

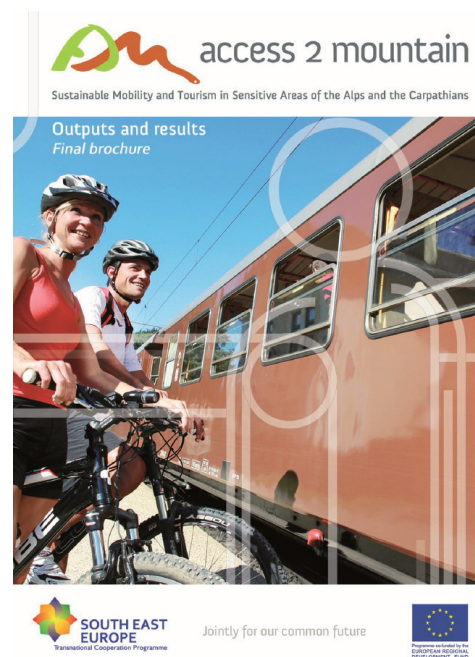
ACCESS 2 MOUNTAIN Newsletter No.7

April 2014

Project completion: Final Brochure/Project Synthesis highlighting main outputs and results

All good things must come to an end – and so does the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project. The cooperation project between 32 project partners and observers, co-financed by the ERDF in the framework of the South East Europe Programme, officially ended on 30 April 2014.

In brief, the **Final Brochure** presents the main outputs and results of a three-year transnational cooperation project which was aimed at the promotion of sustainable mobility and tourism in sensitive areas of the Alps and the Carpathians. The brochure refers to the general ACCESS2MOUNTAIN **Synthesis report** which contains detailed conclusions derived from the implementation of pilot activities which were aimed at improving the accessibility to, and the infrastructure within, the mountain regions targeted by the project, by means of sustainable modes of transport. Beside technical feasibility questions, the synthesis also reveals important findings on how to involve stakeholders to ensure financial or political support on the one hand and how to inform and motivate potential customers on the other hand.



15 institutions adopt Common Charter for sustainable mobility in tourism

A significant step towards continuing the excellent cooperation and the transnational ties that have been established was taken at the end of the Final Conference (National Park Gesäuse, Austria, 1-3 April 2014): 15 partner institutions from the Alps and the Carpathians signed a **joint declaration on sustainable mobility in tourism**. In doing so, they commit themselves to dedicating resources, beyond the project's lifetime, to the implementation of mobility solutions in the Alps and the Carpathians that benefit people, regions and the environment: flexible and demand-oriented solutions with low/zero emissions.

The Charter further contains some fundamental **recommendations** for policy makers and for the private and public sectors, to provide guidance for infrastructure, transport and tourism planning processes. The undersigned parties call upon the Alpine and Carpathian countries to further promote and support multimodal, transnational and carbon-neutral travelling across borders to make the mountain regions sustainably accessible.





Travel Green Info Trip, 25-28 April © CJIT Maramures



Enjoying rural charm by bike © CJIT Maramures



ACCESS 2 MOUNTAIN Newsletter No.7

Successful Final Conference “puremobility2puremountains” National Park Gesäuse, Austria, 1-3 April 2014

Following the principle of “sustainable mobility and tourism in sensitive areas of the Alps and the Carpathians”, the conference took place in a highly protected area – the National Park Gesäuse – and was designed as a car-free event that started with a common train ride from Vienna to the conference venue and back. The conference train offered perfect conditions for an interactive “output bazar”, where visitors were able to get in touch with the project partners and inform themselves about regional pilot projects. The scientific programme of the Conference started with a thematic introduction about current trends in tourism and transport and the need to promote sustainable development, given by Paul Peeters (NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences) and Georg Hauger (Technical University of Vienna). The second part focused on best practices in sustainable mobility for tourists, with the particular example of the Switzerland Mobility network (Lukas Stadtherr) and an overview of examples of railway transport solutions all over Europe (Otfried Knoll). Besides being in good spirits, which came as no surprise given the pleasant and friendly atmosphere of the National Park, the conference participants were highly motivated by the warm welcome by David Osebik (Nationalpark Gesäuse), Günther Lichtblau (Environment Agency Austria), Roberta Calcina (SEE JTS) and Veronika Holzer (Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management).

National Park Gesäuse and the GSEISPUR (gseispur.at)

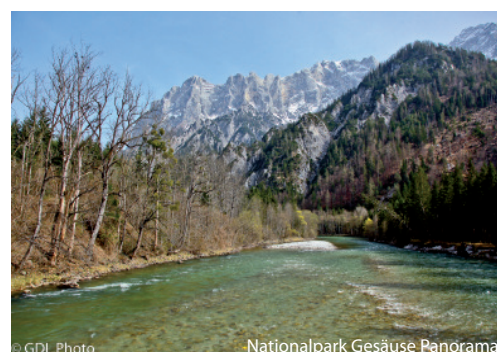
The pilot region “Alpenregion National Park Gesäuse”, which was the venue of the Final Conference, comprises parts of the Gesäuse National Park and the Eisenwurzen Nature Park in Styria, Austria. In local tourism, the focal points vary from adventure sports on the Salza River, mountaineering in the Gesäuse Mountains to cultural tourism in Admont. Over the years, however, cutbacks in services have led to a growing number of people using their car to explore the region. GSEISPUR, an integrated mobility platform in the Gesäuse National Park, offers flexible mobility for outdoor tourism, both for locals and visitors, from May to October. Since its launch in 2013, GSEISPUR has been offering a shuttle bus service to/from the main railway station, a door-to-door taxi service and an e-scooter rental service, supported by a website and a smart phone app. Despite the initial lack of web and marketing support, 1638 passengers took advantage of the shuttle from June to October 2013, averaging nearly 3.5 passengers per trip. The National Park also has long-term plans to develop a year-round flexible transport system in cooperation with local municipalities.



Stopover at Johnsbach © Hollinger, Nationalpark Gesäuse



Conference Train © Hollinger, Nationalpark Gesäuse



© GDL Photo

Nationalpark Gesäuse Panorama



GSEISPUR © Nationalpark Gesäuse



ACCESS 2 MOUNTAIN Newsletter No.7

ACCESS2MOUNTAIN goes around Europe

From 23-24 April, an International Conference on sustainable development in mountain areas was held in Sarnano, Italy, under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention 2013-2014. Under the title "The Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention: Sharing the experiences. The Apennines, a European mountain range", a debate took place with several experts, where experiences from mountain cooperation activities undertaken to ensure sustainable development for mountain areas were compared. The ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project was presented as showcase example of successful transnational cooperation by the transnational project managers (komobile w7, Vienna) and the Italian project partner UNICAM.

Before, on 20th February, the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project team had been invited to present its main achievements at the European Conference "Cross-border solutions for sustainable growth in mountain and sensitive regions" organised by the Green Mountain project partners and hosted by the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. Günther Lichtblau (Lead Partner), together with the transnational project manager, took the opportunity to disseminate the project results and to establish new contacts.



Conference in Sarnano @ UNICAM



Green Mountain Conference © Green Mountain SEE project

Towards the signature of the Carpathian Convention Transport Protocol

With the support of EURAC, the UNEP Vienna-ISCC took one step further towards the signature of the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Sustainable Transport. The Protocol was submitted by the Secretariat to the Carpathian Convention Parties during the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) meeting, held in Prague on 18-20 February 2014, for consideration for the forthcoming 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) in Mikulov (Czech Republic), on 23-26 September 2014.

During the Final Conference of the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN Project, the UNEP Vienna-ISCC's representative presented the contents of the Protocol and explained the process behind the draft and its finalisation. In this context, the importance of the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN Project was stressed, in that it supported the Carpathian Convention Transport Working Group Meetings technically and financially, and provided important inputs to the text of the Protocol by virtue of its partnership status. The Protocol, if adopted and signed at COP4, will be another strategic point of reference for the development of sustainable transport projects and activities in the Carpathians.



CCIC in Prague © Ministry of the Environment, CZ, P. Lysý



CCIC in Prague © Ministry of the Environment, CZ, P. Lysý



ACCESS 2 MOUNTAIN Newsletter No.7

Project Partners

Lead partner U-AT - Environment Agency Austria, AT

ERDF partner bmvit- Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, AT

ERDF partner Gesäuse - National Park Gesäuse, AT

ERDF partner Mostviertel - Mostviertel-Tourism Ltd., AT

ERDF partner Miskolc Holding - Miskolc Holding Local Government Asset Management Corporation, HU

ERDF partner UNICAM - University of Camerino, IT

ERDF partner EURAC research – European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano, IT

ERDF partner CJIT Maramures - County Center for Tourism Information, RO

ERDF partner ARR-KE - Agency for the Support of Regional Development Kosice, SK

20% ERDF partner RARR-PL - Rzeszow Regional Development Agency, PL

10% partner TIMOK -Timok Club, RS

10% partner CFUA - Carpathian Foundation Ukraine, UA

The project enjoys widespread support at transnational, national and regional level: the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention, European Federation of Museum and Tourist Railways, Ministries of Environment (AT, IT), Ministries of Transport (SI, PL) and other observers at the regional level of the project partners.

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More Information

Learn more about outputs and results of ACCESS2MOUNTAIN on the project website

www.access2mountain.eu

Downloads:

Conference proceedings **NEW!**

Final project brochure **NEW!**

Common charter **NEW!**

General project synthesis **NEW!**

Thematic synthesis reports/final best practice collection on "Railways in tourism" and "Multimodal Transport" **NEW!**

...and many more studies, events, photos and links!



Group photo at the final Conference © Hollinger, Nationalpark Gesäuse

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