

OUTPUT FACT SHEET

Strategies and action plans

Project index number and acronym	CE1410 REIF
Output number and title	O.T3.2 - Endorsement of regional policy documents
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	PP7 (CETC-EGTC)
Project website	interreg-central.eu/reif
Delivery date	31.03.2022

Summary description of the strategy/action plan (developed and/or implemented), explaining its main objectives and transnational added value

One of the main objectives of the REIF project is to strengthen political focus on regional rail infrastructure for freight transport in CE territories. To achieve this objective, all project's partners committed to integrate and/or amend their policy documents and strategies according to the main findings, lessons learned and achievements from the REIF activities (e.g. studies, road map definitions, etc).

This output provides reference information about the addressed policy instruments and describes the way REIF's activities have influenced the policy instrument (Transport Policy of the Westpomeranian Region until 2030).

In the case of Westpomeranian Region, project outcomes have been included in Transport Policy of the Westpomeranian Region until 2030 (the chapter on intermodal transport), highlighting the importance of increasing the share of rail transport in freight transport.

NUTS region(s) where training(s) have been conducted (relevant NUTS level)

Westpomerania Region, Poland. **NUTS** code: PL42

Expected impact and benefits of the strategy/action plan for the concerned territories and target groups

In the first phase of the project "REIF", a baseline study, a market potential analysis and a bottleneck analysis of rail freight transport in were carried out. In these analyses, the existing strengths and weaknesses as well as the untapped potential for the regional access of goods to rail were shown. The problem of railway transport development was looked at more broadly, taking into account the entirety of the connection between the Baltic and Adriatic, or in macro-regional terms - Western Poland. The challenge for the Westpomeranian Region is not only to restore and modernize regional railway connections, but also influence on national institution responsible for the construction and modernization of infrastructure and the provision of freight transport. During the meetings of the Advisory Board, the topic of dialogue was raised very often. Dialogue not only at regional level with rail transport stakeholders, but also at national level with ministries and rail operators. In order to ensure the development of rail transport and make it competitive with road transport, the framework conditions that are in responsibility of national and partly regional administration must be improved. Rail and intermodal transport face many problems that reduce competitiveness that do not exist in road transport. These problems were not only described in the project results, but also discussed during the Advisory Board meetings and the individual online/telephone meetings with the Advisory Board members.

The findings of the REIF project have been included in Transport Policy of the Westpomeranian Region until 2030 (the chapter on intermodal transport), highlighting the importance of increasing the share of rail transport in freight transport. The investments described in the D.T3.2.7 - ROADMAP "NEW RAILINFRASTRUCTURE/SERVICES 2030" WESTPOMERANIAN REGION were included in the policy implementation programme document. The results of the REIF project will also be communicated to the members of the West Pomeranian Regional Assembly as part of the Transport Policy annual report (May 2022). Due to the pandemic and delays in the preparation of regional policies, the Development Strategy for the Westpomeranian Region was not updated during the project's lifetime. Regardless of the non-started process of updating the Strategy, PP7 provided two units responsible for preparing the Strategy with the results of the analyses. These units are the Department of Infrastructure and Transport of the Marshal's Office of the Westpomeranian Region and the Regional Office for Spatial Planning of the West Pomeranian Region. Department of Infrastructure and Transport of the Marshal's Office of the Westpomeranian Region is the unit responsible for regional transport policy of the Region, excluding TEN-T and maritime affairs. These two issues are the responsibility of the Department of the Territorial Cooperation and Tourism, whose staff were directly involved in the project activities. Regional Office for Spatial Planning of the West Pomeranian Region is the unit responsible in the region for the preparation of West Pomerania Spatial Management Plan. The plan is a document of the regional nature and one of elements of the holistic approach to the strategic planning, in particular in the context of the coordination of activities of a spatial policy. It identifies such issues as conditions and directions of the province development in terms of the organization of spatial structure (settlement network), technical and social infrastructure, environment protection and location of public aim investment projects. PP7 commits to actively participate in the process of updating the Strategy and transfer the

project main findings, when this will take place, also after the project's end. The results of the REIF project, in a broader perspective, were also presented to the members of the Association of Polish Regions of the Baltic - Adriatic Transport Corridor and to the Central European Transport Corridor European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Ltd. Both these associations have an influence on transport policy-making process at regional level. The inclusion of the project's results in regional documents (such as Development Strategy for the Westpomeranian Region), but also in the documents submitted by the above-mentioned entities and transport associations to government institutions would emphasize the importance of further development and increase of railroad and intermodal transport in Poland. Wide discussion on the potential of investments indicated in the roadmap will ensure greater priority of these investments and access to financing, whether from national or EU funds.

Sustainability of the developed and/or implemented strategy/action plan and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The REIF project enabled CETC-EGTC and the Westpomeranian Region to draw conclusions about rail freight transport and rail infrastructure in Central Europe, as well as ways how to try to improve the current situation at regional level. The REIF gave CETC-EGTC the opportunity to identify the biggest obstacles but also opportunities for the development of rail transport and discuss them with regional experts - members of the Advisory Board. It will enable the preparation of analyses showing rail freight transport in a regional, macro-regional (Western Poland) and corridor perspective (TEN-T Baltic -Adriatic Corridor). The culminating point was the development of the D.T3.2.7 - ROADMAP "NEW RAILINFRASTRUCTURE/SERVICES 2030" WESTPOMERANIAN REGION with the help of external experts and local stakeholders. Actions proposed in the roadmap will influence the development of rail transport in other regions of Western Poland, i.e. Lubuskie and Dolnośląskie Voivodships and the whole sub-region of the Central European Transport Corridor both in the northern direction including the hub/gate at the ports of Szczecin and Świnoujście to the Baltic Sea Region and in the southern direction linking West Pomerania to the Hungarian and Croatian regions. However, first and foremost, the implementation of the roadmap will ensure the development of regional infrastructures to allow greater use of rail freight transport.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links

If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

The output is based on the following deliverables:

- Westpomeranian' Advisory Board meetings and the individual online/telephone meetings with the Advisory Board members (D.T3.2.4 Advisory board meeting 2020, D.T3.2.6 Advisory board meeting 2021)
- D.T3.2.5 Coping with funding needs & ensuring financial sustainability, policy measures
- D.T3.2.7 Final Roadmap "new rail infrastructure and services 2030"

- D.T3.3.6 Integration of project findings in regional policy instruments: Westpomeranian Region.

These deliverables are available for download on the REIF homepage with the following link:
<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/REIF/Regional-Roadmap---Policy-integration-Westpomerania.zip>