

PRESS RELEASE: Final Event of the “SEE-ITS: Intelligent Transport Systems in South East Europe” project in Thessaloniki, 22-23/09/2014.

Project funded by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme under priority Axis 3: Improvement of accessibility, Area of intervention: Develop strategies to tackle the “digital divide”

On September 22nd and 23rd, 2014, the final event of SEE-ITS project took place in Thessaloniki, Greece. The title of the event was “ITS Next” and aimed at disseminating the results of SEE-ITS, promoting their wide adoption by all related stakeholders at pan-European level, with a primary focus on South-East Europe countries, bringing together experts from all sectors and contributing to the current discussions related to the future of ITS. The event was part of the “Thessaloniki Smart Mobility Week” that took place in Thessaloniki between 22nd and 26th of September 2014. Aim of the series of events was the presentation, to the citizens of Thessaloniki, of the possibilities to improve the way of traveling within the city, using advanced technologies.

“SEE-ITS” is a project funded by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, aiming at developing an institutional and technical framework for the countries in South East Europe (SEE), in order to harmonize their national ITS specifications with the European policies (the 2010/40/EU Directive for the deployment of ITS and other related policy documents) and to define the necessary guidelines and recommendations for the further development and deployment of ITS in the SEE area.

During the previous two years the current status of the ITS deployment in the SEE countries was examined, including analyses of the strengths and weaknesses of each country as well as the opportunities and threats for the future ITS deployment in SEE. Moreover, new roadmaps for ITS were developed for the first time for eight SEE countries. These roadmaps can be used as a guide for the next five to fifteen years for the deployment of seamless and efficient ITS applications. The initial frameworks of national ITS architectures in these eight SEE countries, which have been developed within the framework of the SEE-ITS project, can also support the seamless and harmonized deployment in SEE not only at national, but also at cross-border and transnational levels. This is an innovation not only for SEE countries but also for EU and can be utilized further for all member states in the future, in order to pave the way for seamless ITS deployment throughout Europe. Furthermore, seven targeted ITS demonstrations are executed within the activities of SEE-ITS, in order to assess the benefits and the impacts of harmonized and interoperable ITS deployment. They include various ITS applications, ranging from Advanced Traveller Information Systems (ATIS) to smartphone applications providing mobility information for bicyclists. The results and the impacts of all demonstration activities are currently being evaluated and further assessed. The final SEE-ITS activities will include Cost-Benefit analyses and proposals for new business models supporting the increased deployment of ITS in the SEE area.

The SEE-ITS project established also a permanent cooperation framework for ITS activities in SEE through expert groups and stakeholders' panels, as well as through the organization of thematic workshops and conferences in Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania. Three focused workshops, targeting on the priority areas of the ITS Directive 2010/40/EU took place during the last two years, bringing together a variety of stakeholders and experts from all EU member states, with fruitful panel discussions related to the assessment of the current ITS deployment status as well as to recommendations for the future prospects of ITS in the SEE area.

Following the series of these events, "ITS Next: the Final Event of SEE-ITS", took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, on September 22nd and 23rd 2014 including keynote speakers from the EC and national ministries as well as high level representatives from the public and private sectors in sessions related to a) major ITS projects in Europe, b) ITS demonstration activities and their impact assessment results, c) ITS impact assessment and evaluation methods, d) the future of the ITS market and e) the roles, views and expectations of national ITS associations.

During the two-day activities the participants had the opportunity, apart from participating in the oral sessions of the event and discussing with the speakers and other participants, to learn about the applications and services developed under the framework of SEE-ITS project and to use them in real time during the "Hands-on demonstration of the SEE-ITS apps" exhibition. All presentations of the event are available on the SEE-ITS website (www.seeits.eu).

List of Speakers

Name	Surname	Organization	Country
Georgia	Aifadopoulou	CERTH-HIT	Greece
Gonzalo	Alcaraz	SWARCO MIZAR	Italy
Angelos	Amditis	ITS Hellas	Greece
Constaninos	Antoniou	National Technical University of Athens	Greece
Martin	Dirnwöber	Austriatech	Austria
Dorin	Dumitrescu	ITS Romania	Romania
Laura	Franchi	TTS Italia	Italy
George	Giannopoulos	CERTH-HIT	Greece
Yannis	Gkoufas	IBM	Ireland
Panagiotis	Iordanopoulos	CERTH-HIT	Greece
Zeljko	Jeftic	IRU	Belgium
Wolfgang	Kernstock	Austriatech	Austria
Lina	Konstandinopoulou	ERTICO	Belgium
Ioannis	Kostopoulos	Municipality of Patras	Greece
Rumen	Mihailov	ITS Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Evangelos	Mitsakis	CERTH-HIT	Greece

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Vasilis	Mizaras	Infotrip	Greece
Mihai	Niculescu	ITS Romania	Romania
Jean-Charles	Pandazis	ERTICO	Brussels
Panagiotis	Papaioannou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
Robert	Rijavec	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
Jonathan	Rossetti	ITL	Italy
Josep Maria	Salanova Grau	CERTH-HIT	Greece
Zisis	Samaras	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
Rodanthi	Sfakianaki	Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks	Greece
Giacomo	Somma	ERTICO	Belgium
Athanasios	Saramourtsis	Egnatia Motorway SA	Greece
Roman	Srp	Czech and Slovak ITS&S & ITS Nationals	Czech Republic
Pierpaolo	Tona	INEA Executive Agency - EC	EU
Johanna-Despoina	Tzanidaki	TomTom International Traffic Foundation	Netherlands
Levente	Zubriczky	KKK	Hungary

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Prof. G. Giannopoulos, director of CERTH/HIT



Rodanthe Sfakianaki, representative of the Greek Ministry of Infrastructures, Transport and Networks



Pierpaolo Tona, representative of the Innovation & Networks Executive Agency



Evangelos Mitsakis, representative of CERTH/HIT



Athanasios Saramourtsis, representative of Egnatia odos SA



Snapshot during Session 3



Jean-Charles Pandazis, representative of ERTICO



Panagiotis Iordanopoulos, representative of CERTH/HIT



Johanna Despoina Tzanidaki, representative of Tom-Tom



Roman Srp, representative of ITS Nationals and ITS&S