PubTrans4All
Public Transportation - Accessibility for All

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Newsletter 1:
Project Goals & Schedule

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Public Transportation – Accessibility for All (PubTrans4all)

1. Project summary

The Project "Public Transportation – Accessibility for all" (Pubtrans4all) will develop a prototype vehicle-based boarding assistance system that can be built into new rail vehicles or retrofitted into existing rail vehicles to improve accessibility for all passegers. Accessibility for rail vehicles is particularly problematic since rail vehicles have a long service life and so many currently inaccessible vehicles will remain in service well into the future. PubTrans4all will help make existing public transport systems more accessible, improving service for everyone.

The PubTrans4all project's objective is to develop a standard boarding assistance system that can be used on many different types of rolling stock and infrastructures. The boarding assistance system will not simply be a device, but rather include contributing elements that make it possible to effectively use the device to access rail vehicles. A prototype will be developed by a multi-disciplinary consortium including users, public transport operators, academic researchers and manufacturers.

As part of the process of developing a prototype boarding assistance system, the project will survey state of the art accessibility devices and make recommendations for best practices in the use and operation of these existing devices. The project will include an extensive dissemination program designed to communicate study results widely, but also to help inform the general public and decision-makers about the importance and challenges in providing accessibility for all.

The PubTrans4all project will be completed by a well balanced and geographically diverse consortium. Especially beneficial is the participation of several Eastern European partners – since accessibility is not sufficiently recognized as a problem in many of these countries.

Accessibility for all is critical to creating an equitable, effective and efficient transport system. The project PubTrans4all will help build a fully accessible rail network.
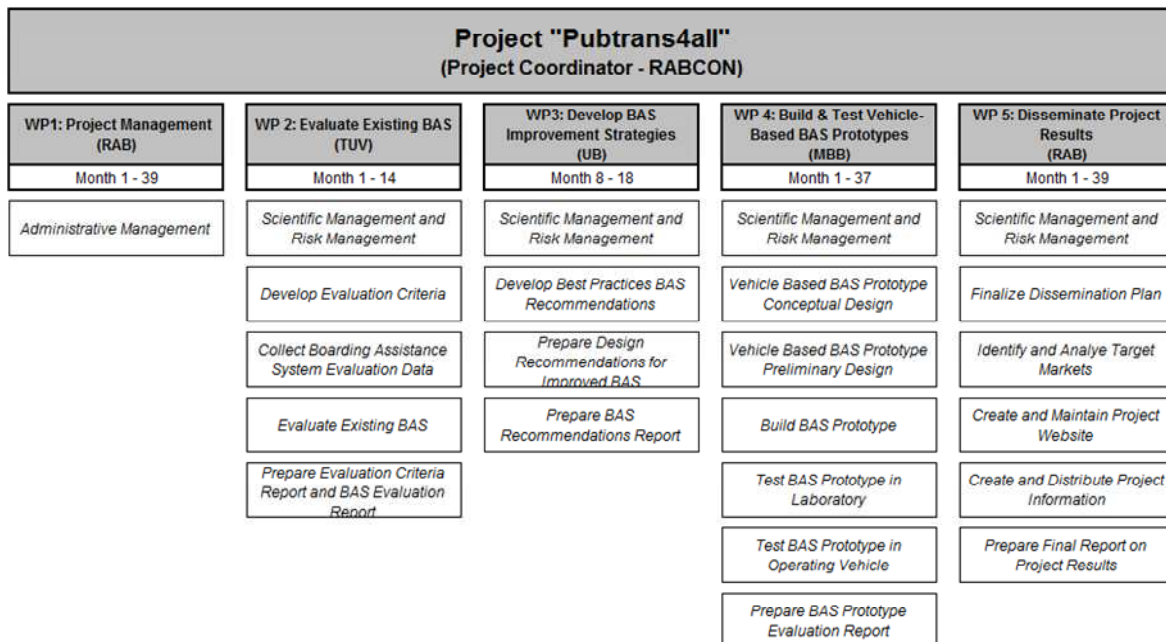
2. Project Goals

The PubTrans4all project has three main project goals:

1. Survey existing practices for the use of vehicle and platform based boarding assistance systems (BAS) and develop best practice recommendations for their design and use;

2. Develop a prototype for a standard BAS that can be retrofitted into all types of existing rail vehicles or installed on all types of platforms. Note that current research supports development of a standardized vehicle-based BAS, however the project will assess the potential for a platform-based BAS as well, and will develop a platform-based prototype if it is found that this would lead to an optimum solution. Note further that the proposal text below reflects the vehicle-based solution, if the platform-based solution is selected, the same general work plan would be followed, with some minor changes. These changes would be outlined in an amendment to this Description of Work.

3. Disseminate information about the project findings and recommendations widely.

3. Project Structure & Plan

The PubTrans4all project consists of five work packages (WPs) that will be completed over 39 months. A diagram of the project structure is presented below:

Project "Pubtrans4all"
(Project Coordinator - RABCON)

WP1: Project Management (RAB)	WP 2: Evaluate Existing BAS (TUV)	WP3: Develop BAS Improvement Strategies (UB)	WP 4: Build & Test Vehicle-Based BAS Prototypes (MBB)	WP 5: Disseminate Project Results (RAB)
Month 1 - 39	Month 1 - 14	Month 8 - 18	Month 1 - 37	Month 1 - 39
Administrative Management	Scientific Management and Risk Management	Scientific Management and Risk Management	Scientific Management and Risk Management	Scientific Management and Risk Management
	Develop Evaluation Criteria	Develop Best Practices BAS Recommendations	Vehicle Based BAS Prototype Conceptual Design	Finalize Dissemination Plan
	Collect Boarding Assistance System Evaluation Data	Prepare Design Recommendations for Improved BAS	Vehicle Based BAS Prototype Preliminary Design	Identify and Analye Target Markets
	Evaluate Existing BAS	Prepare BAS Recommendations Report	Build BAS Prototype	Create and Maintain Project Website
	Prepare Evaluation Criteria Report and BAS Evaluation Report		Test BAS Prototype in Laboratory	Create and Distribute Project Information
			Test BAS Prototype in Operating Vehicle	Prepare Final Report on Project Results
			Prepare BAS Prototype Evaluation Report	

In the following paragraph a short description of all five work packages is presented.

WP 1: Project Management – This includes scientific management, administrative management and risk management.

WP 2: Boarding Assistance System Evaluation – WP 2 consists of completing research on the state-of-the-art in public transport boarding assistance systems (both platform-based and vehicle-based). As part of this WP the consortium will develop evaluation criteria and complete a matrix-based evaluation of existing BAS. Most of WP2 will be completed by the university research institutes.

WP 3: Boarding Assistance System Recommendations – WP3 consists of preparing recommendations for improving existing BAS and for developing new BAS. These recommendations will evolve directly from the evaluation completed in WP2.

WP 4: Vehicle-Based BAS Prototype Design and Testing – WP 4 consists of designing, building and testing a new vehicle-based BAS prototype. The prototype will be tested at one or more of the consortium's public transport companies and evaluated using the criteria developed in WP2.

WP 5: Disseminate Project Results – In WP 5 project findings and recommendations will be presented in a variety of media including: newsletters, website, conference presentations, final report etc.). The final report will describe the project and recommendations.

3.1. Work Plan Structure

The PubTrans4all project's work plan is straightforward and simple: it combines an analysis of current research and operating practices (WP2) to develop recommendations for best practices and for development of a standardized system to provide accessibility to rail vehicles (WP3). Next, it uses these recommendations to develop a prototype standardized BAS and field tests this prototype on a passenger operating rail transport system (WP4).

The three research and technological development (RTD) work packages (WP2, WP 3 and WP4) each focus on a single aspect of the project under the leadership of a work package leader. This structure ensures that each of the three elements is developed in a complete and timely manner. These elements will be coordinated through the participation of beneficiaries in all three WPs and by the project coordinator through regular project management meetings/teleconferences.

The work plan structure is simple:

- WP 2 produces the initial data;

- WP 3 uses this data to make recommendations for improving rail transport accessibility (Deliverable 3.1) and to assist in development of the BAS prototype; and,

- WP 4 uses these recommendations to help develop the BAS prototype.

The simplicity of this structure, where each WP builds on the efforts of the previous, will make project management easier (by providing clear responsibilities and assessment of progress) and thereby help reduce the risks involved in completing the project successfully. The small number of work package leaders combined with the project coordinator's strong

experience will help ensure that the project is efficiently managed, develops high quality deliverables, and is successfully completed on schedule and within budget.

3.2. Timing of work packages and their components

The Pubtrans4all project started in September 2009 and will end in November 2012. The figure below presents a Gant chart illustrating an overview of the PubTrans4all process.
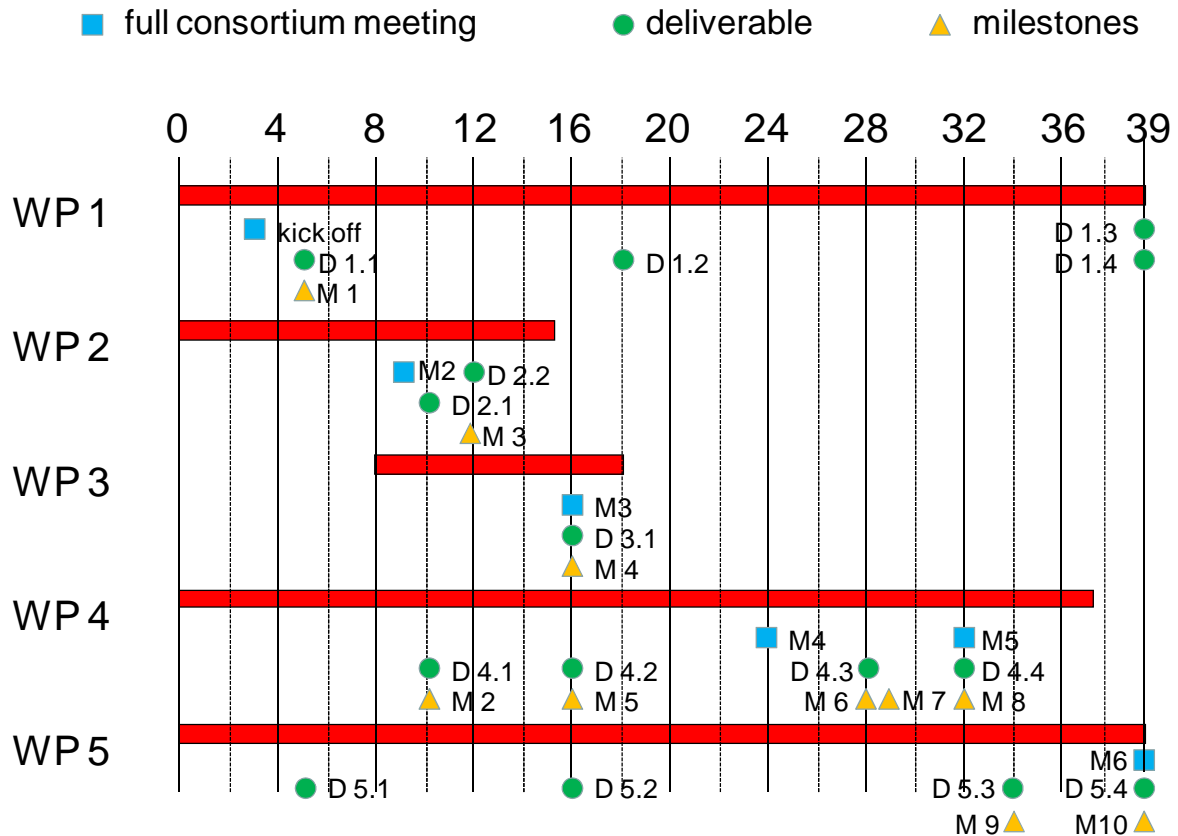
If you have any more questions or remarks concerning the Project "Pubtrans4all – Public Transportation for All" please don't hesitate to contact us by email: office@rabcon.eu or take a look at our website www.rabcon.eu/pubtrans4all.