Project Newsletter #12

Rail4Regions is an Interreg Central Europe project that is aiming at improving the access to the European rail freight networks. The project has been completed in January 2026, making this the final issue of the project's newsletter.

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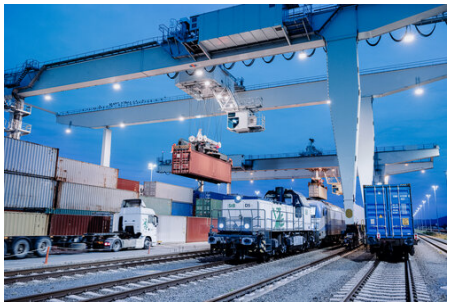
Final event in Thuringia highlighted project's contributions for rail freight transportation

The final event of the Rail4Regions project took place on January 14th, 2026, at the University of Applied Sciences Erfurt, Germany. During the event, outcomes and solutions elaborated by the project were presented and discussed with a wide range of stakeholders from rail freight transportation. On the following day, project partners participated in a field trip to visit a rail freight operator, and to learn about the Ohra valley rail line, which was recently reopened for rail freight operations.

In Styria (AT), Steiermarkbahn successfully operates regional rail freight services



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Steiermärkische Landesbahnen (StLB) operates a regional rail freight system in the Austrian federal state of Styria, providing rail-based transport services for bulk goods, industrial products and agricultural commodities. Rail freight is a central business segment alongside passenger transport. StLB manages a rail infrastructure network exceeding 100 km and operates multiple freight terminals and industrial sidings, enabling direct rail access for production sites and logistics facilities. Freight operations include block trains, single wagonload traffic and shunting services, ensuring first- and last-mile connectivity to the national and international rail network.

StLB handles several million tonnes of freight annually, serving sectors such as mining, timber, steel, construction materials and agri-food. By maintaining regional rail freight services, the company supports modal shift from road to rail, improves network resilience and safeguards freight rail accessibility in peripheral and rural regions – a core concern addressed by the Rail4Regions project in which StLB participated as associated partner.

Meet our partners: Varaždin County (HR)

VARAŽDINSKA ŽUPANIJA

Varaždin County is located in north-western Croatia and is among the more economically developed counties, with a strong industrial tradition and a well-established entrepreneurial sector. Its economy is based on the processing and food industries, as well as a well-developed agricultural sector, all relying on efficient transport and logistics connections. The County has significant potential for rail freight transport, with lines linking key

Varaždin County participates in the Rail4Regions project to develop regional rail freight planning and support sustainable economic growth. Through the project, the County developed a regional action plan for Northern Croatia and contributed to the creation of the RailHubFinder tool with partners. Potential rail freight hubs identified in the County's case study include Varaždin, Ludbreg, Ivanec and Lepoglava. Participation allows the County to exchange knowledge with international partners, involve local stakeholders, and implement solutions that enhance transport efficiency and regional competitiveness.

industrial towns and opportunities to strengthen regional logistics.

Picture above shows the Croatian project team including University North.

Rail4Regions

https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/rail4regions/

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