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## EDITORIAL

*Let's start - during the lifetime of the Regional Development Programme this sentence may be used in manifold ways, as the last weeks and months have shown. The second call was open for ten weeks and closed on 18 March. At the same time a lot of projects, which were approved during the first call, have started their activities.*

For the Joint Technical Secretariat of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme, but also for the National Contact Points in the CENTRAL EUROPE Member States, the last weeks were primarily filled with the effort of helping potential applicants to submit high quality projects. This implied the organisation and holding of various information events including provision of individual guidance, but also help on the phone, via E-Mail or in the premises itself.

But the world turns round also during the preparation and the development of a call for project proposals. Organised by the Committee of Regions the Summit of European Regions in Prague took place, which was attended by more than 500 representatives of the European regions and city majors. They were voicing their opinion on the future strategy for growth and development, as this is also important impetus for overcoming the actual crisis. On the same occasion the Commissioner for Regional Development, Danuta Hübner, stated: "To reap the full benefits of the EU's immense assets, we must also continue to increase cooperation between our regions and cities."

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This is what the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme is about and what you will read about in this edition of the CENTRAL EUROPE newsflash. For further information, please also have a look at [www.central2013.eu](http://www.central2013.eu).

The JTS CENTRAL EUROPE Team wishes you a pleasant reading.



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## LEAD APPLICANT BRIEFINGS GIVE SUPPORT TO POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

HELPING POTENTIAL LEAD APPLICANTS  
WITH CONCRETE INFORMATION DURING  
THREE EVENTS IN VENICE, BUDAPEST  
AND STUTTGART.

*Filling out the application form correctly, setting up a proper budget and relevant partnership is sometimes a tricky thing. It is not much easier to plan meaningful activities or an efficient communication strategy in order to fulfill the goals of a potential project which should have chances to be approved afterwards.*

Therefore, the Joint Technical Secretariat with the support of the respective National Contact Points prepared and held three information events in order to guide prospective applicants through the "jungle" of the application process and to give them targeted advice in order to improve the quality of their projects. All together 250 persons interested in CENTRAL EUROPE Programme participated in the events which took place in Venice, Budapest and Stuttgart during February 2009.

While all the participants were given first hand information on the overall quality criteria of a project proposal and the structure of the documents which have to be filled in, around 100 applicants received even more detailed, "custom-tailored" information during their individual consultations.

Having already more or less concrete ideas of their project in mind, these prospective lead applicants were consulted by the representatives of the JTS CENTRAL EUROPE in the fields of project, financial and communication



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management. Having a look at the statistics, most of the projects consulted were foreseen to be submitted under priority 1 - innovation. The smallest number of project ideas was discussed under priority 2 - accessibility.

*The presentations showcased during the events can be found here:*

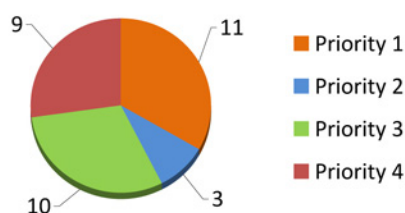
<http://www.central2013.eu/past-events/lab-second-call-022009.html>.

Getting into contact with multitude of project proposals the JTS

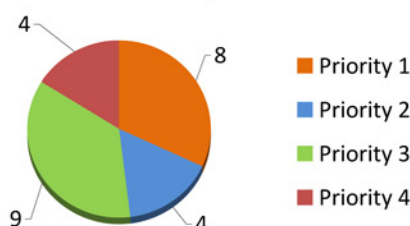
Team is confident that a lot of high quality projects proposals will reach the office soon.

## INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS DURING THE LABS

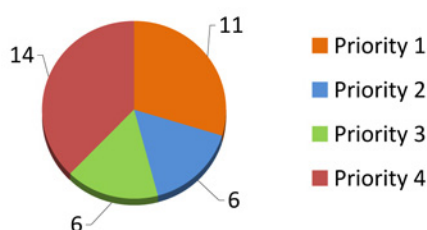
**Venice**



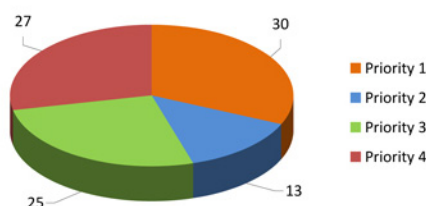
**Budapest**



**Stuttgart**



**TOTAL**



The above mentioned priorities describe the four priorities of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme:

- Priority 1: innovation
- Priority 2: accessibility
- Priority 3: environment
- Priority 4: competitiveness



# DON'T GET PUZZLED BY TOO MANY NUMBERS AND FIGURES



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FINANCIAL SEMINAR IN VIENNA GAVE GUIDANCE TO LEAD PARTNERS AND PROJECT PARTNERS OF APPROVED 1ST CALL PROJECTS.

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*As most of the 29 projects which had been approved for funding within the first call for proposals took up their work in the last months of the year 2008 or at the beginning of 2009, the Joint Technical Secretariat decided to hold a Financial Seminar at the end of January in Vienna.*

The goal of the meeting was to help the Lead Partners and Project Partners in a smooth start of their projects. Almost 300 participants were provided with information on the requirements concerning financial issues and implementation of the projects. A division of the whole event into two parts gave the participants the possibility to obtain the information specially tailored to their needs.

While the morning session comprised the insight into overall rules, in the afternoon the participants had the opportunity to get first hand information on the procedures which are valid in their member state. This information was presented by the national First Level Control Coordinating bodies.

The presentations of the event can be found here: <http://www.central2013.eu/past-events/financial-trainingworkshop-012009.html>.

# THE NATIONAL DIMENSION OF A TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME



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NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS HELD THE INFO DAYS IN ORDER TO BRIEF PROSPECTIVE NATIONAL APPLICANTS.

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*What is the first place to go for people interested in the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme? The National Contact Point. What is true during the whole lifetime of the programme is even truer in times of preparation of a project proposal. This is where to go for first hand information on the funding possibilities and procedural aspects of the application process. Austria, Slovenia, Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic held their National Info days in January and February of this year.*



*National Info Day in Poland*

"Learning for the future from lessons coming from the past" was one of the slogans of the events. Therefore project partners from approved projects within the 1st call for proposals were invited in order to mediate potential appli-

cants more about experiences they have faced so far. However, the overall objective of all national events was to showcase the possibilities offered by the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme in the 2nd call and to present huge variety of project ideas highlighting different approaches and innovative solutions.

There was also the political dimension addressed as the example of the Polish National Info Day shows: cohesion policy is a field which is interconnected to many other political issues. This is what the Member of European Par-

liament and vice chairman of the Committee of the regions in the European Parliament, Jan Olbrycht, explained during his presentation on this event. He

also outlined the measures prepared by the European Parliament designed to foster and facilitate implementation of the European funds at transnational level.

*The contact details of the National Contact Points can be found here:*  
<http://www.central2013.eu/index.php?id=155>



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# APPROVED PROJECTS LAUNCHED THEIR ACTIVITIES

ALMOST ALL OF THE 29 ALREADY APPROVED PROJECTS HAVE TAKEN UP THEIR WORK. IN VERY DIFFERENT WAYS - AS PROVED BY THE EXAMPLES BELOW.

The scope of events ranged from a half day conference with discussions on further steps to three day international conference with intriguing cultural programme and engagement of notable politicians and experts in an open forum. The examples of three projects - RUBIRES, ACT4PPP and Q-Ageing - show what is possible, when the project kicks off.

## RUBIRES

A three day event took place in Tangermünde in Saxony-Anhalt, Germany at the end of February in order to present the aims of the RUBIRES project to the public, but also to instruct and prepare the project partners for their upcoming duties. The highlight was the one day conference, which focused on a heavily discussed topic at the moment - the challenges regarding renewable primary products and the coordination of land-use. During the international conference more than 100 experts from Germany, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Italy discussed the already existing experiences that there is in this field.

*RUBIRES: Projects going public  
Source: Volksstimme, Salzweudel vom  
25.02.2009, Holger Thiel*

During his opening speech André Schröder, Deputy Minister of Territorial Development and Circulation of Saxony-Anhalt, pointed out that RUBIRES provides a platform for a sustainable transnational cooperation. The press conference which strongly drew attention of participants made it clear that the project is not just about the

	16,60	11,00
	20,75	13,75
	24,80	16,50
	29,05	19,25



exchange of experience but also the beginning of cooperation across borders.

## Q-AGEING

Another approach was chosen by the Q-Ageing project addressing the issue of an ageing society. A "cultural warm-up" which included visual introduction of participating regions, piano act and different stage performances gave a harmonized start



*Q-AGEING: culture as a starting point*

to the kick-off event but also to the whole project. The speakers, among others Gyula Molnár, mayor of the Local government and Municipality of the 11th district of Budapest, representing the Lead Partner of the project and Katalin Lévai, member of the European Parliament stressed the importance of the project's topic for Europe as a whole.

Besides the discussions on further cooperation of the project partners during the lifetime of the project, a press conference was given. More than 20 participating journalists published 21 press articles in different newspapers, magazines, but also on TV and radio giving a clear indication that the CENTRAL EUROPE projects are of interest not only for professionals but also for the broader public.



*ACT4PPP: Overcoming the contradiction between „public“ and „private“*

Cooperation between the public and the private sector as a measure against the worldwide economic and financial crisis was one of the messages sent to the outside world during the kick-off event of the project ACT4PPP. Within a European forum the possibilities and challenges of financing Public Private Partnership (PPP) by the EU Structural Funds were outlined and discussed. Experts coming from the European Commission, national and regional authorities, development agencies, financial institutions as well as universities highlighted legal and organisational chal-



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Please find more information on the above mentioned and other approved projects here:

<http://www.central2013.eu/nc/central-projects/approved-projects.html>

allenges which have to be tackled. Bearing this in mind, the project aims to overcome among other things the still existing contradiction between "public" and "private", based on the different planning culture. In this sense the representative of the European Commission, Christos Gogos, stressed the importance of developing a new culture of cooperation among public and private actors in which the balance of interest, benefits and risks is crucial.



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## PROJECTS HAVE THEIR SAY IN POLITICAL PROCESS

ALL PROJECTS WORK IN A POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT. SOME OF THEM MORE, OTHER LESS. AS THE EXAMPLE OF THE PROJECT SONORA SHOWS, THEY SOMETIMES CAN ALSO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESSES.



*SONORA: discussion in the European Parliament*

In terms of budget, but also in the terms of the number of participating partners, SONORA is the largest project of those approved within the first call. SONORA is also one of the projects with the highest political implication.

25 partners and 34 associated institutions from six EU Member States aim to improve the accessibility of transport in the South-North direction, between the Adriatic and the Baltic Sea. In times of economic crisis, as Europe faces at the moment, infrastructural projects are often a way how to overcome the problems. That is why politicians around Europe have announced the intention to foster investments into infrastructure in the coming months and years.

## GREEN PAPER ON TEN-T

At the same time the Commission launched its process of amending the TEN-T-policy. A Green Paper was published to ask stakeholders for their opinion on this important part of EU's transport policy. TEN - T stands for Trans

European Networks - huge transport projects connecting Europe. Originally conceived in early 1990s for 15 Member States and revised in 2004, in which the geographical scope was changed, which included an extension of the number of TEN-T projects from 14 to 30. Currently, from the view of the Commission a review has to be done in order to strengthen the European perspective and to make sure that TEN-T will be more than a sum of single networks of 27 Member States.

As a project connecting regions of Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland and Slovenia, SONORA has a strong interest to be heard during the consultation process. That is why the project organised a big event in the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels in March 2009. In discussion with Members of the European Parliament, European Commission, Committee of the Regions and other political representatives, SONORA project partners presented their contribution to the ongoing process.

## FUNDS FOR RAILWAY PROJECTS

In reaction to the proposals done by the project partners, Member of the European Parliament and rapporteur on TEN-T Eva Lichtenberger (European Green Party, Austria) and Gudrun Schultze, the author of the TEN-T Green Paper, appreciated the position paper as it represents more than just a single view. In their opinion the paper reflects an integrated opinion of different regional, local, governmental and industrial stakeholders from six Member States in the Central Europe. Just like the SONORA project partners, also these two influential persons within the



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SONORA Position Paper on TEN-T Policy Review and Green Paper

The SONORA project seeks to contribute to the debate on the fundamental review of the TEN-T policy, as discussed in the *TEN-T: A Policy Review Green Paper*. On behalf of all project partners, the SONORA project:

### Green Paper Principle

1. Welcomes the initiative of Green Paper on TEN-T update policy
2. Agrees with the Commission that, until now, most of the 30 TEN-T priority projects have not yet been realised according to the planned time schedule and, therefore, the identification and funding of such projects need to be revised.
3. Supports the Green Paper principle of the „Dual Layer: Comprehensive Network<sup>1</sup> and Core Network<sup>2</sup>“, in which the „core network“ consists of both a geographical pillar and a conceptual pillar. The core network should:
  - a. Be coherent, sustainable, energy efficient, and multimodal;
  - b. Link the principal transport infrastructure axes (consisting of priority axes and the transnational axes)<sup>3</sup> to a spatially balanced network;
  - c. Provide direct south-north connections between the Adriatic and Baltic seas in Central Europe;
  - d. Stresses the importance of defining this core network, in close conjunction with the Commission and the Member States.

### Existing Gaps to be Filled

4. Urges the Commission to update the current TEN-T policy to adequately address the Central European area, in particular with regards to the changes due to EU enlargement.
5. Underlines the importance of ensuring South North connections in Central Europe, in particular between the Adriatic and Baltic Seas, given the:
  - a. Underdevelopment of current transport sections;
  - b. Expected increase in transport volumes throughout Europe;
  - c. Overload of existing south-north corridors;
  - d. Necessity to ensure balanced spatial development and economic growth;

<sup>1</sup> Comprehensive network is understood as a dense system which covers all member states and modes (example as the current TEN-T network). See [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/consultations/2009\\_04\\_30\\_ten\\_t\\_green\\_paper\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/consultations/2009_04_30_ten_t_green_paper_en.htm) for additional information

<sup>2</sup> Core network is understood as a selection of primary priority axes and projects of transnational importance, which form a high-level network (example, an integrated version of the current priority projects supporting a unified vision). This network is expected to consist of both a geographical pillar (pre-defined reference network) and a conceptual pillar (a selection process for future incorporation of projects into the network according to pre-defined objectives and criteria). See [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/consultations/2009\\_04\\_30\\_ten\\_t\\_green\\_paper\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/consultations/2009_04_30_ten_t_green_paper_en.htm) for additional information

<sup>3</sup> Please see [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/maps/doc/ten-t\\_pp\\_axes\\_projects\\_2005.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/maps/doc/ten-t_pp_axes_projects_2005.pdf) and COM (2007) 32 Final Communication from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament: Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries - Guidelines for transport in Europe and Neighbouring Regions for additional information on the component elements.



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*Presenting ideas in a European framework*

TEN-T policy evaluation and improvement process are convinced that TEN-T funds should be predominantly spent on the development of rail infrastructure.



*Further information on TEN-T can be found here:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/index_en.htm)*

*Detailed information on the SONORA project is available here:  
[http://www.central2013.eu/nc/central-projects/approved-projects/funded-projects.html?tx\\_fundedprojects\\_pi1\[project\]=26](http://www.central2013.eu/nc/central-projects/approved-projects/funded-projects.html?tx_fundedprojects_pi1[project]=26)*



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