

enhancing public transport authorities in Europe



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Dear Colleague,

The mission of EPTA is to increase public transport sustainability focusing on environmental, energy and economic aspects. This newsletter will keep you informed on a regular basis about progress made within the project. Real life stories of EPTA partners will make the EPTA process more concrete. In this issue: EPTA partners presenting the project to local stakeholders.

Workshop and Training on Service Contract Management took place in Razlog, Bulgaria

The sixth workshop and training of the EPTA project on the topic "**The service contract management: policies into action**" took place on 29-30 October in Razlog, Bulgaria. The workshop started by defining what is 'contract management'.

Steve Wright from the EPTA partner University of Aberdeen, defined it as the contract between the transport authority and transport operator which ensures that the goals of public transport for efficiency and efficacy are met. Furthermore, it was underlined later on during the



workshop that the contract is between the authority and the operator but the citizen should be included in the contract's articles to guarantee citizens' rights. After the key concepts and experiences at EU level were presented, Mr. Tsvetan Tzolov from the Municipality of Sofia, Bulgaria presented the service contract management in the capital. Sofia municipality approves the routes of each line, timetables, prices, urban mobility plans and has permanent control over quality and quantity.

The training course on 30 October focused on demand responsive transport (DRT). Tommaso Bonino from SRM, Bologna explained that a legal framework for service contract management of DRTs is missing, but successful examples of flexible services exist. Several of them were showcased during the training. The workshop and training events enjoyed wide attendance from the municipalities of Razlog and Sofia, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Transport in Bulgaria.

All [presentations](#) can be found on EPA website.

EPTA partners presenting EPTA results locally

Results in the project are as important as assuring that they are taken up locally. That is why EPTA partners have been active to present them and their own involvement to local stakeholders.

SRM, the local public transport authority (PTA) in Bologna, will adopt the new methodology analysed in the [SRM feasibility study](#) and developed for optimizing its control activities, as a standard in Bologna area. The Feasibility Study of SRM focused on the service contract with the Operator, with particular regard to the control of the service provided. SRM has scheduled a specific meeting with political and technical representatives from the Municipality and the Province to explain in detail this methodology and give them all elements to follow these activities.

Another important stakeholder involved and interested by the control activities is the Emilia-Romagna Region. The Region distributes public funding to all provincial PTAs that manage them through Contract of Services with PT Operators. The Region is therefore very interested in the high quality of the performed service, and in what is defined in each local Contract of Service. The Emilia-Romagna Region, being a partner in the EPTA project, is well informed of the result of SRM's Feasibility Study and has close and frequent relations with the PTA.



In **Praha-Suchdol**, the project realisation is managed by the City Council in close cooperation with all important regional stakeholders as for example ROPID company - organiser of the public transport in the City of Prague, Prague Public Transport, City Development Authority and cooperation with neighbouring municipalities and City Districts of Prague. The [Feasibility Study of Praha-Suchdol](#) concerning the development of the tram line to Suchdol area was discussed with residents in local meetings and public opinion survey was organised by the City Council to map the opinions, statements and needs of the wide public. The questionnaire was developed and disseminated among residents in hard and electronic copies.

Thanks to efforts by the Local Office, the project is having an impact on the organisation of the transport in the territory. The organisation of public transport has improved - the bus line is made wider on the road Dejvická to the City centre. Also the communication with the University of Life



Sciences located in the area and working on the project implementation has significantly improved and as a result the intervals of the buses are amended in conformity with the schedules of the students. Following cooperation with regional stakeholders new positions of the bus stops of buses no.107 and 147 in Dejvická station were arranged. This innovation enables higher capacity of the platform, barrier-free access, and safe transfer from metro to the bus stop of the bus No. 107. As a result of the communication with the City Hall of Prague, the amendment of the Metropolitan Master plan is developed, where the tram line to Suchdol area is included (also described in the Feasibility Study).

The [Feasibility Study](#) entitled "Tendering and awarding the bus transport services in Thessaloniki" conducted by the **THEPTA** team in the framework of the EPTA project has been submitted to the Minister and to the General Secretary of the Ministry of Transport. In order to facilitate the discussion and the cooperation between the Authority and the Ministry, THEPTA proposed the formulation of a committee including representatives of the Ministry and the local stakeholders in order to work on the results of the Feasibility Study conducted.



Further to the above contacts, THEPTA considers as crucial the involvement of the local policy makers and stakeholders. In this view, THEPTA has organised a series of events in order to communicate the results of the feasibility study. The first was held in THEPTA's headquarters on 17th of

October 2013 where the first results were presented at THEPTA's Council. The Council consists of representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace, the Regional Authority of Central Macedonia, the municipalities, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the current Operator.

A turning point for the existing Authority will be its transition to a European Standard Public Transport Authority, for this reason the participation in EPTA Project constitutes for THEPTA a very useful tool in order to promote the finalisation of the Draft Law referring to its transition currently under consolidation between THEPTA and the Ministry of Transport.

ALOT has been among the protagonists of Transport Logistic, the leading logistic fair that took place on 4-7 June 2013. In its 2011 edition, it attracted more than 51,000 visitors. The fair was a good occasion to present and promote EPTA. *"Fundamental for road safety is the chance to reach a large audience in logistics, which is normally not directly involved in Road Safety Strategies, but that in reality plays a big role in relation to sustainable mobility and therefore road safety too"*- explained the director of ALOT, Guido Piccoli.

The first interesting data in Italy related to the EPTA project has been collected in the first quarter of 2012, when the public transport sector registered a real boom as a result of the expensive gasoline and the rediscovery of public transport by the Italians. Beyond the cost savings, estimated at an average of about one thousand per year for citizens who choose to leave their car in the garage, it is necessary to put some important questions about efficiency, convenience, and environmental sustainability of public transport. To investigate these issues and be part of effective and coordinated governance at European level, ALOT joined EPTA. It demonstrated its achievements so far in the fair. In the framework of EPTA project ALOT is developing [2 different feasibility studies](#) . One on Multi Modal Transport Agencies in Brescia, Bergamo, Mantova and Cremona, and the second on Defining the best model of PTAs tendering/awarding procedures in East Lombardy.



Summaries of all feasibility studies are available in the Studies section of the [EPTA project website](#).



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