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## WHERE WE STAND IN DREAM\_PACE PROJECT

With this second edition of its biannual newsletter, DREAM\_PACE welcomes the new year 2024 working to achieve its objectives for the coming months, and wishing you all to achieve yours!

In the second half of the past year, DREAM\_PACE held its second Transnational Partner Meeting in Split and closed the first reporting period successfully releasing the foreseen deliverables - on which you can find more details at page 6.

The Split event was a platform for a fruitful exchange of ideas and experiences among project partners and allowed to consolidate the results achieved so far. It also served to pave the way for the next steps, also defining the events in the Living Labs launched in the pilot areas. The meeting included the second Steering Committee meeting, which reviewed the progresses made, also with respect to the commitments made with the Central Europe program.

Currently, the tireless DREAM\_PACERs are concentrating on assessing the status quo of the DRT governance structures, planning processes, as well as digital and operational approaches in their respective pilot areas. The findings will be shared with relevant stakeholders and promoted through the media to raise awareness on the need for a more integrated approach to DRT. This will be followed by the development of innovative approaches for the various DRT aspects. The final target of all those activities remains the building of an integrated DRT 3.0 strategy for Central Europe regions.

Stay tuned for updates through the DREAM\_PACE website and in the next newsletters!



# MEETINGS IN VIENNA & SPLIT

RECAP BY TUB

## MEETING IN VIENNA ON “COMMUNICATIONS & SYNERGIES - TOWARDS A STRONGER INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE COMMUNITY” - 26-27 SEPTEMBER 2023

DREAM\_PACE team joined the Interreg CE seminar on “COMMUNICATIONS & SYNERGIES - Towards a Stronger Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Community”, which was held in Vienna on 26-27 September 2023. This seminar had two goals:

- i) how to plan and implement communications in Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE projects;
- ii) thematic discussions on cross-project synergies.

The meeting offered very interesting tips how to navigate projects’ communications, presenting strategic approaches and looking into storytelling techniques and social media. The seminar offered also an opportunity to discuss potential synergies with peer projects. DREAM\_PACE team was engaged in peer-to-peer exchanges, defining potential cooperations with the peer projects. We had positive talks with Interreg projects “CE4CE”, “MECOG-CE”, “Sustance” teams. Presenting to the audience the DREAM\_PACE’s “Business & Tech community” helped in addressing potential cooperation, also bridging to other EU funding schemes.

Thanks to Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme CE for organizing the communication and synergy event in Vienna, that was a great opportunity!

## 2ND TRANSNATIONAL PARTNER MEETING AND 2ND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN SPLIT - 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2023

The project partners met for the second transnational meeting and second steering committee meeting in the historical city of Split, Croatia. It was two eventful days filled with discussions, presentations, and collaboration.

Besides an update on the progress on local activities on stakeholder mapping, raising awareness, local engagement and preparation of the first living labs meetings, project partners presented recent outcomes of the project:

- *The Report on Governance and Planning for Public Transport, Mobility Innovations, and DRT in Central Europe Regions* offers valuable insights serving as both a foundation of our knowledge and an inspiration of what can be done.
- *The Analysis Report on DRT Digital and Operational Innovations in Central Europe Regions and Engaged Areas* delves into the digital and operational innovations that are transforming the landscape of transportation services.
- *Methodological background for the design of DRT integrated solutions* which covers four parts (1) Living Labs preparation, (2) State of the art, (3) Scenarios development and (4) Co-design of solutions. This provides the Living Labs with a guidance on how to develop their various steps through the whole project life.

Thanks to all project partners for their active participation and our project partner Split Dalmatia County for the excellent organization of the meeting!



# BUSINESS & TECH COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

REPORT BY REDMINT

## 1<sup>ST</sup> BUSINESS AND TECH COMMUNITY WORKSHOP, PRESENTING DREAM\_PACE TO INDUSTRY PLAYERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The first DREAM\_PACE Business and Tech Community workshop took place online on 18 September, 2023.

The primary scope of the workshop was to present to the associated partners - which are members of the Technology and Business Community - the structure of the project and the activities planned, with a special focus on our six pilot areas. Moreover, main ideas for the engagement of the community in project activities have been discussed.

22 participants joined the workshop, equally distributed between project partners and members of the Community, including representatives of the main DRT platforms active in the EU market (Cityway, Ioki, Nemi, Padam, Shotl and Via).

Many interesting elements emerged from the discussion that followed the presentation of project activities and pilot areas.

- Focusing on territories will be engaging: It will allow to provide tangible contributions to the debate, and to help the process of co-designing innovative solutions.
- Challenges will have to be clearly defined and communicated, that stakeholders converge on common objectives and a shared vision when discussing DRT projects.
- It is very helpful to have shared common technical definitions: The sharing of our thematic deliverables on governance and planning and digitalization and operations is expected to create the basis for the debate.
- Furthermore, a collection of experiences will help the project partners to design concrete actions (this could be a call for inputs to the community). Another opportunity of collaboration will be the definition of common criteria and methods to rate DRT efficiency and effectiveness (concerning financial, environmental and user aspects).

As a next step, a LinkedIn group with discussion threads will be created within the project framework, and a second webinar/workshop will take place in the first quarter of 2024 to update participants on ongoing project activities and to present the LinkedIn group purpose and structure and to foster their participation in the debate on the future of DRT.



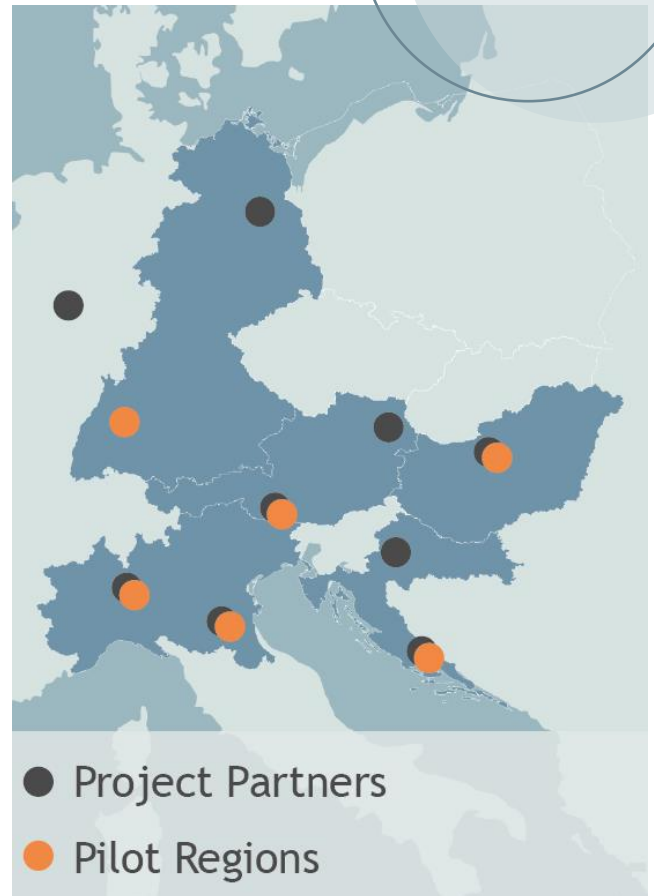
# THE SIX PILOTS OF THE PROJECT

DREAM\_PACE project will tackle different specific challenges, targeting six areas of Central Europe, areas which have different background conditions.

1. We foster a better integration of DRT and public transport in Bologna (Italy), Pavia (Italy), Budapest (Hungary)
2. We support a better coordination among existing DRT initiatives through a bottom-up approach in Osttirol (Austria) and Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
3. Experiment new integrated approaches for DRT "greenfield" in Split-Dalmatia County (Croatia).

## COUNTRIES & PILOT REGIONS

AUSTRIA	Osttirol
CROATIA	Split-Dalmatia County
GERMANY	Baden-Württemberg
HUNGARY	Budapest
ITALY	Bologna   Pavia



# INSIGHTS FROM THE FIRST LIVING LAB STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

## BOLOGNA: PLANNING DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT

A [DREAM\\_PACE Living Lab](#) was run in Bologna on 26 October 2023, organized by [SRM - Reti e Mobilità Srl](#), Metropolitan city of Bologna, and Municipality of Bologna.

The meeting served to analyse the list of potential further stakeholders to be involved in the Living Lab activities, as the initial version of the list of stakeholders was quite large and included public and private organizations, transport operators, mobility experts and users.

By discussing DRT in Bologna, potential synergy with the H2020 project [SPINE](#) were found: while SPINE deals with the technological aspects of sustainable mobility, [DREAM\\_PACE](#) covers the regulatory and contractual part.

The Living Lab in Bologna needs to focus on which DRT schemes can be useful in Bologna: This can be achieved with a step-by-step approach, discussing this topic with institutions, users and experts and afterwards involving mobility operators. Thus, DREAM\_PACE will involve representatives from economic operators and users, involving also the team of the Municipality of Bologna taking care of the valorization of diversity and prevention and fight against discrimination, the department of the Metropolitan city of Bologna dealing with the touristic promotion and the University of Bologna as experts.

The next Living Lab meeting will define what DRT should be like in the Bologna context.

## STRADELLA: DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT SPEAKS ITALIAN, ALSO IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Another DREAM\_PACE Living Lab was run in November 2023 in Stradella (Pavia area), targeting rural territories.

A variety of stakeholders, including representatives of local institutions such as the province and several municipalities, users and citizens with different mobility needs as well as mobility and IT providers, gathered together and discussed the present and the future of local mobility in the Stradella and Oltrepò Pavese area.

The participants have been updated on the main goals and activities of the DREAM\_PACE project and its expected impact on local communities, and they have been actively engaged in drafting the state of the art of local mobility, and discussing the challenges and potential of DRT solutions in delivering high quality services to the users.

Participants, especially the ones representing local institutions, welcomed the opportunity of being not only an active part of the living labs by participating in other meetings and co-design workshops along the project, but also of becoming project ambassadors in recruiting further participants among citizens and local actors by promoting the project and its activities on the territory.

A next Living Lab meeting will be organized in February/March 2024, to discuss possible mobility scenarios for the future of the area and to select the most desirable one to enhance the DRT existing approach bringing sustainable mobility close to the local communities.



## BUDAPEST: ENHANCING THE EXISTING DRT SYSTEM

DREAM\_PACE Partner BKK - Budapesti Közlekedési Központ ran - back in September 2023 - the first Living Lab event in Budapest.

BKK presented the current DRT system in Budapest, and discuss the planned pilot. The 20+ participants of the workshop were officers from local public authority, SME, Infrastructure and (public) service provider and higher education representatives.

As DREAM\_PACE we received a lot of useful information to further enhance the current existing 11 DRT lines running in Budapest, mainly in the peripheral areas: 9 bus lines during the day (the first line has launched in 2013), 1 (night) bus line (since 2006) and the cog-wheel railway. These services run on demand between certain stops or at certain times, but the route is always fixed.

In the framework of the DREAM\_PACE project, BKK - Budapesti Közlekedési Központ would like to test a new flexible demand responsive transport service (without fixed route) in Budapest and develop an innovative IT system for it.

Follow the DREAM\_PACE social media to stay posted for the forthcoming Living Lab activities as run also in Osttirol, Baden-Württemberg and Split County!





# DELIVERABLES OF THE FIRST PERIOD

DREAM\_PACE team prepared the deliverables of the first project Reporting Period:

- *D1.1.1 Report on Governance and Planning for Public Transport, Mobility Innovations and DRT in CE Regions*
- *D.1.2.1 Living labs preparation: stakeholder mapping, raising awareness and local engagement*
- *D.2.1.1 Analysis report on DRT digital and operational innovations in CE Regions and engaged areas*
- *D.2.2.1 Living labs preparation: stakeholder mapping, raising awareness and local engagement*
- *D.3.1.1 Methodological background for the design of DRT integrated solutions*

D1.1.1 is available for download in the DREAM\_PACE official website (scan the QR Code for the full report). Its main outcomes can be summarized as follows.

- In most EU countries, the DRT problems are similar in organization and digitalization, and the report proposes (clustered) solutions, addressing the stakeholders' involvement and DRT's organization, integration, and digitization.
- **STAKEHOLDERS** - The stakeholders involved are mostly carriers and/or local authorities. Many of the DRT's issues are the effect of a lack of integration with other public transport systems and a mismatch of timetables. Coordination of a wider approach and involvement of stakeholders can result in a better-quality DRT offering and the entire public transport system.
- **ORGANISATION AND INTEGRATION** - The challenge with the organization is the lack of a single system or exchange platform that would result in integration, single maps, system modernization, improvement of public transport financing measures and better accessibility in suburban areas. Integrating DRT with existing public transport systems can enhance overall transit experiences, improve accessibility, and optimize resource utilization. By embracing the concept of on-demand and dynamically routed services, transportation networks can create a more sustainable and user-friendly future for passengers.
- **OPEN DATA** - In the analysed countries (and for most of the services currently in operation), there is a simultaneous presence of both digital reservation system through an application and the possibility of telephone reservations. In countries or regions with open data systems, data formats often differ from those prescribed by Directive 2017/1926, which hinders data exchanges and integration at local, national, and European levels. There is a need for more cooperation between transport service providers and public authorities.
- **FUTURE RISK AREAS AND RELATED SUCCESS FACTORS** - One of the biggest challenges is a critical financial sustainability for DRT operation in low-population areas. Challenges related to the coordination of stakeholders should be addressed in a way to ensure the execution of multiple activities (through project portfolios), which should result in unified ticket-issuance and use model, unified route planning, and travel mapping, thereby enabling more attractive public transport service for all users (frequent and occasional).
- To conclude, improving the public transport service quality should be a joint venture aimed at attracting new passengers and ensuring the economic efficiency of the service offers. The development of public transport in rural and sparsely populated areas must be a part of a wider strategy in synergy with local and regional development plans.



## WHAT'S NEXT

DREAM\_PACE partners are actively collaborating with their stakeholders in the respective Living Labs to progress towards innovative co-designed DRT components.

In the next months, further Living Lab events will take place in all the pilot areas and - coming to the end of the second action period - the deliverables reporting the state of the art and the development scenarios for DRT governance structures, planning processes and digital and operational approaches will be finalized. **If you are a mobility stakeholder and want to be involved in the Living Labs activities, get in touch emailing us!**

The next Transnational Partner Meeting will take place in Budapest in April 2024: it will give the partners an opportunity for getting together and discuss progresses and ideas, and to pave the way towards the planned achievements.

All the related news and outcomes will be available through [DREAM\\_PACE official website](#) and the project media profiles on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).



## LEAD PARTNER



SRM Networks and Mobility

## PROJECT PARTNERS



Italy



Redmint Social Enterprise



Guidati da te.

AUTOGUIDOVIE SPA



Hungary



Mobilissimus Ltd.



BUDAPESTI  
KÖZLEKEDÉSI  
KÖZPONT

BKK Centre for Budapest Transport



Croatia



DYOLVE d.o.o.



Split-Dalmatia County



Austria



AustriaTech - Federal Agency  
for Technological Measures Ltd.



RegionsManagement Osttirol

Regional Management East Tyrol



Germany



nexus Institute for  
Cooperation Management  
and Interdisciplinary Research



Technische Universität Berlin



Rupprecht Consult

## CONTACTS

Lead Partner: Giuseppe Liguori  
SRM Networks and Mobility  
via A. Calzoni, 1/3, I-40128 Bologna  
e-mail: [giuseppe.liguori@srm-bologna.it](mailto:giuseppe.liguori@srm-bologna.it)

Communication Managers: Nora Bonatz & Massimo Moraglio  
Technische Universität Berlin  
Marchstraße 23, 10587 Berlin  
e-mail: [nora.bonatz@tu-berlin.de](mailto:nora.bonatz@tu-berlin.de) &  
[moraglio@tu-berlin.de](mailto:moraglio@tu-berlin.de)

