



Transport is the backbone of the European economy and also in the next programming period it plays a key role in generating economic progress through trade and labour mobility. The urgent need for transport policies has been highlighted so to maximise the benefits and minimise the negative effects of transport in Europe. According to the White Papers published in 2010, road transport is expected to maintain its dominant role in both passenger and freight transport while the geographical distribution of freight transport growth will not be uniform.

Therefore, intermodal transport has a pivotal role for the balanced transport flows in Europe and offers interesting opportunities to improve the performance of a transport system. Nonetheless, numerous problems related for instance to lack of interconnectivity and interoperability hamper the breakthroughs in intermodal transport.

In this framework, the InTraRegio project has been conceived to increase the introduction of European innovation in the global transport market by opening up win-win cooperation among different European regions and their key actors for delivering efficient transport flows. Integration and cooperation among the five European regions Canary Islands (Spain), Bremen (Germany), Marmara (Turkey), Calabria (Italy), and Ruse (Bulgaria) has been enhanced with regard to the regions' development of policies and research strategies that lead to the increase of advanced technological solutions for the transport sector, in particular with regard to intermodal freight and passenger transport. The partnerships is formed by a transnational network that brings together from each project region regional innovative research-driven clusters, represented by 18 project partners, and associating regional authorities, research centres and universities as well as enterprises.

The InTraRegio project aims to enhance the capacity of the five cluster regions involved with the final goal to develop regional RTD and economic policies and research strategies with the purpose of upgrading the existing research-driven clusters through mutual learning processes and collaborative relationships among them. Besides, the project aims to develop a transnational strategy for consolidating and developing knowledge in transport-related topics and in this context it seeks to reinforce transport concerns in regional policy making and incentivise research activities and the diffusion of innovative solutions for an optimized modal split and highly efficient logistic chains in the five project regions.

The main scientific and technical objectives are listed as follows:

1. Strengthening the INTRAREGIO regions' capacity for investing more and better in RTD and producing research strategies contributing to regional socioeconomic



- development and to enhanced European competitiveness of transport-related economies
2. Fostering development, cooperation and integration of innovative and mature research-driven clusters
 3. Disseminate knowledge and raising public awareness

Project activities and main results achieved

The work performed since the beginning of the project has been carried out successfully and in line with the description of the project activities and results in Annex I.

Project bodies such as the Coordination Team, the Management Board and the Senior Advisory Board have been established to facilitate the co-ordination and management of the activities and also to monitor and assess the deliverables of the projects bringing contributions if necessary.

- ✚ Canary Islands Regional Government
- ✚ Canary Islands Cluster for Logistics and Transport
- ✚ Consulta Europa Projects and Innovation
- ✚ Bremen Development Economic Corporation
- ✚ Bremen University
- ✚ BLG Logistics Group
- ✚ East Marmara Development Agency
- ✚ Istanbul Technical University
- ✚ Koç University
- ✚ International Transporters Association
- ✚ Gioia Tauro Port Authority
- ✚ University of Calabria
- ✚ Logistica Ricerca e Sviluppo
- ✚ Innova
- ✚ Executive Agency for Exploration and Maintenance of the Danube
- ✚ University of Ruse
- ✚ Bulgarian River Shipping JSC
- ✚ Holding Bulgarian State Railways EAD

Figure 1 – List of beneficiaries: The INTRAREGIO consortium is composed of 18 partners from 5 different European countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Spain and Turkey), representing public authorities, research organizations and the logistic and transport sector.

In WP2 an in-depth analysis of the regions' state of play has been performed investigating on all regional public and private RTD actors directly involved or potentially interested in innovative applications for the transport sector, on available infrastructures and research facilities, available technologies as well as on needs for technological

innovations (D2.2 Five Regional Research Agendas). By the five Agendas and the identification of the regional cluster policies & initiatives and best practices of technology transfer dynamics (D2.3), a Comparative Analysis (D2.4) has been elaborated collecting and structuring all the information in a comprehensive and comparable way, including a Directory of RTD offer and demand and a global SWOT analysis illustrating the regions' performance from the RTD and economic point of view.

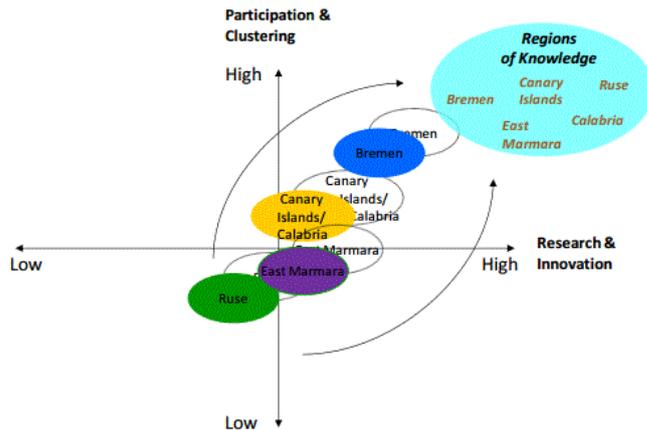


Figure 2 – Current scenario of the knowledge-based economy in the five regions presenting a summary of the positioning of the regions with regard to the two parameters and the intermodal transport sector (from D2.4).

WP3 started with the organization of the First International Conference on “A European research strategy for intermodal transport” held in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on 17th and 18th April 2013 (D3.1: Conference Proceedings). This conference represented an important event for the dissemination of the project activities and also the occasion to bring transport and logistics experts from all Europe and discuss on intermodal transport issues related to both passengers and freight sector. Finally, it gathered many inputs and contributions that have been enclosed in the first version of the Joint Action Plan (D3.2), together with all the information coming from previous deliverables.



3.1



3.2

Figure 3.1: Participants at the Conference in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria; Figure 3.2: Session I - Synergies between RTD and Transport Policies at Regional, National and European Level, Moderator: Ralitsa Atanasova - European Commission, DG Research and Innovation; Speakers (from left to right): Ioana Adamescu - European Commission - DG Research and Innovation; Iven Krämer - Senator for Economy, Labour and Ports, Bremen, Head of Unit for Port Management, Logistics and Port Infrastructure, Rosa Dávila Mamely - Canary Islands Regional Government, Director of Transport; Françoise Chotard - Director of Ile de-de-France Europe, ERRIN Chairwoman; Brigitte Ollier - UITP, Director of European Department.

In parallel with WP3, the development and implementation of mutual learning processes framed under WP4. Indeed, questionnaires have been circulated among the beneficiaries in order to evaluate the needs of the partner institutions and identify the areas of major interest for the organization of staff exchanges/training and the transnational workshops. Each beneficiary is currently planning their staff exchanges while several workshop topics and possible dates have been suggested based on the data gathered from these questionnaires which elucidated the partners' strengths and weaknesses about the project's research objectives. The calendar of workshops is available for internal use among partners. The deliverables D4.1, D4.2 and D4.3 will be edited in Month 32, 20 and 36 according to the Annex I.

WP5 is aimed at elaborating an International Cooperation Strategy with third countries by supporting thematic networking activities among a wide international transport community and detecting cooperation possibilities in RTD and innovation support services.

In order to fulfil the aims of the WP5 six working steps approach have been conceived:

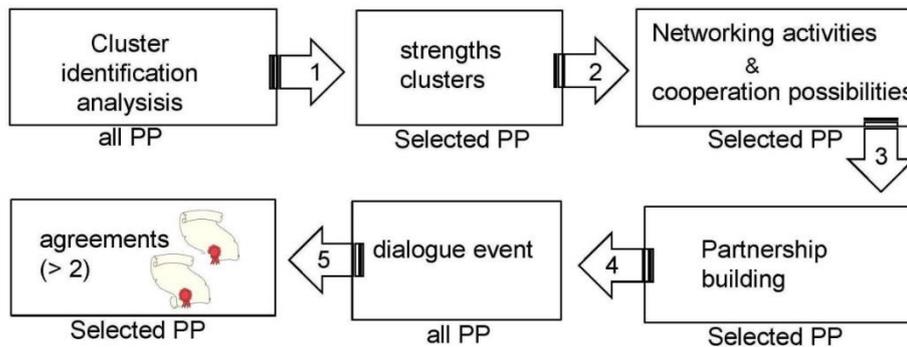


Figure 4 – Working procedure developed to carry out WP5.

The Dialogue Event will be held on 12th and 13th February 2014 together with the 4th International Conference on Dynamics in Logistics (LDIC 2014) at the University of Bremen. The aims of this synergy identified by the partnership are:

- to attract attention of the LDIC participants to the InTraRegio project,
- to enlarge the audience of the InTraRegio conference through parallel sessions
- to foster networking by common coffee breaks and social events.

WP6 deals with the dissemination activities of the whole project. The Dissemination & Communication Plan with the presentation of the running website and the final dissemination plan has been delivered in Month 6 (D6.1). The promotional material and

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the Project leaflet has also been created (D6.2) together with a Poster to be used for dissemination events. Two Newsletters have been developed and disseminated to over 400 people. Every Newsletter has been elaborated in a way to inform the stakeholders about the project activities, events, news and results.



Figure 4 – Poster of InTraRegio and Figure 5 – Front pages of the InTraRegio Newsletter N2.