

# ERFLS

## European Rail Freight Line System



Project co-financed by the EU under the Connecting Europe Facility

Fact Sheet

### Improve Accessibility of Rail Transport

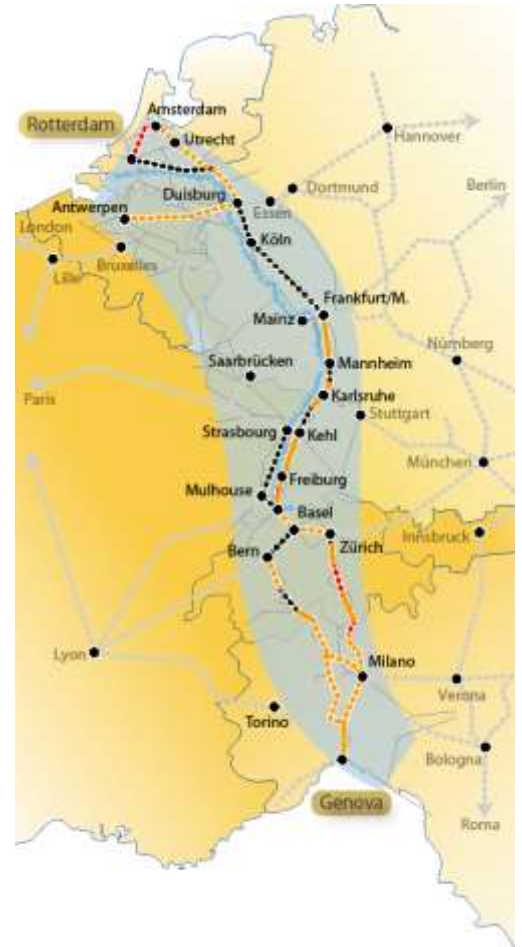


The ERFLS project with partners from the Netherlands, Germany and Italy aims to launch an innovative European Rail Freight Line System (ERFLS) in combined rail-freight traffic on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor. ERFLS is part of a Global Project and builds further on the results of previous EU funded project CODE 24.

ERFLS aims to improve the accessibility of rail transport and the integration of rail transport in innovative multi-modal transport

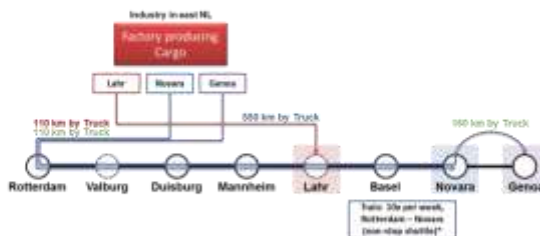
chains by optimization of both, regional and intercontinental freight traffic flows, especially in combined traffic. This is done by introducing freight trains running in frequent "Intercity"-like services with multiple short stops at so-called "Smart-Hubs".

ERFLS is a system based on block freight trains travelling along a corridor, picking up or leaving freights intermediate modal nodes, in a way that aims to resemble how people travel on intercity trains.



### Issues Addressed by ERFLS

#### Combined Transport Today



Source: Ernst Basler + Partner

\*Highest frequency available from Rotterdam

Problems that hinder rapid growth of rail freight traffic on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor are:

- Point-point relations between rail terminals and no frequent line services
- Lack in infrastructure of intermodal ("smart") terminals

- Missing efficient and reliable intermodal connections from these terminals especially to inland waterways and highways for goods traffic
- A lack of operational (telematics) rules and systems with regular time intervals for line services

#### Facts:

Project duration: 12 / 2015 – 11 / 2018

Project volume: EUR 1,25 Mio.

Project partners:

Province of Gelderland (NL)

University of Duisburg-Essen (DE)

Municipality of Lahr (DE)

SITI Turin (IT)

Uniontrasporti (IT)

## ERFLS Activities

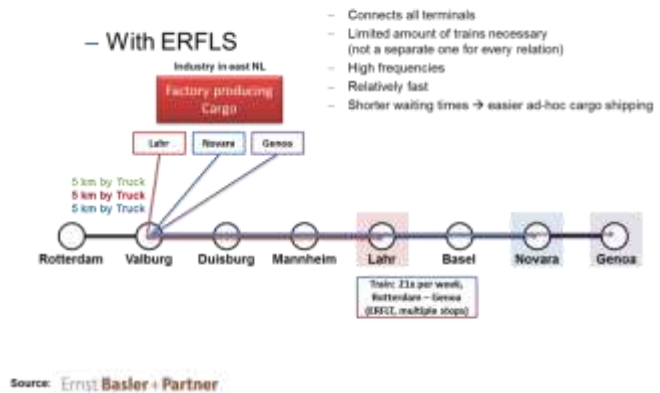
The scope of the ERFLS project is to carry out several implementation studies related to infrastructure, terminals, (intermodal) interconnections, telematics and sustainability issues.

These are needed for a better understanding of the factors hindering the growth of rail transport along the corridor and to investigate how a line system with smart hub terminals should best be organized, built and interconnected with each other along the Corridor.

The project is a necessary step before the actual works on ERFLS system can take place in the concerned regions along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor.

The ERFLS system aims to connect the different regions along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor with regular rail freight line services in combined traffic (like containers, swap-bodies and trailers).

### Combined Transport 2025+



For this, a system of “smart hubs” for freight transport - comparable to the intercity services for passengers – is envisaged to be adopted along this corridor.

## The Rhine-Alpine Corridor



The Rhine-Alpine Corridor is of nine European Core Network Corridors, which have been introduced by the EU to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the core network. The basic principle of this European transport policy is to complete seamless connections for the sake of efficient, future-oriented and high-quality transport services for citizens and economic operators.

The Rhine-Alpine Corridor is a spatially coherent axis with a multitude

of common interests and interrelations between its single regional areas. It covers a number of the most important economic regions in Europe, crossing the Netherlands, Germany, France and Switzerland and goes further to Italy.

Along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor, over 1 billion tons of freight are transported annually, resulting in a corridor GDP of more than 2.700 billion Euros (2010). With 13% of EU's population, the Corridor regions generate 19% of the EU's GDP.

### Contact Us:

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Visit our website for up to date information:

<http://egtc-rhine-alpine.eu/portfolio-item/erfls>