

INTERREG PROJECT LINKINGALPS



The Challenge

How can cross-border travel information in the Alpine region be improved? The LinkingAlps project aims to answer this question.

Cross-border travelling often faces the problem that travel information for the entire route is not visible at a glance. In most cases, travellers have to switch between the information systems of the different operators, regions or countries in order to plan their entire journey. The LinkingAlps project addresses this problem in the Alpine Space (AS). The aim is to create a standardised exchange service of travel information between the individual travel information service providers. In this way, information can be exchanged between the individual information systems and compiled into a continuous travel chain. Travellers will therefore be able to view their entire trip from start to destination on a single service.

The recently completed LinkingDanube project has proven the feasibility of a uniform exchange of information in the form of the Open Journey Planner (OJP) developed in the project. Now LinkingAlps will bring OJP to the next level by providing an operational service in the Alpine Space. The Alps are among the most popular holiday destinations in Europe and therefore have a high travel volume. Important Alpine transit routes run through several countries and regions, such as the Brenner route. There is therefore a need for seamless high-quality travel information.

With partners from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland and France, the three-year project aims to establish a standardised exchange service for travel information so that information can be integrated into a single service, providing seamless travel information across operators and borders.

The Main Objective

The main objective of LinkingAlps is to foster the shift from motorised individual transport towards low carbon mobility options such as public transport, railways and alternative modes of transport like on-demand transport. By using innovative tools and transnationally aligned strategies to link travel information providers, the options for low carbon mobility will be increased, by offering seamless mobility chains for passenger. Travel information services across borders, operators and modes of

transport will be shared among project partners to offer the best option for the end user. The approach includes pilot activities and tests for a decentralised, transnational journey planning system.

The Approach

LinkingAlps will develop a decentralised network of travel information services. This network will be created by interlinking existing regional or national journey planning services with focus on multimodal (low carbon) transport (public transport, railways, new modes) through a standardised exchange service. This exchange service will be based on the Open Journey Planning (OJP) approach, which is fully compliant with the provisions of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1926 of 31 May 2017 supplementing Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the provision of EU-wide multimodal travel information services. By exchanging travel information and making high-quality data available in the network, LinkingAlps will facilitate access to low-carbon mobility options and provide seamless, cross-border information through end-user services for tourists and regular travellers so that they modify their travel behaviour. Travellers will be able to access information on travel services also beyond their local area in one single service, plan their trips from door-to-door by using sustainable modes of transport and receive up-to-date information (real-time) as the data will be provided by existing service providers in the regions that are linked together in a decentralised manner.

As well as creating the necessary technical architecture, a viable operating model will be developed that ensures the network will continue to operate once the project ends. A common transnational organisational and operative framework will therefore be put in place in the course of the project to enable the service continues to run in the long term.

By applying this strategy and the accompanying decision support handbook, public sector decision-makers (within and outside the project) will be able to act on results and become part of a decentralised, distributed travel information and journey planning system services to promote access to more sustainable passenger transport.

The Partnership

The project brings together 14 partners from six alpine countries that seek to tackle common challenges together. Within LinkingAlps, the travel information service providers have committed themselves to making their data accessible via an API (Application Programming Interface) service so that end-user services can be developed to provide cross-border journey planning.

The following partners are working together within the LinkingAlps projects:

- AustriaTech (ATE)
- South Tyrolean Transport Structures (STA)
- LINKS Foundation- Leading Innovation & Knowledge for Society
- University of Maribor (UM-FGPA)
- Traffic Information Austria (VAO)
- ARIA Lombardia S.p.A. (Regional Agency for Innovation and Purchasing Ltd)
- Consulting company for control, information and computer technology GmbH (BLIC)
- Transport Association of Tyrol Ltd. (VTG)
- Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, Environment, Mobility, and Urban and Country Planning (Cerema)

- Metropolitan City of Turin (CMT0)
- Regional Development Agency of the Ljubljana Urban Region (RRA LUR)
- Swiss Federal Railways (SBB)
- Federal Office of Transport (FOT)
- Office for Transport and Energy Graubünden (AEV)

The project commenced on 1 October 2019 and will run until 30 June 2022. LinkingAlps is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme.



For more information, please visit:

LinkingAlps website: <http://www.alpine-space.eu/linkingalps>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/linkingalps>