

Save the Date for the Final  
Conference!  
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# DRIVING INNOVATION: DREAM\_PACE PROJECT ENTERS ITS FINAL YEAR

This fourth edition of the DREAM\_PACE biannual Newsletter coincides with the middle of the project's fourth semester and the beginning of the last year of the project activities.

During the second half of 2024, DREAM\_PACE brought together all the Project Partners in Pavia (IT) for the fourth Transnational Partner Meeting. Furthermore, the Partners closed the third report successfully releasing the foreseen deliverables - on which you can find more details on page 5. The Pavia event was the occasion to review the project Strategy for an integrated approach to DRT governance, planning, digitalization and operations and complete the setting up of the related consultation process - which will involve both internal and external EU-wide relevant actors and decision makers - and allowed to pave the way for the full implementation of the pilots. The meeting included the fourth Steering Committee meeting with the review of the progress made, also with respect to the commitments taken with the Central Europe program.

In this current fourth semester, the DREAM\_PACERs are fully committed to building up the detailed workplans for pilot local testing actions, which will finally be converted into the Action plans for the six DREAM\_PACE pilot regions.

The fifth semester will start in March 2025 and concentrate on the reporting of the Living Lab activities with the full definition of the co-designed pilot solutions, which all together will contribute to the main DREAM\_PACE output "Topic guide DRT 3.0 in Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs)".

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

# BRIEF RECAP OF 2024

As for the first year, we are keen to report that 2024 displayed significant accomplishments and milestones.

In September 2024 DREAM\_PACE has been selected by the EU Urban Mobility Observatory that is collecting updates and lessons learned from EU-funded projects working in the area of sustainable urban mobility: DREAM\_PACE has started collaborating on the topics of “Public transport and shared mobility” and “SUMP monitoring and implementation”.

Let's delve into an overview of these achievements:

- ✓ Challenges and opportunities specific for Central European Demand-Responsive-Transport further defined
- ✓ 6 Living Labs in Central Europe proceeded in their work, including local meetings with stakeholders
- ✓ 5 activities of 3 Work Packages kicked off
- ✓ 1 transnational meeting held in Pavia (IT)
- ✓ 1 Mid-term Report successfully approved
- ✓ 2 Newsletters produced
- ✓ 6 deliverables submitted
- ✓ Second workshop + a Project Partner's meeting on Methodology regarding DRT integrated solutions held
- ✓ Synergies with other Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme projects explored
- ✓ “BUSINESS & TECH COMMUNITY” about DRT kept running, with more workshops

Stay tuned for more!



## REGIOSTARS '23: ADVANCING DRT IN EU



DREAM\_PACE, in partnership with Project Partners Rupprecht Consult and Redmint, hosted the prestigious "REGIOSTARS 2023" awards in Berlin, with the event held on 29 May 2024, at TU Berlin's Euref Campus. This year's focus was on strategies for Demand-Responsive Transport (DRT) across Europe, gathering 20 industry leaders, including DG REGIO Director Slawomir Tokarski.

The **Dynaxibility** project won the REGIOSTARS Award 2023, celebrated for advancing European connectivity. The event featured presentations on two exemplary German DRT systems: Flexa by Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe and Sprinti by the Region Hannover, presented by Silas Föhr from ÜSTRA Hannoversche Verkehrsbetriebe AG. While technological advancements in DRT were highlighted, the discussions emphasized the regulatory and financial challenges that remain pivotal to broader implementation.



# DREAM\_PACE GOES TO ITALIAN IBE INTERMOBILITY AND BUS EXPO

Redmint Impresa Sociale s.c.r.l. (DREAM\_PACE's Project Partner) presented on 20 November 2024 the project at the IBE Intermobility and Bus Expo in Rimini (IT).

Gabriele Grea moderated a session on DRT, also presenting DREAM\_PACE activities and goals. He discussed the challenges and opportunities of DRT in Italy, with two great panels of speakers and a passionate audience.

Here the main takeaways from the session on Demand Responsive Transit at the IBE Intermobility and Bus Expo, organized by Osservatorio nazionale sharing mobility.

💡 [DRT](#) is a powerful tool to redesign the system: services must be designed around mobility demand, and this calls for more data based, flexible and adaptive planning approaches.

💡 In low demand areas, building capacities among local authorities for a better coordination of DRT services is the key to generate impact on the territory.

💡 In the Public Transport environment, [DRT](#) requires new metrics: person\* and vehicle\*hours, rather than vehicle\*km

💡 Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships in DRT can guarantee an efficient allocation of resources, to meet citizens' needs and reach societal goals.

Special thanks to all participants and speakers [Luca Refrigeri](#), [Giacomo Bonardi](#), [Anthea Greco](#), [Ricardo Alcala Farrugia](#), [Carlo Carminucci](#), [Carlo Michelacci](#), [Paolo Paolillo](#), [Monica Marconi](#), Luca Tosi.

## INSIGHTS FROM LIVING LABS ON SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT (3<sup>RD</sup> ROUND)

DREAM\_PACE project tackles 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. We experiment new integrated approaches for DRT "greenfield" in Split-Dalmatia County (Croatia).

In the Living Lab meetings, Project Partners collaborated with invited stakeholders to develop scenarios.

### BUDAPEST, HUNGARY: TESTING & IMPLEMENTING A NEW DRT SYSTEM

Between August and October 2024, Budapest's Living Lab kicked-off the Co-design of solutions engaging local stakeholders. This led to the implementation of the site-visit along with the representative members of the local district, mainly in the Municipality of the 16th district: final aim is a further testing of the pilot area to be served by a vehicle.

As a second step, the pilot coordinator BKK made a survey to measure demands for the service around the pilot area and a compilation / analysis of DRT potentialities. This was done along with the involvement - face2face - with users and stakeholders

#### MOBILITÁSI SZEGÉNYSÉGET ENYHÍTŐ MEGOLDÁSOK



## BOLOGNA, ITALY: FOSTERING BETTER INTEGRATION OF DRT IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT



The Living Lab of Bologna entered the Scenarios development stage and already in early 2024 the leading Partner SRM - who coordinates the Living Lab - defined:

- Progressive enlargement of stakeholder group
- Analysis of all DRT aspects towards definition of what a "weak demand" areas to be served with the DRT service should be
- Agreed time-plan for LL activities.

characteristics of optimal DRT for the Bologna context and in which context it will be appropriate and rational to use DRT to provide the public transport service.

The pilot activities will also identify the best conditions for the inclusion of DRT already in the public transport planning phase, and for its integration into the public transport network itself.

The collaborative approach of the Living Lab involves citizens, service providers, public authorities and other interested parties in planning, co-design, creation and development of the DRT activities. This will lead to the definition of a strategic evaluation and planning structure scalable at a regional level, to define the

## PAVIA, ITALY: CREATING A NETWORK OF SERVICES



In August 2024, Pavia's Living Lab had its workshop on Co-design of solutions on a DRT Bus!

The continuous engagement of the local stakeholders by the pilot leader AUTOGUIDOVIE will let to define:

- Accessibility, improvement of reliability and flexibility as drivers for the service
- Guidelines for co-design and preparation of pilot tests.

- System of participation to develop new solutions in a collaborative approach
- Sustainable services, integrated in the network in the territory
- More composite approach to the service planning to reach a broader user group
- Importance of communication: update the knowledge about the service on the territory

## OSTTIROL, AUSTRIA: INNOVATING EXISTING DRT SERVICES

Osttirol's Living Lab entered the stage of Co-design of solutions through a first workshop with local stakeholders and transport planners and providers.

This allowed the coordinator RMO to have a quite detailed idea of how to design the DRT offer in Osttirol, what problems it can solve, and what it is necessary to achieve a working DRT service.

While the capacities of the mobility operators could be a challenge, the next actions will focus on planning and implementation of the DRT adjustments and adapting the Smart-ride App to the new operational DRT offers.



## BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY: IMPROVING DRT INITIATIVES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES



In late 2024, the DREAM\_PACE project in Baden-Württemberg reached the "Co-design of Solutions" phase. Partners in the Living Lab have developed a clear understanding of the current state of Demand-Responsive Transport (DRT) services in the municipality of Calw, including its challenges and limitations. Additionally, they have identified potential funding opportunities to support DRT in the region.

Building on these insights, the LL will organize a series of workshops focusing on DRT in rural areas. These sessions will explore the diverse perspectives and expectations of key stakeholders, including:

1. Citizens and civil society
2. Public administration
3. Policy-makers.

By incorporating these perspectives, the LL aims to create inclusive, sustainable solutions tailored to local needs.

## SPLIT-DALMATIA-COUNTY, CROATIA: EXPERIMENTING NEW INTEGRATED APPROACHES FOR DRT

The Living Lab coordinated by the SPLIT-DALMATIA-COUNTY focuses on three areas (Dugopolje, Trilj and Dicmo) for DRT service testing.

There are now four proposed scenarios, which showed many possibilities for providing service to four target user groups: DRT could be used as a test-bed before the introduction of regular public transport lines!

While DREAM\_PACE PPs are already working on the tendering documentation (ToR, addendums), there are potential DRT service providers who see the need for additional human resources and vehicle fleet during the DRT testing.



# DELIVERABLES OF THE THIRD PERIOD

DREAM\_PACE team prepared the deliverables of the third project Reporting Period. The main outcomes are summarized below. The full reports are available for download in the DREAM\_PACE website.



### D.3.1.2 DRT STRATEGY DRAFT AND SET-UP OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- We are pleased to announce significant progress on one of DREAM\_PACE's key deliverables: the DRT 3.0 Strategy Draft. This comprehensive strategy builds on the foundational insights gathered through earlier project activities (A.1.1-2 and A.2.1-2), integrating valuable data and stakeholder feedback to define the future of Demand-Responsive Transport (DRT).
- The draft strategy includes an annex featuring a consultation framework, which outlines the actors involved, planned actions, and a clear timeline for engagement. This framework ensures both internal collaboration among project partners and stakeholders, as well as broader external outreach to EU-wide actors and decision-makers.
- Key highlights of the draft include:
  - A roadmap for advancing DRT solutions tailored to urban and rural mobility needs.
  - A detailed consultation framework designed to foster engagement and co-creation with relevant stakeholders.
  - Actionable recommendations to support policy development and the scaling of DRT innovations across Europe.
- We are now moving into the consultation phase, which will further refine the strategy through collaborative input. This participatory approach aims to ensure the DRT 3.0 strategy aligns with the diverse needs of cities, regions, and communities across Europe.
- Stay tuned for more updates as we finalize this important step toward enhancing sustainable, flexible, and inclusive mobility!



### D.3.3.1 REPORT ON SETUP AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY AND MEASURES TO ANIMATE THE DEBATE ON DRT TRENDS

- As part of the DREAM\_PACE Project, we have successfully completed the Report on Setup Activities for the Tech and Business Community. This deliverable marks a crucial step in fostering collaboration and innovation within the mobility ecosystem by establishing a dynamic and interactive platform for stakeholders.
- The report outlines key activities undertaken to create a thriving community, including:
  - Mapping the Ecosystem: Identifying key players, resources, and potential synergies within the tech and business sectors to ensure a well-rounded community.
  - Engagement of Participants: Reaching out to relevant stakeholders and organizations to actively involve them in the project's vision and goals.
  - Online Collaborative Group Setup: Establishing a digital space for continuous interaction, knowledge-sharing, and co-creation.
  - Community Events Plan: Developing a comprehensive roadmap for workshops, seminars, and online discussions that will foster meaningful engagement and ideation.
  - Integration with Project Activities: Ensuring seamless alignment with DREAM\_PACE's overarching goals by linking community initiatives to ongoing and future project activities.
  - Collaborations: Exploring and initiating partnerships with organizations and projects across Europe to amplify the impact of our collective efforts.
- The tech and business community will serve as a cornerstone for driving innovation, sharing best practices, and co-developing solutions that advance the future of mobility. We are excited about the opportunities this community will create for collaboration, and we look forward to engaging with stakeholders through upcoming events and activities.
- Stay tuned for details on how you can participate in this vibrant ecosystem!

## WHAT'S NEXT

DREAM\_PACE Partners closely work with internal and external EU-wide relevant actors and decision makers for the consultation on the Strategy for an integrated approach to DRT governance, planning, digitalization and operations. At local level, the Living Lab responsables are collaborating with the main stakeholders for the co-design of the future DRT solutions.

In the next months, the Living Labs will continue their activities for the full development of the local testing actions. By the end of the fourth action period (February 2025), the deliverables with the detailed workplans and the Action plans in the six pilot regions will be completed.

**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 East Tyrol in Spring 2025: it will give the Project Partners an opportunity for reviewing the progress of pilot local testing activities and preparing the delivery of the co-designed solutions blueprint of integrated and coordinated DRT tested through pilot activities, which are also project milestones.

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



Italy



SRM Networks and Mobility

## PROJECT PARTNERS



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