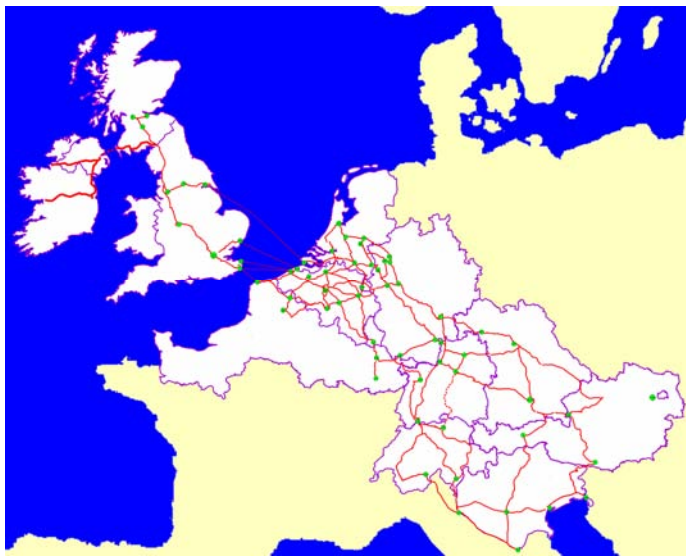


Centrico BRIEFING NOTE

Using ITS to manage Europe's busiest roads



Supporting Freight with ITS Measures on European Long Distance Corridors

SUMMARY

This note describes the progress in the joint LDC demonstration project of CENTRICO, STREETWISE and CORVETTE partners. The project is aiming to provide and support road users and road operators with a set of measures focusing on long distance traffic between Ireland and Northern Italy on specified routes over a three-year demonstration period.

INTRODUCTION

In July 2003 three Euro-regional projects (CENTRICO, STREETWISE and CORVETTE) agreed to cooperate on initiatives to support cross border traffic over a Long Distance Corridor (LDC). These ER projects cover the area from the Republic of Ireland to the North of Italy.

The demonstration programme was set up based on the outcomes of a feasibility study and with support from other ER projects. Three main areas of activity were defined:

- better publicity of existing traffic information services;
- a strategic review of LDC information services to identify gaps and stimulate the development of potential new services; and
- improved cooperation between road authorities in the field of network management to support long distance traffic in general and road freight transport in specific.

The objective for the demonstration is to provide and support road users and road operators with a set of measures focusing on long distance traffic on specific routes over a two-year demonstration period.

In 2005 it was decided to continue the project in 2006 to realise its full potential.

METHODOLOGY

Through surveys and questionnaires the state of the

art concerning traveller information services and traffic management plans along the corridor was identified. This led to three reports outlining specific plans for each of the key activity areas of the programme:

- Report with proposals for quick wins in promotion of information services along the corridor;
- Report with identified strategic opportunities for extensions of existing or new information services;
- Assessment of traffic management activities along the corridor.

Each key area uses a different methodology to reach its goals, which are described in the following sections. In general the methodologies used are: best practice dissemination and exchange, use of handbooks for sustainable traffic management, dialogues with stakeholders and use of TEMPO evaluation guidelines.

STATIC INFORMATION ON SERVICES

A survey identified almost 70 services over various different media that could be used by long distance traffic to obtain details about traffic conditions across borders. A website and leaflets are being used to highlight to road users how to access current sources of traffic information. A marketing plan is now being implemented in cooperation with freight transport stakeholders.



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NEW OR IMPROVED SERVICES

The analysis of existing information services resulted in two initiatives that are of interest to the LDC area and beyond:

- Setting up some scenarios for a pan-European Traffic Information Phone Number (similar to the 511 initiative in the United States of America);
- Stimulate the exchange of information regarding HGV traffic management, with a special focus on parking requirements.

The first initiative was taken up by the CENTRICO partners. They started a quick scan on the feasibility of a pan-European phone number for traffic information. Based on the results European road operators can decide on the next steps towards setting up such a telephone number.



Screenshot of the freight newsletter

The second initiative resulted in an Internet based freight newsletter. This newsletter is sent to freight community members 2 times a year with information on freight related projects and issues.

A best practice toolkit on traffic information services was produced. The toolkit describes problems and possible solutions based on practical experiences from the LDC project. The toolkit supports road authorities and service providers on long distance issues.

NETWORK MANAGEMENT

Within the network management work package a case study on a cross regional / border corridor was recommended to define the possible measures needed for long distance network management. This resulted in one large project with 3 pilots in 2006:

- Cooperation of the German Länder, Switzerland

and Austria on traffic management strategies, based on the Hessian experience with the Intermodal Strategy Manager prototype. (see Briefing Note "LDC Network Management First Pilots in Germany")



ISM Pilot areas and extension possibilities

The network management work package also contributes to a best practice toolkit with experiences on traffic management plans.

EVALUATION

The pre-evaluation was finished in 2005. An interim evaluation on LDC labelled projects is now being produced. The final evaluation is scheduled for the end of 2006. It will include a guideline for transferability of the LDC demonstration work to other ER projects.

NEXT STEPS

The long distance corridor project will end in 2006, however the long distance approach will continue. The results of the LDC strategic meeting held on the 7th of June in The Hague are currently being processed and translated into input for a future ITS programme 2007-2013. To present the final project results a final delivery day is planned in November this year, for which all Euro-regional partners are invited.

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For further information on other CENTRICO activities visit:

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