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

Stepping stones towards an interlinked OJP community

It is well known how important the "Linking of Services" approach is to enable cross-border travel. With this approach, end-users are able to receive multimodal, cross-operator and cross-border travel information and will benefit from the exchange of real-time data.

The aim of the LinkingAlps project is the Linking of Services in the Alpine Space. Similarly, the OJP4Danube project aims to establish the Linking of Services in the Danube region. As a next step, both projects are already thinking about joining forces and want to work towards linking both the Alpine Space and the Danube region. Ultimately, our main goal is the Europe-wide deployment of OJP and Linking of Services.

The LinkingAlps project has laid the foundation for achieving this goal. The results and findings, which will be collected during the BETA phase are also of great importance. In cooperation with other projects such as OJP4Danube and EU Spirits, "OJP4Europe" could be realized.

Framework Strategy

As part of work package T3, an organisational and operational Framework Strategy was developed within output O.T3.1.

The Organisational Framework Strategy outlines the necessary components for the harmonized deployment of a seamless and open transnational journey planning service within the consortium of LinkingAlps and a European-wide implementation with an ever-growing network of partners.

The framework strategy sets out the long-term organisational and operational aspects for linking journey planning services and defines the "rules of the game" to enable a viable structure of the service after the end of the project. In addition, the strategy presents key learnings from the project by highlighting the challenges and lessons learned and provides an outlook on the future work required after the completion of the project for each identified component.

The strategy is in line with the overall legal framework and takes into account the needs of decision-makers and future adopters. Scalability and transferability are also considered to create an easily applicable strategy. As an important component of the strategy, the LinkingAlps solution approach is outlined with an architecture as decentralised as possible, but considering an operational, performant service. Another component is the legal framework together with the provision of supporting data required for the LinkingAlps service. Furthermore, the OJP standard and the necessity for an OJP EU minimum profile are presented. The strategy also tackles the policy framework and its implications for service provision. Finally, the availability of basic and supporting data, especially long-distance data, is addressed.

This strategy will help decision-makers and OJP implementers to find common ground and disseminate knowledge on transnational journey planning services.

Video Material

In the course of the project's communication activities, AustriaTech has produced a video series about the LinkingAlps project and its approach, to spread the knowledge and benefits of the service to end-users and to potential future adopters.

The video series contains of five videos with different topics and target groups. To introduce the project and its aim, there is a short explanatory video for both end-users and future adopters. The remaining videos in the series cover the history and definition of OJP as well as the technical architecture behind it.

The video series can be found on our project website, our LinkedIn channel and on the AustriaTech YouTube channel.

Linking of Services – History

A historical summary of the Linking of Services approach, how it all started and what initiatives and projects were developed.

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Introducing LinkingAlps

A short overview of the project and the approach, how LinkingAlps can make your traveling in the Alpine region much more convenient.
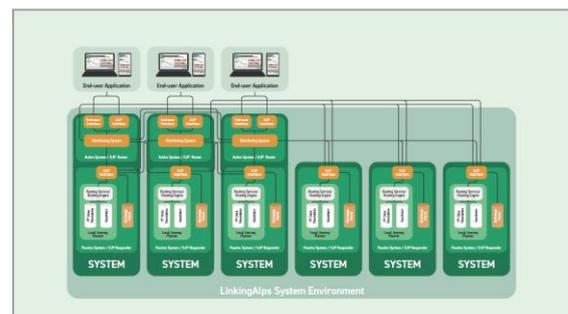

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OJP Explained

An explanation of the OJP standard and the OJP Profile and how they interact together in this complex OJP environment.

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Joining LinkingAlps

A guideline for future adopter, how to be a part of the LinkingAlps.

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Technical Architecture

An overview of the LinkingAlps system architecture and all the main system components explained in detail.

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Other OJP Initiatives – EU Spirit and OJP4Danube

Although the LinkingAlps project is soon coming to an end, the development of interlinked travel information services based on the OJP standard is just at its beginning. There are two other European initiatives and projects currently exploring the work with OJP: EU Spirit and OJP4Danube.

EU Spirit

„EU-Spirit" is an internet-based, cross-border travel information service for customers of public transport. It is based on existing local, regional, and national travel information systems, which are interlinked via technical interfaces.

The EU-Spirit service provides door-to-door travel information for customers who do not only travel within one region. The service provides the calculation of an itinerary between stops, addresses or points of interest in different European regions. The information service includes any carrier of local public transport and long-distance rail and flight services as well as additional services like map service and fare information. The information of the EU-Spirit service providers is for free and is provided via the customer's local information system in his mother tongue.

Up to now, providers from the following countries offer the EU-Spirit service: Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland and Sweden.

Get more information at https://eu-spirit.eu/
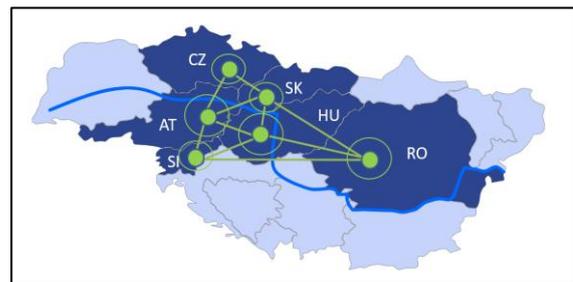
OJP4Danube

The Danube Region is lacking an integrated multimodal journey planner across public motorized modes (road, rail, water transport). The core focus of the OJP4Danube project is to connect railway corridors to cycling routes and to provide travel information relevant for travellers willing to combine rail with cycling in the planning of cross-border trips.

In accordance with the project objectives, 14 partners from 8 Danube region countries are working together within the OJP4Danube consortium. The project started in 2019 and will end in December 2022.

Currently, OJP4Danube is in the technical testing phase of the service. The project partners are working on developing National Action Plans to provide a plan for the future implementation and operation of OJP services in their countries.

Get more information at https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/ojp4danube
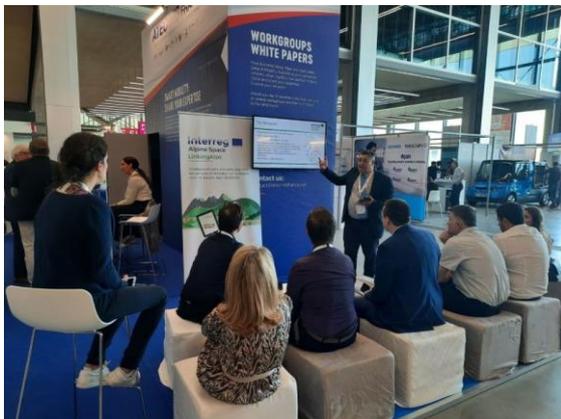

© OJP4Danube

Visibility and Outreach

The LinkingAlps partners were very active in presenting the novel 'Linking of Services' approach at diverse conferences, meetings and workshops. Some highlights of the last 6 months include the presentation of LinkingAlps at the the ITS Europe Congress in Toulouse and the Mapping Party in Pinerolo and Collegno.

ITS European Congress Toulouse

From May 30th to June 1st, the annually ITS European Congress took place in Toulouse, where participants experienced the future of smart and sustainable mobility.

Among lots of interesting topics, LinkingAlps was also represented at the congress. At the booth of our project partner CEREMA, congress participants were informed about our project and our novel approach, highlighting the importance of the LinkingAlps project in the regional public transport development and how LinkingAlps is supporting and contributing to the regional strategy towards MaaS. A great thanks goes out to all of our partners for bringing the project to Toulouse.

Source: Jean-Philippe Mechin

Source: Jean-Philippe Mechin

Mapping Party Pinerolo and Collegno

On May 13th a Mapping Party activity has been held in Pinerolo and Collegno, two different municipalities within the Turin Metropolitan City (CMTo). CMTo, LINKS Foundation, 5T and Ithaca took part in the event.

Citizens, students and local associations participated in the event and contributed in mapping new features and enriching the Open Street Map platform with new information.

The groups of mappers spent the morning in the streets of the cities collecting the data. Subsequently they uploaded the information to the platform and now these information are accessible to all and freely reusable for any purpose. More than 100 features were created, modified or enriched with new attribute.

Mapped elements are strictly correlated to mobility: about 20% have a direct impact on the LinkingAlps project, as elements detected by the 5T journey planner engine (passive system). Furthermore, most of the elements suggested for mapping provide information useful to the citizen to plan his movements and can be used indirectly in a route calculation system.

Outlook on activities

In the last three months, a range of project activities will take place. The system implementations and testing will come to the final stage and also a lot of exploitation activities will take place.

Furthermore, a meeting will be held in September between the implementing partners to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding/Terms of Reference as well as the BETA phase.

A highlight will be the Final Event of the project on 20./21. September 2022. You can find more details at our LinkedIn page or at our project website.

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