

## Press Release

9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Partners of the project LAST MILE from 6 European countries met to visit good practices in sustainable transport and discuss innovative solutions from 17<sup>th</sup> til 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in Catalonia (Spain).**

150 000 tourists visit the Aigüestortes I Estany de Sant Maurici National Park every year. Since 1995, it is prohibited to enter the National Park by car. Before, thousands of cars blocked this wonderful nature reserve in the high Pyrenees during the main season. Since then tourists need an alternative to get in the National Park. Some inhabitants of the valley of Boí (one of the entrances to the National Park) used this need to their advantage. A cooperative was founded, to offer a hailed-shared-taxi-service to tourists and inhabitants from the villages in the valley of Boí to the Nationalpark. 19 bus-drivers with their 9-seat-buses are running the system and some of them earn a living from this cooperative.

Exchanging flexible mobility solutions for rural aerea, like the example of the Boí Valley is an integral part of the Interreg Europe Project "LAST MILE". Since April 2016, 7 partners from six countries are dealing with the challenges of sustainable transport in rural areas and discuss policies, framework conditions and practical experience around flexible mobility systems.

During their second project meeting in Barcelona from 17<sup>th</sup> til 20<sup>th</sup> of October, project partners discussed the main outcomes of the project during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Every regional partner is progressing well in their analysis of political, legal and institutional barriers in the regions. A world café dealing with this topic took place on 18<sup>th</sup> October with some of the stakeholders of the partner regions. It showed that framework conditions are very different in the participating countries. Analysis about the framework conditions of every partner region will help future projects by simplifying the way of implementation and will foster other regions and countries by stating examples.

Our study visits in Catalonia showed how their Department of Transport is dealing with these framework conditions. In a few examples like the hailed-shared-taxi-service in the valley of Boí partners and stakeholders could see some good practices. Further flexible transport services are the train with stops on demand circulating between Lleida and La Pobla de Segur. By this system, the train is quite fast and the schedule is attractive for tourists as well as for inhabitants. Last but not least, the cable car in La Vall Fosca (one of the entrances to the Aigüestortes I Estany de Sant Maurici National Park), which is running normally for the employees of the electricity producer there, makes tourists during summer time benefit from a convenient service to cover 450 meters of height in 14 minutes.

The partners and stakeholders took many new ideas from this study visit in Catalonia and in combination with the internal meetings, project partners are again encouraged to work together on this promising project.

#### 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

#### **More info, Contact :**

Last Mile Communication Management

Anita Lanners  
Upper Sûre Nature Park (Luxembourg) (Project partner)  
T: +352 899331-220  
E: [anita.lanners@naturpark-sure.lu](mailto:anita.lanners@naturpark-sure.lu)

#### **Leadpartner**

Environment Agency Austria  
Agnes Kurzweil, DI  
T: +43-(0)1-313 04-5554  
E: [agnes.kurzweil@umweltbundesamt.at](mailto:agnes.kurzweil@umweltbundesamt.at)