Corridor 24 and its environment

One Corridor – One Strategy
Joint regional development for the north-south corridor

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CODE24 – Corridor 24 Development Rotterdam-Genoa

The project ‘CODE24’ intends the interconnection of economic development, spatial, transport and ecological planning along the trans-European railway axis (TEN-T) no. 24 from Rotterdam to Genoa. Corridor 24 covers a number of the most important economic regions in Europe. The major European north-south transport axis across the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Italy is linking the North Sea port of Rotterdam and the Mediterranean port of Genoa. Its catchment area comprises 70 million inhabitants and operates 50% (700 million tons/year) of the north-south rail freight. The opening of the Lotschberg Tunnel in 2007 and the Gotthard Tunnel (expected in 2017) and the parallel expansion of the feeders will further improve the importance of Corridor 24. Nevertheless, some major bottlenecks and a lack of trans-regional coordination still threaten the potential of the axis, limiting its economic and spatial development.

CODE24 aims at a coordinated transnational strategy to improve and to develop the corridor. The overall objective is to accelerate and jointly develop the transport capacity of the entire corridor by ensuring optimal economic benefits and spatial integration while reducing negative impacts on the environment at local and regional level. By focussing on regional aspects in the corridor area and joint development strategies, the project will strengthen the position of regional actors and stakeholders. It will provide planning tools and tailor made solutions to remove major bottlenecks and enable co-active stakeholder participation. This encompasses both the development of the railway system as well as a sustainable spatial development.

CODE24 was approved under the Strategic Initiatives framework of the INTERREG IVB NWE programme.

Work Package 1: Spatial and Infrastructural Development

Objectives
- Providing the regions with the necessary transnational overview about the state of the corridor
- Identifying potentials and scenarios for effective solutions for main bottlenecks in transport and spatial development
- Promoting pilot projects, using innovative spatial development methods and ad hoc instruments

Actions
- Corridor info system
- Railway and SETlement development dynamic visualisation tool (R&SET Tool)
- Collaborative assessment process and decision making on the corridor development
- Planning pilot actions: Test planning as informal planning procedure

Work Package 2: Environmental Aspects and Noise Reduction

Objectives
- Showing how major infrastructure projects along the corridor could be harmonised with the legal national and European framework regarding nature and environmental protection
- Effective implementation of compensation measures concerning natural assets and habitat protection
- Providing information about innovative passive noise protection systems
- Searching for innovative solutions for railway noise mitigation, assessing their practicability and effectiveness

Actions
- Management of ecological compensation measures for major infrastructure projects
- Planners toolbox for innovative noise protection

Work Package 3: Increasing regional economic benefits

Objectives
- Increasing the capacity of the whole axis and the regional economic benefits along the corridor
- Developing a feasible strategy to develop and enforce sustainable logistic clusters
- Optimising processes for trans-shipment in seaports and inland terminals and their linkage to the rail
- Identifying costs of the bottlenecks for the regions
- Developing a system for an online spot exchange for rail freight

Actions
- Creation, development and evaluation of impacts of logistic clusters
- Optimising processes for linking the terminal ports (Genoa and Rotterdam) to the hinterland
- Assessing costs and other effects of bottlenecks for the regions
- Online rail transport spot exchange

Work Package 4: Communication, acceptance and enduring interregional cooperation

Objectives
- Establishing links to the main target groups of the project
- Making project activities and results visible to the different target groups at regional and transnational level and to raise awareness for the development needs along the line
- Enabling well targeted stakeholder consultation and participation
- Ensuring the involvement of regional actors
- Establishing a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

Actions
- General project communication
- Project events, conferences, workshops and seminars
- Regional workshops and regional round tables
- CODE24 mobile exhibition
- Towards an EGTC – European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation