

ACROSSEE PROJECT: FINAL CONFERENCE IN VIENNA

Vienna | December 5. Presentation of the project results on cross-border accessibility in South East Europe and strategies for the European programming period 2014-2020

Venice, December 1st, 2014 – The **final appointment of the European project ACROSSEE** for planning and optimizing cross-border accessibility in South East Europe, will be held in Vienna, Austria, on **Friday, December 5**. The event, which will take place at the Schick Hotel Stefanie (8.30 -13.30), will serve to **spread the main project results and the trans-European TEN-T transport networks prospects for the next seven-year European programming period 2014-2020**.

Project Website www.acrossee.net.

In the first session of the conference, the financial recommendations on future projects related to European transport, with a specific focus on 2020 and 2030, will be presented, as well as the results of the analyses carried out concerning border crossings and the preliminary recommendations for the customs harmonisation procedures. The second session will be devoted to a panel discussion ("**The transport system in South East Europe**"), during which the ACROSSEE project results in the development strategies framework and on the transnational cooperation programs in the areas of the Danube and the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region, will be discussed.

Among the participants, a **representative of the Austrian Ministry of Transport, Ambassador Margit Waestfelt**, Deputy Secretary-General InCE - Central European Initiative - and **Roberta Calcina**, project manager for the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme. In addition, in the panel will participate Franc Zepic, Director of Slovenian Infrastructures Ministry and referent for the Danubian transport Strategy, Mate Gjorgjievski, General Manager at SEETO (South-East Europe Transport Observatory) and Andreas Zimmer, by the Trans-European Railway project of UNECE.

Alberto Cozzi, Project Manager of ACROSSEE on behalf of the lead partner, the Central European Initiative, declared: "The final conference is the opportunity not only to present the results collected by all partners during the months of work, but also to discuss together with the main stakeholders of the area, as they can be used in a profitable way in the new programming period 2014-2020. As a matter of fact, it is necessary to ensure that the results of ACROSSEE will be collected not only by policy makers, but also that the issues that we have analyzed and studied will be deepened in the coming years within the transnational/cross-border cooperation programmes in the South-Eastern Europe area.

ACROSSEE PROJECT - The ACROSSEE project, of which **Eurosportello Veneto of Unioncamere Veneto** is one of the Italian partners, is a project co-funded by the transnational cooperation programme South East Europe with a total budget of almost € 2.9 million, which aims at the improvement of cross-border accessibility in the South-east Europe area, through the coordination between the national administrations and the main actors, in light of the EU legislation. The project responds to a general objective, which possesses a threefold value:

- contribute to the debate on the extent of the TEN-T to the Western Balkans by strengthening the current initiatives that favour the inter-modality and co-modality of transnational European corridors
- contribute to the adoption of a common model of transport across the South East Europe area, integrated with the rest of Europe
- the improvement of cross-border accessibility of goods flows.

ACROSSEE draws its origin and was born from the long experience gained in the course of a previous European project - SEETAC (South-East Europe Transport Axis Cooperation), which aimed to solve problems of administrative nature, such as the lack of institutional structured cooperation to border crossings, and of operational issues, such as the absence of shared protection and security standards, as well as the environmental ones in different transport modes. Under the guidance of the Central European Initiative, project partners (Ministries of Transport, Chambers of Commerce, universities, transport and industry associations, regions and institutions dedicated to the transport studies) have been involved also into a short period operations with the purpose of facilitating the border crossings trade and movement.

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