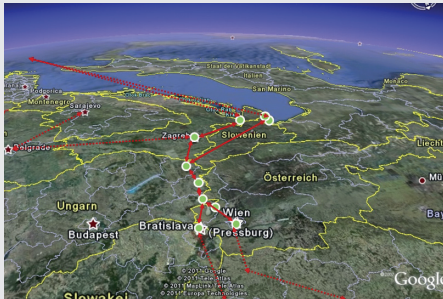


SETANEWS 01/11

The meeting



Representatives from Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy and Croatia meet in Bratislava on the 24th of November for the official kick off meeting of the project SETA - South East Transport Axis.

Hosted by the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, the meeting brings together stakeholders from regional/national authorities responsible for transport infrastructure and regional development as well as from the industry from Central and South East Europe. The project partners are keen to learn more about their requirements for an improved rail corridor from Vienna/Bratislava via Western Hungary

to the Northern Adriatic ports and further on to the Western Balkans. After the statements of high ranking politicians, the stakeholders have the opportunity to discuss open questions, requirements, pressing issues in Transnational Dialogue Groups for the topics "Regional/National infrastructure development" and "Economy".

The background

The transport connection from Central Europe to the Northern Adriatic ports and further on to the Western Balkans is of major importance for the regions in Central and South East Europe. In times of limited budgets and long-term planning schedules for new infrastructure stretches, the focus must be switched to the improvement and further development of existing rail infrastructure.

Following a common vision, 11 partners from 6 countries between Vienna/ Bratislava and the Northern Adriatic ports of Rijeka, Koper and Monfalcone applied for project funding from the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF). In spring 2011 the project SETA has been approved by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation programme.

"The project SETA supports our efforts to provide our population and our companies with an efficient international rail connection."

*Günter Kovacs,
traffic spokesman Socialist
Party of Burgenland -
LP of the project SETA*

The project

It is the objective of the project SETA to improve the accessibility and logistic work flows in South East Europe. This objective will be reached by the development and implementation of short and medium term transport infrastructure measures and the improvement of organisational framework conditions. The provision of enhanced railway infrastructure and new services along the shortest route between Central Europe and the Northern Adriatic ports will enable efficient and competitive railway transport be-



SETANEWS 01/11

tween the regions from the Baltic to the Adriatic Sea. Passengers and freight operators should benefit from improved and newly developed transport offers likewise.

At the moment the specific requirements of the regions and the economy are evaluated against the background of the project objectives and activities. A detailed analysis of the transport network taking into account existing as well as future infrastructure development and transport demand will highlight gaps in the transport system. In order to overcome these gaps short, medium and long term solutions will be identified and in specific cases developed. After an assessment in terms of socio-economic, financial and environmental impact, the realisability of these solutions will be evaluated. Finally recommendations for implementation based on the evaluation results and the experiences of pilot projects will be summarized in the "SETA corridor development plan". A special priority will be given to alternative financing options.

"We are on the verge of a new time, time of renewed interest for goods on rail, rather than on road, time of great European links, time for a new Europe of welfare for all. I wish that the Mediterranean and Central Europe come together soon, supported by the project SETA, via Rijeka."

*Vojko Obersnel,
Mayor of the City of Rijeka*

The Platform of Regions - Transnational cooperation



Common interest in the development of the transport corridor is crucial for the implementation of necessary measures to overcome gaps in the existing transport system. The Platform of Regions is aiming at bringing together relevant stakeholders necessary for the successful implementation of the planned activities in the proposed time frame. Therefore the Platform of Regions is the interface between the project and its environment.

Dialogue groups dealing with the topics of "Regional/National infrastructure development", "Economy" and "Transport policy" will accompany the whole project implementation process in an iterative way. On the one hand this process guarantees the access to relevant expert knowledge for the development of measures.

On the other, it includes the decision makers who are in the position to implement the developed measures. Transnational projects with a similar spatial or thematic focus will provide important inputs for the implementation of the SETA project. Therefore strong links between these projects and the Platform of Regions will be established.

More information www.seta-project.eu, www.southeast-europe.net



Jointly for our common future