



Newsletter Volume 6

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NEW CONNECTIONS IN THE BORDER TRIANGLE CZECH REPUBLIC, POLAND AND GERMANY

The two cities Zittau in Germany and Bogatynia on Polish territory are only 15 kilometres apart. Nevertheless, there has been no public transport connection between these two cities since the Second World War. To strengthen the connections within the border triangle, we investigated and planned a bus line from Zittau via Bogatynia to the Czech town Frýdlant v Čechách, with a connection to the Polish health resort Świeradów-Zdrój on weekends. In our planning, we divided this corridor into two bus lines: line 831a between Zittau and Bogatynia (daily running) and line 691 (on the whole corridor for leisure traffic).

cross-borders bus lines Czech Republic, Poland, Germany 2020+



It was necessary to consider the integration into existing timetable grids, in particular, the junction at Zittau station and relevant connections in Frýdlant v Čechách. In the first step, a timetable concept was drawn up and coordinated with the actors involved (transport associations, municipalities, operators, etc.) concerning replicability and interchanges. During an internal meeting on 21st January 2020, the possibility was discussed how to meet KORID's request for a continuous excursion line between Zittau and Świeradów-Zdrój, which only operates on weekends. In the medium term, our project partner KORID would like to achieve that the line 831a is extended to Frýdlant v Čechách. This would create a second regional axis between important places in the border area between Germany and the Czech Republic in addition to the railway line between Zittau and Liberec.

Our original plan was to start line 831a on 1st May 2020 and line 691 on 6th June 2020. The signing of a financing agreement drawn up by the district of Görlitz and the city of Bogatynia was scheduled for April. However, due to the Corona crisis, these appointments were postponed. In Poland, bus traffic is almost completely at a standstill and the borders are closed. Due to the current situation, a new start date is still to be agreed.

PILOT OPERATION SUMMER SEASON TRAIN

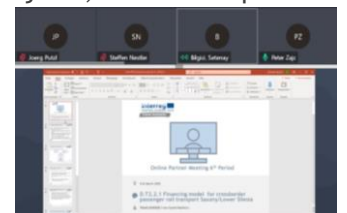
One of our first results was the summer Saturday train between the Slovenian city Maribor and Bleiburg in Austria. During the first test service in 2018, 746 passengers and 202 bicycles were transferred. These numbers were increased during the test service in summer 2019 (811 passengers, 431 bicycles). The results confirm our intention to adapt the train to the needs of cross-border cycling tourists.

A modified test run was planned for the coming summer season. Due to the corona crisis, public transport between Austria and Slovenia is restricted. Services in Carinthia were reduced and in Slovenia even cancelled. The railway line will start operating as soon as these measures expire. We are currently aiming for a launch in July 2020, because then is the high season for cycling. After the pilot operation, in September 2020, we will carry out a final evaluation of the summer train season.



SIXTH PARTNER MEETING (ONLINE CONFERENCE)

Originally, our sixth partner meeting was planned for 30th and 31st March 2020 in Legnica, Poland. Due to the corona crisis, we held our meeting online this time, so that the established exchange of information could be maintained. During this condensed meeting, our local experts presented and discussed the status of a total number of nine pilot projects. Especially the transferability to other regions was emphasized, as one of the main objectives of the Central Europe programme. Due to the occasion and the direct influence on our project, possible effects of the Corona crisis to the pilot projects, which were planned for spring and summer 2020, were also discussed. We also agreed upon measures, to react on the challenges.



TRANS-BORDERS

Improving accessibility in peripheral cross-border regions



SEASON BUS LINE LAVAMÜND-MARIBOR

In 2019, a new cross border bus line was designed and a financing and pricing model was developed. The cross-border bus line runs along three well-known cycle routes: Lavant and Drau bike path and along the abandoned railway line between Velenje (Slovenia) and Lavamünd (Austria). The bus line consists of two segments: First from Velenje to Lavamünd with bus operator Nomago and a second segment connecting the Austrian cities Lavamünd and Wolfsberg with bus operator ÖBB-Postbus GmbH. Both buses were equipped with a trailer for bicycles. Both segments followed a harmonised timetable with possible transfer from one bus to another and to train in Dravograd and St. Paul, with connection to Maribor, and Wolfsberg or Klagenfurt. The bus line was running as a pilot operation in 2019 from 1st May until 30th September (July to August daily; May, June and September during weekends and national holidays in Slovenia and Austria).



During the last winter, an evaluation report was prepared and small modifications (minor modification of route, pricing simplification) should be addressed in the pilot run in season 2020 along with short-term (2021) and long-term (after 2022) financing model development. The start of the pilot run 2020 was planned for the 1st May with operation on weekends and public holidays in Slovenia and Austria. Due to the effects of the corona crisis, the start is postponed until the measures expire. We hope that the daily operation of the bike busses is possible from July onwards as planned. With the end

of the test operation in September 2020 contract negotiations are conducted for the time afterwards (summer season 2021).

STUDY BUS TERMINALS IN LIBEREC REGION



To support interoperability and interconnectivity of local transport services and train transport, Korid Lk, Spol. S R.o. as infrastructure and public service provider of Liberec Region developed tender documentation to obtain building permits for bus platforms by train stations. Test facilities are the stations of Raspenava, Frýdlant and Višňová. The development of these sites is connected with the planning of the connections along the axis Zittau - Bogatynia - Frýdlant. The tender was started in March 2020, so the start of constructing will be soon.

A study for the future solution of Liberec bus terminal near the rail station will be worked out more detailed to be a base for future project documentation. We plan to finish this study in August this year.



WHAT IS COMING UP IN THE NEAR FUTURE

We organize two workshops for short- and long-term financing model in Dravograd with key national stakeholders in Slovenia and Austria in October 2020. A draft for a financing model for cross-border passenger transport between Carinthia and Koroška has been submitted. Based on the results of these events, short- and long-term financing model will be finalized in November 2020.

Regarding a possible reorganized government structure of cross-border transport services in the border-triangle (Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic) a potential partner was identified. A joint meeting took place in January 2020 in Jelenia Gora. We are drafting a concept for the possibilities for coordinating the cross-border public transport. Based on this concept, a further meeting will take place in June. We will carry out the administrative coordination in the potential partner organisations and identify a preferred option. As a result, we will define an implementation strategy within TRANS-BORDERS.