

Report to Partnership Meeting 15 April 2016

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

EU InterReg (North Sea Region) Project Application:

G-PaTRA (Green Passenger Transport in Rural Areas)

SUMMARY:

HITRANS has submitted an application as one of members of the G-PATRA project under the EU Interreg VB North Sea Region Programme. The original PaTRA project was unsuccessful in the first call but was invited to reapply to the second call for applications in March 2016.

G-PaTRA:

An Expression of Interest under the project PaTRA was submitted in June 2015 but was rejected in November 2015 by the steering committee with recommendations to re-apply in 2017. A new lead partner was agreed which is now Robert Gordon's University and a revised Expression of Interest has been completed with a submission date of around the middle of March 2016. The results of this call will not be published before June 2016 and on the basis of a positive outcome the submission of a full application would be early 2017 with a project start date of Summer 2017.

The project summary within stage 1 highlights that:

The project will identify innovative, integrated transport services and new organisational and ownership models to allow transport operators to deliver on the project goals of providing a sustainable rural public transport network.

Goals of Project

1. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
2. Enhanced access, mobility and social inclusion
3. Reduced per passenger subsidy costs
4. Modal shift

Nine pilot projects will be trialed, each addressing one or more of the goals. Rather than addressing a specific issue in a specific locality, each pilot will contribute to a transnational understanding of the:

- wider rural public transport supply chain
- inter-relationship between the four goals and the most effective combination of pilot interventions.

The project will develop indicators to quantify the impact of pilot projects against *business as usual*. Provisionally, the four primary indicators could be:

- CO2/ passenger km
- Passenger numbers (as a proxy for mobility, access and social inclusion)
- Subsidy/passenger journey
- Modal share.

Central aim and description

G-PaTRA will consider the barriers to, and opportunities for, scaling up pilot interventions across Europe. Guidance will be produced in order to maximize transferrable innovation.

Expert workshops will be organized for each four pillar. Experts and stakeholders will be identified from existing networks, related projects, academia and other rural and island municipalities. A legacy collaborative network will be created, underpinned by the development of an online knowledge sharing and stakeholder engagement platform.

Partners

| Beneficiary Name | Legal status | City/Country |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|
| Robert Gordon University (Lead Partner) | public | Aberdeen, Scotland |
| Office for Regional Development Leine and Weser Region | public | Hildesheim, Deutschland |
| Universit t Groningen | public | Groningen, Niederlande |
| Province of Groningen | public | Assen, Niederlande |
| HITRANS | public | Inverness, Scotland |
| Aberdeenshire Council | public | Aberdeen, Scotland |
| Welzijnszorg Kempen | Public | Geel Belgium |
| Intercommunale Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij voor de Kempen | public | Belgium |
| Region  rebro l n | Municipality | Sweden |
| Urban Foresight (England) | Private (SME) | England |
| Institute for Transport Planning and Logistics | Public | |
| Norwegian Partner (n.n.) | n.n. | Norway |

HITRANS Involvement:

We have applied for a project worth  300'000 over 3 years, starting Summer 2017 at the earliest.

The intervention rate is 50% from the NSR InterReg programme, and we would require for the other 50% of match funding from HITRANS and the local authority where the pilot project/s would be implemented.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report.

| Risk | impact | Comment |
|------|--------|---------|
|------|--------|---------|

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| RTS delivery | √ | The Research and Development Programme is the key mechanism by which HITRANS promotes delivery of the Transport Strategy for the Highlands and Islands |
| Policy | √ | G-PATRA supports the delivery of Public transport priorities with the RTS |
| Financial | √ | The applications will be considered in August 2016, with the projects expected to run between 2016-2019 if successful |
| Equality | √ | Actions within the G-PATRA project will help improve social inclusion in those areas included within the pilot. |

Report by:
Designation:
Date:

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1st April 2016