

19th - 21st November 2012 - ACROSSEE Kick-Off Meeting

On 19th – 20th and 21st November 2012, the Kick-Off Conference of the project ***Accessibility Improved at Border Crossings for the Integration of South-East Europe (ACROSSEE)*** was held in Trieste at the premises of the Central European Initiative, Lead Partner of the project.

On November 20th, all project partners gathered and had a fruitful discussion on the start up of activities, with a specific focus on the methodological approach and the technical actions to be performed in the initial phase of the project.

On November 21st a public event was organised by the Central European Initiative, Lead Partner of the project, under the title: “Doing more with less: achieving growth with existing transport infrastructure: easing up red tape and bottlenecks. Prospects for enhanced co-ordination in North East Italy and in whole South East Europe region”. The aim of the event was to showcase to the wider public the main objectives of the ACROSSEE project and to discuss effective strategies for easing up transport red tape and cross-border bottlenecks that are major obstacles to unleashing SEE's economic potential.

The Conference was attended by the representatives of Ministries of transport and infrastructure (Austria, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro), Regions (Friuli Venezia Giulia and Smolyan), Universities (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Venice International University, University of Trieste, Odessa University and Gea College from Ljubljana), Chambers of Commerce (Belgrade, Venice and Trieste) and other relevant stakeholders, such as CEFTA (Central Europe Free Trade Agreement), CER (Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies), ITALFERR, Union Trasporti, and other technical operators from the South East Europe (SEE) region.

The ACROSSEE project aims at establishing a large and coherent platform that will contribute to rationalising and optimising the existing transport network in South-East Europe (SEE).

ACROSSEE is promoted by the CEI through its Secretariat as Lead Partner, in cooperation with 24 partner institutions (Project Partners) from 13 countries and is co-financed by the South East Europe transnational programme.

The project officially started on 1 October 2012 and will last until September 2014.