



## INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN SHORT AND LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORT NETWORKS

### OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

INTERCONNECT is co-funded by the European Commission, Seventh Framework Programme, Theme 7 Transport. The project started on 1st June 2009 and will run for 24 months. The project consortium comprises seven partners from six European countries.

INTERCONNECT is examining the function of local, regional and intermodal transport interconnections where they form part of longer-distance and inter-regional passenger journeys in Europe, in order to address the potential for greater economic efficiency and reduced environmental impact. Factors investigated in the project include integration, co-operation and, where appropriate, competition in the provision of local connections across all transport modes. Effective interconnection requires the provision of integrated networks and services which are attractive to potential users and this is likely to require co-operation among a range of transport authorities and service providers in the public and private sectors.

INTERCONNECT focuses, in particular, on those journeys that might benefit from more effective interconnections between different transport modes and services, and on those journeys where effective interconnection is currently hampered by institutional barriers, lack of investment, or failure to innovate.

The methodology that has been employed in the project includes literature reviews, interviews with key stakeholders and detailed investigations of selected case studies.

Through the identification of examples of good practice from Europe and elsewhere, INTERCONNECT demonstrates how local and regional transport interconnections could benefit from a more enlightened approach, and project findings will be

disseminated widely in order to promote the adoption of best practices identified.

Key project deliverables will be available to download from the project website:

[www.interconnect-project.eu](http://www.interconnect-project.eu)

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The final project outcome will focus on a number of recommendations, for example:

- provision of new or improved infrastructure or services;
- removal of barriers to effective competition, to the effective integration of public transport services, and to consistency of travel information across modes;
- encouragement of integration of services;
- harmonisation of infrastructure pricing policies;
- removal of restrictions on the inclusion, in appraisal frameworks, of the benefits of integration

By reviewing examples of good practice and testing their applicability and likely performance in real situations, INTERCONNECT will contribute to the wider dissemination of best practice in this area.

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## PROJECT APPROACH

The first step taken was to define the problem and the methodology to be employed, including an analysis of the role that EU and national policies currently play in improving interconnectivity, as well as an assessment of the role these and other policies could play.

Next, the project identified potential solutions from a literature search and defined a first set of case studies in order to examine the mechanisms for improving interconnectivity between different network scales (local and regional) and between road, rail, maritime and air passenger modes of transport.

There followed an in-depth analysis of these solutions through a second set of case studies that aimed to identify their benefits and any possible barriers to their implementation. The results from these case studies, together with an assessment of the impact of improving local and modal interconnections at European level, will help define a 'tool kit' with a list of potential solutions for improving interconnectivity and a set of criteria for the applicability of particular solutions in particular situations.

## PROJECT UPDATE MAY 2011

Most planned tasks have been completed and key reports and presentations are available to download from the project website. Final reports are currently being prepared to present synthesised conclusions and recommendations from the project.

Earlier in the project, with the literature search database providing the main input, potential solutions for improving interconnectivity had been identified, grouped in a number of thematic areas: local link infrastructure solutions; improved public transport services; improvements at the interchange; improved procedures for check-in or luggage transfer; ticketing and marketing solutions; and enabling solutions.

Feedback from stakeholders on the applicability and relevance of all solutions identified in INTERCONNECT was sought at WCTR in July 2010, and also through an on-line questionnaire conducted in October 2010.

A number of case studies of interconnectivity were analysed to show the real-world implementation of some of the solutions identified and their effectiveness in these locations. A smaller number of "test beds" were studied to analyse potential transferability of solutions to other situations. All case study reports are available to download from the deliverables page of the project website.

A matrix of solutions and their feasibility, applicability and potential impact on interconnectivity in long-distance passenger journeys has been developed as the INTERCONNECT "toolkit", also available to download from the deliverables page of the project website.

In May 2011 the INTERCONNECT E-Conference took place. Presentations with audio commentary were prepared, covering: an introduction to the INTERCONNECT project, all case study and test bed reports, models developed for test bed analysis, the toolkit of solutions, and preliminary conclusions and recommendations. These presentations will remain available for download from:

[www.interconnect-project.eu/e-conference](http://www.interconnect-project.eu/e-conference)

and present an excellent overview of all the tasks carried out in INTERCONNECT.

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