

CEF Success Story, Gelderland Province. Making rail-freight traffic cooperation work on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor

The province of Gelderland, situated in the central-eastern part of the Netherlands, is the gateway that links continental Europe to the United Kingdom.

The province of Gelderland, together with partners from the Netherlands, Germany and Italy have launched an innovative **European Rail Freight Line System (ERFLS)**. The initiative, which is aimed at fostering cooperation on rail-freight traffic on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor, received funding under the **Connecting Europe Facility**. The project has started in October 2015 and will end in September 2018. The new system will connect the different regions along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor with regular rail freight line services in combined traffic through a system of "smart hubs" for freight transport. In addition, the shorter waiting times will make ad-hoc cargo shipping easier along the corridor.

The province of Gelderland is also active on passenger transport. As one of the partners of the **RAISE-IT** project, it increased the accessibility of the rail transport network along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor by integrating high-speed rail and regional systems following a multi-scale approach (nodes, regions, corridors). The project draws on the results of the strategic initiative CODE24 implemented in 2010-2015, was co-funded by the European Union under the Connecting Europe Facility.

The examples mentioned above prove that CEF has been crucial to stimulate projects and investments in the Gelderland province. Given their strategic importance, more funding is needed in cross-border regions. In addition, the rules and techniques that are in place should be harmonized. It is also important that the future CEF will focus on comprehensive networks as well, as they are gateways to long-distance networks.