RBGC
Rail Baltica Growth Corridor

Funding: European
Duration: Jun 2010 - Sep 2013
Status: Complete with results

Background & policy context:
The Rail Baltica Growth Corridor (RBGC) is led by the City of Helsinki and coordinated by the Aalto University Small Business Center. The project has in total of 21 partners from 6 BSR countries. Target groups of the RBGC are City and regional authorities, Transport service providers, Logistics centers, Intermodal terminals, Public transport authorities, Universities and other research centers. RBGC's partner composition is based on the wide range of different organizations involved with the realization of the connection and high knowledge, to provide for the project best possibilities to success. RBGC participates actively in transnational cooperation between transport projects and maintains close communication with DG MOVE in the field of transport policy and Priority Area 11's coordinators of EUSBSR.

Objectives:
The RBGC project promotes transport policies for the development of multimodal logistics and modern railway infrastructure in Eastern BSR. The main focus is set on improving passenger mobility & freight transportation along Rail Baltica (RB) route. Further, the project is organizing multilevel dialogue about transport policies in BSR countries.

Methodology:
RBGC aims to improve the competitiveness and accessibility of BSR cities and regions by increasing their interaction and collaboration. RBGC creates a cooperation platform that observes the needs of transport sector and its customers in line with green growth corridor principles. The RBGC consists of 7 activities (Work Packages). In addition to the administrative (WP1) and communicative (WP2) activities, the empirical research is provided by gathering data on public (WP3) and private sector (WP4) stakeholders and decision-makers in the field of transport and regional development of the project region. These research outcomes are applied in the implementation of the two pilots: Connectivity Pilot (WP5) for passenger transport and Logistics Pilot (WP6) for freight transport. The Connectivity Pilot works towards a geographical enlargement of a door-to-door multimodal travel planner, EU-Spirit, by introducing new countries and new data into the system. The Logistics Pilot creates a chain of logistics centers along the Rail Baltic corridor. The criteria of interoperability and multimodality have been investigated and prioritized in order to identify a chain of service points in which the clients can reach services of standardized quality. The knowledge gained from the project actions is used to create the Rail Baltica Growth Strategy — the policy making instrument (in WP7) that contributes to the economic growth of the Eastern BSR. RBGC is linked to the TEN-T Core Network Corridor North Sea - Baltic. The Corridor will connect the Eastern BSR branching from Helsinki, Tallinn, Riga, Kaunas and Warsaw to Berlin and to North Sea coast. The BSR gains new economic potential as the major business hubs will be connected with N-W Russia and the EU core.

Parent Programmes:
INTERREG IVB - INTERREG IV - Transnational programmes

Funding type: Public (EU)

Other programmes: 2007 - 2013 Baltic Sea Region

Partners:
Aalto University Foundation/Lappeenranta University of Technology, Kouvola Unit/City of Vantaa/Uusimaa Regional Council/Regional Council of Häme/Senate Department for Urban Development Berlin/Public Transport Authority Berlin-Brandenburg/Regional Planning Board Havelland-Flaeming/City
Organisation: City of Helsinki
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Key Results:
The RBGC officially begun with a kick-off organized in Helsinki on 9.6.2011, with a high-level representation from European Commission, Ministries, railway companies, national and local authorities, research institutions and other organizations.

Within the research Work Packages (WP) of the project, public sectors’ viewpoints towards Rail Baltica (RB) alignment, potential and need of the RB, overall attitude towards the RB, the decision-making processes in case countries and private sector perspectives towards the development of a transport network in the Baltic Sea Region have been examined, evaluated and researched.

Public and private sector researches both form an empirical basis for the RBGC project, which strives to improve the conditions for a multimodal transport network in the BSR. The two studies carried out in the RBGC on decision-making processes in public and private sectors both form a pioneering summary about the communication and power relations concerning RB in each country.

The knowledge provided by the research WPs served the development the transnational Travel Information Network (TIN), which is an online travel planning service based on the EU-Spirit network. In addition, the RBGC has released the Mobility Guide, which provides cartographical and practical information for using public transport in the Eastern BSR. Also, a demo server with information on long-distance connections to the St. Petersburg region has been set up.

Stakeholder and networking analyses of the research WPs have been applied also when creating a stakeholder-partnership model in the context of logistics centers and also to improve centres’ interoperability.

In policy-making, the information about decision-making structures have supported a series of Interregional and Transnational roundtables organized during the project lifetime, which have been working towards a joint transport strategy for RB. Visibility for the project has been acquired by participating in many events, such as TransBaltic meetings, BDF Summits and TEN-T events. In addition, the RBGC conference, “Towards corridor platforms – Case Rail Baltic”, was organized at the European Parliament (4/2013). RBGC’s sister project RBGC Russia was born. It extends the activities of the RBGC beyond the EU borders and seeks to involve North-West Russia in the political dialogue about RB. In addition, RBGC’s core partners received the EUSBSR Seed Money funding for the Rail Baltic Branding project (RBB). It is a spin-off project of the RBGC and it produces further project application strategies for branding perspectives.

RBGC Final event was organized in Berlin, 13.-14.6.2013. The event consisted of a conference and a Rail Baltic Express train ride (Berlin-Warsaw-Kaunas). The final publication of the project, “the Rail Baltica Growth Strategy”, was introduced during the event. It is the key statement of the project and it summarizes the work that has been done within the RBGC.

STRIA Roadmaps: Network and traffic management systems, Smart mobility and services
Transport mode: Multimodal transport
Transport sectors: Passenger transport, Freight transport
Transport policies: Societal/Economic issues
Geo-spatial type: Network corridors