Faster connections along a Nordic transport corridor

An EU-funded project is fostering collaboration aimed at improving and speeding up travel between the cities of Trondheim in Norway and Sundsvall in Sweden. This could help boost regional development by better connecting people, places and businesses along this Nordic transport corridor.

The port cities of Trondheim in western Norway and Sundsvall in eastern Sweden are situated on opposite sides of the Scandinavian Peninsula, with the E14 motorway stretching some 460 kilometres between the two. The route – parts of which are sparsely populated – passes through towns and villages as well as expanses of countryside and woodland. The trip can also be done by train, with both options taking at least six hours.

The EU-funded Mittstråket project is focused on upgrading this so-called Mid Nordic Corridor in a bid to make it a faster, more functional and sustainable cross-border road and rail route that attracts investment and promotes development.

The project brings together municipalities, counties and regions, as well as the Swedish Transport Administration, to tackle issues ranging from road safety to increasing the capacity for rail freight. The idea is that, taken together, small steps will make a big difference to people, communities and businesses along this corridor.

HOW THE EU HELPS NORTHERN SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS

Europe’s northern sparsely populated areas face a common set of challenges linked to their remoteness, limited human capital and at times difficult climatic conditions. EU support can help them overcome these hurdles by facilitating new forms of economic activity and promoting greater use of e-technologies and innovative partnerships – ultimately improving people’s lives. The EU-funded Mittstråket project is one such example.
Road and rail upgrades

The Mittstråket project involves six municipalities. Together with the Swedish Transport Administration, Sundsvall, for example, is turning its port into a more efficient transport hub and building a new travel centre at its central station to ensure smoother connections.

Other improvements are specifically geared towards boosting safety on the E14 motorway, with road remodelling in certain areas, including the installation of crash barriers, larger intersections and more rest stops.

Sweden’s Central train line, or Mittbanan, which runs between Sundsvall and Storlien near the Norwegian border, is also a central focus of the project. Improvements include a new railway bridge over the Stora Helvetet ravine and cutting the number of crossings in certain areas to reduce train journey times and boost safety.

In Norway, overhead cables are being installed on the Meråkerbanan line between Meråker and Støredal through to Trondheim to enable the use of electric trains and encourage a road-to-rail shift.

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MITTSTRÅKET

Project full name: Mittstråket
Sectors: Connectivity, Transport
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