



# Pilot projects – Multimodal transport solution

Output T2.2



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## **Introduction**

Creating a multimodal transport connection from Molise to Albania involves a combination of various transportation modes to ensure efficient, convenient, and accessible travel for passengers. In this scenario, we will explore a connection utilizing both buses and air travel.

### The concept of a multimodal transport solution

#### 1. Bus Journey within Molise:

The journey begins with a bus ride from a designated starting point in Molise, such as the regional capital Campobasso or another major city. This bus service should be well-connected within the region to cater to local travellers, providing a reliable and comfortable mode of transportation. The buses should have facilities for luggage storage and be equipped with modern amenities, making the journey pleasant for passengers.

#### 2. Intermodal Hub

To facilitate seamless connectivity, Molise can establish an intermodal hub or station where travellers transitioning to the next mode of transportation can do so efficiently. This hub should be equipped with information desks, ticket counters, waiting areas, and other amenities to ensure a smooth transfer between bus and air travel.

#### 3. Direct Bus Service to Airport

An express bus service should connect this intermodal hub to a nearby airport, such as Bari Airport. This bus should be synchronized with flight schedules to minimize waiting times and provide a hassle-free connection between ground transportation and air travel.

#### 4. Air Travel to Albania

Once at the airport, passengers can board flights to Albania. Ideally, the airport of Bari should offer direct flights to Tirana. These flights should be operated by reputable airlines, ensuring safety and reliability.

#### 5. Customs and Immigration Facilities

To facilitate international travel, the airports should have efficient customs and immigration facilities to streamline the entry process for travellers heading to Albania.

### Benefits of Multimodal Transport

- **Convenience:**  
Multimodal transport provides passengers with a convenient and well-coordinated journey, reducing the stress associated with switching between different modes of transportation.
- **Time Efficiency:**  
The connectivity between buses and flights minimizes layover times and maximizes the efficient use of travel time.
- **Accessibility:**  
By offering direct bus services to airports, even travelers from less accessible areas in Molise can access air travel options.
- **Economic and Environmental Benefits:**  
Multimodal transport can help optimize transportation resources, reducing the overall carbon footprint and benefiting the local economy.

### Challenges and Considerations:

1. **Infrastructure Investment:** building or upgrading the necessary infrastructure, including the intermodal hub and transport facilities, requires significant investment.
2. **Coordination:** effective coordination between transportation providers, local authorities, and relevant stakeholders is essential for the success of such a project.
3. **Regulatory and Legal Aspects:** compliance with international regulations, customs, and immigration procedures is crucial when crossing borders, and it requires careful attention.
4. **Safety and Security:** ensuring the safety and security of passengers at all stages of the journey is of paramount importance.

In conclusion, a multimodal transport connection from Molise to Albania involving buses and air travel could greatly enhance accessibility, convenience, and efficiency for travellers, promoting regional integration and economic development. While there are challenges to address, the benefits of such a connection make it a valuable endeavour for both regions.

### **The pilot action of ON CLOUD NINE project**

As stated below the multimodal transport service could be, a solution in terms of benefits for passengers. But, the testing of pilot action during ON CLOUD NINE demonstrates different data and conclusions.

The pilot action consists of a multimodal connection with a road connection between Puglia and Molise and an air route from Bari to Tirana., as well as of the creation of COVID free airports zones with relevant equipment and vehicles, aimed at testing feasibility of new interventions, paving the way for further broader developments and executing concrete solutions about accessibility and connectivity in air transport.

Molise Region is responsible for the assessment of the best option for interregional transport connections. The first step was a feasibility study, that is an analysis of solutions to improve the access of Molise to and from Bari airport. Its objective is to define outline characteristics, criticalities and guidelines for improving solutions for the connections between the Molise territory and Bari airport. The study also contains an analysis of the territorial and socio-economic context and of the transport system serving the territory and the airport. At the end the study defines two possible solutions (by road and through innovative air transport technologies), with the relative strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of connections among Molise and Puglia. After that, pilot action was carried out by the Molise Tour company, from August 9 to September 9 2022, with two weekly trips on Tuesdays and Fridays, and coinciding with the Bari - Tirana A/R flights. After the end of the pilot action, Molise Region completed the Report of operated connections based on number of passengers that contains the main conclusions of the pilot action: a direct multimodal connection from Campobasso to Bari, in view of the travel times and the presence of multiple daily connections of the Foggia-Bari route guaranteed by the Apulian LPT service, is not an effective and efficient strategic choice.

#### Conclusions:

- 1) Only 6 people have used the bus service during the pilot line;
- 2) The 50% of the 6 people have travelled from Foggia to Bari;
- 3) The 35% of the 6 people have travelled from Bari to Foggia;
- 4) Only 1 person has travelled from Campobasso to Bari.

#### Motivation:

- 1) New opening of the Foggia Airport;
- 2) Other connections already present from Foggia to Bari (by bus and by train).

Therefore, it would be better to connect the Molise Region to the Bari airport developing only a line from Molise to Foggia.