

# Activity Report

2024

Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC

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# 1. General Overview

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The present report provides an overview of the activities and achievements of the Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC from January to December 2024. The report contains the development of the organizational structure, activities and milestones as well as projects and initiatives. It also states a brief outlook to further activities in 2025.

In 2024, considerable work was done in the pursuit of updating and adapting the EGTC Strategy to the evolving landscape of both regional and macroregional requirements especially in terms of the newly established **North Sea – Rhine – Mediterranean Corridor (NSRM)**. Significant contributions were garnered during the **Rhine-Alpine Corridor Conference “Vital Links – Resilient Network from North Sea to Mediterranean”** held on Sep. 25th 2024 in conjunction with the Italian Tri-Regional Conference “Stati Generali della Logistica del Nord-Ovest”. Following extensive workshops as well as member surveys, the language of the strategy and key priorities were updated according to EGTC Rhine-Alpine member priorities as well as the TEN-T Revision. These efforts are expected culminate in the final strategy presentation during the EGTC Rhine-Alpine **Ten-Year Anniversary** taking place **April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025** in the **Palais du Rhin in Strasbourg**. Part of the update efforts includes updating the corporate design and logo.

The EGTC Rhine-Alpine meetings and events took place both virtually and in person. The successful series “**Rhine-Alpine Talks**” took place two times in 2024, both in a Zoom format with a respectable turnout. The two events were dedicated to the topics of the TEN-T Revision and its implications, as well as insights generated by the EGTC Rhine-Alpine’s involvement in the MultiRELOAD Project. A transition to hybrid forms of cooperation also took place in the implementation of **projects** with EGTC participation.

In 2024, the EGTC continued its contribution to the CEF funded project **MultiRELOAD**, initiated an ESPON funded Targeted Analysis project **PREPARED** as well as a Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) project by the name of **Share4Equity**. **PREPARED** and **Share4Equity** are expected to start project implementation in Q1 2025.

## 2. Activities

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### ***a) Strategy Update***

In view of the significant developments in the corridor, the EGTC Rhine-Alpine strategy had to be updated to reflect the changed terminology and goal structure resulting from the TEN-T Revision and the merging of the Corridors Rhine-Alpine and North Sea - Mediterranean. Following the foundational work that took place in 2023, further refinements of the Vision, Goals and Key Priorities were undertaken in 2024. A strategy workshop was held in June 2024, and led to the creation of a EGTC Rhine-Alpine Member Survey, in which cross-border issues were ranked. During the Corridor Conference “Vital Links – Resilient Network from North Sea to Mediterranean” on 25<sup>th</sup> September in Milan held in conjunction with the Tri-Regional Conference “Stati Generali della Logistica del Nord-Ovest”, further feedback was gathered from Stakeholders concerning the priorities, direction and scope of the Strategy. This was followed by the Expert Working Group Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November, and Assembly including Strategy Workshop on the 29<sup>th</sup> November in Karlsruhe. During these events, key aspects of the Strategy were further discussed with the Advisory Board and EGTC Rhine-Alpine Members.

The final strategy presentation and formal approval is to take place during the EGTC’s Ten-Year Anniversary on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

### ***b) Administrative Restructuring***

When the EGTC Rhine-Alpine was founded in 2015, a lean office setup was pursued due to the uncertainties involved in the venture as a whole. As the EGTC Rhine-Alpine has grown from its initial founding line-up, the complexity and intensity of tasks increased correspondingly. The administrative restructuring started with an assessment pertaining to the status quo in July 2023. The administrative restructuring is an ongoing process, requiring further work in 2024 and 2025.

It was recommended to work on potential alternative organisation options while estimating the costs and funding opportunities.

Following a Vote in the Spring Assembly 2024, the next step called Phase “2 Implementation Roadmap” was postponed until 2025. A final decision on restructuring is planned for the Spring Assembly 2026.

### ***c) Position Paper: “Urban Nodes: Empowering Cities and Regions to build the TEN-T”***

The Urban Nodes Alliance released the position paper “Urban Nodes: Empowering Cities and Regions to build the TEN-T”. The EGTC Rhine-Alpine was a co-signatory along with EMTA, ERRIN, Eurocities, POLIS and the Scandria Alliance.

The new TEN-T approach identifies 431 Urban Nodes along the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). Under that consideration, the goal of the Paper was to initiate or accelerate the dialogue with local, regional and transport authorities to establish as soon as possible the appropriate governance structures for the designated urban nodes. Enhance Mobility and Sustainability: Improve European mobility and sustainability by integrating local and regional initiatives into the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

The position paper reiterated that by 2027, each urban node should have a SUMP in place, focusing on sustainability, safety, and accessibility.

Other goals included integration into Corridor Governance: establish and integrate urban nodes' governance structures into TEN-T corridor governance frameworks to ensure alignment with broader transportation network objectives and the provision of adequate financial resources to support the TEN-T initiatives.

### ***d) Position Paper “Achieving high-performing railways in the Rhine-Alpine Corridor: New and expansion projects in Germany”***

During the Autumn Assembly in Karlsruhe on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2024, the publication of a position paper calling for the prioritisation and expansion of new and existing construction measures along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor in Germany was discussed and subsequently approved. The paper emphasises that the Rhine-Alpine Corridor is a crucial part of European rail transport and economic development for the Federal Republic of Germany. However, it remains a bottleneck in the European transport network, requiring expansion, new construction, and upgrading. The Federal Republic of Germany must prioritise German projects along the corridor and accelerate their implementation. An efficient and resilient transport network in the German part of the Rhine-Alpine corridor is essential for ensuring important economic and transport flows in Europe. Investments along the axis should be secured and expanded, keeping pace with neighbouring countries' expansion and construction projects and resolving bottlenecks along the Rotterdam-Genoa axis.

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The position paper was published and sent to Federal Minister for Digital Affairs and Transport, Dr. Volker Wissing, calling for the swift implementation of the measures outlined in the position paper and called for the provision of the necessary financial and human resources for this purpose.

## 3. Events and Meetings

### a) Events

The successful series of the Rhine-Alpine Talks has been taken up in 2024 as well. The following Rhine-Alpine Talks have been organized in 2024:

Date	Title	Participants registered/ present
02 Feb 2024	Shaping the Corridor Strategy from a Regional Perspective	28 / 25
28 Jun 2024	Unlocking the Potential of Railfreight, Innovations and Challenges	49 / 40

Aside the digital events organized by the EGTC Rhine-Alpine itself, further events with EGTC Rhine-Alpine participation are listed below:

Date	Conference / Event / Workshop	Organiser	EGTC representative
5 April 2024	19th Corridor Forum, Brussels + NSRM Transport Corridor Meeting	T-TEN / DG MOVE	EGTC Director + Office
2 -5 April 2024	Connecting Europe Days	European Commission	EGTC Director and Office
22 April 2024	MOVE21, Oslo	Eurocities	EGTC Director
5 September 2024	Länderkonferenz Rhein	NRW Ministry	EGTC Director
25 September 2024	Corridor Conference + Stati Generali di Logistica della Nord-Ovest	EGTC + Regione Lombardia	EGTC Director + Office
27 November 2024	POLIS Conference, Karlsruhe	POLIS	EGTC Director + Office

### b) Project Meetings

Following annual / semi-annual meetings of projects with EGTC Rhine-Alpine participation took place:

Date	Project	Place
06 January 2024	MultiRELOAD WP3 meeting (Digital and Automated Multimodal Nodes and Corridors)	Online

<b>01 February 2024</b>	MultiRELOAD Midterm reporting workshop	Online
<b>22 April 2024</b>	MultiRELOAD Consortium meeting	Online
<b>12 August 2024</b>	ESPON Targeted Analysis Project “PREPARED” Tender Preparation	Online
<b>25 September 2024</b>	MultiRELOAD General Assembly	Basel
<b>26 September 2024</b>	MultiRELOAD Internal alignment workshop	Basel
<b>05 November 2024</b>	MultiRELOAD Extraordinary General Assembly	Online
<b>10 December 2024</b>	ESPON Targeted Analysis Project “PREPARED” Tender Evaluation	Online

### ***c) Internal meetings of the EGTC Rhine-Alpine***

#### **- Assembly and Advisory Board Meetings:**

The meetings of the Managing Committee, the Assembly and Advisory Board of the EGTC Rhine-Alpine were held partly online and partly on-site in 2022.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>01 Mar 2024</b>	EGTC Managing Committee Meeting	Zoom
<b>04 April 2024</b>	EGTC Assembly Meeting	Hybrid
<b>24 September 2024</b>	EGTC Managing Committee Meeting	Milan
<b>06 November 2024</b>	EGTC Managing Committee Meeting	Zoom
<b>29 November 2024</b>	EGTC Advisory Board Meeting	Karlsruhe
<b>29 November 2024</b>	EGTC Assembly Meeting	Karlsruhe

#### **- Working Groups:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>07 June 2024</b>	Expert Working Group	Zoom
<b>28 November 2024</b>	Expert Working Group	Karlsruhe

### ***d) Milestones***

<b>02 February 2024</b>	Rhine-Alpine Talk 16 “Shaping the Corridor Strategy from a Regional Perspective”
<b>31 March 2024</b>	Urban Nodes Position Paper released
<b>28 June 2024</b>	Rhine-Alpine Talk 17 “Unlocking the Potential of Rail Freight, Innovations and Challenges”
<b>25 September 2024</b>	Corridor Conference “Vital Links – Resilient Network from North Sea to Mediterranean” held in Milan in conjunction with the tri-regional event “Stati Generali della Logistica del Nord-Ovest”
<b>03 December 2024</b>	Position Paper “Achieving high-performing railways in the Rhine-Alpine Corridor: New and expansion projects in Germany” sent to the German Federal Minister of Transport



## 4. Projects and Proposals

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Another goal of the EGTC Rhine-Alpine – “Directing funds to corridor related activities and projects helping to implement the joint strategy” was further pursued.

Three projects were implemented in 2024:

### ***a) MultiRELOAD Port solutions for efficient, effective and sustainable multimodality***

MultiRELOAD enhances the collaboration between different freight nodes in Europe to jointly test innovations and create favourable market conditions for multimodal freight transport solutions. To this end, MultiRELOAD will demonstrate solutions in three Innovation Areas with specific aims by 2025, mirroring the measures of the EU’s Smart Mobility Strategy. Innovation Areas:

- **Smart multimodal logistics:** facilitate a shift from road to rail & IWT of 5%
- **Digital & Automated Multimodal Nodes and Corridors:** increase operational efficiency by 20% raise of handling capacity
- **Innovative business models:** leading to an average cost reduction of freight transport by 10%

For a total of 36 months beginning in September 2022, the MultiRELOAD consortium comprising of ports, highly innovative technology, logistics and service providers, leading European research institutions and well-connected networks are cooperating intensely to facilitate significant modal shift to sustainable modes of transport, radical efficiency increase of supply chains and capacity-sharing (data, infrastructure, loading space, etc.) for all operators within the key Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) Rhine-Alpine and Rhine-Danube Corridors.

The EGTC Rhine-Alpine’s role in the project, lies in communication and dissemination. Due to consortium members defaulting and general deliverable progress being slower than expected, the MultiRELOAD Project Leaders have applied for an extension.

The project duration extension is pending and will be decided upon in 2025.

## ***b) PREPARED “Policy Rethink: Enhanced Planning and Governance for NorthSea-Rhine-Mediterranean Corridor”***

The geographical focus of the targeted analysis project revolves around the integration of the Rhine-Alpine (RALP) Corridor and the North Sea-Mediterranean (NSMED) Corridor into the North Sea Rhine Mediterranean (NSRM) Corridor. Targeted Analyses (TA) are powerful means to transfer knowledge, share experience and facilitate the use of European territorial evidence rooted in real place-based policy development processes. ESPON TA provide a European perspective for stakeholders and are related to their policy contexts.

This Targeted Analysis aims to carry out a territorial analysis of the North Sea Rhine Mediterranean Corridor and deliver a sound and evidence-based foundation for developing a common spatial and governance approach for the NSMED Corridor, potentially serving as a model for other trans-European Corridors. The total duration of this TA is set for 15 months with a maximum budget of 250.000 €, fully funded by ESPON EGTC. The EGTC is participating as lead stakeholder in the project, with The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas (METREX), Metropolitan City of Milan, Rhine Rhône High Speed Line Association, Associazione Lombarda Spedizionieri e Autorasportatori (ALSEA) as secondary stakeholders.

Following the submission of the proposal on March 29th 2024, the TA “**Policy Rethink: Enhanced Planning and Governance for NorthSea-Rhine-Mediterranean Corridor**” was approved by ESPON EGTC on the 21st of May 2024.

Subsequently, a call for Tenders was published by ESPON EGTC on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September with a deadline of the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. The tenders were evaluated jointly with us, and the winning bidder will be assigned in January 2025. The PREPARED project kick-off meeting will take place on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2025.

## ***c) Share4Equity***

The overall goal of Share4Equity is to explore the current and potential contribution of shared mobility services to help realise the ideas of equitable transport, mobility justice and the 15-minute City. Transport justice is one means of examining how opportunities for shared mobility are distributed across society and how to reduce car-dependency.

Three dimensions of transport justice (distributive, procedural and epistemic) will be used to analyse: 1) the supply and distribution of shared mobility services, 2) user perceptions and experiences, and 3) the inclusivity of different forms of sharing, including community-based informal options.

The research develops a set of empirical toolboxes combining quantitative and qualitative methods such as spatial modelling, mobility behaviour diaries, back-casting and co-creative workshops, and a testbed approach.

This comparative transnational approach includes case studies from European countries (Germany, Sweden, Italy, and Poland) and from Canada, ranging from privileged inner-city districts to car-dependent peri-urban areas.

The project aims to develop, in collaboration with cities, service providers, and society, a justice-oriented toolkit consisting of guidelines and measures for evaluating local mobility policies and practices to further sustainable shared mobility services within the 15-minute City concept.

The project consortium consists of 19 partners, led by ILS Research gGmbH Dortmund (ILS): private companies, international research institutions, cities, municipalities and networks. The EGTC Rhine-Alpine acts as a communication and dissemination partner. Another partner from our corridor is POLITECNICO DI MILANO (PoliMi), Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani, doing extensive field work in Genoa supported by the City of Genoa.

Following the initial approval of the project proposal on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 and further refinement, final approval was given on 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2024. The project kick-off was set for 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.

## 5. Outlook

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In 2025, the EGTC Rhine-Alpine will finalise its strategy update and present it during the Ten-Year Anniversary Conference taking place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025. This strategy titled “**The Heartbeat of a Vital Network**” presents the basis for the action plan of the EGTC Rhine-Alpine for the next 5 years. It is congruent with key member priorities and the current language and goals of the merged North Sea – Rhine – Mediterranean Corridor.

Starting March 2025, an action plan will be developed based on the new strategy. This plan will outline specific steps and timelines for achieving the strategic goals set forth by the EGTC Rhine-Alpine. To facilitate the implementation of the action plan, thematic focus groups will be established. These groups will concentrate on specific areas of interest and work collaboratively to ensure that all key priorities of the new strategy will be addressed effectively.

To adapt to the increased demands and responsibilities that have evolved since its founding ten years ago, the EGTC Rhine-Alpine will undergo an organisational restructuring process. This restructuring aims to enhance operational efficiency and better align the organisation's structure with its expanded role in regional development.

The EGTC Rhine-Alpine will reach out to organisations within the new NSRM Corridor to coordinate corridor development efforts. This outreach will focus on advocating for the interests of the regions involved, ensuring that local needs are integrated into the broader corridor strategy.

The EGTC Rhine-Alpine will continue to advocate its members’ interests with the implementation of its Strategy in the Corridor. It will also participate in relevant network events on the European level – e.g., by participating in the Corridor Forum and by communicating its position on relevant topics, continuously highlighting important priorities in a bottom-up approach.

Finally, the cooperation on the Corridor level will be kept alive by implementing our current projects and through physical and virtual events.

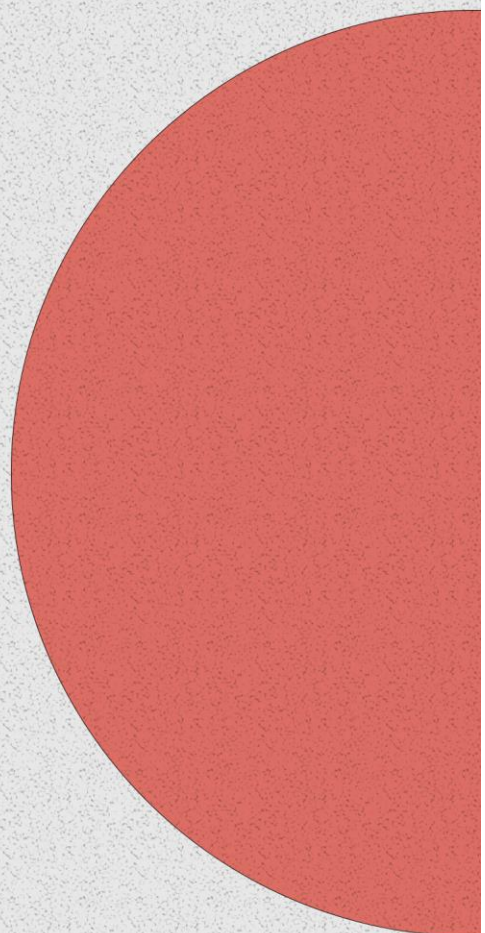
***Dr. Cecilia Braun***

***Director***

***March 2025***







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