

SUSTANCE

SUSTANCE project Newsletter No.1



**SUSTANCE** (Sustainable public transport solutions and innovative governance schemes for improving connectivity in Central Europe) is a project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, through Interreg Central Europe Programme.

**What are our challenges and goals?**

Citizens living in rural or peripheral areas of Central Europe face inadequate connectivity and fragmented transportation networks, particularly at the cross-border level. Leaving the car at home remains challenging for these people because convenient public transport solutions are rarely available.

European policies look toward providing all citizens with greater access to public transportation services as this goes well in line with their greener future and sustainability goals.

The SUSTANCE project aims at understanding the accessibility of public transport in the involved regions in order to promote, co-design and test innovative mobility services. SUSTANCE will support public authorities in paving the way for the adoption of long-term sustainable action plans and solutions. Pilot actions will focus on:

- A new cross-border train service in 2024, connecting Italy (Trieste, Villa Opicina), via Slovenia (Divača, Pivka), with Croatia (Rijeka)
- Extension until Sopron of the cross-border train service linking Austria (Neusiedl am See) with Hungary (Fertőszentmiklós)
- Feasibility study for the improvement of passenger train services between Croatia (Pula-Buzet) and Slovenia (Divača) and installation of bike/scooter sharing points
- Demand responsive transport application in Italy (Romagna Region), including ICT application for planning, booking and e-ticketing
- Interactive ICT app for Istria Region (Croatia), including all private and public transport services and displaying them in one place
- Web portal and mobile app to promote and increase the use of railway services and bicycles in Croatia, Italy and Slovenia



**Trilateral meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Italy, Slovenia, Croatia)**

The SUSTANCE project, and in particular our pilot action 1 (new passenger train connection between Trieste and Rijeka) was mentioned among the ongoing projects during the Trilateral Meeting on Cooperation in the Northern Adriatic by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Slovenia and Croatia.

The meeting was held in Ancona on 10th July 2023. The final Joint Declaration is available [here](#).



**Partner meeting in Zagreb (CRO)**

Second internal meeting of SUSTANCE project will take place in Zagreb on 19th and 20th of September 2023, where partners will be discussing public transport accessibility in peripheral and cross-border areas of Central Europe, making plans for the start of pilots' implementation which will improve cross-border passenger rail services and bring innovative solutions for public transport, and setting basis for involving stakeholders to build those efficient and sustainable public transport solutions.



**Transnational online conference**

The SUSTANCE transnational conference **"Challenges and opportunities for public transport stakeholders"** will take place on **29-9-2023 (9:30 AM)**



The discussion will focus on the challenges and opportunities for public transport in rural, peripheral and cross-border areas.

Mobility experts will present innovative solutions for improving connectivity and discuss how the SUSTANCE project will tackle the accessibility topic.

Policy makers will provide their insights into sustainable mobility and talk with managers from other projects about achieving a delicate balance in public transport planning.



**Congress in Rijeka (CRO)**

SUSTANCE will be featured at the interdisciplinary scientific-professional congress with international participation **"Rijeka identity: economic, historic, linguistic and cultural echoes on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Rijeka-Karlovac and Rijeka-Pivka railway lines construction"**, which will take place in Rijeka on **October 23-24, 2023**.

Railway lines from Rijeka to Pivka and Karlovac were put into operation in 1873, connecting Rijeka with the rest of Croatia and making it a traffic intersection, initiating rapid city development. The development of the railway is important for the development of the Rijeka port, but also the development of the economy in general, enriching its heritage. In the Rijeka area, large investments in railways are planned in the coming period, as much as 350 million euros for the area from Kukuljanovo to Matulji.

Representatives of SUSTANCE project will present a new international railway service from Trieste (Villa Opicina), via Slovenia, to Rijeka, and vice versa, which will be piloted in 2024.