

Interregional
Alliance
for the
**Rhine-
Alpine
Corridor**
EGTC

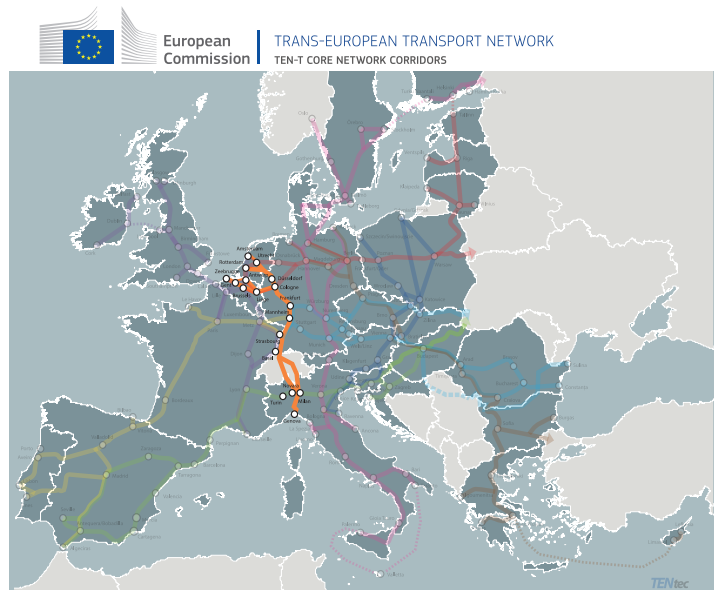
**YEARS
OF SUCCESS**

THE RHINE-ALPINE CORRIDOR 01.

The Rhine-Alpine Corridor is one of nine **European Core Network Corridors**, which together form the most important part of Europe's infrastructure network.

It runs from north to south, connecting the North Sea ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp to the Mediterranean basin in Genoa, via Switzerland and some of the major economic centres of the EU.

The corridor represents, with the exception of South England, the **economic backbone of Europe**.



THE INTERREGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE RHINE-ALPINE CORRIDOR 02.

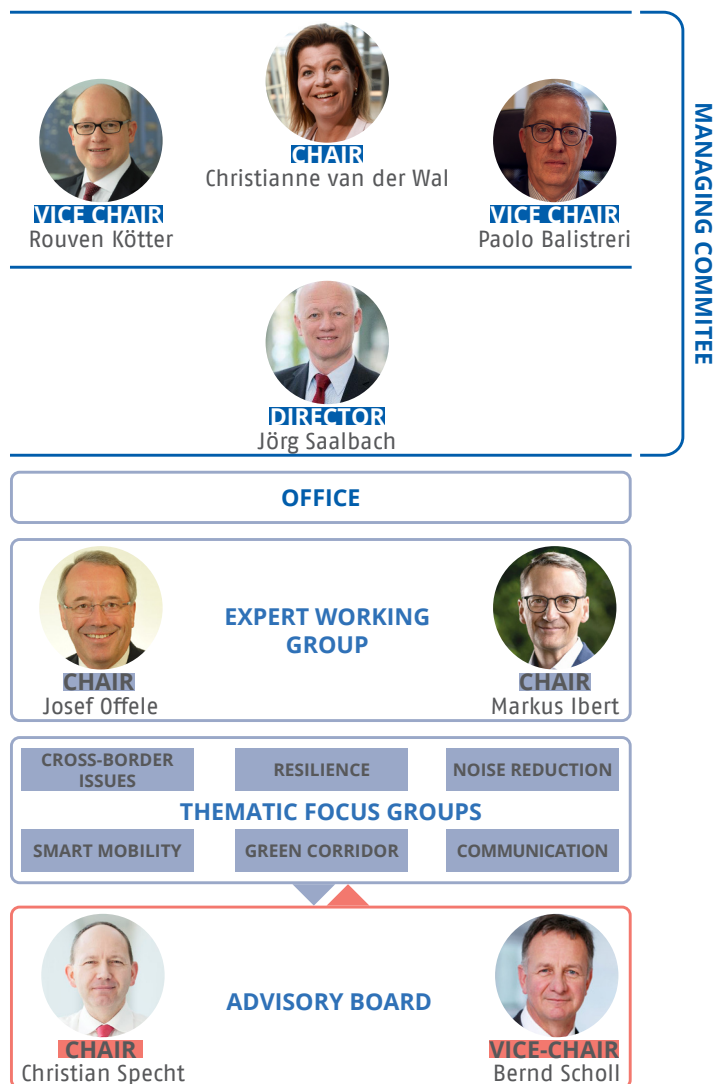
The Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor is where the regional and local interests along the corridor are represented. This European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) was founded in **April 2015**, in order to join forces and speak with one voice.

What started with ten members, is now a community of **25 members** from six different countries. Its head office is in **Mannheim**, Germany.

EGTC members are a composition of regional and municipal authorities, maritime and inland port authorities and a chamber system. This collaboration of regions, cities and ports reflects the bottom-up approach for which the EGTC stands.

The organisation structure is simple. There is a managing committee, an expert working group and six thematic focus groups. An advisory board consisting of representatives from science and research, economy, logistics enterprises and railway operators supports the EGTC activities.

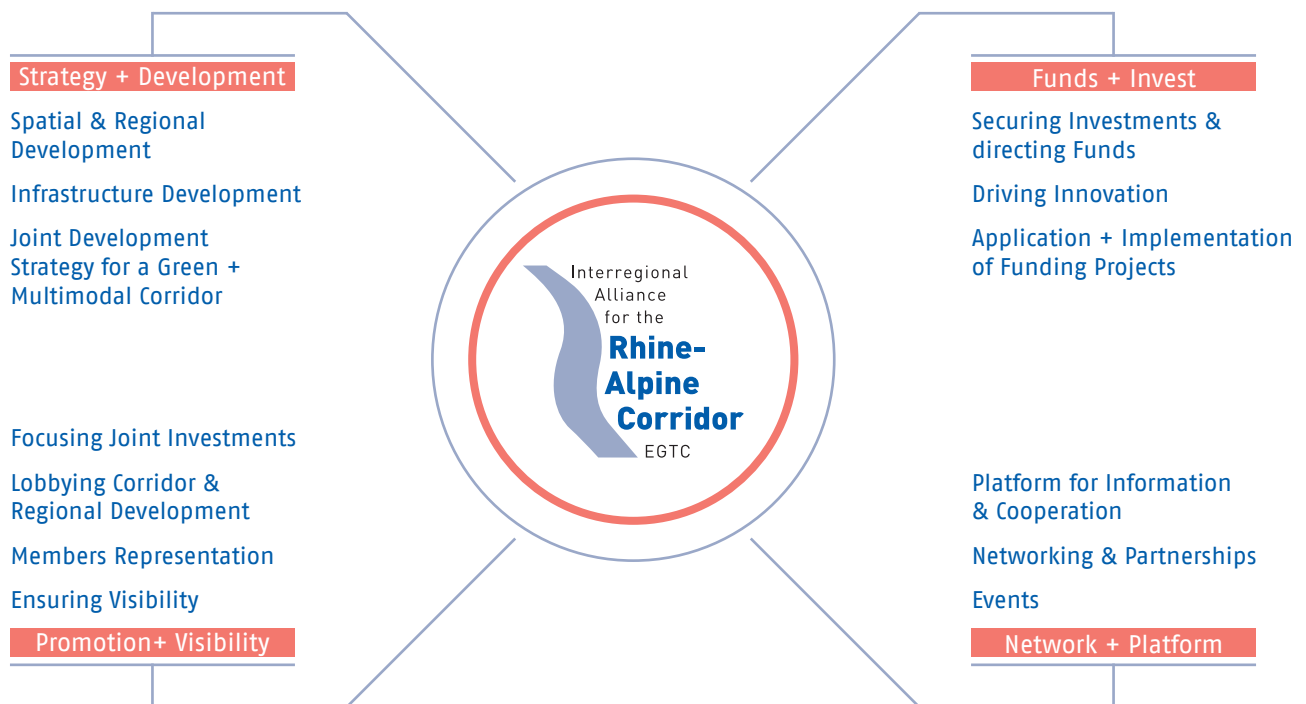
The operating expenses and joint activities of the group are covered by the annual membership fees of the EGTC.



WHAT DO WE DO? 03.

Representing the interests of these stakeholders means influencing the Member States and building connections within and between the corridors. In this, the EGTC takes an **intermediating role**. But it also lobbies for the interests of its members at EU institutions and national decision making bodies. Currently, our alliance is developing a strategy towards the TEN-T revision, which is scheduled for 2023.

Besides this, the EGTC also directs funds to projects and activities on the corridor, provides a central platform for exchange of information and experience (**Corridor Information System**) and works on the visibility and promotion of the corridor. This latter results in publications and events, such as the first EGTC Corridor Conference in Brussels in June 2018.



Initially based on the results of the preceding project CODE 24, in 2017 the EGTC presented “One Corridor – One Strategy”, a common strategy for the future development of the Rhine-Alpine Corridor.



The priorities for the corridor were summed up as follows:

- Optimising the network, procedures and the cooperation of key players
- Increasing capacity
- Repairing sections and ensuring sustainability
- Accelerating speed
- Ensuring acceptance

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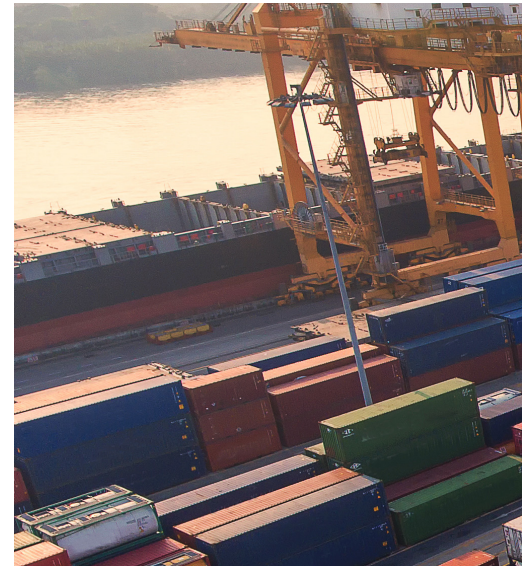
<https://egtc-rhine-alpine.eu/publications/one-corridor-one-strategy/#>

The EGTC continues to update this common strategy. At the same time this strategy forms the substantive basis for the EGTC Action Plan 2019–2022.

ACTION PLAN 2019-2022 04.

Based on the identified priorities, EGTC members have established six thematic focus groups presenting problems, goals, or solutions on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor.

These focus groups are:



CROSS-BORDER ISSUES

The scope of cross-border issues on the corridor can be broad. The EGTC therefore focusses on missing transport links, the quality of cross-border infrastructure and interoperability.

Ultimately, it wants to provide an overview of cross-border issues on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor.

ACTIONS

- Providing a concise overview of cross-border issues on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor
- Developing a strategy towards the TEN-T revision in 2023
- Developing a lobby message on cross-border issues
- Exploring possibilities for Rhine-Alpine cross-border projects in EU programmes

RESILIENCE

The closure of only a small stretch of railway line could have major consequences for the entire corridor. The Rastatt incident is probably the best example. If there is one lesson learnt, is that the corridor should be more resilient to incidents like that. Resilience aims at coping with the impacts of unexpected events and at preventing them as much as possible.

This issue should be addressed at EU level as well as to national institutions. There could be more efficient exchange of knowledge, solutions and think patterns.

By involving research centres, innovative approaches are included:

ACTIONS

- Intensifying relationships among relevant stakeholders
- Promoting the methodology of a predictive approach
- Gathering insights on state-of-play in terms of technological innovations
- Drafting a short guideline about the focused resilience on Rhine-Alpine Corridor

GREEN CORRIDOR

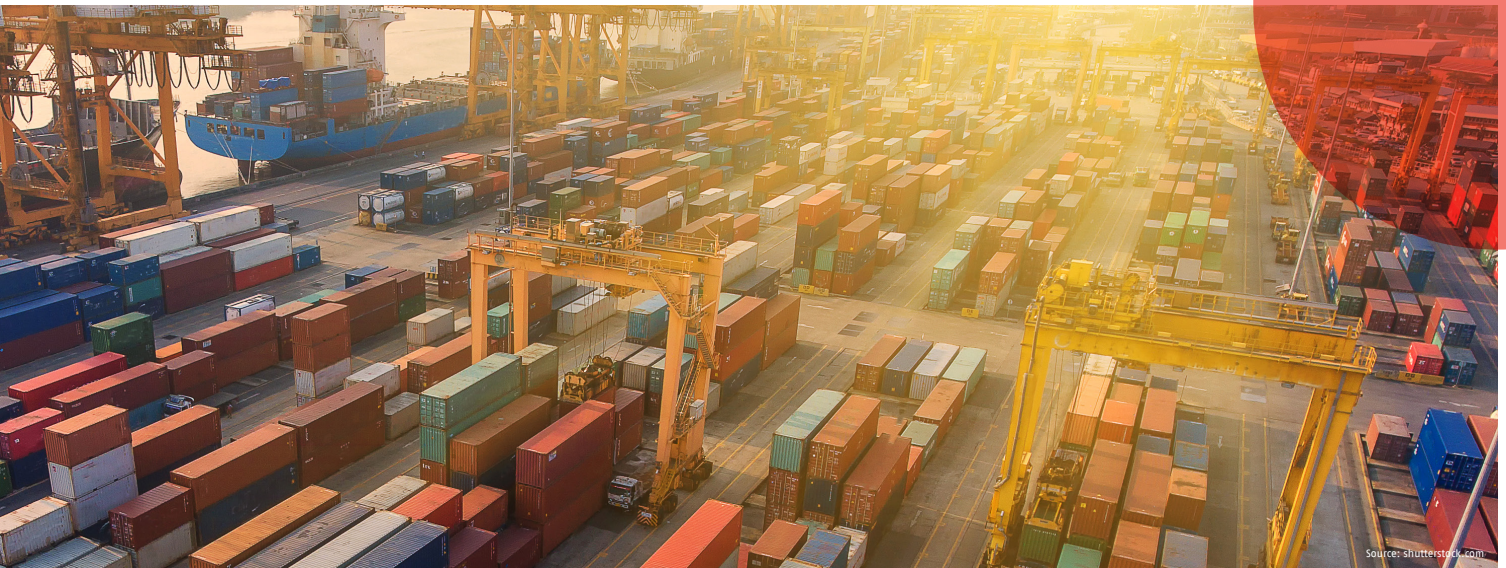
The necessity of a more sustainable infrastructure is widely understood. For the Rhine-Alpine Corridor, this means aiming for a zero-emission corridor. Considering that the corridor carries the largest freight volumes within the TEN-T network, the impact of a green corridor will be huge.

The EGTC supports all kind of efforts towards zero-emission transport, but also towards an increasing modal shift, with its implicit effect on decarbonisation.

Projects are either organised by EGTC members, or the EGTC applies for funding in various programmes.

ACTIONS

- Clean Energy Hubs
- Clean inland shipping: Onshore power supply
- Truck parking
- Modal shift study
- RH2INE



SMART MOBILITY / DIGITALISATION

Smart mobility can be defined as a way to move people and goods, based on detected needs (data and knowledge-driven mobility). It involves new technology that is faster, cleaner, more accessible and less expensive than the traditional options. The focus of the EGTC is on freight transport and public transport related issues.

ACTIONS

- Implementation of the FENIX project (digitalisation and innovation for freight transport)
- Prepare and implement ERFLS 2 Intercity System for Cargo (innovative technologies and modernisation of infrastructure)
- Expert workshop on best practice for integrated ticketing platforms
- Expert workshop on knowledge and awareness rapid developments – opportunities and synergies

NOISE REDUCTION

Because the Rhine-Alpine Corridor is one of the main rail transport axes in Europe with a high train frequency that will only increase, dealing with noise nuisance in urban areas is a big challenge for each of the EGTC members.

The EGTC wants to reduce the negative effects of rail traffic and create more acceptance from citizens of rail infrastructure projects.

ACTIONS

- Gathering up-to-date information about state-of-the-art technology in noise protection
- Convince policymakers and infrastructure organisations to consider noise reduction as a top priority
- Organising campaigns addressing the general public about new technologies and investments implemented by railway infrastructure managers to reduce noise
- Exploring funding options for these actions

COMMUNICATION

Improving the visibility and promotion of the corridor is one of the main aims of the EGTC. Communication is therefore a core theme. External communication should be strengthened and clear procedures defined.

ACTIONS

- Updating the communication plan
- Boosting the social media presence
- Issue weekly newsletters on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor
- Organising a corridor conference on the occasion of 5th anniversary of the EGTC
- Developing and setting in place a lobbying strategy and plan
- Supporting public events through EGTC projects and working groups
- Actively contributing to Horizon EUROPE and new TEN-T

PROJECTS 05.

The EGTC is eligible for EU funding and implements such projects that contribute to its set objectives.



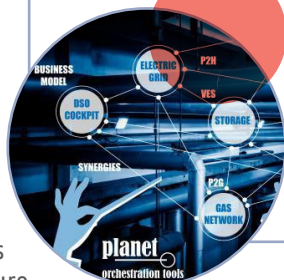
RAISE IT (Rhine-Alpine Integrated and Seamless Travel Chain)

RAISE IT is a project that examined the better integration of long-distance rail with regional and local transport networks along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor.

RAISE-IT aimed at supporting and improving a sustainable travel chain along the corridor for all kind of passenger trains. In order to encourage a shift to rail from more polluting transport modes such as cars and airplanes, rail services need to cater for a variety of passenger needs. The whole travel chain should be considered, in order to facilitate smooth transit for pedestrians, cyclists or those in other public transport modes. In addition to these operational aspects of transport, factors such as the quality of rail stations and their surroundings also play an important role in recasting and improving the attractiveness of rail journeys. From a user perspective, there is an urgent need to develop seamless and suitable passenger transport solutions and RAISE-IT aimed to contribute to this target.

PLANET (Orchestration Tools)

PLANET will develop a holistic decision support system for utilities, policymakers and network operators to help them leverage innovative energy conversion. In this way, they can prepare for future energy scenarios targeting the full decarbonisation of the energy industry. The project will carry out a robust analysis of possible synergies between electricity, gas and heat networks. It will create simulation models for integrating energy networks and conversion/storage technologies, e.g. power-to-gas, power-to-heat and virtual thermal energy storage. The developed tools will be tested in two case studies in France and Italy to discover potential grid stability issues and effective countermeasures. PLANET will investigate the economic impact of a mass-scale deployment of the conversion/storage technology, new business opportunities and models in electricity, natural gas and district-heating markets.



ERFLS European Rail Freight Line System

Rhine-Alpine Corridor

ERFLS (The European Rail Freight Line System)

ERFLS is a project that investigated the feasibility of liner intermodal freight trains. These trains make several short stops at a system of terminals along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor, where intermodal units are loaded or unloaded much in the same way as passengers get on and off intercity trains at intermediate stations. After successful results, the project proposed an implementation roadmap and investment plan for the ERFLS service concept.

VITAL NODES (Building a lasting expert network that delivers evidence-based recommendations for Vital Urban Nodes along TEN-T Corridors)

VITAL NODES aims to enable efficient, sustainable freight delivery across the urban areas of the TEN-T network, by bringing together existing European, national and regional networks. Because of increasing freight traffic, these urban nodes need to cope with challenges such as congestion, poor air quality, noise and road safety risks. The objective of the initiative is to improve European interconnection, while developing sustainable mobility within cities.



FENIX (Federated Network of Information eXchange)

FENIX will develop the first European federated architecture for data sharing serving the European logistics community. The aim is to offer interoperability between any individual existing and future platform. The idea of FENIX comes from the work and recommendations of the European Commission's Digital Transport and Logistic Forum. This is to create a viable and valid federative network of platforms, as an enabler for Business to Administration and Business-to-Business data exchange and sharing by transport and logistics operators.



SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS 06.

RASTATT INCIDENT Position Paper

In the fall of 2017, the railway line between Karlsruhe and Basel, centrally located on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor, remained closed for seven weeks due to a landslide in Rastatt tunnel. The Rastatt incident caused a significant decrease in freight transport in that period, with an estimated economic loss of 2 billion Euros. After identifying several key problems (e.g. lack of communication, alternative routes) the EGTC published a position paper requesting a comprehensive risk analysis, emergency plans and the implementation of effective crisis management. The document is available online under:
<https://egtc-rhine-alpine.eu/publications/thematic-documents/#>

STRENGTHENING INNOVATION Position Paper on future EU Funding

For the upcoming budget period 2021–2027, the EGTC is working on recommendations on key topics and priorities to be considered in various funding programmes, strengthening innovation in transport systems and development along transport corridors. Further, the EGTC members are clarifying which of them are planning to participate in specific activities and to start preparative measures.

CONSULTATION GERMAN FEDERAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2030 Statement of the EGTC

In 2016, the EGTC had the opportunity to participate in the consultation process for the Federal Transport draft bill. It suggested to look into cross-border and regional planning issues of metropolitan border regions. Especially national transportation planning cannot overlook the cross-border interconnections of the trans-European transportation network.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE RHINE- ALPINE CORRIDOR RAIL NETWORK A Research Report

This study commissioned in 2019 by the EGTC and implemented by ETH Zürich – STL Spatial Transformation Laboratories is to identify spaces with unsolved conflicts between spatial and railway infrastructure as focal areas for the future spatial development along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor. Nine spaces of importance are identified, whereof two demand immediate action. For each of them recommendations for actions are outlined.

RHINE-ALPINE CORRIDOR CONFERENCES 07.

The EGTC is member of the official EU-Corridor Forum Rhine-Alpine Corridor of the European Corridor Coordinator Paweł Wojciechowski since 2015. It actively participates in the working groups of the Forum as well as in events organised by the European Commission and the Corridor Coordinator.

2018

The **1st Corridor Conference** of the Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC took place on 7 June 2018 in the premises of the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. 120 participants listened to 30 speakers and discussed varied issues in 5 thematic workshops. After the workshops the political plenary session gathered panelists from academia, industry and politics discussion. As a main result, the Conference underlined the importance of a joint and coordinated development of this important European Corridor. The EGTC was again recognised as the voice of the local and regional level of the Corridor, whose ideas, activities and commitment were appreciated once more.

2020


On the occasion of the **5th anniversary** of the EGTC, a Rhine-Alpine Corridor Conference 2020 was planned under the title “Green Corridor Rhine-Alpine – How Can Corridors Contribute to the European Green Deal?”. The goal was to strengthen relationships with relevant stakeholders and promote the EGTC as reputable ambassador of the Rhine-Alpine Corridor. Due to the Corona crisis, the event initially planned at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 19 June 2020 had to be postponed.

The EGTC planned to present its plans and achievements during the **TEN-T days 2020** in Croatia in front of ministers, members of European Parliament, European coordinators, representatives of the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and other financial institutions, as well as TEN-T, CEF and Horizon2020 stakeholders. Also this event had to be cancelled due to the Corona crisis.

IMPRINT

INTERREGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE RHINE-ALPINE CORRIDOR EGTC

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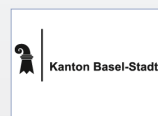
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