

# MERIDIAN Deliverable D2–

## D1.02 – Progress Report of ITS CCC (Cross Corridor Cooperation) Activities 2023

### Document Information

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## Preface

The ITS deployments affecting CEF corridor performance and reliability are undertaken in addition to ITS corridors, C-ITS corridors, multimodal ITS implementations and ITS deployments in urban areas and national regions linked to the CEF corridors. These deployments involve several public and private stakeholders. The EU ITS corridor consortia and the C-Roads platform agreed in November 2021 to cooperate closely in all technical areas to support the European network of experts that need to work together towards European harmonisation where needed. Herewith all European road authorities and road operators teamed up in an exemplary readiness to continue the work towards European harmonisation of ITS systems and digital services based on the EU EIP Reference Handbook. The Cross Corridor Cooperation (CCC) task contributes to the cooperation of all actors in terms of exchange of knowledge, technologies, and best practices towards the harmonisation of ITS systems in Europe. The evaluation cooperation and cooperation in ITS deployments are targets of CCC, too.

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# 1 Precondition

## 1.1 TEN-T Corridors

The EU's trans-European transport network policy, the TEN-T policy, is a key instrument for the development of coherent, efficient, multimodal, and high-quality transport infrastructure across the EU. It comprises railways, inland waterways, short sea shipping routes and roads linking urban nodes, maritime and inland ports, airports and terminals.



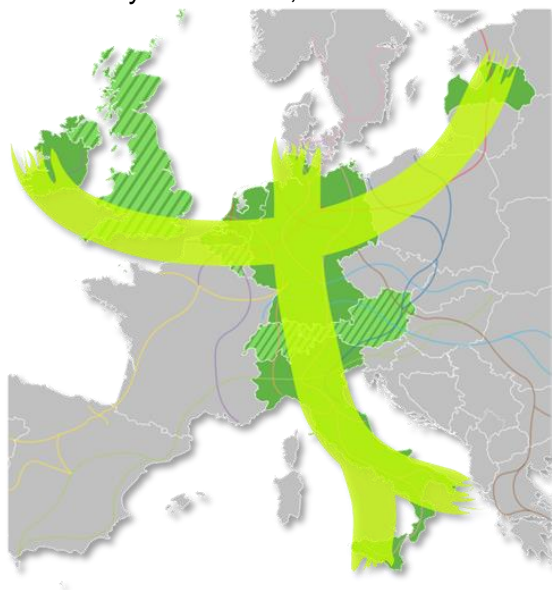
(Source: TENtec map)

It fosters the efficient transportation of people and goods, ensures access to jobs and services, and enables trade and economic growth. It strengthens the EU's economic, social and territorial cohesion and creates seamless transport systems across borders, without physical gaps, bottlenecks or missing links. It also aims to reduce the environmental impact of transport and to increase the safety and resilience of the network.

(Source: European Commission)

## 1.2 MERIDIAN

The overriding goal of MERIDIAN is to improve and modernise the mobility services along important European freight transport corridors in terms of reliability, environment, carbon footprint, efficiency, and safety. Therefore, MERIDIAN focuses on digitalisation of the Mobility System by working on digital and multimodal services, availability and accessibility of key data, digital corridor management and the digital twin of road infrastructure, benefiting all TEN-T road users.



MERIDIAN objective is to improve transport corridor performance by extending multimodal data collection, data provision and sharing as well as the implementation of ITS services that ensure interoperability and continuity of services, support harmonisation and considerably increase cost-efficiency in the operation of traffic management on integrated corridors. Further, the multimodal (policy priority) corridor performance will be improved by the measures and services, since they mitigate losses and negative impacts, and facilitate intermodal planning and modality choice.

MERIDIAN will thus make a significant contribution to the necessary digital infrastructure for safe, clean and efficient European corridor management. Through this, MERIDIAN implementations aim directly to facilitate mobility services in the TEN-T network by improving digital services for road, rail and sea transport.

*(Source: MERIDIAN Grant Agreement)*

## 2 Objectives

### 2.1 Intermediate target 2023

Building on the accomplishments from 2022, the following targets were defined for 2023:

- To agree on strategies, benefits, and ways of cooperation with each project.
- To form a platform where results, news and updates of MERIDIAN tasks are shared.
- To get access to knowledge platforms of other projects.
- To implement a constant sharing of knowledge of other projects with all MERIDIAN partners.
- To seek out partners (private and/or public) outside the corridors that can support the work of MERIDIAN partners and to tie them to MERIDIAN with cooperation agreements.
- To proceed with the presentation of MERIDIAN at congresses and conferences.
- To set up workshops for (1) constant exchange in the ITS community, (2) evaluation cooperation and (3) ITS deployment cooperation.

*(Source: D1.1 -Progress report of ITS CCC activities 2022)*

### 2.2 Ultimate target 2025

The ultimate objectives of the CCC task as written in the Grant Agreement are

- To maintain a successful cooperation with ITS experts.
- To develop, share and disseminate knowledge and experience on topics of common interest that the corridor projects are working with.
- To share and deliver common and agreed monitoring and evaluation methods for ITS implementation projects.
- To improve a common understanding on the way forward regarding the digitalisation of the mobility system and the related tools and services.
- To discuss and agree on a well-working solution for cooperation of road authorities and operators with other stakeholders to ensure an integrated and harmonised approach for the digitalisation of the Mobility System across Europe.

*(Source: MERIDIAN Grant Agreement)*

### 3 Progress in 2023 and outlook 2024

At the beginning of 2023, the final work programme for Work Package 1 CCC was finalised and the CCC activities were clarified by dividing the activities into sub-working groups (SubWG) according to the GA:

#### *SubWG 1.03.01 - ITS Community*

A platform for regular (non-technical) exchange will be launched in 2024; this monthly meeting for those interested is intended to clarify the goal of the joint cross-corridor work.

#### *SubWG 1.03.02 - Evaluation cooperation*

Focuses on evaluating the measures of CEF projects and coordinating findings on traffic safety, road network efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These efforts aim to develop a harmonised methodology and provide key performance indicators (KPIs) in line with EU objectives. In coordination with Task 1.05: Evaluation, support, and adaptation of the activities are ensured. A closer cooperation with MATIS evaluation workgroup is planned for 2024. Furthermore, MERIDIAN will use C-Roads Evaluation and Assessment Plan & Template for reporting Evaluation results for C-ITS. A joint meeting with C-Roads WG3 is planned in 2024.

#### *SubWG 1.03.03 - Deployment collaboration*

These implementations include ITS corridors, C-ITS corridors, multimodal ITS implementations and implementations in urban areas and national regions connected to CEF corridors. The aim is to involve stakeholders in a harmonized, integrated implementation of ITS in Europe, with a focus on end-user support. Therefore, MERIDIAN promotes its workshops and events outside the Steering Committee (SC) to target more stakeholders. By working closely with the other corridor projects, MERIDIAN can reach over 180 parties.

The MERIDIAN partners defined the main, overall goal of CCC activities as:

***“In the world of European corridor projects, MERIDIAN serves as a connecting hub for various ongoing projects. Our goal is to foster a unified European approach to C-ITS services by linking different communities.”***

In a proactive outreach effort, MERIDIAN actively engaged in various events to raise awareness about the project's objectives, partners, and contributions, as well as its funding by CINEA, but also about MERIDIAN's stated goal of cooperation in the harmonisation of ITS digital infrastructure and digital data management. Particularly worthy of mention is its participation in the ITS Congress in Lisbon in May, as a presenter of “Success Stories of ITS Corridors in Europe” at the DG MOVE stand.



During the SC meeting in Dublin in October, a joint declaration was signed with the Interreg funded project ACCESSMILE to strengthen the cooperation between the ports partnering together in MERIDIAN and other European ports within ACCESSMILE. As part of the cooperation, joint workshops were held to address the pressing issues of last mile and digitalisation of ports.



In that same SC, the MATIS project (co-funded under CEF2) took the opportunity to provide insights into the project to the MERIDIAN partners. Although the establishment of a joint declaration of intent

(JDOI) was agreed, the signing ceremony had to be postponed to 2024 due to a change in the project management of the MATIS project.

In November, MERIDIAN participated as a presenter at the NAPCORE Mobility Data Days in Budapest and took part in a panel discussion between the corridor projects MATIS, X4ITS, and MERIDIAN with NAPCORE. During the panel, it was agreed to hold joint meetings from 2024 onwards, focusing on information exchange such as workshops, webinars and events. At a later stage, working groups and partners will be networking to ensure a constant exchange of knowledge across all projects.



Part of the collaboration and knowledge development and knowledge transfer at the European level with other corridor projects are, in particular, the workshops of T1.04 of WP1, as well as the work in T1.03. Both working groups will continue their work intensively in 2024 to further promote collaboration and knowledge building and knowledge transfer.

MERIDIAN has maintained continuous communication with the Corridor Coordinators of the following TEN-T corridors: Scandinavian – Mediterranean, Rhine - Alpine, North Sea – Baltic, and North Sea – Mediterranean. To underline this cooperation MERIDIAN will participate in the “Connecting Europe Days” in 2024.