


Let's travel the last mile together! 

# LAST MILE

Newsletter - # 04



## FROM ANALYZING TO ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

During the last few months the understanding of flexible transport in the LAST MILE project has been refined. Comprehensive analyses of the technical state-of-the-art in the participating regions were made including beside dial-a-bus and hailed-shared taxis also different types of sharing systems as more individual supplements to public transport.

The synopses of the joint analyses (see Newsletter 3) show that a clear legal framework acknowledging flexible transport and regulating functioning, organization and financing of such small scaled transport services is lacking in all participating regions. Furthermore deficiencies in public transport information services, lack of sustainable financing for the long-term operation of FTS, lack of expertise among municipalities and lack of education about sustainable transport were emblazed as obstacles to the implementation of FTS. The synopses of regional results make it clear: there is a need for action. First recommendations for steps to be taken towards the improvement of framework conditions have already been elaborated and first actions have been discussed during the partner meeting in West Pomerania Region. Now in the midterm of semester 4 the development of regional action plans is in full swing. Have a look at this Newsletter for news about the latest progress.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> LAST MILE PROJECT MEETING IN WEST POMERANIA REGION (PL)

On 9-12 October 2017 the fifth LAST MILE project meeting took place in West Pomerania Region, organized by the Regional Office for Spatial Planning of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship in Szczecin (RBGPWZ), representing the West Pomeranian Voivodeship.

First of all the invited project partners were acquainted with the main conditions and transport policies of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, the metropolitan area of Szczecin, and the city of Szczecin itself. On a study visit to the seaside municipality of Rewal, the project partners and their stakeholders learned about an example of good practice – the Seaside Narrow Gauge Railway. This is a seasonal transport solution aimed at tourists and based on historical railway infrastructure.



Participants of the fifth international LAST MILE project meeting

This was followed by an interesting workshop on seasonality problems in tourist municipalities, divided into four thematic fields: infrastructure, residents' needs, information policy and methods of analysis of the area.

A second example of good practice presented during this period was the BalticBike.

In the special surroundings of the open-air museum – the Slavs and Vikings Centre in Wolin – a workshop dealing with the action plan development showed the first results and led to many discussions between the partners.

Many ideas for the action plan have already been collected by the partners. The extension of a bike rental system and the launch of

an express bus line during the summer season, like the good practice visited in Varna, were on the programme for the Slovakian partners. Partners from East Tyrol were inspired by the example of good practice visited in Luxembourg, the 'Bummelbus', meanwhile in Catalonia partners are working on the idea of connecting the existing train with on demand stops from Lleida to La Pobla de Segur with a Dial-a-bus-service to the National Parks in the High Pyrenees. The workshop dealt with many more projects, showing that work on the regional action plans is not only starting right now but is already in full swing.

### BALTIC BIKE

- is a **bike rental system for tourists** in the municipalities near the coastline of the Baltic Sea
- **offers 900 bikes** for adults, children and electric bikes
- was **used by 40 000 people** in 2016
- **cooperates with 'Usedomrad'**, the bike rental system on the German island of Usedom

## EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE THROUGH BEST PRACTICES

### Interview with Daniela Stoycheva – manager of the Varna District Governor's office

**As a representative of the Varna Regional Administration, you recently participated in the study visit in Poland in the framework of the LAST MILE project. Please tell us was this visit profitable for you?**

*"The visit was extremely exciting and very profitable for me and my colleagues, which participated as stakeholders. We learned a lot about the sustainable mobility and the last mile approach in tourism."*

#### **Did you visit some touristic sites?**

*"Yes, the Szczecin region in Poland has a very good tourism profile. The city has many nice hotels, restaurants and other attractions for tourists. The in-country roads are of good quality. We visited several small towns along the Baltic Sea with very nice accommodation and recreation facilities. It is a pity that the summer season in this region is relatively short."*

#### **What do you think about the Polish best practices - did you see some of them?**

*"Yes, we saw many examples of good tourism and transport practices. Especially for the last mile coverage we learned about BalticBike, a tourist bike rental system which is a real success: in 2016 it served about 40,000 tourists. We also took a short trip with the Seaside Narrow Gauge Railway in Rewal Municipality combining the tourism potential of the area with a transport system."*

#### **Do you think that these best practices are transferable in Bulgaria?**

*"They are perhaps not directly transferable but the successful cooperation between different stakeholders in the tourism and transport sectors in Poland with the state administration should be transferred in our country and we will contribute to this important precondition for successful tourism activities".*



**DANIELA STOYCHEVA**  
Manager of the Varna  
District Governor's office

## LAST MILE MEETS INNOVASUMP

In November 2017, LAST MILE was invited to Ravenna to participate in a workshop given by the InnovaSUMP project, dealing with innovative approaches to Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP).

The City of Ravenna, the project partner of InnovaSUMP, organized a workshop with the main topic of 'Visitor Mobility at Tourist Destinations' to integrate sustainable tourism mobility into SUMPs. LAST MILE was invited to provide input on how to deal with the last mile in the tourism chain. Though LAST MILE mainly deals with remote areas, the concept of flexible transport modes can be transferred to urban areas as well, e.g. for suburban areas with lower density or for times with lower demand like at night or at the weekend. Agnes Kurzweil from the Environment Agency Austria, the Lead Partner organization, presented the first outcomes of the LAST MILE analyses and possible solutions for flexible transport modes, highlighting some good examples from the partner regions visited in the past study visits.

The exchange between the two projects was a good example for fruitful capitalization between two European projects.

## E-CAR 'FLUGS' FOR THE LAST MILE IN THE DEFEREGGEN VALLEY

The first successes have been recorded in the framework of the Last Mile project: since 2 October, beside the existing 'defMobil' dial-a-taxi, the Deferegggen Valley has had an additional mobility service: the e-defMobil 2.0. Each of the three municipalities in the valley has a 'Flugs' e-car which acts as a hailed and shared taxi for residents during the week. The taxi service operates only upon request and has flexible routing to individual destinations within each municipality's border. Almost 70 volunteers act as drivers for the non-profit taxi service. At weekends, the e-cars are available as regional e-car sharing 'Flugs'.

The e-defMobil 2.0 closes the mobility gap between front doors, bus stops, shops, doctors or recreational facilities. The new mobility service can also replace a second or third private car for families, which is essential in many cases due to insufficient public transport as well as unplanned settlement in a rural area. The e-defMobil 2.0 project also helps to prevent migration away from rural areas and strengthens these areas.

The project was implemented together with the LAST MILE project partner RMO and the three municipalities in the Deferegggen Valley.



Mayors of the three municipalities and volunteer taxi drivers

## INTERVIEW WITH THE 'E-DEFMOBIL 2.0' PROJECT MANAGER ERIK ENGEL:

### What are the conditions for the new service?

Engel: "The e-defMobil 2.0 operates from Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm. Users can buy tickets for €1 for each ride. The individual destination needs to be ordered via a phone call in advance. On weekends, the 'Flugs' can be rented by everyone as an e-car sharing service."

### After three months of operation, how many users do you already have?

Engel: "In the first three months, about 1081 trips were made using the new service. On average, we have 21 users per day for all three e-cars."

### How was the financing raised?

Engel: "The volunteer taxi drivers make the project workable. Without the volunteers, the municipalities wouldn't be able to finance this project. We also got money from a national funding program, but this financial support is just a fraction of the remaining project costs. But the municipalities recognize the necessity of this service for their residents and are increasing the budget for the implementation and long-term operation. The federal state government as well as the public transport association supports the project in all aspects."



Erik Engel in front of the e-defMobil

### Were there any challenges in the development process?

Engel: "The e-defMobil 2.0 acts as a feeder service for defMobil public transport. This is a very important message for users. They need to change their mode of transport, for example to the def-Mobil or to the public bus, if they have destinations outside the municipality's border or the valley. Anyway, there were some overlaps between public transport and the new e-defmobil 2.0. We are working on solutions."

"The acceptance of benefits for the residents was also a challenge, but with an intensive participation process and a lot of information, we managed to clear up any doubts."

### Conclusion?

Engel: "Undoubtedly, mobility is a key need for our residents. With this project, we can reach a milestone for sustainable and flexible mobility."

### ALL ABOUT LAST MILE AT:

[www.interregueurope.eu/lastmile](http://www.interregueurope.eu/lastmile)

**THE FULL ANALYSES ARE  
FREELY AVAILABLE AT THE  
PROJECT WEBSITE.**

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