within ACCESS2MOUNTAIN, Timok Club performed (as an important basis for future measures) an analysis of regional transport systems and traffic flows. In the course of this study, existing and potential capacities in the region were investigated and deficiencies analysed. Despite its natural treasures, Eastern Serbia (Timok region; Borski and Zajecarski Districts) is one of the least developed regions of the Republic of Serbia. Existing transport services do not support tourism in a sustainable manner, especially in regard to the accessibility of remote tourist attractions. The region has considerable potential for intermodal transport development due to existing but only moderately used rail infrastructure. Car traffic still prevails, accounting for the largest share among the transport modes in the region. In order to promote alternative, environmentally friendly transportation modes, especially near and within valuable natural areas, significant investments in infrastructure reconstruction and environmental protection are needed.
A trip through the Zakarpattia region (Ukraine)
The Zakarpattian Ukraine is a land of rolling hills, rivers and fertile soil. Folk traditions and modern times live together in harmony in a multicultural and multi-ethnic society. The 6th ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project partner meeting took place in Chinadievo in a beautiful rural natural park with the ancient Schönborn Palace, now converted into health spa, in its midst. In a dedicated exhibition, the project partners presented and demonstrated regional pilot actions, including small-scale investments realised in the past few months, and exchanged experiences with the challenging task of working as a stakeholder and raising awareness. UNICAM held a separate training session for the practical application of the decision-support tool for regional mobility management. The following study tour introduced the project partners the beauties of the Tisa valley in the southern part of the region. A slow train ride made the trip particularly enjoyable and tasted the local specialities was a treat for everyone. The meeting was hosted by the Carpathian Foundation Ukraine (CFUA), one of two 10% project partners who are sponsored by the project partner EURAC. The CFUA is one of five member organisations of the cross-border-regional CF Network that promotes good relations, social partner EURAC. The CFUA is one of five member organisations of the cross-border-regional CF Network that promotes good relations, social partner EURAC.

Polish-Slovak border region: study identifies high potential for an integrated system of sustainable multimodal transport
The integration of regional and transnational railways between Poland and Slovakia is one of the key challenges within the framework of the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project. The latest analysis issued by the Rzeszow Regional Development Agency is considered to be an important basis for the implementation of activities in the near future. The study identifies possibilities for combining narrow gauge railways and traditional railway lines as well as alternative transport routes in the Polish-Slovak borderland in an integrated system of multimodal transport. Thanks to the already existing infrastructure, the development of such a system would not be too costly. The most significant initiative seems to be a promotional campaign aimed at making the connection possibilities more popular with a common tariff policy for carriers, thus making travelling through the borderland region more convenient. The analysis also calls for increased cooperation and partnerships between transport bodies and local authorities.

Feasibility and first implementation of intermodal routes in the Hungarian-Slovak border region
A feasibility study analysed the framework conditions in the cross-border region of North Hungary and the Kosice region (SK) in terms of multimodal transport possibilities and proposed measures within three cross-border multimodal corridors:
1. the Slovak Karst/Agtelek (Slovensky kras): Hrušov - Jablonov nad Turnou - Silická Jablonica (SK) / Szögigetető-Bödvaszilas (HU)
2. the Slanské Hills (Sloanske vrch): Slatinka - Slánska Huta – Izra – Byšta and Skároš - Vyšná Myšľa (SK) /Pusztasafalú - Fűzér (HU)
3. Kosice (SK) - Miskolc (HU)
These routes focus primarily on interconnecting peripheral areas with their regional centre – the city of Kosice (SK) and the city of Miskolc (HU) respectively - by sustainable means of transport. The routes will bring benefits not only for tourists but also for locals, who have been informed about the new transport connections at a series of awareness raising events, which were held to inaugurate small showcase projects such as bike racks put up recently at narrow gauge railways on both sides of the border. Results of the feasibility study will be included in the ongoing development of further action plans.

Sustainable transport in East Serbia
The second 10% project partner is the Timok Club, a non-profit and non-political citizens association with the mission to secure the sustainable and environmentally friendly development of the Timok region in East Serbia. Within ACCESS2MOUNTAIN, Timok Club performed (as an important basis for future measures) an analysis of regional transport systems and traffic flows. In the course of this study, existing and potential capacities in the region were investigated and deficiencies analysed. Despite its natural treasures, Eastern Serbia (Timok region; Borski and Zajecarski Districts) is one of the least developed regions of the Republic of Serbia. Existing transport services do not support tourism in a sustainable manner, especially in regard to the accessibility of remote tourist attractions. The region has considerable potential for intermodal transport development due to existing but only moderately used rail infrastructure. Car traffic still prevails, accounting for the largest share among the transport modes in the region. In order to promote alternative, environmentally friendly transportation modes, especially near and within valuable natural areas, significant investments in infrastructure reconstruction and environmental protection are needed.
A couple of pilot projects completed - capitalisation underway

Since the last newsletter was edited in April, the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project partners have successfully continued their regional pilot activities. Nationalpark Gesäuse’s GSEISPUR, a demand-oriented mobility platform, was well received in its first months. Maramures published attractive new packages involving the recently introduced e-bike rental service. At the 5th partner meeting, which took place on 14-15 May in Baia Mare, the project consortium had a chance to get an insight into the newly developed bike and multimodal transport infrastructure. EURAC is investigating the potential for e-mobility in the pilot region of Corvara/South Tyrol. The Mostviertel region is further consolidating partnerships between the Mariäzell railway and other regional players. In the cross-border region of Kosice-Miskolc, small-scale investments have created first visible effects and raised the awareness of sustainable multimodal transport. The Rzeszow region (PL) is analyzing potential future measurements to improve railway connections across the Slovak border. For a more detailed insight into regional pilot projects please go to www.access2mountain.eu. The final six months of the project will be used to ensure that feedback loops will facilitate the identification of lessons learned, so that recommendations can be made and addressed to stakeholders and politicians at different levels. As a final output at project level, a common Charter will be adopted at the Final Conference on 1-3 April 2014.

Draft version of the Transport Protocol finalised

Two further meetings of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Transport were convened in Vienna, the most recent one on 1-2 October. The WG agreed on a final draft version of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport which will be circulated by the ISCC among the Parties with a view to submit it to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) for consideration for the forthcoming 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) in the Czech Republic, on 24-26 September 2014. Another highlight will be the “Scientific Workshop on Mountain Mobility and Transport” in Vienna on 11 December in combination with a back-to-back-meeting of the Carpathian and the Alpine Convention. Dedicated to the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project and the topic of “Sustainable tourism and accessibility in mountain areas”, it will provide an opportunity for an exchange of experiences in the development, decision-making and implementation process of sustainable mobility solutions and measures between the Alps and the Carpathians.