

## PRESS RELEASE

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The mid term ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project Conference organized in Kosice, Slovakia during **16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October, 2012** attracted almost 50 participants from all over Europe. The Conference highlighted the best practices collected and presented and disseminated the intermediary results and first experiences from the pilot activities in project partner regions. Experts in the field of transport, tourism and environment together with political representatives of the Carpathian and the Alpine Convention were involved in discussions about sustainable mobility in mountain tourism. The participants learnt from best up-to-date existing practices of advanced mountain areas, for example on ways how to revert falling economy and growing unemployment in these sensitive areas. A selection of multimodal mobility concepts and platforms presented showed the way and direction of future desired development.

The partner regions presentations revealed sufficient achievements within the project and challenges regarding the future implementation of soft mobility measures. An excursion to the High Tatra mountains where a tram line provides the environmentally friendly transportation of visitors and inhabitants completed the three-day event. The perfect weather in Tatra mountains with beautiful scenery set a great opportunity to welcome again the European guests to Slovak mountains. The participants took the opportunity to test the quality, comfort and timing of public and intermodal transports and enjoyed a train and tram ride to reach their mountain destination.

Tourism increasingly involves the use of private cars which cause negative effects – especially in sensitive mountain areas. Accessibility to and within these areas by sustainable public transport and non-motorized mobility is often limited. Activities aimed at fostering accessibility by sustainable means of transport are promoted within the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project. The implementation of the project will lead



to some small scale but smart mountain access improvement measures in selected mountain areas of the Alps and Carpathians.

The ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project aims to improve environmentally friendly accessibility to these areas. The project builds on the efficient cooperation of partners and observers from 12 countries in the Alps and Carpathians that results in an exchange of best practice, know-how and transferrable mobility measures. Financed under the South-East Europe programme of the European Union ACCESS2MOUNTAIN generates important initiatives aiming to reverse the unfavourable development in the area of transportation.

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