

Final Conference of the European Rural Mobility Network
Workshop outline (Session: 23rd October 2024, 14:00 – 15:30)

Title of workshop:	Accessibility and Inclusivity for those who cannot own or use a car, and those who would prefer not to do so	
Workshop Lead	E40	
Short description of the workshop and purpose:		
<p>The aim of the workshop is to explore the topic of how rural mobility solutions can support better accessibility of services and the inclusivity of often marginalised group of rural inhabitants. The workshop will feature a short documentary film directed by a Hungarian Documentary Film Director (Gabriella Bacskai) about a rural agricultural area that has flourished economically in the past, but today are severely depopulated, mostly inhabited by older people, with limited accessibility to services mostly due to lack of suitable mobility solutions. <i>"Everything is very far from here, there are no paved roads or shops and the nearest railway station is several kilometers away. The village caretaker is the only link to the outside world, the umbilical cord, physical and emotional help at the same time: he delivers food and medicine, takes people to see a doctor, helps with work around the house and, if appropriate, cares for their mental health."</i> The screening of the short film will be followed by a discussion with participants on accessibility and inclusivity, key challenges - including changes in the labour market - that rural areas and inhabitants are facing, and possible solutions. The Hungarian village caretaker and village bus service will be presented as a good practice (also supported by EU and national funding) and featured as a SMARTA-NET policy case study.</p>		
Structure of the session*:		
Timing	Sub-session name	Short description
14:00 – 14:15	Introduction	Introduction to the workshop (framing the topic/ SMARTA-NET policy case study on village bus & caretaker service / context of the short film)
14:15 – 14:35	Watching the short documentary	Viewing parts of the documentary for further discussion
14:35 – 15:15	Discussion session	Discussion with the participants on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The challenges rural inhabitants are facing in accessing services (including labour market) when car usage is not an option 2) Possible solutions (such as the village bus and caretaker service) and what support would be needed.
15:15 – 15:30	Wrapping up	Summarising outcomes of the session and feedback points