



Citizens' Rail

Our train, Our station, Our citizens



The Partners



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The Citizens' Rail Project sees partners from Britain, France, Germany and the Netherlands come together to focus on local and regional railways.

As well as looking to develop and improve rail services and facilities, the Partners will be working together to better engage communities with their local railway, including the planning of new and improved facilities and breathing new life into rundown or disused stations.

There is a wealth of experience among the Partners and they will be sharing this in developing and taking forward the schemes that will form part of the overall Project.

The Project began in May 2012 and runs until September 2015. The total budget is 9.03 Million Euros of which 50% is being funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVB NWE programme.

Learning and sharing

Academics from three Universities, Aachen, Plymouth and Central Lancashire, will work together on evaluation and the Partners will set up both a practioner handbook and Citizens' Rail network to provide a new platform for widely sharing experience regarding local and regional railways and spread the experiences and lessons learned from this Project.

The Citizens' Rail Partners are

- Plymouth University (Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership), UK – Lead Partner
- Lancashire County Council, UK
- Conseil Régional des Pays de la Loire, France
- Parkstad Limburg, Netherlands
- Stadt Aachen, Germany
- Achener Verkehrsverbund GmbH, Germany
- RWTH Aachen, Germany

Sub partners are Devon County Council, Torbay Council, Burnley Borough Council and University of Central Lancashire, all UK; Province of Limburg, City of Kerkrade, City of Nuth, all Netherlands.

To find out more

To find out more about Citizens' Rail and INTERREG IVB, please visit www.nweurope.eu (search "citizensrail" in Approved Projects). Coming soon - www.citizensrail.org

Alternatively, please contact the Lead Partner at railpart@plymouth.ac.uk

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Photos: Many thanks to the Partners, Wessel van Eck, also, for Penhoet artists' impression, L'école de design de Nantes, Alex Jacottin and Solen Malrieu.





Increasing use

This part of the Project aims to demonstrate that use of local and regional railways can be greatly increased without the need for large scale investment.

The Partners will work together on drawing up and implementing Corridor Improvement plans for three lines;

- **Exeter – Paignton in Devon, UK**
- **La Roche sur Yon - Bressuire – Saumur in Pays de la Loire, France**
- **Blackburn – Burnley – Manchester in Lancashire, UK (new service from 2014)**

The plans will include additional services, local marketing and publicity campaigns, small-scale station improvements and community involvement, through outreach, community forums and encouraging volunteers and station friends groups.

The effects of the measures taken will be thoroughly evaluated and form a key part of the Practitioner Manual, to be available to anyone interested, which will help others learn from the results and experiences of this Project.

Community stations

In this part of the Project, we intend to show how involving the community in local stations opens up new opportunities and new ways of doing things.

Community stations will cover a whole range of issues, including different models for owning and managing stations, new uses for disused buildings and new ways of involving the community in plans for new stations and station improvements.

This part of the Project will include;

- **a demonstration project which will see an attractive new building at a currently unstaffed station**, with new staffed ticket office, to be owned and managed in an innovative way, outside the rail industry.
- **exploring new community uses for disused station buildings**, with at least one demonstration project.
- **station improvements through community involvement** - involving the community through new community forums to help guide plans for new stations or station improvements.
- **looking at how to improve access to stations** and improve security.

Engaging with citizens

Through demonstration projects and evaluation, we intend to show how engaging communities with their local railway leads to better, brighter stations, services more tailored to community needs and increased use of local trains.

This part of the Project will include;

- **a demonstration scheme where rail industry staff go out into the community** to build confidence in the use of rail and familiarise people with local work, education and leisure rail travel opportunities.
- **engaging with schools, colleges, Universities and employers to raise awareness of rail** as a useful, convenient and green form of transport.
- **working with volunteers** to make the most of the rail network e.g. to improve the appearance of stations.
- **setting up new community forums and station friends groups**, with citizens having a stake in decisions about future developments.

