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DEAR READER,

This is the first Newsletter of the **RITS-Net project**, which will be issued twice a year in electronic format. The Newsletter will be sent to a list of potentially interested stakeholders Europe-wide identified by the RITS-Net project partners. Subscriptions or un-subscriptions to the Newsletter is made possible via the RITS-Net website www.rits-net.eu.

Each issue will contain information about the project activities and important news from the European institutions and the ITS community. Also, each Newsletter will present a special focus on one of the partner regions. We hope that you will find the information interesting and useful for your work and you will keep up-to date with the RITS-Net project!

The RITS-Net project-team!



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All RITS-Net Newsletters are also available at <http://www.rits-net.eu/newsletter>

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P: +43 1 26 33 444 | F: +43 1 26 33 444-10 | FN 92873d, Commercial Court Vienna

NEWS FROM RITS-NET

INTRODUCING RITS-NET

RITS-Net, Regions for Intelligent Transport Solutions Network is a new Interreg IVC project which started in March 2012. The aim of the project is to get European regions familiar with ITS solutions and applications which can help them solve regional transport problems. The three-year project is supporting partner regions in drafting ITS regional plans and will prepare guidelines for other regions wishing to follow the RITS-Net approach.

The RITS-Net partners will exchange their mobility policies and practices and the use they make of ITS to meet mobility challenges and will learn from each other with due support from external experts. They will meet several times during the project lifetime in a balanced mix of

RITS-Net thematic ITS topics:

- user management
- traffic management
- management of public transport
- e-freight
- control of vehicles
- emergency management
- automatic payment

restricted interregional workshops, trainings and site-visits. They will also publicly share their experiences and knowledge in a series of 7 thematic workshops open to a large audience of local stakeholders and European guests. The thematic workshops will serve to deepen the knowledge over a specific ITS application and identify the best practices in Europe which will then feed the RITS-Net digital Tool-box available online.

The goal is that partner regions exploit the full potential of ITS solutions in the process of planning and implementing their regional mobility strategies, dealing with technical and



non-technical aspects, creating their own ITS plans adapted to their specific local contexts.

The RITS-Net partners are 9, from 9 different EU countries: **Marche Region (IT), the lead partner**; South Dublin County Council (IE); ANATOLIKI SA-Regional Energy Agency of Central Macedonia (REACM) (EL); Vidzeme Planning Region (LV); Development Centre Litija (SI); Evroregion Pleven – Olt (BG); AustriaTech – Federal Agency for Technological Measures Ltd. (AT); Gipuzkoa (ES); BLOKOM (HU).

The project kicked-off in Ancona on 2-3 July 2012.



FIRST INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED IN VIENNA

The RITS-Net partners met in Vienna on 12-13 November 2012 for the first Interregional Workshop hosted by the partner AustriaTech.

The Workshop, titled "**Regional Transport Policy Objectives and role of ITS**", was restricted to project partners and aimed at sharing their regional mobility challenges and providing a first overview of how ITS applications can help.



Each project partner presented their state of the art in terms of transport policy and future priorities, and explained their interest in participating in RITS-Net. They also presented the results of the social network analysis they carried out in the previous months, in order to identify the local stakeholders they will cooperate with to implement the RITS-Net project activities.

According to the partners' feedback, the sharing of experiences and future challenges proved to be very fruitful. Many similarities were found among the Regions, located in very different parts of Europe, which demonstrates that common problems may lead to the identification of common ITS solutions.

The proceedings of the Workshops are public and available to download from the RITS-Net website.

For more information: Julia.Dueh@austriatech.at

1ST THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND INCIDENT SERVICES, PLEVEN, 5-6 DECEMBER 2012

The Partner Evroregion Pleven – Olt in Bulgaria organized the **first Thematic Workshop on Emergency management**. The workshop addressed a number of sub-topics such as:

- The European ITS Actions on Road Safety and Security relevant for municipalities;
- The best-practice guidelines on the impact of ITS on vulnerable road user and secure parking places for trucks;
- The national and regional infrastructure operator's point of view on the introduction of European-wide eCall



From the partner regions perspective, the workshop has been the occasion to illustrate the state of the art on the implementation of a number of services. Amongst others, the services analyzed have been:

- emergency services such as incident notification,
- emergency vehicle management,
- route guidance for emergency services,
- traffic light prioritization,
- public travel security.

The partner regions experiences and practices have been compared with the best practices identified at European level. The latter have been presented by keynote speakers' representatives from Swarco/Italy and Kapsch/Bulgaria.

The second day was dedicated to the local stakeholders who have been identified during the social network analysis carried out by Pleven. The local session took the form of a participatory workshop where key actors exchanged their views and perspectives with the European partners.

For more information: nciobg@gmail.com

2ND THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON 27-28 FEBRUARY IN VIDZEME, LATVIA

The second RITS-Net Thematic Workshop on "ITS for Traffic Management and Mobility" will take place in Vidzeme on 27-28 February 2013.

The workshop will explore the European state of the art on ITS policies and technologies for traffic management applied in the urban and extra-urban contexts, in particular rural areas. A special focus will be also given to the role of traffic management and traffic control centres and to demand management policy and enforcement strategies. Relevant key note speakers have been invited to present good practices from around Europe. The partner regions will present their strategies in the field and will be confronted with the local Latvian stakeholder to share their practices and perspectives in a participatory manner.

For more information: Dagnija.Udre@vidzeme.lv

NEWS FROM THE EU INSTITUTIONS AND THE ITS COMMUNITY

3RD EU CONFERENCE ON INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT IN EUROPE

The European Commission organised on 22 October 2012 in Vienna its 3rd Conference on Intelligent Transport in Europe titled '**Towards first ITS specific ations**'.



The objective of the high-level conference was to provide and discuss results of the ITS Action Plan and to present the status of the implementation of the ITS Directive 2010/40/EU. The third Panel session presented the 1st Smart Mobility Challenge – Towards European multimodal journey planner.

All presentations are now available online at: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/events/2012_10_22_its_conference_en.htm

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT CAPITALISATION WORKSHOP

The Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC organised a targeted thematic workshop on Sustainable transport within the framework of the Thematic Programme Capitalisation initiative. The Sustainable Transport Capitalisation Workshop was held in Brussels last 15th November.



The aim of the workshop was to present the state of play at EU level in this thematic field and to stimulate the exchange process among projects dealing with similar issues. Moreover, a step forward was taken to discuss the results and achievements of the projects, identify their added value, consolidate the thematic knowledge and draw conclusions at policy level.

Results will be available soon. For more information on the capitalization activities of the interreg programme:

http://www.interreg4c.eu/news_cap_Thematic_Workshops.html



DUBLIN HOSTING THE 9TH ITS EUROPEAN CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION

The 9th ITS European Congress and Exhibition will be held on 4–7 June 2013 at the Convention Centre Dublin (CCD).

Dublin 2013 Congress will primarily focus on ITS solutions that are driven by policy as opposed



to being technology-led. The emphasis will be on proven deployed solutions and innovative R&D that is focused on solving real problems and delivering value for money in today's challenging economic environment.

For more information visit www.itsineurope.com

TWO PARALLEL INTERREG PROJECTS ON ITS: POSSE + POLITE

Two projects which explore ITS solutions have been financed under the IV call of Interreg IVC: POSSE & POLITE. Synergies and complementarities will be constantly ensured among the three projects.



POSSE (Promoting Open Specifications and Standards in Europe) was set up to raise awareness of the need for open ITS specifications and standards for road-based transport management. A central objective of the project is to build the capacity of transport authorities to implement open specifications and standards. To this end, POSSE will facilitate knowledge transfer between the existing open standards and specifications frameworks and public authorities wishing to move towards



open systems.

www.posse-openits.eu

POLITE (Policy Learning in Information Technologies for Public Transport Enhancement) aims to enhance the use of public transport by: increasing the awareness about infomobility services, improving local, regional and national policies on infomobility, and providing travellers with adequate and complete information on the choices available. POLITE partners will work together to achieve these goals through the exchange and transfer of experiences.

www.polite-project.eu/

RITS-Net Coordinator:

Marche Region (I)
Roberta Ruggeri
Roberta.ruggeri@regione.marche.it

