

MERIDIAN Newsletter III, August 2023

Welcome to the third Meridian Newsletter. In this newsletter you will find:

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If you would like to receive the Meridian Newsletter in the future, please mail to:
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Throwback to the Steering Committee in Amsterdam

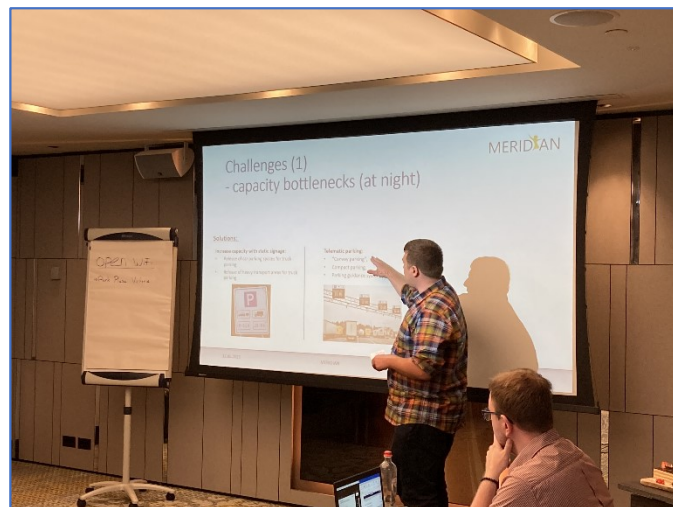
After successful Steering Committees in Catania, Munich and Ghent, it was now to Amsterdam and Rijkswaterstaat to host the fourth MERIDIAN Steering Committee. Monday the 12th of July started with a joint lunch to welcome each other and catch up on recent activities at the Park Plaza Victoria. Afterwards we all went up to start the Steering Committee with two task presentations.



Vincent Lau delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting the potential benefits of data sharing between road operators and service providers in upholding public services. Specifically, the focus was on roadwork information and information on closed roads. Notably, the city of Amsterdam stands to benefit from cost-effective access to traffic information, courtesy of a robust framework contract that furnishes comprehensive data for the entirety of the Netherlands.

The provision of data to the National Access Point (NAP) will become mandatory starting from the end of 2023, but currently not enforced enough. For interested partners, a direct contact with Dutch NAP can be established via the Dutch NCs to discuss further.

Johannes Hagedorn delivered an insightful presentation on the topic of truck parking, shedding light on the availability of truck parking data through the German National Access Point (NAP) Mobilithek. Notably, the accuracy of the software and hardware employed for truck parking detection was found to be exceptionally high.



Furthermore Marjolein Masclee has provided an update on the EPICS proposal, revealing that it has unfortunately been declined. While the evaluation results were mostly positive, the lack of clearly defined criteria for measuring the success of the Action was a key factor in the decision. Interested parties seeking further information on potential next steps are encouraged to reach out to Marjolein directly.

The day ended with a team building activity, where multiple teams competed with one another during a Scavenger Hunt through the city of Amsterdam, and a canal cruise dinner.

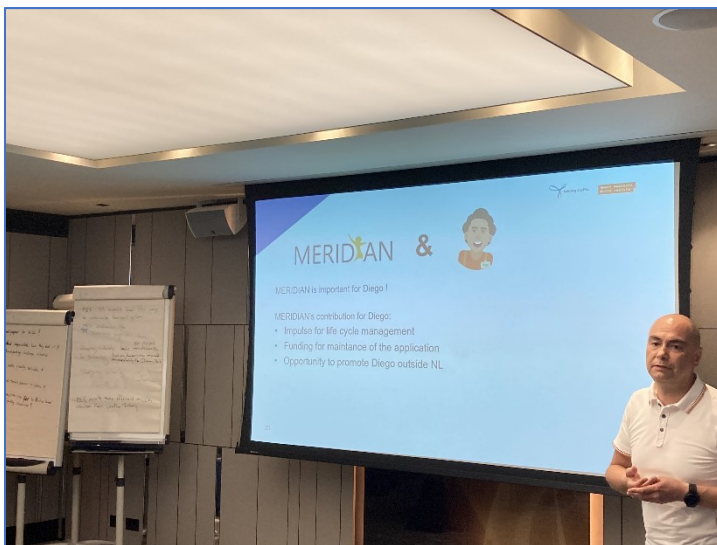
Tuesday, the second day of the Steering Committee, a collaborative discussion was started on communication products, such as the roll-ups and web design. A fruitful discussion for the further development for the communication products.

However, the day was highlighted with the “We are MERIDIAN” workshop, in which our partners were divided into three groups and answered the following questions:

1. What do you/your companies expect from MERIDIAN?
2. What should be the goal of MERIDIAN?
3. What would you like to read about MERIDIAN in the newspaper in 2026?

Further on in this newsletter, you will find more information about this workshop.

In the afternoon some in depth presentations were scheduled. Vincent Lau provided a summary of the Berlin meeting on the new RTTI, capturing the key points from the slides presented to the group. Björn reported on Cross Corridor Cooperation and the ITS EC in Lisbon and Alberto Cozzi presented on ACCESSMILE, a project with a particular focus on addressing three pivotal topics: transport flow management and vehicle booking systems, gates and entry/exit tools, as well as cargo bundling and tracking. The ultimate goal is to find effective solutions in these areas, enabling improved efficiency and effectiveness in the last-mile freight operations within the region.



Last but not least, the Dutch partners Folkert Bloembergen, Nick Mijers and André Ingelse presented DIEGO and Safety priority services. It was noted that the DIEGO template holds significant potential for translation into English, allowing other partners to benefit from its accessibility. The digitalization of Traffic Management procedures has the capacity to offer substantial advantages, which warrant further exploration and investigation.

André Ingelse delivered a comprehensive presentation on Safety Priority Cases, focusing on the use cases that were identified. These use cases include Jam Tail Warning,

Emergency Vehicle Approaching, SRTI, Traffic Laws, and Smart Routing. The primary beneficiaries of these use cases are road users, including car and truck drivers, within the Netherlands. The implementation and execution of these use cases were facilitated through contracted partners.

All in all a packed Steering Committee, with lots of good discussion on multiple topics. Many thanks to all the participating partners. See you all in Dublin!!

Knowledge Building workshops

Following kick-off meetings at the steering committees, task T1.04 knowledge building workshops with experts were organized for Digital Corridor Management and for C-ITS.

The first workshop on **Digital Corridor Management** knowledge building took place on June 27th. 24 experts were present at the workshop and a fruitful discussion was initiated after the

participants illustrated their projects. A good start for Digital Corridor Management workshops and it shows the importance of the topic.



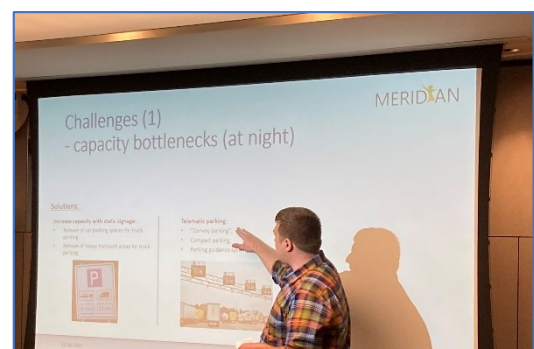
The second workshop on Digital Corridor Management knowledge building took place on July 7th. This time 27 experts were present, and first attempts have been made to define what is meant by digital corridor management. A big thanks to the hosts Ilaria and Jean for the organisation, and to the experts presenting their input. Soon to be followed by a third workshop after the summer break.

Also a first workshop on **C-ITS** was held on July 5th, where the outcome of the Ghent kick-off was presented and the approach for further development of the knowledge building topics were discussed and agreed. More than 17 experts were present. A big thanks to the hosts Lars and Jean for the organisation, and to the experts presenting their C-ITS projects in Ireland and along the A22 Brenner motorway. To stimulate the cross-corridor cooperation this C-ITS workshop was broadened to representatives of the Viking group.



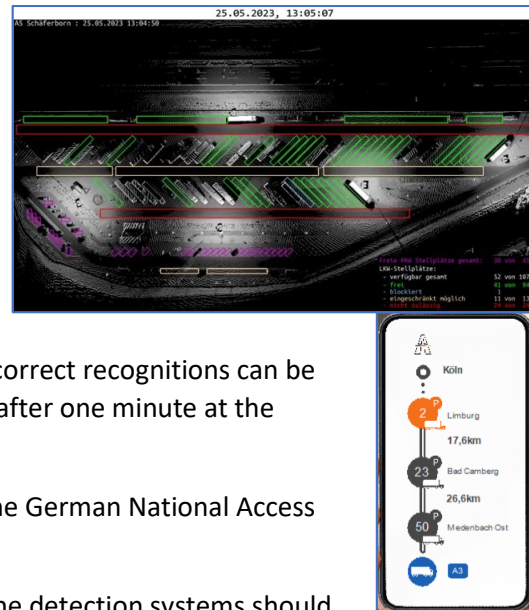
Truck parking presentation – die Autobahn GmbH des Bundes, Germany

The provision of truck parking at rest areas on motorways has not been able to keep pace with the development of heavy traffic in recent years. The current deficit of approx. 12,000 truck parking spaces, according to federal evaluations, confronts Autobahn GmbH with a task that cannot be covered in the medium term with conventional expansion and new construction measures alone. In his presentation, Johannes Hagedorn from the Autobahn spoke to the audience about challenges (e.g. illegal parking, capacity bottlenecks) and different approaches



of the Autobahn to park more trucks at existing rest areas (e.g. Convoy or Compact Parking). In this context, telematic parking procedures, truck parking guidance systems and precise information for truck drivers are gaining in importance in order to be able to react to the increased demand in the short to medium term. Johannes presented various detection technologies (e.g. ANPR, magnetic field sensors, induction loops, laser scanners) and their advantages and disadvantages.

The basis for parking space management and parking information applications in heavy traffic is sufficient real-time data on the current utilization of parking capacities at rest areas. Johannes pointed out that the Autobahn decided to monitor vehicle occupancy using the latest area detection technology using laser scanners. The detection is carried out comprehensively by rotating laser detectors mounted on masts. Due to the regular recognition run at intervals of less than one minute, incorrect recognitions can be automatically recognized and corrected by the system after one minute at the latest.



This data is made available to the Autobahn App and the German National Access Point (NAP).



To keep costs and efforts low, the detection systems should be set up in self-sufficient units on rest areas, i.e., without cable-based energy and data connections. For this purpose, solar panels with buffer batteries for the energy supply and cellular or WLAN connection for the data connection are provided. Depending on the type, the detection system is mounted on masts of different heights, which stand on a small concrete unit that contains the technology. These measures avoid costly civil engineering work, especially in existing buildings.

The first phase of implementation, awarded to a contractor in June, focuses on the major highways with rest areas with more than 70 truck parking spaces (total 104 rest areas with 8,886 truck parking spaces).

ITS Congress – Lisbon, Portugal

For the ITS Congress, MERIDIAN was asked by the European Commission to present “Success Stories of ITS Corridors in Europe” at their stand.

So, it was then up to the presenters to take the audience on a journey through the four EU-funded projects and to give insights into these projects.



At the beginning of the presentation, the progress of the funding and funding rate, the increase in partners and tasks/activities from URSA MAJOR, URSA MAJOR 2 and URSA MAJOR neo to MERIDIAN

were highlighted in an overview. Subsequently, the following perspectives were taken and underpinned by activities carried out in all four projects:

Improving of road safety along the TEN-T corridors

Activity: Consistent improvement of road safety along the A3 motorway in Germany – Partner: Germany

Improving mobility services along the TEN-T corridors

Activity: Mobility services enable more advanced, multimodal, and greener transportation – Partner: Germany

Expansion of digitalization

Safer and more efficient roadways by expanding digitalisation in the transportation

industry – Partner: Netherlands

Reduction of accidents

Technology saving lives by reducing accidents in Gran Sasso Tunnel – Partner: Italy

Reduction of CO2

Reduce the carbon footprint of refrigeration trucks with state-of-the-art charging technology at parking areas – Partner: Italy

Innovation in the entire traffic sector

Digital Road Operator - using data and information for a safe, smooth, and sustainable mobility – Partner: Belgium

The presentation ended with credentials of the partners and the conclusion that

these improvements would not have been possible without EU funding.

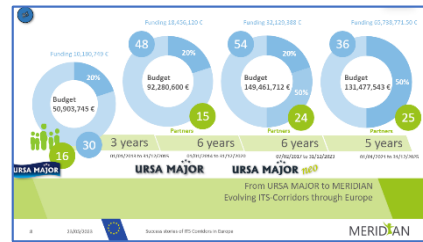
The Presentation will be available on our MERIDIAN homepage soon.

We are MERIDIAN!

During MERIDIAN’s last Steering Committee Meeting in the lovely city of Amsterdam the partners engaged in a workshop define the essence of the consortium and how to best channel their endeavours into productive actions.

Expectations of the partners towards MERIDIAN where explored yielding most diverse answers, ranging from the basic financial incentives of an EU co-funded action up to finding opportunities to work with other projects across EU countries. Networking and knowledge sharing on very practical topics of our experts’ everyday tasks were further regarded as highly beneficial manifestations of cooperating via an Action like MERIDIAN.

This was further solidified in the definition of goals of MERIDIAN, where again the implementation of C-ITS and other technologies to make traffic and travel in Europe more efficient, safer, and greener was swiftly identified as an important, common goal.



Rounding up the workshop, our partners had the opportunity to express their imagination of how MERIDIAN can make the newsletters of the near future by reaching societal goals and promoting them well. This exercise led to new ideas being voiced and some new activities being created to turn into reality the headlines that may have started as a daydream.



If you're interested in learning more, our workshops and harmonisation activities are also open for guests! For more information on how to participate follow our newsletter and keep an eye out for our upcoming website!

Next Steering Committee

For the next MERIDIAN Steering Committee partners will be welcomed in Dublin on behalf of the Irish partners. The Steering Committee will take place on the 10th and 11th of October 2023. Further details on the venue and agenda will be shared as quickly as possible.



See you all in Dublin!!