LinkingAlps Newsletter

Innovative tools and strategies for linking mobility information services in a decarbonised Alpine Space

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

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

Why LinkingAlps?

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. 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. Travelers can thus view the entire trip from start to destination in a single service.

Fostering Low Carbon Mobility

The main objective of LinkingAlps is to foster the shift from motorized 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 for linking information mobility service, the options for low carbon mobility will be increased, by offering seamless mobility chains for passenger. Mobility information services and travel information across borders, operators and modes will be shared within the project partners, to offer the best option for the end user. The approach includes pilot activities and testing for a decentralised, transnational journey planning system.

Provision of an operational 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 next level, by providing an operational service in the Alpine Space. 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 the information can be integrated to a single service providing seamless travel information across operators and borders.

Linking of Services

The project will develop a decentralised network of travel information services. This network will be created by interlinking existing regional or national journey planner 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 provision of the Delegated Regulation 2017/1926 on the provision of EU-wide multimodal travel information services, that is supplementing the European ITS Directive (2010/40/eu).

Expand access to mobility options

By exchanging travel information and making high-quality data available in the network, LinkingAlps will ease the access to low-carbon mobility options and provide seamless, cross-border information through end-user services for tourists and for citizens, in particular for daily commuters so that they change mobility behaviour. Travellers will be able to access information on mobility services also outside of their region in one single service, plan their trips from door-to-door by using sustainable transport modes 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 decentralized manner.

LinkingAlps - a sustainable operational framework

We know that this is not a purely technical issue. Besides the technical architecture also a viable operational model will be elaborated that guarantees the operation of the network after the end of the project. In the project, we will therefore develop a common transnational organisational and operative framework in order to enable a durable service.

Providing this strategy and a decision-support handbook we will support public decision makers (inside and outside the project) to uptake the results and become part of a decentralized, distributed system for linking mobility information services across the borders to foster the access to more sustainable passenger transport.

The Partnership

The project brings together 14 partners from six Alpine Space countries that tackle this common challenge. Within LinkingAlps travel information service providers committed themselves to make data accessible over an API (Application Programming Interface) service so that end-user services can build on it to provide cross-border routing.

Following Partners are working together within the LinkingAlps projects:

•AustriaTech – Federal Agency for technological measures ltd. (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. (VVT)

•Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, Environment, Mobility, and Urban and Country planning (Cerema)

•Metropolitan City of Turin (CMTo)

•Regional Development Agency of the Ljubljana Urban Region (RRA LUR)

•Swiss Federal Railways (SBB)

•Federal Office of Transport (FoT)

•Transport and Energy agency Canton Grison (AEV)

Meetings (& Events)

LinkingAlps is already very active in the development of the technical architecture and specification of the interfaces, as well as in the elaboration of an organizational framework.

Although the current situation regarding Covid-19 is a challenge for everybody the project LinkingAlps is facing the challenges and proceeding well by making use of the available digital tools.

Kick-off-Meeting

On the 11th and the 12th of November, the Kick-off Meeting of the LinkingAlps Project took place at AustriaTech premises in Vienna. All Partners came together and presented their expectations, their main interests and their role in the project.

We were happy that our Project officer Anne Séverine Lay from the Interreg Alpine Space Programme joint us and explained the main rules from the programme side. It was great getting to know each other, planning the first steps and creating a common knowledge ang goal about the project.
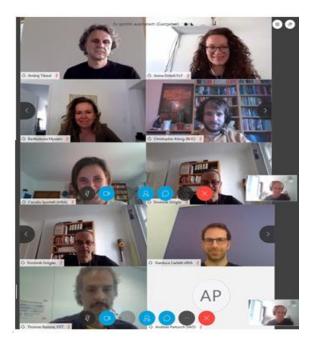

First Project Implementation (PIM) and Project Steering Group (PSG) Meeting

The first PIM Meeting took place on 11th of February in Zurich. The Project Implementation meetings are dedicated to the implementation of the work plan. Its major focus is on the "technical work packages (WPT1-WPT4) for the coordination of activities and implementation tasks, but also to ensure an alignment and information across all work package responsibles.. The first PIM Meeting focused on first activities regarding the ex-ante analysis and the requirements definition (from a technical and organisational point of view).

Also the second Project Steering Group with participation of all partners took place in May 2020.

Due to Covid19 the LinkingAlps partners met virtually to discuss the status of the work and took decisions, which were important for the further work in the project. Special focus was on development of requirements and specification for the LinkingAlps OJP interface, as well as the approval of the first results e.g. from the ex-ante analysis, the defined system architecture and the organisational requirements for the pilot.

Communication

Want to know more about the concept of "Linking of Services"?

AustriaTech published a Brochure about it, where the concept is explained in more detail and with a lot of background information.

To download the brochure please go to:
https://cutt.ly/cyRJbjz

Or visit our LinkingAlps Website:
https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/linkingalps/en/home

Also you can stay up-to-date by following us on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/linkingalps

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