

Learning about Sustainable Transport



7 March 2019

Interreg and Transport policy today and post 2020

[Thon Hotel EU](#), Rue de Loi 75,
Brussels, Belgium





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Report

The training on Transports policy and how the concept of Sustainable transport is and will be taken into consideration yet during this financial period and also during the next period 2020-2027 raised a huge interest among the Interreg programmes but also among macro regional stakeholders.

More than 40 participants signed up for the event representing:

- Interreg TN 11,
- Interreg CBC 10
- Interreg IPA-CBC 3
- ENI 2
- MRS coordination 4
- MRS/Interreg relevant projects 4
- Interregional programmes 3
- DG MOVE 5
- DG Regio 2
- INEA 1
- EIB 1

The aim was to get a comprehensive overview on what is happening in the field of Transport policy. The preparations were made in close cooperation within the network and with DG Move and DG Regio.

The concept of sustainable transport is very complex and has to do with many different aspects in society. The seminar focused on identifying processes and areas where Interreg can have its niche and make a difference.

For decades, transport has dealt about building and developing infrastructural solutions. It has been about roads, bridges, ports, railways, and airports and how to connect these. This is still part of the concept but it has become much more complex. As transport is causing a damage to the nature and humans, we need to look into the concept of

- how to achieve zero emissions
- alternative fuels for transport
- financial sustainability
- environmental resilience
- user friendliness for people and goods
- multimodal transport solutions
- how to handle big data
- how to develop security issues

Objectives – identify processes and policies relevant for project funding

This was a learning event for the participants. Interact and the Interreg network for sustainable transport (TO7). The close cooperation with DG MOVE, compiled in a one-day seminar highlighted what has been done until now and what will be in the pipeline after 2020. It did not only focus on projects but on the steering policies and how programmes and beneficiaries can develop processes that leads to sustainable transport solutions. It was also a good opportunity to discuss how different funding sources can work together.



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This meant it was meeting place not only for the network in itself but the network members got an opportunity to meet with leading actors from the whole EU Transport policy sector and vice versa. It became clear from the discussion that several of the reference points that people from e.g. DG Move referred to during presentations / discussions had been developed in an Interreg framework. One example of that is for example the feasibility plan on a new connection between Sweden and Denmark – the so-called HH- connection from Helsingborg to Helsingör (<https://www.hh-gruppen.org/>).

However, it was not only a learning event for the Interreg programmes and the thematic experts in the EU instances. It was also involving key stakeholders from the macro regional strategies. On top of that, three of the cases presented were also Interreg funded projects (sets of projects), that all have been earmarked as relevant for the individual macro regional strategies.

The learning event was set up as a seminar with presentations but it worked as a forum for discussion on how Interreg can make a difference in achieving safer and sustainable transport solutions. The date was also chosen so it was a back-to-back meeting with the Tentacle final conference in Brussels (6 March 2019). [Joint Final Event Brussels 5-6 March 2019 DRAFT PROGRAMME EXTERNAL.pdf](#)

The day was very dense but gave a lot of energy and insight in the field of transport policy. All presentations are available in the Interact community. We also planned to have an update the CEF2 development and to get a view from MEP Henna Virkkunen who was the CEF2 rapporteur in the EP. Unfortunately, for the seminar it was at a late stage decided that the final meeting for the Trilogies between Council, the European Parliament and the Commission took place the same day so we missed the opportunity to listen and discuss directly with MEP Henna Virkkunen.

The agreement during the trilogue was reached at that same day. EP adopted the outcome in the Parliament on 26 March 2019 - [see the link](#).

During the day 8 March 2019 two, the Interreg network reflected upon the learning event and shared ideas on what could be developed and how we can work closely together with the EU institutions in order to have the best possible outcome.

Linked to this the network had a discussion on the rest of the common activities for 2019 and it was agreed we will: 1) Develop a concept for the Civitas Forum in Graz, Austria 2-4 October based on the good experiences we had during TEN-T days in Ljubljana April 2018. 2) Cooperate with DG REGIO and DG MOVE to prepare for the conference on missing cross border links regarding rail and public transport, most likely in Mid-November in Brussels. 3) Prepare for a social media campaign to foster interest for a) and b) during the European Mobility week 16-22 September. The network did not show much of interest for attending the EWRC so we agreed to focus on a-c.

During the Day 2, the network also got a presentation based upon keep.eu (Janne Kiilunen, Interact – on distance) and its capacities to share knowledge about what is happening in other programmes and ideas about how to use keep.eu as part of the



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capitalisation process. Finally, CE/Winfried Ritt described how CE is working with the Capitalisation issues as inspiration for the network. It was also agreed to highlight different capitalisation initiatives for the programmes in the network as inspiration and knowledge sharing also in the future.

Below the programme for the two days.

Day one Thursday, 7 March 2019

08.45 – 09.15 Registration and Welcome Coffee / Tea

09.15 – 09.20 Introduction
Ulf Wikström, Interact

09.20 – 10.50 Transport Policy today and tomorrow

- The cornerstones and developments of the trans-European transport policy. The TEN-T corridors and Interreg. How to create synergies? *Silke Brocks and Martin Zeitler, Advisors to the European Coordinators, DG MOVE*
- The future of the Connecting Europe Facility CEF II: What will remain, what is new? *Gaspard Lepiscopio, Unit B2, DG MOVE*
- Boosting cross border regions by recovering missing rail links. *Robert Spisiak, DG Regio*

Objectives of the session: To learn about the state of play regarding EU Transport policy.

10.40 – 11.00 Questions and answers

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee / tea

11.30 – 12.45 Processes needed to make sustainable change. How can macro regional strategies contribute? How is Interreg guaranteeing an European added value? Which are the niches and the gaps

- (Why is transport in focus in the European Parliament? *MEP Henna Virkkunen, CEF Rapporteur, EPP, cancelled – trilogies*)
- Tentacle project as part of a holistic EU policy combining Interreg MRS and TEN-T. *Mattias Andersson, Tentacle*
- Danube stream/FAIRway Danube projects. *Andreas Bäck*
- ADRIPASS project, Integrating multimodal connections in the Adriatic-Ionian region. *Paolo Dileo, Central European Initiative*

Objectives of the session: To show case and discuss the impact and potential of Interreg Transport Policy initiatives and processes (such as TEN-T) and MRS in the field of sustainable transport.

12.45 – 13.00 Questions and answers



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- 13.00 – 14.10 Lunch
- 14.10 – 15.30 Sustainable transport as a concept
- Why has CEF been so successful what can we learn from CEF?
Daniel von Hugo, Team leader INEA
 - What is sustainable and intelligent transport?
Patrizio Grillo, Senior Expert, DG Move B4
 - How to connect with Innovation and research?
Alexia Michalidou, DG Move, B3 / Horizon 2020
- 15.30 – 15.45 Questions and answers
- 15.45 – 16.00 Coffee / tea
- 16.00 – 16.30 Other financing solutions and examples on how to deal with transport issues
- EIB and TEN-T, *Pia Nieminen, Policy Adviser, EIB*
- Objectives of the session: To learn about other funds and the relation to transport initiatives.
- 16.30 – 16.45 Final set of Q and A
- 16.45 Closing of the seminar
- 17.00 – 18.00 Refreshments and time for getting to know each other
- Day 2 Friday, 8 March 2019 (Internal network meeting)
- 09.00 – 09.20 Interreg TO 7 Network internal meeting, *Ulf Wikström, Interact*
- 09.20 – 10.20 **Internal exchange – how to get the most out of the Network?**
Brainstorming and group discussion
- 10.20 – 10.45 Coffee/tea
- 10.45 – 11.30 **keep.eu as a tool for the Network to know/learn about similar projects,** *Janne Kiilunen, Interact*
- 11.30 – 12.15 **T07 Network and work plan for 2019**
- 12.15 – 12.45 **Capitalisation in CE Programme.** *Winfried Ritt, Central Europe*
- 12.45 – 13.00 **Q & A**
- 13.00 **Closing the meeting** + Lunch and departure