



SMARTA-NET in-country training

Summary Report on the first module “Rural shared mobility solutions”



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Version: 2

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1. Introduction

Over November and December 2024, SMARTA-NET implemented the first round of training sessions in target countries. Following the methodology set by TIS (Task 4 Coordinator), the training focussed shared mobility solutions for rural areas, based on the Guidance documents produced by MemEx, as Task 1 Coordinator. The training was designed as a blend of lecture-mode and co-creation workshops, with the following structure:

- An **introductory part**, to present the SMARTA-NET project and give some insights and figures to the audience about the rural context in Europe and within the target country / region.
- The **range of existing mobility solutions and services** that may be adopted in rural areas.
- The **phased approach to implement the referred solutions**.
- A **catalogue of good practices**, based on the research made in Task 1.
- **Co-creation workshops** with the purpose of implementing different mobility solutions in a fictional territory.

The training has a planned duration of 5 to 6 hours, but trainers were given the flexibility to modify the training contents according to their needs and specificities of their target audience. As an example, SMARTA-NET provided the trainers with 20 different mobility solutions and gave them the freedom to select a subset of these solutions to present during the training.

The trainers have been provided with material to carry out the workshops. To this end, two fictional territories (maps, territory features, and working sheets to distribute to the trainees) have been prepared, so they could choose the one that better fits with their audience, or even explore both.

This Report provides a comprehensive overview of the sessions held, based on the post-event reports prepared by trainers. Furthermore, this document summarises the key aspects about (i) the train-the-trainer sessions; ii) the customisation done to adapt the session to the unique contexts of each Lighthouse Site (LS), ensuring relevance and engagement within the local communities, and the contributions from the LS in the delivery of the training; and (iii) valuable feedback received from the trainers.

The Report summarising participants' feedback on the first training session is reported as Annex I.

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2. Train-the-trainer and Training events

2.1. Train the trainer sessions

The train-the-trainer sessions have been held on 6th and 9th November 2023. As both the Czech trainer and facilitator were not available on these dates, another train-the-trainer session was held on 13th of November in which Croatian trainer has also participated (he was only able to assist to the first part of the train-the-trainer session on 6th).

The train the trainer sessions were conducted both by Tiago Pina and Luciana Pereira from TIS.

The table below shows the trainers and facilitators having participated in the different train-the-trainer sessions.

In addition to these train-the-trainer sessions, SMARTA-NET clarified any doubts or queries via follow-up e-mails and made some corrections to the training contents based on the trainer's feedback. Indeed, during the timespan between the train-the-trainer sessions and the training activities carried out in each country, there was a very interactive process between the SMARTA-NET partners and the trainers to continuously improve the training materials. Some trainers have been especially proactive and dynamic on providing to TIS some suggestions to improve the training.

As some of the trainers joined the project later, individual online meetings were held to explain the training process and clarify any doubts they could have.

Table 1 | Train the trainer sessions of Module 1

Trainer - Facilitator name	Date	Country
Andrea Lorenzini (Facilitator)	06/11/2023	Italy
Adela Pixová (Facilitator)	13/11/2023	Czechia
Claudio Mantero (Trainer)	06/11/2023	Portugal
André Freitas (Trainer)	06/11/2023	Portugal
Daša Farčnik (Trainer)	06/11/2023	Slovenia
Drazen Vinscak (Trainer)	06/11/2023	Croatia
Elena Bargagna (Trainer)	09/11/2023	Italy
Emelie Bertholdsson (Trainer)	09/11/2023	Sweden
Holger Jansen (Trainer)	06/11/2023	Germany
Jaroslav Martinek (Trainer)	13/11/2023	Czechia
Karl-Heinz Schoon (Facilitator)	06/11/2023	Germany
Lajos Dorner (Trainer)	09/11/2023	Hungary
Louise Weir (Trainer)	06/11/2023	Ireland
Maria Siti (Trainer)	09/11/2023	Greece
Raitis Sijāts (Trainer)	09/11/2023	Latvia
Raluca Atanassov (Trainer)	09/11/2023	Romania

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2.2. Training Events

The training events have been held in all the lighthouse sites as shown in the table below.

Table 2 | List of the training events of module 1 already held.

Country	Trainer / Facilitator name	Date	Place (municipality)
Austria	Philipp Schlemmer / Mayur K.	11/12/2023	Lienz
Croatia	Drazen Vinscak	12/04/2024	Jastrebarsko
Czechia	Jaroslav Martinek / Adela Pixová	23/11/2023	Borovany
Greece	Maria Siti / Marina Michailidou	04/12/2023	Rethymno
France	CEREMA	20-21/11/2024	Clermon-Ferrand
Germany	Holger Jansen / Karl-Heinz Schoon	05/03/2024	Mainz
Hungary	Lajos Dorner	14/06/2024	Keszthely
Ireland	Louise Weir / Brendan Finn	28/11/2023	Kilkenny
Italy	MEMEX team	12/12/2023	Narni
Latvia	Jānis Sijāts / Anita Baltace	19/12/2023	Valmiera
Portugal (Alentejo)	TIS team	05/12/2023	Évora
Portugal (Madeira)	Claudio Mantero	11/12/2023	Machico
Romania	Raluca Atanassov / M.Radulescu	29/11/2023	Ramnicu Sarat
Slovenia	Daša Farčnik, Eva Marčič	25/01/2024	Velenje
Spain	Diputació de Barcelona / Factual consulting	20/03/2024	Barcelona

The training in Germany has been initially scheduled for the 7th of November, but there were only few trainees available on this date. Therefore, the trainers and lighthouse site agreed to postpone the training for March, to ensure a higher participation level.

The trainer in France finally kicked off the 20th – 21st of November in Clermont Ferrand.

2.3. Participation in the training sessions

The number of participants varied among countries, as shown in the table below. The lowest participation was observed in Croatia and Czechia, which hosted the first training session with only 3 and 4 trainees, respectively. The limited time for preparing this training venue and sending out invitations might be a contributing factor. Both the trainer and the lighthouse site are aware of the low engagement in this session and are making efforts to ensure a higher level of participation in future training sessions.

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Table 3 | Participation in the training sessions

Country	Number of participants	Number of municipalities
Austria	12	12
Croatia	3	2
Czechia	4	No information
France	No information	No information
Greece	15	6
Hungary	8	6
Germany	14	9
Ireland	12	6
Italy	16	5
Latvia	16	5
Portugal - Alentejo	17	9
Portugal - Madeira	18	9
Romania	17	5 +1 NGO + 4 other
Slovenia	11	2
Spain	26	18
Total	189	99

3. Summarising observations for the second round

For the second round, the feedback from both trainers and participants have been taken into account. To adapt to such suggestions, we are:

- i) Striving to provide training materials further in advance to trainers, as it is crucial to ensure sufficient time for translation and familiarization with the content.
- ii) Additionally, we have made minor adjustments to the post-event report template to elicit more comprehensive feedback from trainers.
- iii) Furthermore, we have recorded the train-the-trainer session to allow trainers to review the sessions as many times as necessary.

Further observations have been made concerning participation in the training sessions and the content structure/topics. We have outlined them below.

One of the key aspects emerging from the first round was the varying number of participants among countries. This is associated with the gradual formation of the network, but not solely.

To ensure a good participation in all countries, we commit to:

- Proceed with the ERMN reinforcement and trainees' engagement.

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- Ensure a better liaison between the consortium and the lighthouse sites by keeping regular contact with the lighthouse sites and assist them with the logistics and invitations for the training events, if needed.
- Develop training experiences that are even more engaging and appealing for trainees, including, for instance, short site visits (whenever relevant and feasible) and bringing external experts and speakers to the training sessions.

Trainers (and some trainees as well) referred that it would be important to issue training certification to the trainees.

This issue has been discussed within the consortium and we have agreed on providing a SMARTA-NET training certificate signed by both the trainer and project coordinator at the end of the four modules.

There are some logistical issues related to the location of the municipalities in each country and the need for traveling long distances. Furthermore, since the training duration varies between 4 and 6 hours, some trainees find it too challenging to balance travel arrangements and training activities with their professional commitments.

It is challenging to further reduce the training duration as we aim to convey the necessary information and maintain a proper balance between the lecture component and the workshop. However, trainers have the flexibility to explore alternative solutions that better align with their audience's expectations, such as promoting hybrid training sessions that allow for both online and in-person participation.

Generally, the trainees have appreciated the workshop part, as an opportunity to learn-by-doing. Although some participants found difficult to develop solutions for a fictional territory and asked to further explore solutions to be applied in their own regions.

This feedback has been considered and taken into account. The consortium prepared a more interactive training for module 2 with more time for team working. Participants will be invited to solve real issues related with tourism mobility.

The flexibility provided to trainers to modify and tailor the training according to their needs has proven to be effective, as trainers possess a better understanding of the specific knowledge levels of trainees and the unique characteristics of each country and target region.

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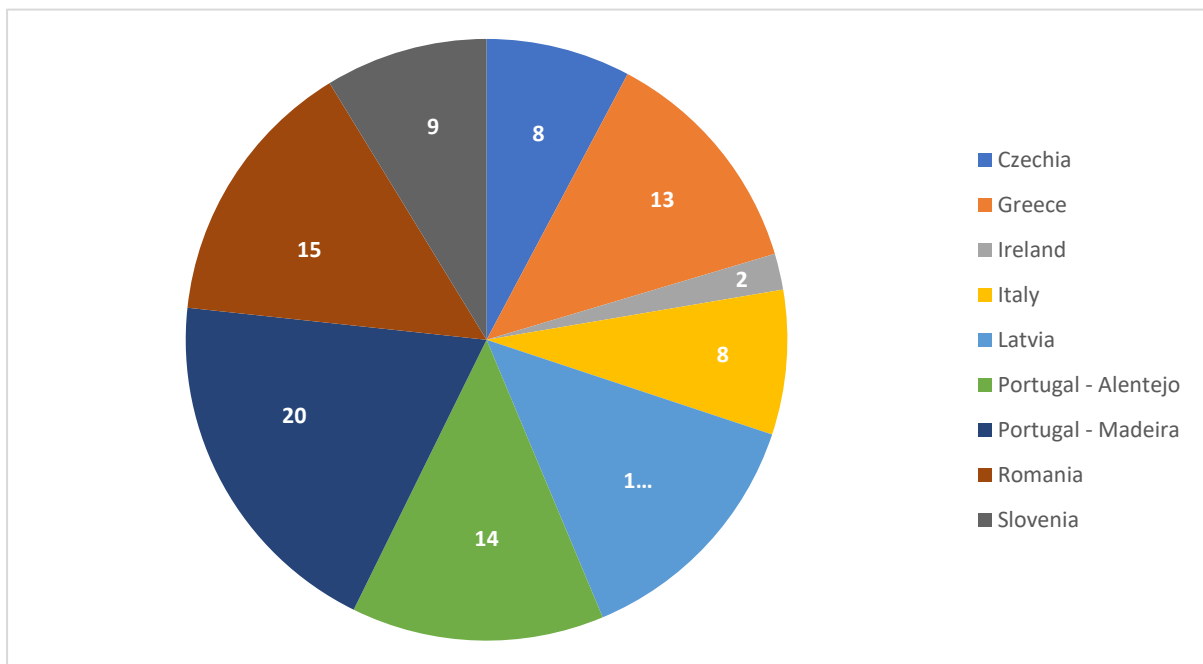
ANNEX I: Participants feedback report

First round on Shared Mobility Solutions

Introduction

For the first round of trainings on Shared Mobility Solutions, we received 102 answers to the satisfaction questionnaire, spread across 8 countries. Find below the division per country.

Figure 1: Numbers of answers received per country.



Participants, at the end of the training session, were asked to fill out a brief survey (in Annex) aimed at evaluating the training. Participants could access the survey via link, or QR code, and fill it out online or ask for a printed version. The following sections of the report will summarise the feedback provided, as well as suggestions forwarded by the participants for the improvement of the training.

General Feedback

Participants were asked to assign a value from 1 to 5 (1 = very negative/totally disagree, 5 = very positive/totally agree) to questions and elaborate with comments. Furthermore, the survey presented two open questions to provide participants with the opportunity to share suggestions for improvement.

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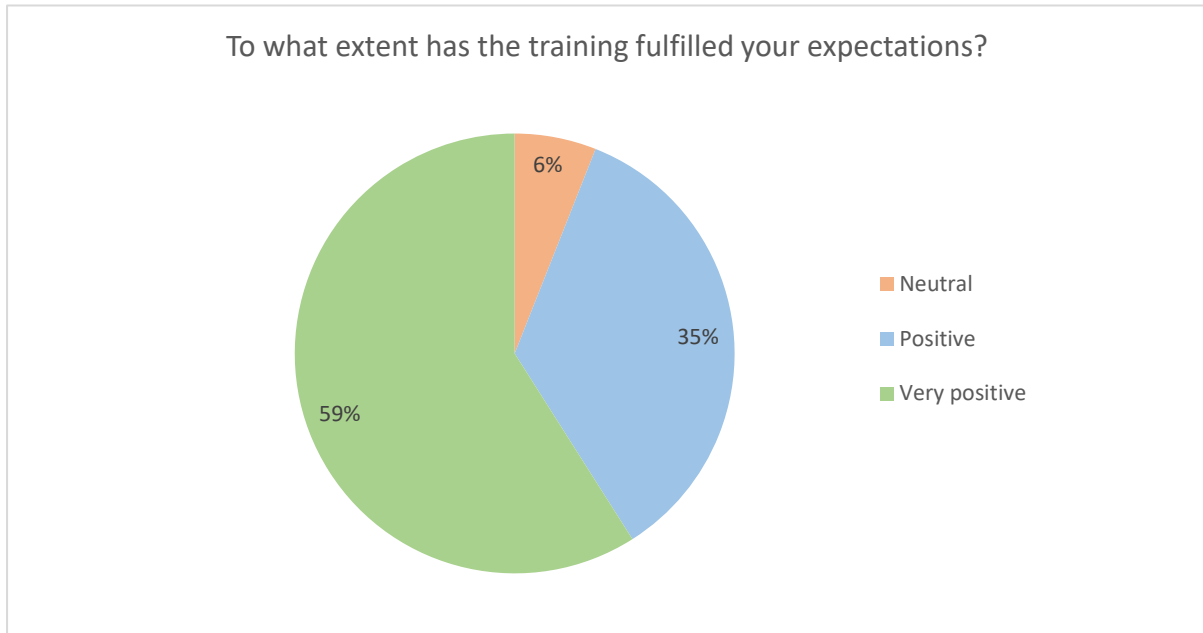


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On the training content

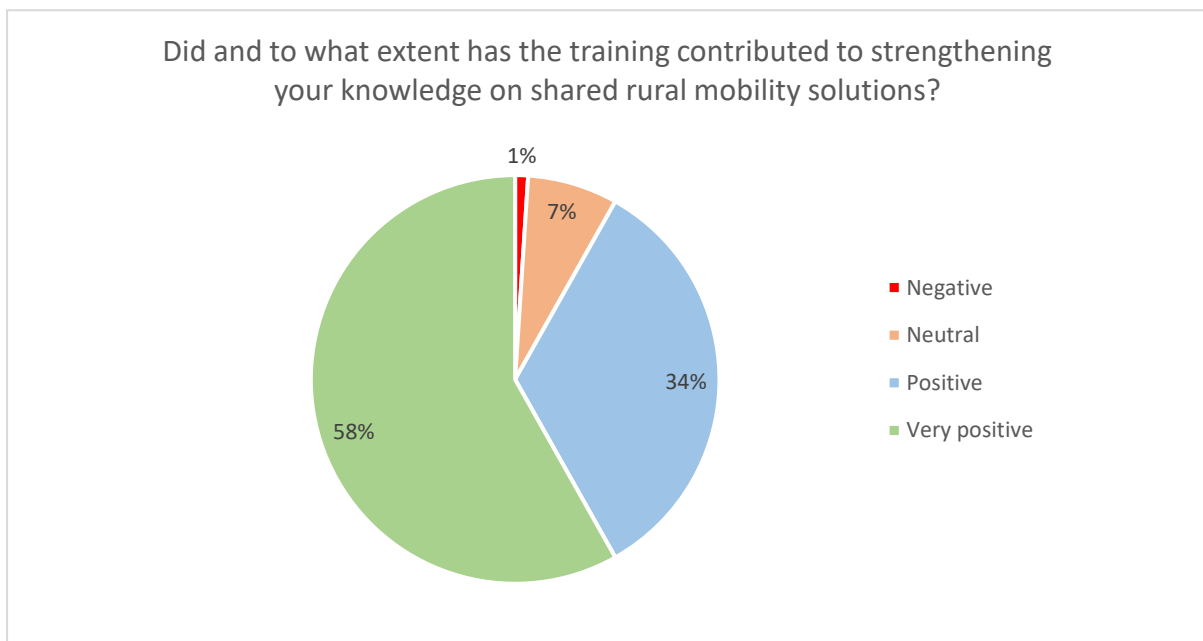
Figure 2: Evaluation of overall satisfaction.



The first session of trainings met the expectations of participants who, consequently indicated that they are likely to attend the next session of the SMARTA-NET trainings.

Participants appreciated the time for discussions, found the presentations detailed and informative, and valued the interactive workshops. The training met or exceeded expectations for many, with some participants noting its impact on shaping the way they plan for rural mobility.

Figure 3: Evaluation of added value of the training session.



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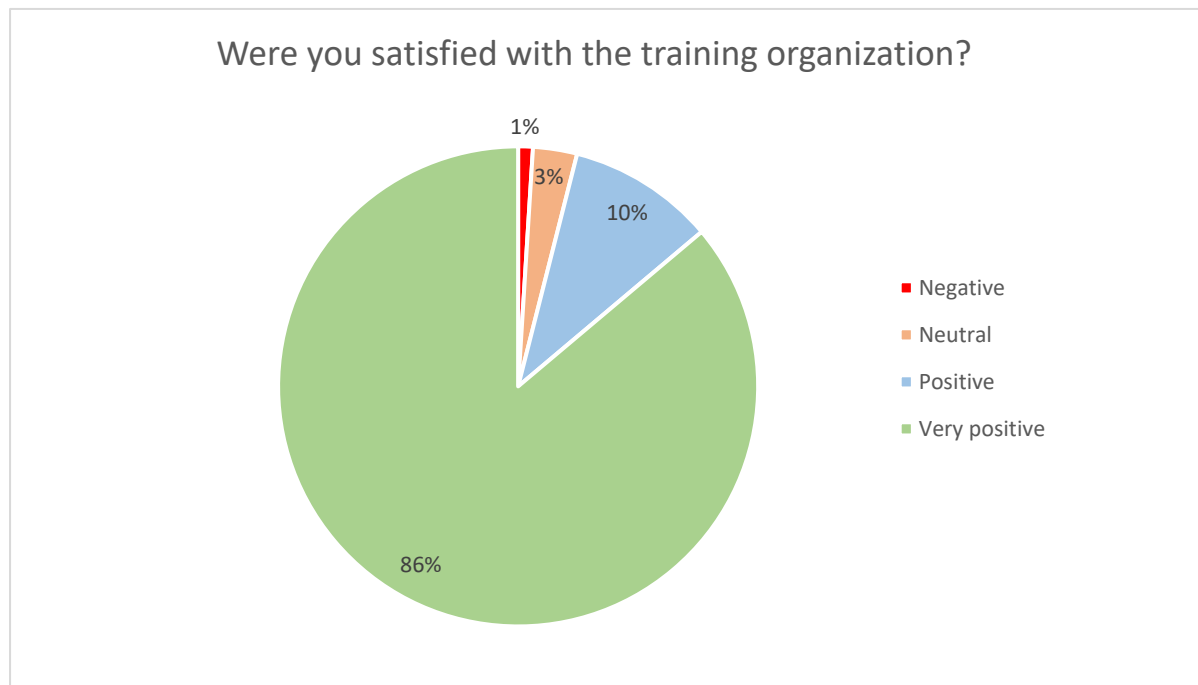


Participants shared positive insights regarding their experience with the training's contribution to knowledge enhancement in response to question 8.1. Many expressed encountering new solutions and practices, broadening their understanding of options, features, and good practices in shared rural mobility. The workshops were particularly commended for prompting innovative thinking, with participants appreciating the challenge and productivity of considering unconventional solutions, such as carpooling. The exchange with global partners and the sharing of a comprehensive vision were highlighted as valuable aspects, providing deeper knowledge of both local and international realities. The training facilitated a rich comparison of experiences and the development of shared hypotheses for service implementation. Some participants emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge, especially among professionals facing similar challenges, and found the participatory processes and exchange of ideas beneficial for considering new variables in planning. While a few participants were already familiar with certain solutions, they still gained new insights and found the training to be fruitful in obtaining knowledge about implemented cases. Overall, the responses indicate a positive impact on knowledge acquisition, with participants appreciating the practical examples and diverse perspectives presented during the training.

On the organisation

Participants were overall very satisfied with the organisation of the trainings, with regards to venue, refreshments, and travel.

Figure 4: Evaluation of satisfaction with the training organisation.



Moreover, participants expressed satisfaction with the training's networking significance, enabling them to connect with professionals they might not have encountered otherwise. The balance between workshops and presentations was highly appreciated, with a particular

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emphasis on participants enjoying the workshops and the opportunity to collaborate during the session. The materials utilized were deemed clear and pertinent to the discussed topics.

The various trainers were found to be generally competent with a positive satisfaction evaluation. Find below a table summarising the average score of the trainers, per country, with additional comments shared by the participants.

Table 4: Evaluation of the trainers.

COUNTRY	OVERALL SATISFACTION	COMMENTS
Czech Republic	4,4	n/a
Greece	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent speaker with contagious enthusiasm • Clear and understandable instructions, coupled with thorough examples • Effective time management and high level of expertise
Ireland	5	n/a
Italy	4,9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent competence and interpersonal skills • Prepared and conveys passion and enthusiasm
Latvia	4,6	n/a
Portugal - Alentejo	4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong oratory and expository skills, with a comfortable social presence • Effective interaction with trainees in both lectures and workshops • Trainers demonstrated ease with the topic, providing accessible and easy-to-understand explanations, fostering stimulating workshop discussions
Portugal - Madeira	4,7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and incisive communication style • Demonstrated knowledge of the subject, effectively captivating the audience • In-depth knowledge of the territory and solutions adaptable to regional and specific realities, providing enlightening insights
Romania	5	n/a
Slovenia	4,7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly motivated, interesting, understandable, and explicit in presentation • Pleasantly relaxed cooperation

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Suggestions

The last section of the questionnaire provided participants with the opportunity to give suggestions with regard to possible improvements to the trainings and further topics they would like to explore in the following sessions.

On topics

With regard to topics that participants would like to be further explored in the following sessions:

- Examples of project implementation in surrounding municipalities;
- Implementation of SMARTA-NET ways in Greece: Legal status, difficulties, and solutions;
- Finances of the projects and national legislation;
- Component of public transport management in a real context;
- Legal framework for the operationalization of initiatives (Portugal);
- On-demand transport, intermodality, and reduction of mobility in large centers;
- Practical cases, exercises with public transport data, and financial approach
- Maritime transport (Madeira), tourism, and experiences from less developed countries;
- Concrete examples and realistic solutions for specific local environments;
- Problem-solving strategies to convince local decision-makers and economists.

On other

Following, a list of suggestions to improve the trainings:

- Examples of application by the trainer before workshops
- Focus on the implementation of the project in the participant's municipality
- Option for distance learning (Opzione FAD)
- Involvement of private operators
- Obliging participants to participate
- More practical examples, funding, and legislation insights
- Provision of small amenities like a bottle of water
- Longer time for teamwork in workshops

Conclusion

The first round of trainings on Shared Mobility Solutions gathered feedback from 102 participants across eight countries. The training content received commendation for meeting expectations, fostering valuable discussions, and enhancing participants' knowledge in rural mobility planning. The organization of the training, including venue, refreshments, and travel arrangements, was rated as highly satisfactory. Notably, participants expressed appreciation for the networking opportunities facilitated by the training, highlighting the significance of collaboration during workshops. The trainers received positive evaluations, with specific praise for their competence and communication skills.

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Furthermore, participants provided insightful suggestions for future sessions, expressing interest in topics such as project implementation, legal aspects, finances, and practical cases. Suggestions for improvement included more practical examples, the option for distance learning, and increased focus on participants' municipalities. The feedback overall indicates a positive impact on knowledge acquisition and a desire for continued exploration of relevant topics in future sessions.

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ANNEX II: Evaluation form

SMARTA-NET, sustainable rural mobility for resilience in support of ecotourism

Evaluation Form

Rural shared mobility solutions

Dear Participant,

We would like to hear your opinion about the first training session, on shared rural mobility solutions, you have attended. Therefore, we would kindly ask you to answer a few questions.

Check your desired option and answer the open questions (where required):

1 = very negative/totally disagree, 5 = very positive/totally agree

1. In which country did you participate in the rural shared mobility solutions training

Drop down menu:

{Austria, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden}

2. To what extent has the training fulfilled your expectations?

1 2 3 4 5

i. Please elaborate on your choice.

3. How likely will you attend the following SMARTA-NET trainings?

1 2 3 4 5

4. Were you satisfied with the training organization (venue, refreshments, travel)?

1 2 3 4 5

i. Please elaborate on your choice.

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5. Did the training have networking value? Did you meet professionals you usually do not meet?

1 2 3 4 5

6. What is your opinion on the balance between workshops and presentations?

1 2 3 4 5

i. Please elaborate on your choice.

7. Were you satisfied with the level of materials used during the training?

1 2 3 4 5

i. Please elaborate on your choice.

8. Did and to what extent has the training contributed to the strengthening your knowledge on shared rural mobility solutions?

1 2 3 4 5

i. Please elaborate on your choice.

9. How do you rate the level of the trainer?

1 2 3 4 5

i. Please elaborate on your choice.

10. Which topics did you miss during the training?

{open question}

11. Do you have any suggestions to further improve the training?

{open question}

Thank you!

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