

Press Release

7th October 2016

Can a cable car be a solution to reduce private car-use in tourism? What are the barriers for flexible mobility solutions in tourism? Partners of the project LAST MILE from 6 European countries will be meeting to visit good practices and discuss innovative solutions from 17th til 20th October 2016 in Catalonia (Spain).

Thousands of tourists are coming every year to Catalonia in Spain and this frequently by private car. Of course, on the terrain of the high Pyrenees it is especially difficult to offer sustainable transport solutions for every kind of demand. Authorities in Catalonia are facing this practically: the train between Lleida and La Pobla de Segur only stops on demand; so people taking the train are not losing time by stopping in every small village with only rare passengers hopping on or off. In other words, even with a small demand, this flexible solution allows to sustain the railway connection beneficial for both tourists and residents.

Since April 2016, 7 partners from 6 countries are dealing with the challenges of sustainable transport in rural tourist regions within the cooperative INTERREG EUROPE project « Last Mile », which is aiming to exchange policies and practical experience around flexible solutions for regional mobility systems.

From 17 til 20 of October, the project partners of the LAST MILE project together with political representatives of their regions meet to see how Catalonia is counteracting this mobility problem. On the program are therefore study visits to flexible transport services like the train with stops on demand from Lleide to la Pobla de Segur, a cable car at the entrance of the Aigüestortes and Estany de Sant Maurici National Park and taxi services.

Not only will the partners be visiting these innovating projects; the programme of the exchange meeting is tight. Seminars and discussion rounds will take place to see the results every region has already achieved during the first semester of the project regarding stakeholder involvement, policy improvement, etc. The project is ambitious. Therefore, much work has to be done to reach the goal of implementing the regional action plan in phase 2 of the project, which should improve the mobility situation in these 6 regions.

The aim is not only to find flexible and sustainable transport systems that match the requirements of every single region but also the political and instutional barriers to improvement should be detected and estinguished. A separate workshop will take place where the partners will discuss about these framework conditions regarding the implementation of small-scaled flexible mobility services in Catalonia. Analysis about the framework conditions of every partnerregion will help further projects in future by simplifying the way of implementation and will foster other regions and countries by stating examples.

Project Details:

LAST MILE aims to find sustainable flexible solutions for regional mobility systems. It will make sure that visitors travel the 'last mile' of their travel chain sustainably, and provide alternatives to car use for residents and their daily trips as well. LAST MILE will support regions in creating tailor made solutions for multiple users, interlacing with main public transport lines and hubs and introducing low emission and energy efficient vehicles, that shall lead to sustainable and financeable regional mobility options.

Financed under the INTERREG EUROPE Programme, LAST MILE is a European wide interregional project with 7 partners from 6 countries comprising a group of about 50 regional stakeholders.

Overall project budget: 1.607.720 €

ERDF contribution (INTERREG EUROPE): 1.346.442€

Project duration: Phase 1 2016-04 to 2018-09, Phase 2 2018-10 to 2020-09

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