



European travel information network



EU-Spirit – A European Travel Information System

The goal of EU-Spirit is to establish an accessible and functioning inter- and multimodal pan-European travel information system. Passengers should be able to find all the relevant information for an individual cross- border door-to-door journey on their local information website.

The EU-Spirit Service

Currently, passengers have the possibility to plan their journeys via the EU-Spirit network from door-to-door in Denmark, Finland, France (regions Alsace and Lorraine), Germany (Federal States Baden-Württemberg, Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Hessen, Niedersachsen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinland-Pfalz, Saarland, Sachsen-Anhalt and Schleswig-Holstein),

Luxembourg, Poland (cities Białystok, Gorzów Wlkp., Łódź, Poznań, Szczecin and Warsaw) and Sweden. Discussions with future providers take place continuously. For the remaining parts of Europe EU-Spirit provides long-distance time table information for European trains, Baltic Sea ferries and flights. They are the connection between all participating regions/systems and enable EU-Spirit to calculate routes to any railway station in Europe, nearly any major harbour in the Baltic Sea as well as to any European airport.

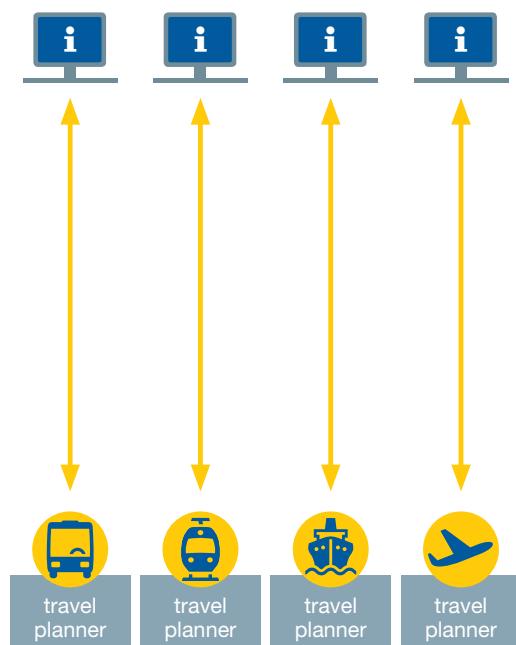
The Benefits

The simple set-up of the EU-Spirit system enables local information systems to interlink with all partners and

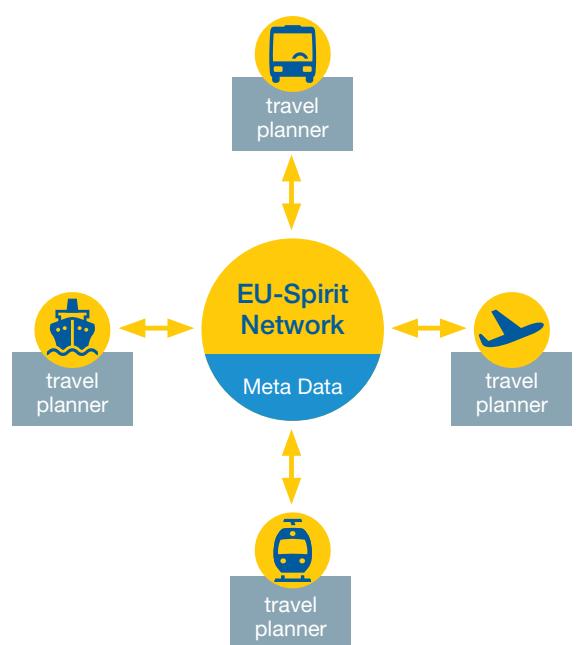
the long-distance systems of the network – expensive data pooling is not necessary. EU-Spirit is still expanding the coverage of existing systems.

The following innovations are now available for all passengers and information system providers:

- International door-to-door travel planner with always up-to-date time table information
- All information is available internationally
- Local, regional and national websites will be extended in their geographical coverage
- Customers do not need to change their tried and tested website
- Fast, simple and inexpensive integration of new travel planning systems
- Limited maintenance effort



by separate travel planners



by EU-Spirit Network

EU-Spirit – A European Travel Information Network

The EU consists of 28 member states with millions of people who need a functioning cross-border travel network. The European travel network is ready to grow with the demands of the people and the enlargement of the EU.

Traffic in the EU

The significance of public transport in the EU is immensely high. Trains, busses, ferry boats and airplanes have become likewise essential for commuters, holiday makers and travellers of all ages. Cross-border travelling is reality for millions of EU citizens. Attractive public transport turns on modern vehicles, short travel times and an accessible transport service that meets the needs of the customers integrating and connecting different transport modes.

Meeting New Challenges

It is worth the effort to improve public transport, especially concerning barrier-free travelling and customer services, to establish a sustainable and attractive transport system for all the citizens in the EU.

EU-Spirit provides a cross-border and internet-based door-to-door travel information service for customers of public transport. It integrates all inter- and multimodal transport services. The EU-Spirit service plays a key role on travel information for customers who do not only travel within one region but who need travel information beyond the area covered by existing travel planning services. The service includes that information can be retrieved in the customers' language so that travelling around Europe becomes even simpler.

Technically the service is a network that is based on existing local, regional and national travel information systems which are interlinked via technical interfaces. EU-Spirit works without expensive regular data pooling. Instead route information is computed on demand by all participating system in a distributed system approach.

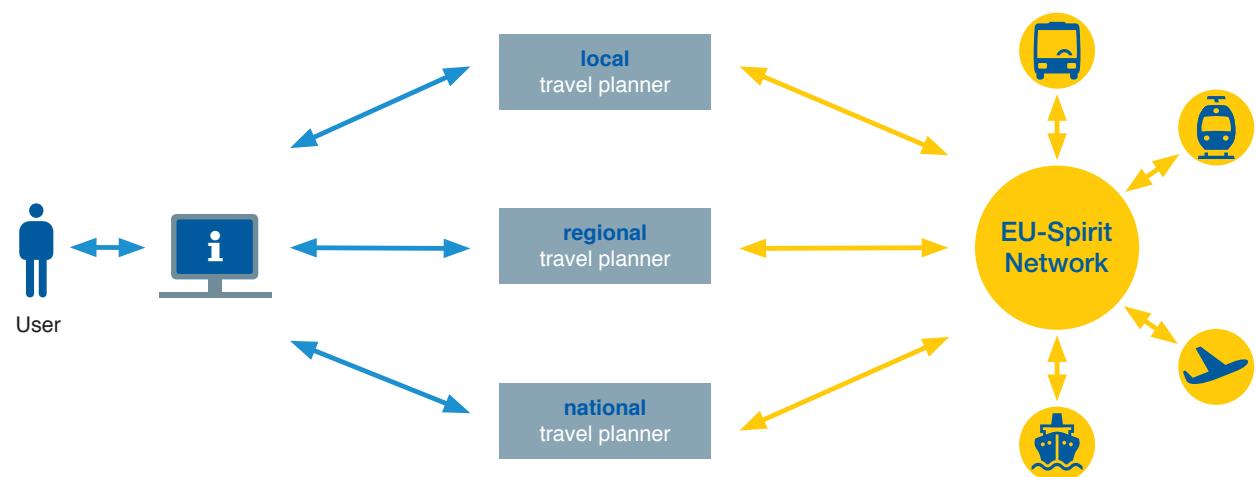
EU-Spirit: A Success Story

EU-Spirit started in the 5th Framework Program of the European Commission as a Research and Development project in 1998. At the end of the project the Oresund Bridge was opened and connected two countries (Denmark and Sweden). The two major regions Copenhagen and Malmö started melting into a single economic area. This growth was supported by the cross-border travel planning option provided by EU-Spirit. The number of passengers has increased ever since. So Denmark and Sweden marked the commencement of cross-border timetables in the EU-Spirit system and the former project resulted in a continuation of EU-Spirit through its partners.

In 2010 EU-Spirit won the "LINK-Award for outstanding achievements in the field of intermodal passenger travel". The LINK-Project ("The European Forum on Intermodal Passenger Travel"; www.linkforum.eu) was launched in April 2007 and is funded by the 6th Framework Program of the European Commission (DG Energy and Transport).

Innovative and Inexpensive System

The innovative EU-Spirit technology enables access and combination of several travel planning systems from different service providers very inexpensively.



Examples from Current EU-Spirit Service Providers

Long-distance trips

Warsaw > Vienna

Local public transport in Warsaw and flight connection for most of the journey.

ZTM Warsaw travel planner
www.ztm.waw.pl

The screenshot shows a travel itinerary for a trip from Warsaw to Vienna. The journey starts with a walk from 'Zelazna 64, Wola' to a bus stop. From there, a bus (157) goes to 'CHŁODNA 01'. At 'PL. STARYNKIEWICZA 02', a connection is made to a train (175) to 'LOTNISKO-SEKTORY CDE 01'. The train arrives at 'Przejście 60 min.' (60-minute walk) to 'LOTNISKO-SEKTORY CDE 01'. From there, a bus (175) goes to 'LOTNISKO-SEKTORY CDE 01'. Finally, a flight (LO 5223) departs to 'Vienna International Airport'. The map shows the locations of these stops and the route between them.

Malmö > Berlin

Local public transport in Malmö and Berlin as well as train connection for most of the journey.

Skanetrafiken travel planner
www.skanetrafiken.se

The screenshot shows a travel itinerary for a trip from Malmö to Berlin. The journey starts with a walk from 'Gång' to 'ALMBACKSGATAN 24 Malmö'. From there, a train (1033) goes to 'Malmö Triangeln'. At 'Köpenhamn H', a connection is made to a train (ICE 36) to 'Hamburg Hbf'. From 'Hamburg Hbf', a train (ICE 1719) goes to 'Berlin Hbf (tief)'. Finally, a bus (RB14) goes to 'S+U Berlin Hauptbahnhof'. The map shows the locations of these stops and the route between them.

Regional cross-border trips

Berlin > Gorzów Wlkp.

Connection between two neighboring regions with local public transport in Berlin and train connection to Poland.

VBB travel planner
www.VBB.de

The screenshot shows a travel itinerary for a trip from Berlin to Gorzów Wlkp. The journey starts with a bus (Bus TXL) from 'Staatsoper (Berlin) - Einstieg' to 'S+U Alexanderplatz Bhf/Memhardstr. (Berlin)'. From there, a walk (Fußweg) of 5 Min. leads to 'S+U Alexanderplatz Bhf (Berlin) - Einstieg'. From there, a train (83960) goes to 'BERLIN OSTBAHNHOF (Germany) - Umstieg'. Finally, a bus (43) goes to 'ZBASZYNEK (Poland) - Umstieg'. The map shows the locations of these stops and the route between them.

Nancy > Luxemburg

Connection between two neighboring regions with local public transport in Nancy and Luxembourg.

Lorraine travel planner
www.simplicim-lorraine.eu

Service n° 86721
 → Direction gare de Luxembourg

Monter à l'arrêt gare de Nancy-Ville

Durée : 1h32 min
 NC

Fournisseur de données : Simplicim-Lorraine

Service n° 21
 → Direction Eichy, Centre Culturel

Service n° 86731
 → Direction gare de Luxembourg

Monter à l'arrêt Luxembourg, Gare Centrale

Durée : 10 min
 NC

accessibilité totale pour les personnes à mobilité réduite

Fournisseur de données : Ville de Luxembourg

Copenhagen > Lund

Connection between two neighboring regions with local public transport in Copenhagen and Lund.

Rejseplanen travel planner
www.rejseplanen.dk

Afgang fra

10:16 (Afg.)
 10:24 (Ank.)

Stå på

10:24 (Afg.)
 11:18 (Ank.)

Stå af

11:18 (Afg.)
 11:27 (Ank.)

Købmagergade 4

til fods (ca. 500 m, ca. 8 min)

Nærreport st fra spor 2 (afg.)

med ØR 2038 mod Göteborg (spor 2 (afg.))
 Toget har lav indstigning

Lund C

til fods (ca. 9 min)

Strasbourg > Freiburg

Connection between two neighboring regions with local public transport in Strasbourg and Freiburg.

Alsace travel planner
www.vialsace.eu

A l'arrêt : Jardin des Marais

Prendre la ligne : 21
 En direction de : KEHL - Stadthalle

Durée : 4min

Descendre à l'arrêt : Bahnhof Kehl

Marcher jusqu'à l'arrêt : Kehl Bahnhof Kehl

Durée : 3min

A l'arrêt : Kehl Bahnhof Kehl

Prendre le train n°87423
 En direction de : Offenburg Bahnhof

Durée : 18min

Descendre à l'arrêt : Offenburg

Prendre le train n°

EU-Spirit – Future Developments

The quality of passenger information is as important as the quality of public transport services in general. EU-Spirit makes, therefore, a significant contribution to facilitate the use of public transport. An essential aim is to improve information quality further and to implement high-quality services across the EU.

New Partners Welcome

EU-Spirit always welcomes new partners that would like to participate with their local, regional or national travel planners. Every additional information system increases the information volume and quality for all current members of the EU-Spirit network.

Development through Projects

Becoming a partner of EU-Spirit also includes, apart from an integrated timetable information system and an improvement of interfaces, additional assistance for projects in regional or international development programmes – if planned.

The Warsaw Transport Authority (ZTM Warsaw) for example, set up a travel planning system which was integrated into the EU-Spirit network within the INTERREG IVC Project "CAPRICE". Within the ERDF project e-Kom the basis for the cooperation between VBB's area and Western Poland via EU-Spirit was made and in the ERDF project „Mobilitätszentrale der Großregion“ brought together Luxemburg, France and Germany.

Another INTERREG IVB project was "Rail Baltica Growth Corridor". It improved travel information systems along the corridor Berlin – Warsaw – Baltic States – Helsinki / St. Petersburg. In the course of this project all ferry lines around the Baltic Sea became part of the EU-Spirit network.

Last but not least in the project INTERFACE PLUS the Verkehrsverbund Warnow (Rostock region) came to EU-Spirit and brought in real-time information for some Baltic Sea ferries.

Real-time Information

The future belongs to real-time information systems. This brings more and reliable information for passengers during a trip. The use of real-time information allows reporting of disturbance messages concerning short and medium term construction sites or exact departure and arrival times. With the help of appropriate frontend applications the passenger will be free to choose alternative routes and to save time.

The South Swedish public transport authority, Skanetrafiken (Malmö region), and the Danish national journey planner, Rejseplanen, were the first who integrated real-time information into the EU-Spirit network. The availability of cross-border information including real-time data caused a clear increase of quality in public transport services for passengers between Denmark and Sweden.

Future Developments

Within the EU some efforts have been made to realize price information as well as an accounting and payment function. The members of the EU-Spirit network are convinced that this information would be a major step forward to improve the attractiveness of public transport even further. EU-Spirit, therefore, strongly supports the ideas and is interested to play an important role in the future developments of this improvement.

Furthermore the EU-Spirit partners have defined a list of features and functionalities that are regarded as key factors for future development.

EU-Spirit will especially focus on realising these features in the near future:

- Price information / booking links / ticketing
- Station boards with real-time departures
- Re-routing in case of delays / disturbances
- From web to mobile (cross-border information in apps)
- Exchange of data – open API and third party usage

The station board functionality shall be demonstrated in a first step between Scania (Skanetrafiken) and Berlin/Brandenburg (VBB) – hopefully with some support in the next EU funding period.

Partners Providing EU-Spirit Service to Their Customers



Alsace (Vialsace) – FR
www.vialsace.eu



Baden-Württemberg (NVBW) – DE
www.efa-bw.de



Berlin-Brandenburg (VBB) – DE
www.VBB.de



Bremen/Niedersachsen (VBN) – DE
www.vbn.de



Northern Germany (Connect) – DE
www.connect-fahrplanauskunft.de



Denmark (Rejseplanen) – DK
www.rejseplanen.dk



Lorraine (SimplicIM) – FR
www.simplicim-lorraine.eu



Luxembourg
(CdT-Verkéiersverbond) – L
www.mobiliteit.lu



Rhein-Neckar/Rheinland-Pfalz (VRN) – DE
www.vrn.de



Saarland (VGS) – DE
www.saarfahrplan.de

Skånetrafiken



Schleswig-Holstein (nah.sh) – DE
www.nah.sh



Rostock + Region (VVW) – DE
www.verkehrsverbund-warnow.de



ZTM Warsaw – PL
www.ztm.waw.pl



Western Sweden (Västtrafik) – SE
www.vasttrafik.se

Partners Providing Their Information within the EU-Spirit Network



in clarification



RES PLUS

Area Covered by EU-Spirit Travel Information

Full area / complete service

Current Service

In clarification

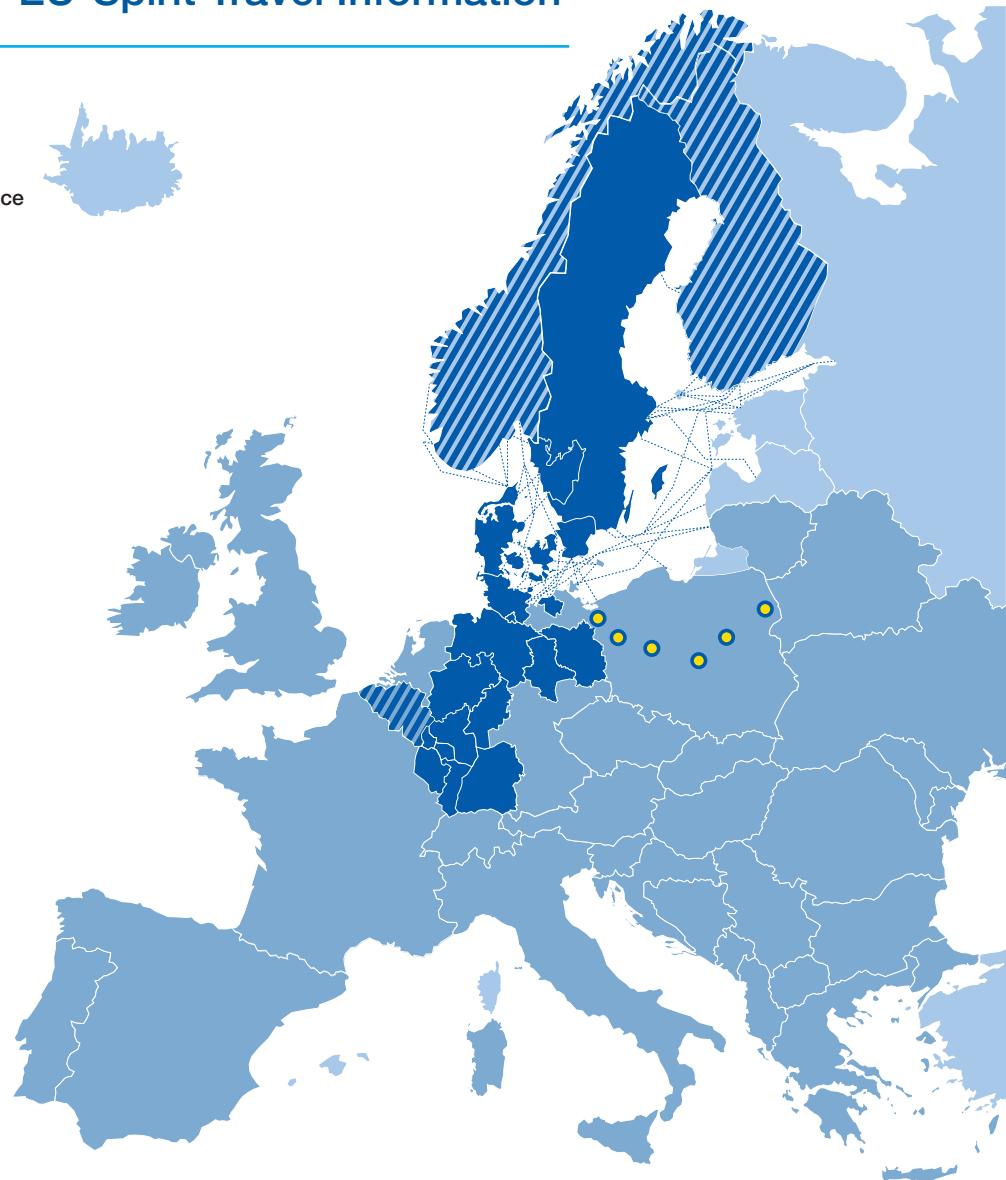
Urban public transport

Further Service

European Rail and Flights

Worldwide flights

Status: Autumn 2014



Network Coordination



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