



Vision for rail transport in the Northern Scandria®Corridor

Introduction

The Scandria®Alliance covers cities and regions from five countries between Scandinavia and the Adriatic Sea in a more and more integrated Europe. Contributing to the aims of the European Commission, who initiated the European Year of Rail 2021 to foster rail transport as diverse, green and sustainable, affordable, comfortable and safe mode of transport, the founding members of the Scandria®Alliance acknowledge the specific importance of cross-border rail transport as fundamental to sustainable regional growth based on carbon neutrality. Without well-functioning long-distance as well as cross-border mobility based on rail services, the Paris climate goals are hardly to be achieved, the more as mobility needs will grow and this will require green mobility solutions.

Our common aims

We, the Scandria®Alliance founding members, underline the importance of cross-border rail transport that requires

- **to offer attractive, frequent and high-quality services to cross-border travellers at the long distance as well as at the short distance**

Therefore, it is needed to further develop cross-border high-speed railways as well as urban rail infrastructure, pushing infrastructure planning routines and securing financing by innovative financing instruments. It is expected that cross-border high quality rail services will not only contribute to modal shift but also strengthen the interaction between neighbouring regions increasing their competitiveness.

- **to provide frequent, attractive and convenient night train connections between urban nodes in the Scandria®Corridor**

The renaissance of night train connections offers convenient mobility for climate-conscious customers and city-travellers increasing the attractiveness of our regions. Therefore, we support the set-up of more frequent and more convenient night train services including via rail ferries.

- **to provide sufficient capacities for rail freight services, making them a viable alternative to road-based freight transport in terms of reliability and economic feasibility**

Efficient and reliable rail freight transport requires investments into rail sidings, innovative intermodal shift technologies and electrification to make it a viable alternative to heavy duty transport on the roads. Shifting volumes from road to rail will lower the risk of congestion and reduce adverse effects to the climate and the environment.



- **to be integrated in terms of timetable and ticketing systems**

Easy train rides will make travelling by train much more attractive to citizens of our regions. This requires optimised timetables reducing travel time. Thus, including Scandinavian regions in the currently discussed "Europatakt" would be highly appreciated. Backed by easy access digital ticketing and service systems this would undoubtedly make international and cross-border rail services more attractive.

- **to be well connected to other modes of transport**

Well-functioning intermodal connections from train to other modes of transport, i.e. ferries, long-distance flights, public transport are required to organise passenger and freight transport efficient and convenient. Therefore, the interfaces between the different modes need to be planned and implemented as careful as the connections themselves.

Our contribution

The signing parties declare their will to initiate a closer cooperation on rail transport within the Scandria®Corridor.

They will:

- **foster** the exchange of information about rail transport issues within the Scandria®Alliance,
- **support and initiate** international project initiatives for the benefit of rail transport along the Scandria®Corridor,
- **convey** positions towards relevant national and European rail policies,
- **hold a constructive dialogue** with all parties concerned like European Parliament, European Commission, members states, railway undertakings

The Vision for rail transport in the Northern Scandria®Corridor represents a common viewpoint of the members of the Scandria®Alliance.

