

BOOSTING CROSS-BORDER REGIONS THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORT 14 NOVEMBER 2019 | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



Regional and Urban Policy

3RD PANEL – TOOLS *Available supporting instruments*



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The situation of cross-border rail services and the Missing rail links study

Boosting cross-border regions through better transport Brussels, 14 November 2019



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Ludger Sippel

Introduction

The "missing links" study of 2018

- Comprehensive analysis of the existing cross-border rail transport connections and missing links on the internal EU borders
 - a. Inventory of cross-border rail connections and "missing links"
 - b. Analysis of possible new rail connections and discussion of alternatives
 - c. Identification of "potentially most beneficial" projects
- Available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/ reports/2018/comprehensive-analysis-of-the-existing-crossborder-rail-transport-connections-and-missing-links-on-theinternal-eu-borders

IIIkcw



a. Inventory of cross-border rail connections and "missing links"



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"Missing links": Cross-border rail infrastructure that is not operational De Panne [BE] / Dunkerque [FR] border Photo Julian Nolte 2017





Many border crossings railway services are not really viableSalonta [RO] / Kötegyán [HU] borderPhoto Julian Note 2019



What we found out **Two main findings**

- Most of the small-scale cross-border railway connections do not belong to the TEN-T Core or Comprehensive Network and have previously mostly been disregarded from funding for investments.
- Gaps in the cross-border passenger rail network are not necessarily caused by missing elements of infrastructure: In many cases even on operational railway infrastructure there is a lack of cross-border passenger services. Competent authorities of the Member states can play a crucial role for implementing cross-border passenger services on these lines.

What we found out

Huge importance of PSO competent authorities

- PSO = public service obligation (e.g. a transport contract with a railway undertaking)
- PSO usually define financing and quality of the offered services
- Legal framework: Regulation (CE) No. 1370/2007
- Spatial organisation depends from national circumstances
- Most EU passenger services are covered by a PSO:
 - 65% of rail passenger km
 - 83% of passenger train-km

Cross-border cooperation of PSO

competent authorities

is crucial for

cross-border rail



Shortlist of projects examined in detail in Task 3

Comprehensive analysis of the existing cross-border rail transport connections and missing links on the internal EU borders

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ю	Name of the rail connection	TEN-T: Corridor/ Core Network or Comprehensive Network	Classification according to 2017 timetable	Importance for the border region	Importance for the countries concerned	Importance on TEN-T level	NUTS3 in country A	NUTS3 in country B	Estimated Infrastructure Investment required	Estimated annual subsidies country A	Estimated annual subsidies country B	Estimated annual subsidies in both countries	Stakeholders' assessment of study proposals	Possible public transport alternative
7	Hazebrouck [FR] - Poperinge (BE)		Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	FRE11	BE258	186 000 000 €	110 000 €	360 000 €	470 000 €	Negative. Belgian and French sides see low or no potential	New bus services (ca. 24km, 40min) linking Hazebrouck [FR] and Poperinge [BE]
8	Armentières [FR] - Comines/Komen [BE] (- Kortrijk [BE])	-	Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	FRE11	BE324	178 000 000 €	-120 000 €	-620 000 €	-740 000€	Negative. Beigium considers this line as a very poor case	See ID 9
9	(Lille Flandres [FR] -) Comines(France) - Comines/Komen [BE1]	-	Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	FRE11	BE324	28 000 000 €	-2 870 000 €	50 000 €	-2 830 000€	Negative. France: estimated number of daily passengers seems to be exaggerated	New bus services (ca. 2km, 8min) linking Comines(France) and Comines/Komen [BE]
16	(Valenciennes [FR] -) St-Amand-les- Eaux [FR] - Antoing [BE] (- Tournai	-	Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	FRE11	BE327	99 000 000 €	-1 040 000 €	-50 000 €	-1 090 000€	Negative. Belgium: poor cost-to-potential ratio	New bus services (ca. 21km, 40min) linking Orchies (FR) and Tournal (BE)
19	(Le Quesnoy [FR] -) Bettrechies- Bellignies [FR] St. Ghislain [BE] (- Mons [RF])	-	Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	FRE11	BE323	83 000 000 €	-120 000 €	630 000 €	510 000 €	Negative. Belgium: poor cost-to-potential ratio	Reactivation of passenger services on ID 18 Valenciennes (FR) Mons (BE) preferred by Belgian side
20	Maubeuge [FR] - Quévy [BE] (- Mons [BE])	Comprehensive Network	Freight only	Medium	Low	Low	FRE11	BE323	0€	-250 000 €	60 000 €	-190 000€	Negative. Belgium: poor cost-to-potential ratio	Railway is operational and thus passenger trains could be operated with relative ease if potential meets authorities' expectations
39	(Gent [BE] -) Wondelgem [BE] - Temeuzen [NL]	Comprehensive Network	Freight only	Medium	No	Low	BE233	NL341	5 100 000 €	1 820 000 €	30 000 €	1 850 000 €	Cautious. Both sides referred to ongoing CEF study chapter "Study on the possibility of passenger transport by rail"	Enhanced existing bus services between Gent and Terneuzen
40	Sint-Niklaas (BE) - Terneuzen (NL)		Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	BE236	NL341	348 000 000 €	250 000 €	-310 000€	-60 000 €	Negative [BE] to Cautious [NL]. While the Belgian side sees passenger trains on Gent - Terneuzen line as a more realistic proposition, the Dutch side sees perspectives for this line, but studies have not been conducted	Existing, well-coordinated bus services between Sint-Niklaas, Hulst and Terneuzen
43	(Antwerpen [BE] -) Turnhout [BE] - Tilburg [NL]	-	Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	BE213	NL412	373 000 000 €	400 000 €	-1 140 000 €	-740 000 €	Cardinan Balaise side sees a descent of estantial Databalate	Existing frequent bus services between Turnhout and Tilburg; rail services between Antwerpen and Tilburg (with interchange in Breda) expected to be accelerated by ca. 20 minutes from Acril 2018
44	(Hasselt [BE] -) Heerpelt [BE] - Achel [BE] - Borkel en Schaft [NL] - Eindhoven [NL]		Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	BE222	NL414	209 000 000 €	800 000 €	-1 090 000 €	-290 000€	Cautious [BE] to negative [NL]. Dutch side prefers improved bus services via motorway	Improvements to existing bus services to reduce interchanges (already under consideration according to Dutch side)
45	Mol [BE] - Roermond [NL]	Comprehensive Network	Freight only	Medium	High	Low	BE222	NL414	0€	20 000 €	-540 000 €	-520 000€	Positive. High benefit-cost ratio from qualitative assessment	•
57	(Mönchengladbach [DE] -) Daiheim [DE] - Roermond [NL]	Comprehensive Network	Neglected	Medium	Low	Low	DEA29	NL422	59 000 000 €	20 000 €	-270 000 €	-250 000€	Positive in [DE] and negative in [NL]. Reopening is part of regional German transport plan, but Dutch side is against historic route through Meinweg National Park (Natura 2000)	Existing bus services between Heinsberg [DE] and Roermond [NL] or existing passenger trains between Mönchengladbach [DE] and Venio [NL]
59	Geldern [DE] - Straelen (DE) - Venio [NL]		Entirely missing: dismantled	Low	No	No	DEA18	NL421	161 000 000 €	770 000 €	-340 000 €	430 000 €	Negative. Difficult to implement owing to development on former track bed	Existing bus services between Geldern [DE] and Venio [NL]
60	Goch (DE) - Gennep (NL) (- Nitmepen (NL))	-	Entirely missing: dismantled	Low	No	No	DEA1B	NL421	222 000 000 €	770 000 €	-340 000 €	430 000 €	Negative. Difficult to implement owing to development on former track bed	Existing bus services Goch [DE] – Gennep [NL] and Gennep – Boxmeer [NL] or the rail activation of ID 61
61	(Krefeld [DE] -) Kleve [DE] - Kranenburg [DE] - Groesbeck [NL] - Njmegen [NL]		Elements missing	Medium	No	No	DEA18	NL226	183 000 000 €	960 000 €	230 000 €	1 190 000€	Postive In [DE] and negative in [NL]. German side sees high potential through extension of existing domestic services to/from Nijmegen (NL]. Dutch side regards planned enhancements to existing bus route Klevve – Nijmegen as most cost-effective measure	Existing bus services Kleve (DE) - Nijmegen (NL)
66	(Wesel (DE) -) Bocholt (DE) - Winterswitk (NL)	-	Entirely missing: dismantled	Low	No	No	DEA34	NL225	162 000 000 €	330 000 €	80 000 €	410 000 €	Negative. Costs too high	Recently introduced bus services Bocholt [DE] - Aalten [NL]
68	Ahaus [DE] - Alstätte (DE] - Broekheume [NL] - Enschede [NL]		Entirely missing: dismantled	Low	No	No	DEA34	NL213	176 000 000 €	460 000 €	120 000 €	580 000 €	Negative. Former track bed is no longer available, a parallel rail route already exists	route ID 69 Ahaus [DE] - Gronau [DE] - Enschede [NL]
178	Rosenbach bei Villach [AT] - Jesenice [SI]	Comprehensive Network	not fully exploited	High	Medium	High	AT211	SI042	0€	-280 000 €	-700 000 €	-980 000€	Positive [AT] and cautious [SI]	Railway is operational with existing PSO passenger train services, additional services could thus be operated with relative ease if optential meets authorities' expectations
212	Trieste [IT] - Hrpelje-Kozina [SI]	-	Entirely missing: dismantled	Low	Low	No	ITH44	SI044	210 000 000 €	-50 000 €	-180 000 €	-230 000 €	Negative [IT and SI]: Route has been converted into an attractive bicylce path	Existing cross-border rail connection ID 211 Trieste [IT] – Sežana [SI] - Ljubljana [SI], expected to see improvements to passenger services in 2018
216	Ilirska Bistrica (SI) - Šapjane (HR) (- Rijeka (HR))	Comprehensive Network	not fully exploited	Low	High	Low	SI018	HR031	0€	-430 000 €	-420 000 €	-850 000 €	Cautious [SI] and none [HR]: Slovenia confirmed that the line is operational, but investments would be needed to keep the exiting condition. No feedback was given with regard to the proposed service level. No feedback from Croatian authority.	Railway is operational with existing PSO passenger train services, additional services could thus be operated with relative ease if potential meets authorities' expectations
219	Imeno [SI] - Harmica [HR] - Savski Marof [HR]	-	Neglected	Medium	Low	No	SI034	HR043	262 000 000 €	-170 000 €	100 000 €	-70 000€	Cautious [SI] and none [HR]: The feedback from the Slovenian Ministry of Infrastructure was rather cautious; no detailed feedback was given with regard to the proposed service level. No feedback from Croatian authority.	If there is no rail reactivation, authorities could provide additional services (without the need to change trains in the border station) on existing line ID 220
220	(Stranje [SI] -) Sveti Rok ob Soti [SI] - Đurmanec [HR] (- Zabok [HR])	-	not fully exploited	Medium	Low	No	SI034	HR043	0€	-420 000 €	-40 000 €	-460 000 €	Cautious [SI] and none [HR]: The feedback from the Slovenian Ministry of Infrastructure was rather cautious; no detailed feedback was given with regard to the proposed service level. No feedback from Creatian authority.	Railway is operational with existing PSO passenger train services, additional services could thus be operated with relative ease if potential meets authorities' expectations
237	Priekule [LV] - Skuodas [LT] - Kretinga [LT] (- Klaipeda [LT])	-	Neglected	Low	No	No	LV003	LT003	292 000 000 €	300 000 €	360 000 €	660 000 €	Negative: high operating costs	Existing long-distance commercial bus route between Liepäja [LV] and Klaipeda [LT], but this neither runs daily nor does it serve Priekule

b. Analysis of possible new rail connections and discussion of alternatives

b. Analysis of possible new rail connections and discussion of alternatives

Quantitative:

- Pan-European estimation of rail travel demand
- Estimation of infrastructure and operating costs
 - Availability of transport data
 - hindered such a top-down assessment

Qualitative:

- Stakeholder consultation: Discussion with PSO competent authorities in border regions
- Development of public transport alternatives where rail (currently) does not seem to be the appropriate mode

Bottom-up consultation of PSO competent authorities widened the study's view and brought fruitful results into it



b. Analysis of possible new rail connections and discussion of alternatives

Dunkerque (FR) - De Parne (BE) Valencierres (FR) - Hors (BE) Maubruge (FR) - Charlers (BE) Comprehensive Notional Charlerolle-Machine (FR) - Conter (FR) - Charlers (BE) Mol (BE) - Roemmod (NL) Charlerolle (DE) - Sonstrict (NL) - Charlerolle (DE) - Sonstrict (NL) - Sonstrict (DE) - Sonstrict (NL) - Sonst	Elements missing Entrely missing dismattled Freight only Entrely missing dismattled Freight only Entrely missing dismattled Entrely missing dismattled Elements missing net fully späteled net fully späteled net fully späteled net fully späteled red fu	Medium Medium Lew Medium Medium High High High High High High	Low Low Medium Low High Low Medium Low Low Low Low	No Low Low No Low No No No No No No	PR301 PR301 PR301 PR301 PR211 BE222 DEA2D DE60N DE40G DE132 DE124 DE022	BE258 BE323 BE326 BE337 NL414 NL423 PL428 PL432 FR421	Comprehensive Network/North Sea-Hediterranean North Sea-Balic/Rhine Apine/Comprehensive Network Comprehensive Network Rhine-Apine/North Sea-Hediterranean	Connection would be an additional link north of Lille the, along the French-Reigian coast Connection would be an additional link south of the Lile area where no rail connection with passenger services between FR and & exist today (gap of approx. 230 km) Connection would be an additional link south of the Lile area where no rail connection with passenger services between FR and & exist today (gap of approx. 230 km) Connection would be an additional link south of the Lile area where no rail connection with passenger services between FR and & exist today (gap of approx. 230 km) Connection would be an additional link south of the Lile area where no rail connection with passenger services between FR and & exist today (gap of approx. 230 km) Connection would be an additional link border area between Bit and NL exist today (gap of approx. 100 km). Connection would ease the access from Berlin b the Folish and also the German part of the Island Usedom.	Rather p Rather p Rather p Rather p Rather p Rather p Rather p Rather p
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Rosenbach bei Villach (AT) - Comprehensive Jesnice (SI) Network Klägenfur (AT) - Bieburg (AT) - Marbor (SI) Network Deutschkrautz (AT) - Sopron (HU) - Deutschkrautz (AT) - Sopron (HU) - Waltorschrautz (AT) - Sopron (HU) -	nat fully exploited nat fully exploited Entirely missing:	High	Low		1000101	201512	a. Nati	detour via Luxembourg or Saarbrücken necessary. Connection would improve public transport on the southbanks of Lake Geneva where no	02502002
Desenico [SI] Network Klagenfur [AT] - Bellowg [AT] - Maribor [SI] Diserwart [AT] - Szombathely [HU] Destschkneutz [AT] - Sopron [HU] Destschkneutz [AT] - Sopron [HU] Walkorzych [PL] - Meximisel [CZ]	not fully exploited Entirely missing:			No	CH012	FR718	~	passenger rall services exist today	Rather p
Maribor [S1]	Entirely missing:	Marlium	Medium	High	AT211	S1042		<u> </u>	Rather
Deutschkreutz [AT] - Sopron [HU] Comprehensive Network Wałbrzych [PL] - Meziměsti [CZ]		Presentin	Low	No	AT213	S1033		-	Rather
Deutschkreutz [AT] - Sopron [HU] Network Walbrzych [PL] - Meziměsti [CZ] -	usmanueu	Medium	Low	No	AT111	HU222		Connection would be an additional link in the border area between Sopron and Szentgotthard where no rail connection with passenger services between AT and HU exist today	Rather
	not fully exploited	High	Medium	Low	AT112	HU221	18 <u>2</u> 97		Rather
	Freight only	Medium	Low	No	PL517	CZ052			Rather
Muszyna [PL] - Plaveč [SK] Comprehensive Network	Freight only	Medium	Low	No	PL218	SK041		Connection would be an additional link in the border area of Poland and the Slovak Republic where only few railway connection with passenger services exist at all	Rather
aragoza [ES] - Canfranc [ES] - Pau Comprehensive [FR] Network	Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	Medium	Low	ES241	FR615	-	Connection would be an additional link in the border area of Spain and France where only few railway connection with passenger services exist at all	Rather
(Gent [BE] -) Wondelgem [BE] - Comprehensive Terneuzen [NL] Network	Freight only	Medium	No	Low	BE233	NL341			Rather
Sint-Niklaas (BE) - Terneuzen (NL) -	Entirely missing:	Medium	No	No	BE236	NL341	Rhine-Alpine/Comprehensive Network	•	Rather
Antwerpen [BE] -) Turnhout [BE] - Tilburg [NL]	dismantled Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	BE213	NL412	North Sea-Baltic/North Sea-Mediterranean/Comprehensive Network		Rather
(Hasselt (BE) -) Neerpelt (BE) - 	Entirely missing: dismantled	Medium	No	No	BE222	NL414	Comprehensive Network	approx. 100 km) Connection would be an additional link in the border area between Breda and Maastricht where no rail connection with passenger services between BE and NL exist today (gap of approx. 100 km)	Rather
Mönchengladbach [DE] -) Dalheim Comprehensive	Neglected	Medium	Low	Low	DEA29	NL422			Rather
[DE] - Roermond [NL] Network (Krefeld [DE] -) Kleve [DE] - iranenburg [DE] - Groesbeck [NL] Nilmegen [NL]	Elements missing	Medium	No	No	DEA1B	NL226	Comprehensive Network	Connection would ease the access from the German Lower Rhine region towards the Dutch Province Gelderland and could connect university location in Kleve and Nijmegen	Rather
Selfhennersdorf [DE] - Rumburk	Proposed link	Medium	Low	No	DED2D	CZ042		-	Rather
[CZ] Deutschkreutz [AT] - Szombathely [HU]	Entirely missing: dismantled	Low	No	No	AT111	HU222		Connection would be an additional link in the border area between Sopron and Szentgotthard where no rail connection with passenger services between AT and HU exist today	Rather
aa an der Thaya [AT] - Hrušovany nad Jevišovkou [CZ]	Entirely missing: dismantled	Low	No	No	AT125	CZ064	181	Connection could serve as direct link between Vienna and Brno	Rather

c. Identification of "potentially most beneficial" projects



Conclusions of the study **Funding**

- R1: The implementation of a stable long-term planning and financing framework for "small-scale" cross-border railway projects is needed.
- R4: Funding for cross-border infrastructure projects should also be available for lines that are not part of the Core and the Comprehensive TEN-T networks.
- R5: For the opening or reopening of a new railway line in many cases the full passenger potential can only be reached after a start-up phase of several years. Seed funding can help operators or competent authorities to launch such services.
- R6: The authors emphasise: Funding for rolling stock used on cross-border railway connections could help revive cross-border services, either by reducing the amount of subsidies necessary to operate the services - or by enabling the services to be run in "open access" mode.
- R8: Enable small-scale infrastructure to be funded as part of cross-border cooperation programmes (Interreg A) by means of budget increases.

Conclusions of the study

Governance

Concerning cooperation across the border:

- R10: The authors emphasise the importance of creating a dedicated coordinator for small cross-border projects beyond the TEN-T network.
- R7: Make better use of opportunities provided by existing Interreg A, which can play an important coordination role and help solve cross-border mobility challenges.

Others:

- R15: Make information on cross-border rail connections available to potential passengers
- R16: "Quick wins" should be realised wherever possible

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Outlook

What can you do in order to reopen passenger services on your cross-border railway?

Assess if services would be economically viable

- Yes: Help railway undertaking to make a business case of cross-border services
- No: Consider subsidising future services and get in touch with your PSO competent authority and the one on the other side of the border

Check if infrastructure investments are needed

- Yes: Look for funding on regional, national and European level
- No: Be happy ☺

Danke!

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