

ACCESS 2 MOUNTAIN Newsletter No.6

February 2014

Final Conference “pure mobility 2 pure mountains”

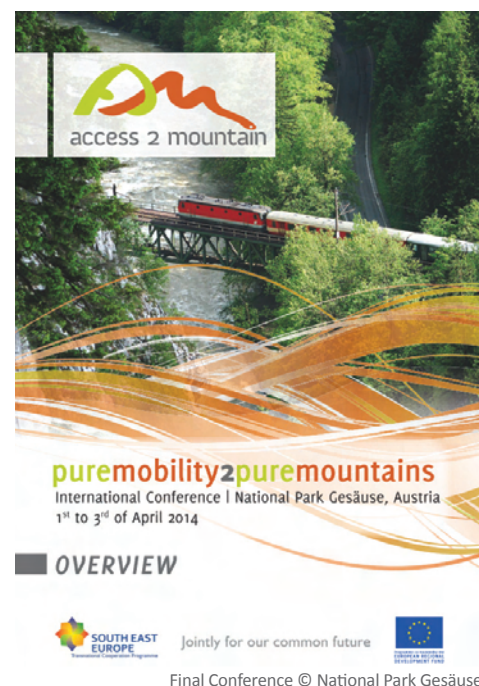
The start of the event is at the Vienna Franz Joseph Station (1 April, 10 a.m.) where participants will be boarding the **conference train to the National Park Gesäuse**. While enjoying their journey to the Alps, our guests will be informed with interactive methods about the project outputs and results. The highlight of day one will be the arrival in the steep river gorge of the Enns River (Gesäuse) on one of the most spectacular railway lines in the Alps. Participants will leave the train in the heart of the National Park and experience the beauty of “pure mountain air and scenery” in the company of National Park Rangers. On day two (2 April, Admont), the conference programme will focus on “soft mobility in tourism within protected areas of the Alps and Carpathians” and include the **signing of the Common Charter** of the Partnership within the framework of the Alpine and Carpathian Convention. The day will close with a traditional Styrian evening in the mountain village of Johnsbach. On day three the conference train will be waiting - after a visit to the world-famous library of the monastery of Admont - to take the participants back to the Franz Joseph Station in Vienna (arrival at 2.15 p.m.).

For further information and updates about the conference send an email to info@gseisspur.at

Sustainable mobility in tourist regions in Austria – National stakeholder event

How can attractive "soft mobility" offers, packages and modern travel information be created for guests within the framework of transnational projects? How are these offers used? And how can such measures be financed?

For the **Holiday Fair in Vienna** (16.01.2014), the Environment Agency Austria had organised a national stakeholder event in order to find answers to all these questions. The event was organised in cooperation with the Austrian Ministries for the Environment, Transport and the Economy and with the Austrian Economic Chamber. At the event the **results of the projects ACCESS2MOUNTAIN and TRANSDANUBE** were presented, which are both under the leadership of the Environment Agency Austria and address sustainable mobility in tourist regions. More than 200 stakeholders from tourism, transport, spatial planning and environmental organisations discussed the **potentials of soft-mobility offers in tourism** and the **success factors for soft mobility implementation**. Inputs were provided by the lead partner and the other Austrian project partners, who presented their activities implemented within ACCESS2MOUNTAIN over the past 3 years.





Košice region © Gejza Legen



GSEISSHUTTLE SPUR © Mostviertel Tourismus weinfranz.at



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Košice region

The region is situated in the southeast of Slovakia and borders Ukraine in the east and Hungary in the south. Enjoy a walk or hike in this Slovak paradise, nowadays a National Park, and explore its deep gorges, long canyons, wild ravines and roaring waterfalls. Discover breath-taking views in this beautiful area. The largest karst area of the Slovak Karst mountain range can be found in the southwest of the Košice Region. It was thanks to the abundance of karst features and the unique plant and animal species that the Slovak Karst National Park has been listed among the **UNESCO International Biosphere Reserves**. Its outstanding historical heritage is well documented with the masterpieces of architecture that can be found in the region.

Košice - the biggest city of the region - boasts an exceptional mixture of precious and spectacular buildings mainly in the town centre. To impress every wine lover, there is the precious Tokaj Region where unique Tokaj wine, the most splendid of all Slovak wines, is grown and produced.

The Agency for the Support of Regional Development Košice (and Miskolc Holding) participate in the project to **improve the accessibility of mountain areas** between the Košice region and North Hungary, to improve the **cycling infrastructure** of the region and to raise public **awareness about multi-modal transport** and the development of neighbouring areas.

7th Partner meeting

The final partner meeting, organised by the Agency for the Support of Regional Development Košice and the Environment Agency Austria, was held in Košice on 22-24 January 2014.

In a **panel discussion** in the evening of the first day of the meeting, local stakeholders, including the **tourism department and the operator of the Košice Children's railway**, discussed with John Jones from Fedecrail the potentials for multi-modality within the region. During an internal session of the meeting, the project partners contrived the remaining tasks for a successful project completion.

Possible funding schemes for **follow-up projects** were announced to the partners during a workshop organised by the Environment Agency Austria. In the consortium a **high commitment to future cooperation** was noticeable in general, but also a willingness to set up a transnational project based on the results of ACCESS2MOUNTAIN. As a side event, the project partners were invited to experience a ride on the **Košice Children's railway**, the only narrow gauge railway in the region that operates only in the summer season.



Slovak Kart © Gejza Legen



Biosphere Reserve © Gejza Legen



© GDL Photo

Press conference in Kosice



© GDL Photo

Study visit to Children's Railway



Discussion of project results © Gejza Legen

Bike rental in Breb © Rada Pavel



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But on 23 January, a cold foggy winter day, the railway opened its doors just for the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN consortium. The wagons of the railway were equipped with the **bike racks** which had been organised through the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project. The bicycle carriers had met with a favourable response already when first installed in the summer of 2013.

SWOMM International Conference

Why is it crucial in mountain regions to offer carbon-neutral and 'clean' transportation? Which measures need to be taken to realize this? What are possible solutions on regional, national and international level? These questions were tackled at the **Scientific Workshop on Mountain Mobility and Transport (SWOMM)** on 11 December 2013, the International Mountain Day. Representatives of the **Alpine and Carpathian Convention** attended the workshop together with the entire ACCESS2MOUNTAIN partnership and other stakeholders.

With particle filters from two different pollution monitoring stations in Vienna (at low altitude) and the Austrian Alps (at high altitude), the Lead Partner effectively demonstrated the **visible impact that motorised transport may have on the environment**. While the filter of the monitoring station in Vienna was fairly white (clean), the one from the Alpine station was pitch-black dark (i.e. dirty).

In the following, ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project partners showed how their **pilot activities in Maramureş, the National Park Gesäuse, in the Mostviertel region** as well as in the **border regions of Slovakia and Hungary** have contributed to a reduction of air pollution (and to obtaining a whiter, cleaner filter) – simply by encouraging more and more people to use public transport, on-demand services and soft-mobility means of transportation like buses, collective taxis or bikes. The University of Camerino explained how the **traffic flow model**, developed during the project, could further help these areas to plan even better how people could move around within their regions, and how they could then set the relevant measures. How to successfully implement such measures and projects is explained in a **user-friendly brochure** designed by EURAC research and presented for the first time on the occasion of SWOMM. The brochure is available for free and can be downloaded from the project homepage.

The SWOMM was co-organised by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention and the University of Camerino, with the support of the Environment Agency Austria, EURAC research and the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.



Bike racks, Kosice children's railway © Gejza Legen



SWOMM © Raffael Vergnani



SWOMM © Raffael Vergnani



SWOMM © UNICAM



South Tyrol



Cycling in Maramures © The Village Hotel



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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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Upcoming Highlight

1-3 April 2014: Final Conference, Vienna - Admont in National Park Gesäuse/AT

More details about the conference on:
www.nationalpark.co.at/veranstaltungen
www.access2mountain.eu/en/events/conferences

Further downloads & links:

Maramures - The Joy on two Wheels
NEW!

Synthesis Brochure on multimodal transport and railways in mountain regions *NEW!*

www.access2mountain.eu



Cycling in South Tyrol © Gejza Legen

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