

# CONNECT2CE

Improved rail connections and smart mobility in Central Europe



Newsletter 6

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## HŽPP and SŽPP sign the Memorandum of Understanding within the CONNECT2CE project

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Ms. Darja Kocjan, the Director of SŽ Passenger Transport., Mr. Željko Ukić and members of the Management Board Mladen Lugarić and Damir Rubčić the President of the Management Board of HŽ Passenger Transport signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the improvement of international train services between Croatia and Slovenia.

With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, both parties will undertake actions to facilitate better travel quality and provide sustainable international services. This will mainly concern activities to improve train service between Zagreb and Ljubljana to ensure better connections between the two neighbouring countries.

On that occasion, Mr. Ukić emphasized: "Given that about 130,000 passengers were transported on trains between Croatia and Slovenia last year, and based on the activities defined in the Memorandum, I believe that we will be introducing new offers and services. We are committed to promoting strategic partnerships and working to improve services on international trains to attract even more passengers and generate more revenue. With small steps, marketing activities, successful communication and, above all, cooperation, we can influence the existing offer, improve the business and positively influence the future of transport."

Mrs. Kocjan on the other hand stated: "Today, we are witnessing fierce competition from road transport, and we, as railway operators, need to act to make more passengers use the train as the most environmentally friendly mode of transport. I want to emphasize that we have been cooperating with HŽPP for years in relation to our timetables, special offers for travel and rail promotion. I believe that by working together, we can contribute more to strengthening rail passenger transport, which will result in an increase in the number of users of our services."



# Eurac presents Territorial Strategy of South Tyrol

After the third Stakeholders' Workshop held in November 2019, the Provincial Mobility office of Bolzano invited Eurac to present the preliminary contents of the Territorial Strategy of South Tyrol to the Council Member for Ladin education and culture, Infrastructures and Mobility (Mr. Daniel Alfreider), as well as to other members of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano (Ms. Gabriela Kerschbaumer - director of the Provincial Department for Infrastructures and Mobility; and Ms. Giovanna Valentini - director of the Provincial Mobility office).



Eurac organized a Stakeholder Seminar, during which Eurac presented the main content of the Strategy and discussed the effectiveness of the proposed measures with attendees.

# SMART Pannonia Expert forum and CONNECT2CE stakeholder seminar in Sopron, Hungary

On December, 10<sup>th</sup> 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade organized the SMART Pannonia Expert Forum in Sopron. It was a great opportunity to present the CONNECT2CE project and Pilot Action number 4 (Concept for the design of a cross-border public transport between Austria-Hungary) to a wide audience of Austrian and Hungarian stakeholders as well as high-ranking politicians and



The RMB participated both in the event organisation and in presenting CONNECT2CE project in relation to SETA-axis. Current issues related to cross-border passenger and freight traffic along the SETA-axis were presented and discussed in a separate morning session, and the CONNECT2CE project was presented in the afternoon during the session “cross-border rail connections - development potential”.

# Improvements of bus connections from southern Burgenland to Graz

The improvements of bus connections from southern Burgenland to Graz were presented by the Governor Mr. Hans Peter Doskozil and Transport Minister Mr. Heinrich Dorner on February , 21<sup>st</sup> 2020. The project begun its implementation on 2nd March 2020 with the extension of two bus lines (X31 and X41), providing a better public transport service for commuters who work in Styria. The extension is intended as a short-term solution, and as a result of it, there will be additional accelerated express buses from Oberwart and Güssing to Graz - probably in the second half of 2021. The project was launched after the completion of the CONNECT2CE feasibility study.



# “An innovative model to estimate the destination’s accessibility by public transport” - by Eurac

EURAC Research, published an article in the journal ScienceDirect entitled: “An innovative model to estimate the accessibility of a destination by public transport”. The article, makes reference to the CONNECT2CE project, which contributes to the development of an accessibility analysis as a planning tool, by proposing an alternative model to estimate the relative accessibility of a destination by public transport.

The article highlights the following:

- Relative and absolute accessibility can be calculated using different methods.
- Public transport is a paradigm for passengers in environmentally fragile areas.
- A method to calculate the accessibility of a destination by Public transport is proposed.
- The method is tested for a transalpine connection between Italy, Austria and Switzerland
- National borders are still a barrier for a competitive transnational Public transport service

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## An innovative model to estimate the accessibility of a destination by public transport



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# Safety measures for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Due to the spreading of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Europe, we advise you to prioritize safety and help in preventing the spreading of the virus. In order to reduce the risk of getting infected, some important hygiene, health and behaviour measures should be followed. This includes washing your hands frequently with soap and water (or when soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol), avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands, avoiding close contact with people who are sick and stay home if you feel sick.

Protect yourself and others from getting sick

## Wash your hands



- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste



Protect others from getting sick

When coughing and sneezing  
**cover mouth and nose** with  
flexed elbow or tissue



**Throw tissue into closed bin**  
immediately after use

**Clean hands** with alcohol-based  
hand rub or soap and water  
after coughing or sneezing and  
when caring for the sick



Stay healthy and stay safe!

- CONNECT2CE team



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