

“Spatial and Railway Development in the Region of Patras”

Greece is facing a great challenge. The present crisis cuts a deep gash in the history of the country. The crisis also offers new opportunities, however. In order to achieve a sustainable path of development, investments in the infrastructure of the country are, especially now, of central importance. One example is the railway connection from Athens to Patras. A direct, fast and reliable connection is a strategic project of the highest priority and is of both national and European importance. The connection is one of the core networks of the trans-European network. This particular connection will form a city network that connects the three most important Greek metropolitan regions of Thessalonika, Athens and Patras. Ultimately, the connection contributes to reduce the East/West divide of high-performance transport infrastructure that already exists in Greece for a longer period and connects the western gate of Greece with its hinterland. Travel time would be reduced to well less than two hours and would make attractive opportunities for commuter traffic in the catchment area of both metropolitan regions possible. This would relieve settlement pressure on the core cities. Moreover, the ca. 215 km connection would concentrate settlement development of the region in the catchment area of 600,000 to 700,000 residents to the areas near the stations of the railway line. If the catchment area of Greater Athens is also included in the calculations, then over four million residents would profit from the connection. The connection also supports the much-desired decentralisation of the nation and makes a special contribution to the regional development and thus become a beacon for other regions of the country. After a preparation meeting in September 2012 and a joint seminar week of the Universities of Athens, Patras and Zurich in June 2013, new and promising possibilities could be tested. The Swiss Greek mobile Symposium offers the opportunity to discuss all relevant topics for an integrated approach of spatial and railway development in the Patras Region. In Chur we shall visit the node for normal width track of Swiss Railway with the 1m track of the Rhaetian Railway and in Domat Ems we will visit the industrial track. In Ardez/Lower Engadine we shall discuss a possible testplanning procedure for Patras.

Swiss - Greek mobile Seminar in Spatial and Railway Development in Patras

13 – 16 February 2014
Switzerland

Program „Spatial and Railway Development in the Region of Patras“

Thursday, 13th of February 2014

16:00 Arrival of Participants in Zurich
Hotel Rex
Weinbergstrasse 92
8006 Zürich
www.hotelrex.ch

19:00 Welcome Dinner
Restaurant Kreis 6
Scheuchzerstrasse 65
8006 Zürich
www.restaurantkreis6.ch

Friday, 14th of February

09:20 Central Station
(Meeting Point Big Clock Main Hall)

09:37 Departure to Chur
Track 9

10:52 Arrival in Chur

11:00 Welcome by RhB (Mr Lüthi)
film about RhB, storage of luggage

11:48 Train to Felsberg
sightseeing Felsberg

12:51 Departure to Chur Werk
lunch at lunchroom of EMS Company

13:45 Visit of train infrastructure Ems

14:40 Returning to Chur and walk to RhB station
via busstation deck

15:15 Receiving luggage and Walk to Train Station RhB

15:30 Departure to Ardez via Landquart
Lower Engadine
www.myswitzerland.com/en-ch/lower-engadine.html

17:03 Arrival in Ardez
Walk to Hotel
www.ardez.ch

19:00 Apéro and Dinner at Hotel Aurora
www.aurora-ardez.ch

Saturday, 15th of February

10:00 Introduction Prof. B. Scholl

10:15 Situation in Patras since Joint Seminar week
June 2013, Colleagues from Patras

10:45 Experiences with Testplanning Procedures
Prof. B. Scholl

11:15 Possibilities of Funding
Prof. B. Scholl

11:30 Ideas for Railway and Spatial Development, Next steps
Moderation: Prof. B. Scholl

14:42 Departure from Ardez via Samedan to Chur

18:03 Arrival in Chur

18:08 Departure to Zurich

19:23 Arrival in Zurich Central Station
End of mobile seminar

Sunday, 16th of February

09:00 Departure of Greek Delegation

Participants from Greece

- Mr Ioannis Dimaras, Mayor of Patras
- Mr Dimitris Sardellianos, Advisor of the Mayor of Patras
- Mr Georgios Sabatakakis, Director of Planning Department of OSE, Athens
- Mr Vassilis Pappas, Professor University of Patras
- Mr Nikos Milionis, Consultant/Transport Planner, Patras
- Mrs Irini Frezadou Architect/Spatial Planner ETHZ, Athens

Participants from ETH Zurich

- Prof. Dr. Bernd Scholl
- Dr. Rolf Signer
- Theodora Papamichail

Experts

- Marco Lüthi, Rhaetian Railway, Chur
- Hans-Peter Vetsch, German Railway, Berlin