

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

LinkingAlps is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme

LinkingAlps – an important step towards OJP4Europe

At the end of September 2022, the LinkingAlps project is ending. It tied in with the results of the LinkingDanube project and focused on the Alpine Region, covering Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland as well as regions in Italy.

The main objective of LinkingDanube was the Proof of Concept to show that linking multiple services is possible, which has been achieved. LinkingAlps took it a step further and successfully implemented a distributed journey planning service. The learnings and results that the implementers draw at the end of the project will be particularly valuable for the Beta phase, in which the

service will be further tested and improved. This means one step closer towards OJP4Europe.



Agreement on Beta Phase

To pick up where the LinkingAlps project left off, the implementing partners made the decision to continue the important work and develop the Linking of Services approach further. In addition to several discussions in advance, a MoU Roundtable was held on the 8th and 9th of September in Innsbruck, Austria. Representatives from ATE, STA, VAO, ARIA, LUR and SBB were present to discuss the next steps towards the common Beta phase. The goal was to have a clear understanding on the collaboration of the LinkingAlps partners after the finalization of the project at the end of the meeting. Other important topics discussed were the elements that the Agreement and Terms of Reference need to cover. It has been agreed upon that the Agreement signifies the commitment between the partners, the ToR on the other hand defines structures and procedures as well as lays down the technical requirements.

The Beta phase will be divided into two parts – Fit4OJP and Friendly User Testing. Fit4OJP begins in October

2022 until June 2023, the Friendly User Testing starts in July 2023 and ends in December 2023.

The partners are currently working on a first version of the Terms of Reference. It will be signed at the beginning of November, which signifies the start of the Beta phase.



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Final Event

On September 20th and 21st, the LinkingAlps Final Event took place in Aix-en-Provence in France, hosted by our project partners from Cerema. It was held as a hybrid event where interested parties could participate physically or virtually.

On Day 1, the LinkingAlps project was introduced by the Lead partner as well as presentations were given about the organisational architecture and processes. Furthermore, the implementers presented their different views and experiences. Highlights from Day 1 were the presentations by Victoire Champenois from DG Move and Jana Habjan from Interreg Alpine Space. Latter gave a short introduction into the programme and had a few words of praise for the important achievements of LinkingAlps. The presentation from implementers Viktoria Neuser (STA), Bettina Neuhäuser (VAO) and Gianluca Carletti (ARIA) was also significant as it gave a better insight into the important results and learnings from their point of view, which is valuable for the next step of the project, the Beta phase.

In late afternoon, a panel discussion was held regarding the OJP deployment from the Alpine Region to Europe. Different stakeholders from ministries in France, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia and the city of Turin were present. Furthermore, Victoire Champenois from DG Move was also part of the discussion.

On Day 2, the focus was on the technical side of the project. Presentations about the technical architecture, the OJP profile as well as Exchange Points were given. Roberta Castelli from 5T gave valuable insight into the results and learnings of using an open source trip planner. Finally, Benoit Queyron from the Ministry of Ecological Transition in France and Mathieu Rajérison from CEREMA presented the Open source toolkit on French NAP, before Nicole Bartl from AustriaTech closed the event with a short outlook and an overview of the next steps.

Overall, it was a successful and worthy Final Event to present the achievements of the LinkingAlps project together.



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Final Statements

The LinkingAlps project is now coming to an end and it is time to look back of three years of intense work and what was achieved.

Therefore we asked our project partners to give a final statement on their view of the project and their personal achievements.

What has been the greatest achievements of LinkingAlps for you personally?



Tiziana Delmastro | LINKS

"The LinkingAlps project demonstrated that multidisciplinary and the combination of different expertise and knowledge make it possible to achieve important technical objectives compliant with the expectations of the involved stakeholders and citizens."



Andreas Glauser | SBB

"LinkingAlps was the reason I did learn from OJP, which I think is a good standard to make journey planning open and available for a bigger community. I hope this will be an inspiration for the market to provide good customer friendly solutions and services."



Bettina Neuhäuser | VAO

"In just 2,5 years, LinkingAlps brought an enormous boost to the harmonised OJP implementation in the Alpine Region. It included a significant and joint increase in practical knowledge in the implementation of OJP and also among the service providers, research institutions and the decision level in Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia and Italy, which would not have been possible without this project."



Jan Grüner | BLIC

"Tackling the challenges and demands of an interconnected open standard (OJP) with real world constraints."



Jean-Philippe Mechin | Cerema

"After the proof of concept in Linking Danube, LinkingAlps push OJP standard a step further. New implementers developed the network and pave the way for future adopters. Linking Alps highlights the long-distance use case which is corresponding to the needs of touristic region like Provence Cote d'Azur. Finally, Linking Alps helps to integrate in the governance rules, the need to have a smooth deployment between participant of the network by agreeing to run in parallel two version of OJP standard."

What is the greatest added value that LinkingAlps has brought you or your organisation?



Viktoria Neuser | STA

"LinkingAlps gave a possibility to South Tyrol to explore in more details the innovative solutions of how to make the region more accessible from other countries in the Alpine Region."



Ilario Cosma | ARIA

"Increase the consumption of our travel planning services, thereby increase the overall mobility demand served by public transport."



Katja Butina | LUR

"Considering that sustainable mobility is one of the key priorities of Regional Development agency of Ljubljana urban region it is the great achievement to participate in development and growth of this innovative platform, which will certainly change the travel habits across Europe."

What are your hopes/thoughts/expectations regarding the future of LinkingAlps?



Andrej Tibaut | UM-FGPA

"My hope and expectation is that the main project result, the distributed journey planner that links mobility services from different Alpine regions is well accepted by users, performs well and scales up to other regions."



Elena Pedon | CMT

"The cross-border travel planning system extended to all Europe."



Markus Liechti | FoT

"In the future, I hope we can provide an open, seamless, cross-border and interoperable travel information service with an ever-growing network of partners"

Outlook on activities

Although the LinkingAlps project is ending, the work on further developing and deploying OJP in Europe will go on.

Our sister project OJP4Danube will come to an end in December 2022 and will have its Final Event on 28./29. November 2022 in Ljubljana as part of the Danube Region Transport Days 2022. You will find detailed information on <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/ojp4danube> timely.

Our LinkingAlps Beta Phase will start in October 2022. We will keep you updated on our LinkedIn Channel and on www.ojp4europe.eu.

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