

Activity Report

2015-2016

Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC

Phone +49 (0)- 621 10708-43
Fax +49 (0)- 621 10708-34

c/o Verband Region Rhein-Neckar
P7, 20/21 68161 Mannheim
Germany

<http://egtc-rhine-alpine.eu>
info@egtc-rhine-alpine.eu

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Background

The Rhine-Alpine Corridor is a spatially coherent axis with a multitude of common interests and inter-relations between its single regional areas. Cooperation is necessary in order to face challenges such as international competition, competition for funds, planning respectively decision processes at different levels, mitigation of impacts and the maintenance of continuity beyond the regular relative short political periods. All regions and municipalities along the Corridor benefit from the Corridor's strength and are affected by the Corridor's impacts.

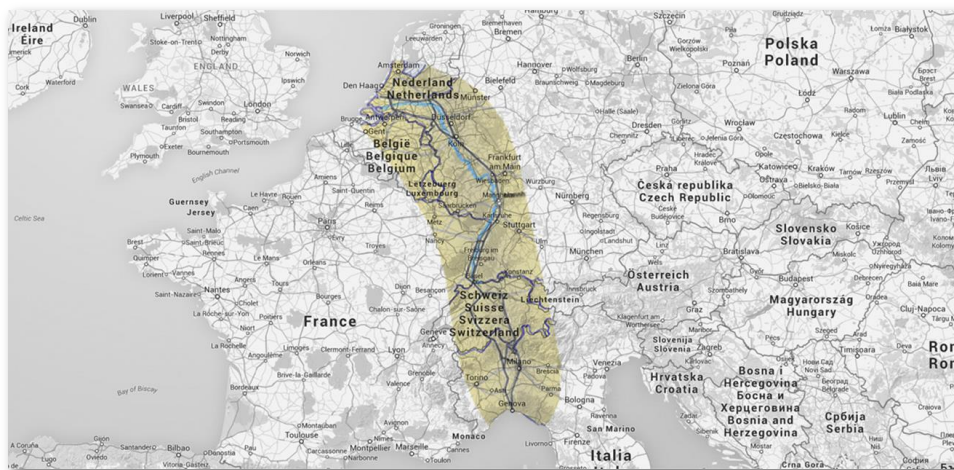


Fig. 1: Rhine-Alpine Corridor

On 24 April 2015, the “Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine-Corridor EGTC” has been founded in Mannheim as follow-up of the Interreg VB NWE Strategic Initiative CODE24. Ten founding members have signed the Convention. By the establishment of the EGTC, the close coordination of its members shall be guaranteed for the future. It is crucial to facilitate the consideration of local and regional interests when developing this most important European Corridor. The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation „Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC“ represents the local and regional level.

The EGTC contributes as a fundamental stakeholder to the development of the Rhine-Alpine Corridor. A common strategy for the further development of the Corridor has been elaborated.



Fig. 2 Founding Assembly on 24 April 2015 in Mannheim

The main objective of the EGTC is to facilitate and promote the territorial cooperation among its members and to jointly strengthen and coordinate the territorial and integrated development of the multimodal Rhine-Alpine Corridor from the regional and local perspective.

The present report gives an overview of the achievements of the EGTC from its founding in April 2015 till 2016.

Organisational Structure

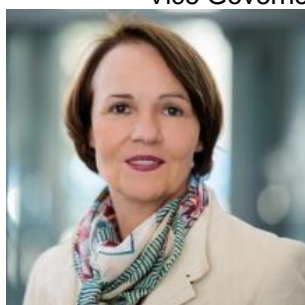
All members build together the **Assembly** – the decision making body of the EGTC. The Assembly elected a Chair and two Vice Chairs for the first election period until 2018:



Conny Bieze

Chair

Vice Governor of the Province of Gelderland (NL)



Birgit Simon

Vice Chair

Deputy Director of the Regionalverband
FrankfurtRheinMain (DE)



Paolo Balistreri

Vice Chair

Secretary General Confindustria Piemonte
(IT)

The Assembly appointed Jörg Saalbach from the Verband Region Rhein-Neckar as the Director of the EGTC. The Director is responsible for daily management of the activities of the EGTC, supported by the Secretariat which lead is also under his responsibility.



Jörg Saalbach

Director

Verband Region Rhein-Neckar (DE)

The Chairs and the Director build the **Managing Committee** of the EGTC.

The Assembly established two thematic **Expert Committees** that have the task to elaborate proposals for projects, support the work of EGTC in the thematic fields and to report to the Assembly:

1. Spatial and Transport Planning; Economic Development and Logistics
Chaired by Dr. Wolfgang g. Müller, Mayor of Lahr, Germany;
2. Environment and Energy
Chaired by Josef Offele, Region Middle Upper Rhine;

An **Advisory Board** was established in order to bring external input in the discussions and the policy of the EGTC. It consists of organisations and personalities from economy, science or national governmental organizations as well as relevant Corridor stakeholders and associations, groupings or confederations. It is chaired by Christian Specht, First Deputy Mayor Mannheim.

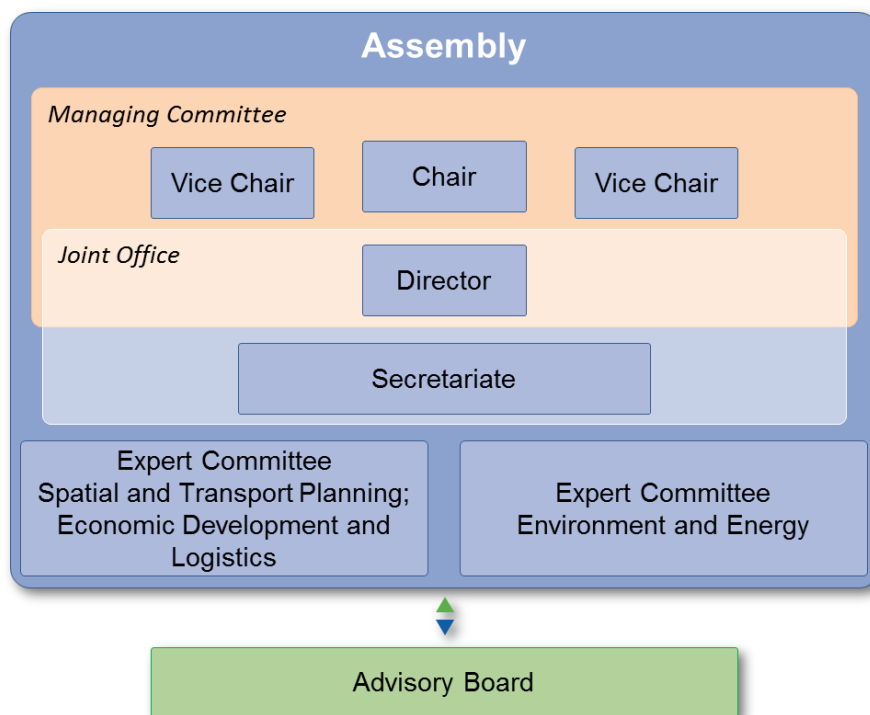


Fig. 3 Organisation chart

Further, an ad hoc **Expert Group Communication** was installed to develop a Communication Strategy and Action Plan for the members of the EGTC.

Membership Structure

The number of members has grown from originally 10 founding members to 21 as of February 2017. The membership covers 6 countries. But there are still some territorial gaps, in particular the regions in North-Rhine-Westphalia and in Switzerland are still underrepresented in the EGTC.

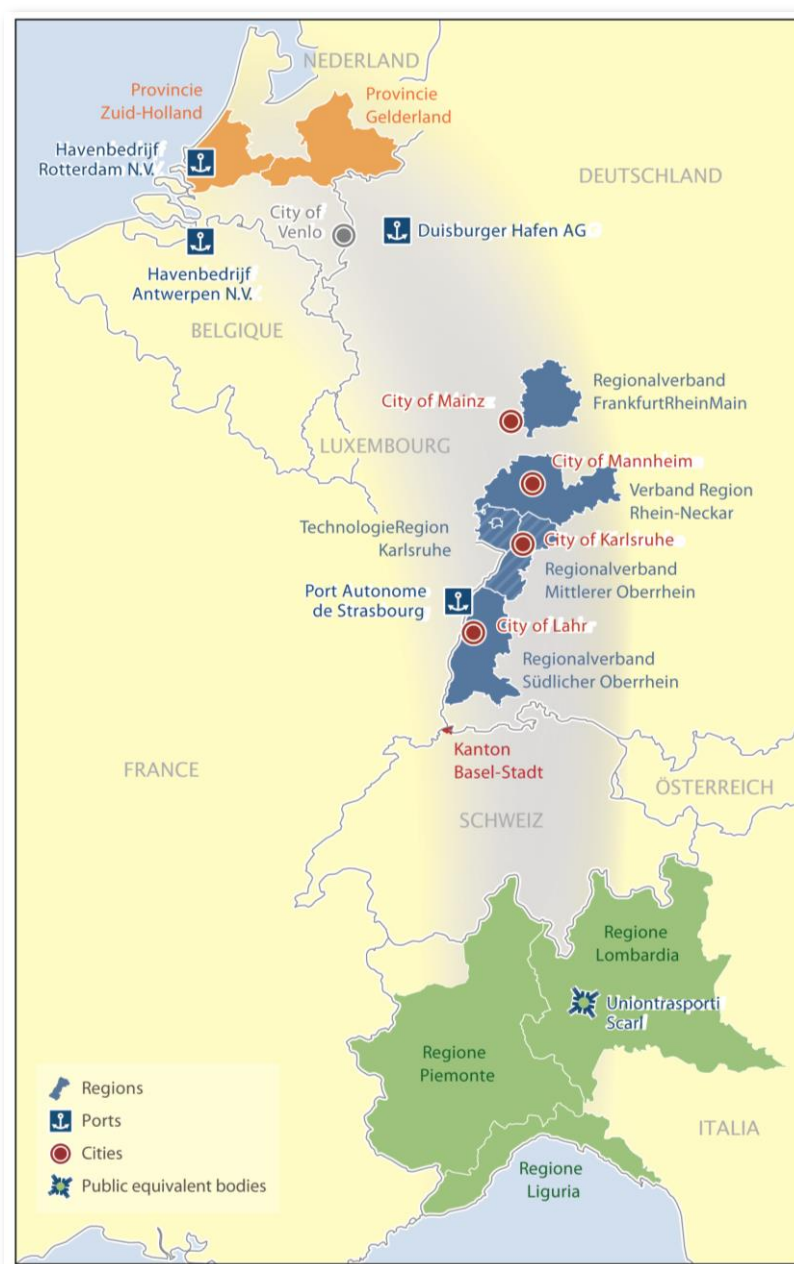


Fig. 4 Members' map

List of members:

1. Havenbedrijf Rotterdam N.V.
2. Provincie Gelderland
3. Provincie Zuid-Holland
4. Port of Antwerp
5. City of Venlo*
6. Duisburger Hafen AG
7. City of Mainz
8. Regionalverband FrankfurtRheinMain
9. Verband Region Rhein-Neckar
10. City of Mannheim
11. Regionalverband Mittlerer Oberrhein
12. TechnologyRegionKarlsruhe
13. City of Karlsruhe
14. Port Autonome de Strasbourg
15. City of Lahr
16. Region Südlicher Oberrhein
17. Kanton Basel-Stadt
18. Regione Piemonte
19. Regione Liguria
20. Regione Lombardia
21. Uniontrasporti, Milano

*National approval ongoing

Activities and Milestones

The EGTC is already recognized as a respected organisation since the short time of its founding. One of the goals stated in the Convention of the EGTC “Combining and focusing the joint interests of its members towards European, national and infrastructure institutions” has been reached: The EGTC has been approved as a full member of the official EU-Corridor Forum Rhine-Alpine Corridor of the European Corridor Coordinator Paweł Wojciechowski in May 2015.



Fig. 5 Policy Advisor Lukasz Wojtas, Corridor Coordinator Paweł Wojciechowski and the Managing Committee of the EGTC (from left to right)

Events

The EGTC constantly receives invitations to conferences, fora and meetings, to present its objectives, structure and projects. For instance, the EGTC participated as an exhibitor at the TEN-T Days 2016 in Rotterdam and was invited to the panel of the Rhine-Alpine Corridor Session. As further major events with active participation of the EGTC, the Bahnkongress in Basel, the EU Freight Corridors Conference in Düsseldorf, the Hessian Mobility Forum in Frankfurt, the Swiss Business Forum in Frankfurt, the EESC conference „Shaping the Future of Core Network Corridors“ in Milan, the Länderkonferenz Rhein in Düsseldorf and also the Dutch Logistics Day in Nürnberg can be named.



Fig. 6: 4th Assembly and 1st Advisory Board Meeting, November 2016, in front of the New Port House, Antwerp

Assembly Meetings

Founding Assembly: 24 April 2015 in Mannheim, Germany;

2nd Assembly: 9 November 2015 in Nijmegen, the Netherlands;

3rd Assembly: 11 April 2016 in Novara, Italy;

4th Assembly: 23 November 2016 in Antwerp, Belgium;

Expert Committee Meetings

Expert Committee "Spatial and Transport Planning; Economic Development and Logistics":

Statutory Meeting: 2 October 2015 in Mannheim, Germany

2nd Meeting: 23 February 2016 in Lahr

3rd Meeting: 8 March 2017 in Duisburg, Germany

Expert Committee "Environment and Energy":

Statutory Meeting: 25 September 2015 in Mannheim, Germany

2nd Meeting: 8 March 2017 in Duisburg, Germany

Advisory Board

Statutory Meeting: 24 November 2016 in Antwerp, Belgium;

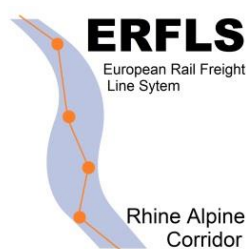
Milestones

April 2015	Founding Assembly in Mannheim with 10 members
May 2015	The EGTC is a full member of the EU-Corridor Forum Rhine-Alpine Corridor of the Corridor Coordinator Paweł Wojciechowski
2015	Three new members join the EGTC
2016	Six new members join the EGTC
June 2016	First project application of EGTC approved – RAISE-IT under CEF Transport
November 2016	Update of Joint Strategy First Meeting with Advisory Board of EGTC
December 2016	Decision for appointment of the Working Group on Core Urban Nodes and Regions of the Rhine-Alpine Corridor with EGTC members by Corridor Forum

Projects and Initiatives

Another goal of the EGTC – “Directing funds to corridor related activities and projects helping to implement the joint strategy” could be reached by generating new EU-funded projects. Hence, the EGTC has 1 approved project (CEF project RAISE-IT), 1 project is admitted to the second application phase (Interreg VB NWE project “CCP – Corridor Capacity Platform”), 1 submitted in first application phase (Interreg VB NWE project “LNG for heavy duty transport on roads and waterways”), and 1 in preparation to be submitted in 2017 (LIFE project “Listen to the Rhine-Alpine Corridor”). Already before official founding of the EGTC, some members applied successfully for another CEF project called ERFLS. The two approved projects are described very briefly below.

ERFLS - European Rail Freight Line System



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

The ERFLS project with partners from The Netherlands, Germany and Italy aims to launch an innovative European Rail Freight Line System (ERFLS) in combined rail-freight traffic on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor. More info: <http://egtc-rhine-alpine.eu/portfolio-item/erfls/>

RAISE-IT - Rhine-Alpine Integrated and Seamless Travel Chain



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

RAISE-IT explores high speed rail integration and travel time savings through a multi-scale accessibility approach and aims to cater for transport demand exchanging with the corridor at key TEN-T nodes, in the areas around the nodes and across the nodes. More info: <http://egtc-rhine-alpine.eu/portfolio-item/raise-it/>

Outlook

In 2017, the updated Joint Strategy will be published. Especially the development priorities and the projects map from the first issue from 2014 have been amended in a collaborative process by the EGTC members.

A Communication Strategy and Action Plan will be prepared by the communication expert group of the EGTC. The communication strategy is an internal guidance for the EGTC members and shall help focusing and prioritizing communication activities of the EGTC.

Besides implementing the running projects RAISE-IT and ERFLS, further applications will be submitted in 2017. In June, the full application for the project “CCP Corridor Capacity Platform” dealing with collaborative and combined utilization of intermodal transport capacity for the Corridor will be submitted to the funding programme Interreg VB NWE. Another project application shall be submitted to the EU funding programme LIFE Environment in September 2017 – “Listen to the Rhine-Alpine Corridor”. The core point of this project would be the realisation of stations to record rail freight noise with the aim to use the data for communication campaigns for acceptance of rail freight.

In 2017, new members’ recruitment will be pursued to close the territorial gaps in the membership – especially in North-Rhine-Westphalia and in Switzerland, but also in Belgium. Negotiations are already ongoing with regions in these areas.

The 6th Assembly meeting and the 2nd Advisory Board meeting will be held in autumn 2017 in Strasbourg. To mark the 3rd anniversary of the EGTC, the 3rd Corridor Conference is envisaged for spring 2018 in Brussels.

Jörg Saalbach

Director

March 2017

Contact

Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC

c/o Verband Region Rhein-Neckar
P7, 20/21 68161 Mannheim
Germany

Tel. +49 621 1070843

Fax +49 621 1070834

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