

MERIDIAN Newsletter VII, November 2025

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If you would like to receive the Meridian Newsletter in the future, please mail to:

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Meridian extended!

As you might have heard earlier, the Meridian project has been extended to 2027. CINEA signed off on the proposal earlier this week and so we are looking forward to continue our cooperation well into the next year. Let's finish the job!

Throwback to the Steering Committee in Utrecht

During the first day of the Steering Committee Meeting in Utrecht, participants visited the VCMN for an inside look at Dutch traffic management. The morning featured an introduction to Rijkswaterstaat's CHARM programme, which is modernising the IT platform for all national traffic management centres. The presentation highlighted key lessons on managing complex systems, coordinating multiple stakeholders, and aligning technical development with organisational change.

Participants were then briefed on day-to-day operations within Dutch traffic management centres, including incident response, tunnel and rush-hour lane operations, and the work of the National Traffic Centre and Media Team.

The group also joined practical demonstrations, including an in-depth look at the vehicles used by Dutch traffic officers. The latest vehicle generation offers improved visibility, upgraded equipment, and a redesigned DRIP for better on-road communication. Discussions covered operational procedures, communication tools, and future developments.

The visit offered valuable insights into both the strategic and operational dimensions of Dutch traffic management, providing inspiration for ongoing work within the MERIDIAN project.



Welcome in Utrecht / Urgent News

Björn Siebert and Peter van Dop welcomed everyone to Day 2 of the Steering Committee Meeting in Utrecht and presented the agenda. BS briefly explained that the order of activities at this SCM had been adjusted and that the on-site visit took place on the first day. He also pointed out that a camera had been set up and that recordings were being made. A coffee break was scheduled for 10:00, followed by lunch at 12:00 and another coffee break at 14:30.

The next production phase of the MERIDIAN project film was launched. WP1 provided an update on overall project management, including the status of Milestones and Deliverables as well as the formal acceptance of several Deliverables. Further MERIDIAN updates covered administrative and financial matters, particularly around reporting periods and the amendment process.

Several tasks were presented throughout the meeting, including cross-corridor cooperation activities, evaluation progress, communication developments, knowledge-building efforts, and technical implementations in partner regions. Additionally, a report from the Smart Cycling Task Force was presented.

The meeting concluded with organisational clarifications and a final Q&A.

Meridian Short Film

Björn Siebert and Ralf Scheiber presented the upcoming steps toward finalising the MERIDIAN short film. The next phase will focus on consolidating collected footage, refining the storyline, and assembling the final sequences that showcase MERIDIAN's key achievements across the six participating countries.

The 15-minute film will highlight the 36 ITS challenges and feature technologies such as digital twins, C-ITS services, and multimodal solutions. It will combine project scenes, corridor visualisations, and interviews with partners. All partners are invited to contribute their own video or photo material, and additional interviews can still be recorded online.

The film aims to create an emotional and coherent narrative across diverse project contributions and is planned for completion in October 2026. An end-credit screen will be available for partners to use on social media.



WP1 Project Management

Nathalie Strohschein presented the latest progress on MERIDIAN Milestones and Deliverables. As of October 2025, 72% of the 140 Milestones and 47% of the 49 Deliverables have been completed, with many of the remaining items planned for the end of the action. Deliverables D4, D11, D21, and D29 were formally accepted through QR-based voting.

The next Steering Committee Meeting will take place in Trieste on **25 March 2026**, preceded by a site visit to the Port of Trieste on **24 March**. A joint session with ACCESSMILE is planned, with further details to follow. The SCM in Cork (Sept/Oct 2026) may be combined with the VERKKO SCM.

Upcoming events include the **Connecting Europe Days** (29 September–1 October 2026, Brussels). The 17th ITS European Congress in Turkey is not eligible for participation. Additionally, the **Digital Twin webinar** will be held online on **24 November 2025** from 10:00 to 12:30.

Meridian Updates

Björn Siebert and Henri Schlüter provided an update on MERIDIAN's administrative and financial progress. The next Semi-Annual Report will be prepared early 2026, once partners submit updated progress and financial data. Since no Technical Report is planned for 2026, an additional Semi-Annual Report will also be issued to keep the Commission and BMV informed. All partners are asked to update their Milestones and Deliverables, with some requested to provide more detailed "spotlight" input. Publication is planned for **February 2026**.

CINEA has completed payments for RP01 (50% funding rate), with partner shares to be distributed in November. RP02 is largely ready but remains on hold until the current amendment is approved. Budget alignment has required several revisions due to CINEA's requests and the adjusted financial structure.

Looking ahead, another amendment phase is expected in 2026, when partners must provide their best estimate of final expenditures. This will feed into CINEA's final assessment in 2027, where each beneficiary will be evaluated individually based on yet-to-be-defined performance indicators. Partners who expect underspending should signal this before the final evaluation phase.

UMneo payments are expected to be transferred to partners in **March 2026**.

Task 1.03 – Cross-Corridor Cooperation

Björn Siebert, Vincent Lau, and Alberto Cozzi provided updates on cross-corridor cooperation in MERIDIAN's Task 1.03. Highlights included ongoing implementation and harmonisation activities, such as MATIS2 preparations, Urban C-ITS Group exchanges, and the Evaluation Group. Notably, Honda plans to bring C-ITS-equipped motorcycles to Europe from 2028, with MERIDIAN partners exploring potential collaboration.

Harmonisation efforts continue through NAPCORE-X and the RTTI Taskforce. Vincent Lau presented **TISGRADE** (from November 2025), linking 54 organisations from 22 countries including TomTom, HERE, Flitsmeister, and Google Maps to support practical RTTI implementation across Europe. The VERKKO NAP task may be connected to TISGRADE for joint work.

Alberto Cozzi updated on **ACCESSMILE**, expected to finish by December 2025, focusing on booking systems, gates, and reducing empty trucks on the road. More information: [LinkedIn](#) | [Project website](#).

Further updates included the **Smart Cycling Task Force**, the Roadmap for Smart Cycling, and related European initiatives. Björn Siebert also highlighted future **CEF funding**, with EUR 51 billion allocated to transport, prioritising cross-border projects, core network completion, and military mobility integration.

Partners were encouraged to actively seek collaboration opportunities to support their own projects and MERIDIAN working groups.

Task 1.05 – Evaluation Update

Francesco Varone provided an update on Task 1.05, outlining the evaluation timeline and country-specific progress. All selected activities are expected to conclude by **April 2026**, with partners submitting evaluation material by **May** and the **Final Evaluation Report** planned for **November 2026**.

Progress varies across countries: the Netherlands, Belgium, and Latvia have completed their tasks and are advancing with evaluations; Germany and Italy show mixed progress, with some delays; and Ireland expects completion in early 2026. In one Italian case, a replacement activity is being explored due to feasibility issues.

The March 2026 workshop is under reconsideration due to the project extension, with options including a June workshop or a final event in Trieste. Coordination with **C-Roads WG3** on a shared evaluation approach is underway, with the first meeting held on **28 October 2025**.

Task 1.02 – Communication Update

Peter van Dop reported on MERIDIAN's communication activities. The project website has been updated with separate sections for news and events, and all deliverables and milestones are now fully uploaded. LinkedIn activity has also been strengthened with updates on presentations, events, and partner contributions.

Despite these improvements, partner posting remains low. All partners are encouraged to increase visibility by sharing updates regularly, with a new deadline to publish a LinkedIn post by **24 March 2026**.

Adamo Ferro received the Social Media Award for the highest LinkedIn activity, awarded with a WIS Car model and a package of Stroopwafels.

Safety Priority Services (SPS) Update

Erik Vrijens introduced the Dutch Safety Priority Services (SPS) programme, which rewards the use of active safety services based on kilometres driven. Key features include Jam Tail Warning and Emergency Vehicle Approaching (EVA) alerts. SPS is already integrated in Hyundai, Kia, TomTom GO, Flitsmeister, INRIX, and ANWB, reaching 3.5 million users—about one in five kilometres driven in the Netherlands.

Contributions from the Latvian Colleagues

Janis Putniņš presented Latvia's modernisation of its traffic counting system along the TEN-T network, expanding counting points from 44 to 76 using non-invasive Doppler radar sensors. The system also integrates cameras and loop counters, while new camera-based monitoring tracks pedestrian and cyclist path usage to inform safety and lighting decisions. All data feeds into the national traffic management tool and the National Access Point (NAP).

Janis Vilciņš reported on digital road infrastructure mapping using GPS and LIDAR survey vehicles. Data on pavement conditions and road assets is processed on a **170 TB high-performance server**, supporting comprehensive national monitoring. Pilot testing highlighted operational sensitivities, such as moisture affecting sensors, and while the data is not yet suitable for automated driving, it forms the basis for future applications.

Task 1.04 – Knowledge Building

Kristof Rombaut gave an overview of MERIDIAN's knowledge-building activities, including completed and planned workshops and webinars across WP2/WP5. The Digital Twin webinar was scheduled for 24 November 2025.

The Smart Cycling Taskforce shared the Roadmap for Smart Cycling and recent engagements at European events such as Urban Mobility Days and the CIE Cycling Summit. Horizon Europe currently has open calls on road safety and cyclist protection. Promotion of Smart Cycling will continue at events including Smart City Expo, ITS BE 2025, POLIS Conference, Intertraffic 2026, ITS Europe Istanbul 2026, and Eurobike 2026.

Francesco Magagnoli reported on the Multimodal Services workshops, highlighting the Munich workshop (June 2025) on environmentally friendly transport. Andrea will take over SWG leadership at the next Steering Committee.

Paolo Lunardi presented progress on ICT Empowerment Verona (Task 5.07), including fiber network and cloud infrastructure upgrades. The UIRNET security system update is ongoing, with the hyperconverged cloud expected by mid-2026.

Next Steering Committee



Our next Steering Committee is scheduled to take place in Trieste, Italy on the 24th and 25th of February. Hopefully we will see all our partners there!

Season's greetings and homework

First, the homework. Did you know we have a new [LinkedIn](#) page and that you can leave your news there? It was agreed in the last two Steering committees that every partner would share news LinkedIn. So, if you have any news, don't forget to post your news with the tag: **@meridian EU corridor**. We are looking forward to sharing more updates with you in the next edition of the newsletter and on our [MERIDIAN website](#).

As the year comes to a close we would like to thank you for your continued support and interest in MERIDIAN! Have a great holiday season and we are looking forward to continuing our cooperation in 2026!