

# Removing barriers to cross-border rail services in Central Europe

## ■ Subject of the proposal

Improvement of cross-border rail transport for passengers, with a particular focus on regional transport

## ■ Priority of the Central Europe programme

Specific objective 4.1: To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks

## ■ Description of the situation

- There are regions in Central Europe without any regional rail transport across borders
- As well in regions with existing cross-border rail transport there are barriers endangering the sustainability of offers, including aspects of legal regulation and financing provisions as well as aspects of marketing, information and ticketing
- Offers of long-distance rail transport are reduced by national operators, and regional rail transport is expected to replace these offers
- Challenge: Lack of accessibility of border areas with rail transport, limiting the possibilities for sustainable economic development




## ■ Aims and challenges

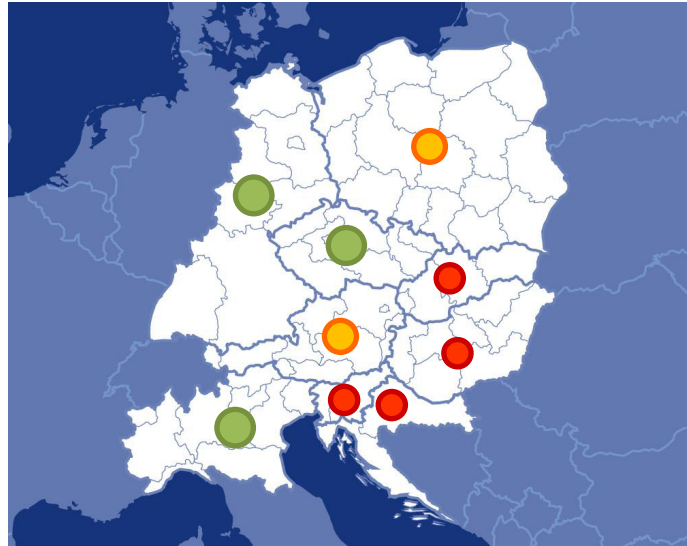
1. To make better use of existing transport offers, e.g. through solutions for connecting mobility, integrated ticketing (tariffs & sales), marketing, and passenger information
2. To improve and create transport offers, with regard to regional transport as well as with regard to long-distance transport

Examples:

- Connections with high and stable demand (e.g. commuter trains, connections between and within agglomerations, tourist areas with good accessibility)
- Connections with low or fluctuating demand (e.g. seasonal connections and connections in rural areas, connections for tourists)

Crucial challenge: In nearly all border areas stakeholders of different type and level must (or should) cooperate to make things work out

-  Regional responsibility:  
DE / IT / CZ
-  Mixed responsibility:  
AT / PL
-  Centralised responsibility:  
HU / SK / SI / HR



## ■ Possible partners

- Organisers & operators of regional & long-distance railway transport
- Operators and suppliers of travel information systems
- Transport ministries, local and regional stakeholders
- Interest groups (e.g. passenger representation groups, environmental organisations), universities

10-12 partners, cross-border „teams“ of partners possible

## ■ Activities and work packages

The activities and the work plan of the project shall be organised according to thematic work packages (WP). The themes of the work packages will be identified taking into account the priorities of partners. All themes shall be connected to tangible pilot activities aimed at the preparation and implementation of improvements of cross-border rail services.

## ■ Budget & duration

Project budget: approx. 2-3 Mio. EUR (approx. 100.000-250.000 EUR per partner)

Project duration: 36 months (2016-2018)

## ■ Schedule of application

- Partner workshop: 25.03.2015 (Berlin / Vienna / Prague)
- Deadline for the final (written) confirmation of interest: 09.04.2015
- Submission of the application (1<sup>st</sup> stage): 13.04.2015

Joint activities	WP1 Management and coordination			WP2 Communication and dissemination			WP6 Transnational networking	
Possible thematic issues	<b>Networking of travel information systems</b>	<b>Tariffs, ticketing and sales</b>	<b>New and extended travel offers</b>	<b>Cross-border railcars</b>	Cross-border transport plans	Legal regulation of cross-border services	...	<b>Facilitation of cross-border cooperation</b>
Partners	VBB (Berlin-Brandenburg) ZVON (Saxony) BEG (Bavaria) VOR / ARGE ÖVV	ZVON	VBB / Lubuskie	BEG VBB / Lubuskie				VBB / ZVON (German-Polish border area)
Possible pilot activities	1.1 Networking of existing travel planners within the EU-Spirit network	2.1 Development of integrated cross-border tariffs	3.1 Analyses of demand for new and extended travel offers	4.1 Market analyses, analyses of good practices	5.1 Analyses of framework conditions	6.1 Investigation of legal aspects of cross-border transport	7.1 ...	8.1 Cross-border networking, round-table meetings
	1.2 Improvement and extension of EU-Spirit functionality	2.2 Solutions for cross-border sales & ticketing	3.2 Studies on the design of new and extended travel offers	4.2 Studies specifying the needs regarding new railcars	5.2 Agreement of a reliable framework for future offers	6.2 Elaboration of legal documents facilitating cross-border transport	7.2 ...	8.2. Organisation of working groups
	1.3 Improvement of existing and set-up of new travel planners	2.3 Supporting offers & information materials	3.3 Pilot services	4.3 Support of the homologation of cross-border railcars		6.3 Preparation of cross-border tendering	7.3 ...	8.3 Realisation of supporting studies