

# Accessible, Barrier-free and Inclusive Cross-border Public Transport Summer School 2026 - ŽILINA



## Input, self-awareness and also social activities:

Join us in Vienna for an immersive learning experience focused on creating an **accessible, barrier-free and inclusive cross-border public transport system**.

Visit our website for more information: <https://epts-hg-summer-school.eu>

## Venue and date

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### Date:

- virtual part **1 day in June and 1 day in July 2026**
- physical part **29<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026** (travel days 28<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026) Including a fieldtrip to Ostrava.

**Location physical part:** UNIVERSITY OF ŽILINA, Univerzitná 8215/1, 010 26 Žilina

## Short introduction

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**Embrace the Future of accessible, barrier-free and inclusive cross-border public transport system: Join us for a week of an immersive learning experience focused on creating an inclusive, accessible and barrier-free cross-border public transport system.**

In an increasingly interconnected European landscape, cross-border mobility remains a challenge, particularly for individuals with disabilities. Public transportation systems and schedules often lack the necessary coordination to facilitate seamless and efficient travel experiences.

This Summer School aims to address these challenges by bringing together experts, individuals with disabilities, and students to explore the essential components of a accessible, inclusive, barrier-free cross-border public transport system. Through a blend of lectures, workshops, and field trips, we will delve into the intricacies of creating a truly inclusive transportation network that caters to the diverse needs of all travellers.

## About the summer school

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### Explore. Experience. Excel.

Join us this summer in an intense summer school program dedicated to fostering barrier-free, accessible, and inclusive cross-border public transport in Europe.

## **Our Goal: Seamless Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere**

In a time where Europe is getting more connected, having smooth and easy-to-use public transport should be a norm, not luxury. The development of an integrated and accessible transportation system for all citizens regardless of their disability or mobility challenges is crucial to ensure regionally balanced development and growth. Access to seamless mobility is of utmost importance for social inclusion and quality of life of marginalized groups, especially persons with disabilities.

This Summer School provides a dynamic platform for students to engage in this subject, to better understand issues faced by passengers with impairments and to redesign mobility services for seamless travel for all. Your involvement could influence the way we think about mobility in urban spaces, making it more inclusive and accessible.

The program offers a unique opportunity to gain insights from Europe's pioneering initiatives, where accessible transport solutions have been successfully integrated, catering to the needs of the elderly and disabled. Based on demonstrated best practice models, the focus at hand will be on how to support and assist disabled with public transport system.

Join us at this Summer School, where you'll be exploring and designing mobility services, infrastructure and information accessible to various groups of passengers with different requirements. Think beyond getting from point A to B, but about creating inclusive, accessible pathways for the entire community.

### **Who Should Attend?**

This program is ideal for students of all academic levels - whether you're pursuing a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree. If you're passionate about creating inclusive societies and interested in the intersection of public transport, accessibility, and European integration, this is the place for you.

### **Objectives:**

- **Discover the World of Seamless Travel:** understand how public transport can be smooth and easy for everyone, especially in Europe, where countries are closely connected.
- **Understand Barrier-Free Transport:** explore the complexities of what makes public transport truly accessible, from infrastructure to information systems.
- **Inclusive Design:** understand design principles that cater to a diverse range of needs, including those of people with disabilities.
- **Cross-Border Collaboration:** Learn about the importance of cross-border coordination in public transport and how it contributes to European integration.
- **Hands-On Experience:** Engage in practical sessions, including hands-on experiences and interactions with experts and individuals with disabilities.
- **Try Out Real-World mobility services:** Experiment with actual transport methods that have worked for disabled in different parts of Europe.
- **Team Up to Tackle Challenges:** Work with new friends and use your brainpower to figure out the best solutions for making transport work for everyone.

**Join Us in Rethinking Mobility for an Inclusive Europe!**

### Experience:

- **Dynamic Learning Sessions:** take part in interactive sessions that bring your knowledge into the real world, tackling the real challenges of creating accessible transport.
- **Community Building:** Meet and connect with like-minded students and industry experts who are just as passionate about making transportation accessible for everyone. Build a community that supports and inspires your future projects.
- **Exploratory Field Trips:** Get out in the field to see and analyse how current public transport systems (in)accessible to all.
- **Hands-On Project Experience:** Throughout the program, you will be developing a unique solution applying everything you learn to create your own vision of a barrier-free public transport system.

Don't miss the opportunity to gain first-hand experience on accessible public transportation and learn how your creative solutions can drive significant improvements, enhancing the mobility experience for disabled travellers. Make a real impact by contributing to more engaging and inclusive journeys for everyone.

The lectures will be given **in English**.

### 3 ECTS Points

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The Summer School is entitled to award **3 ECTS** points for participation.

ECTS points will be awarded to participants compliant with the following requirements:

- Attendance in the virtual pre-event (will be announced by e-mail).
- Pre-reading of suggested materials.
- Active participation in all lectures (physical and virtual).

Each participant will obtain a certificate of participation with 3 ECTS credits, which you may get recognised at your home university.

### Costs, Agreement, Training contract

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#### Apply for Erasmus+ grant / BIP:

Subject to your university's Erasmus budgets, you may receive funding via the Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes.

#### The grant covers:

- travel costs, depending on eligibility and travel distance (see also <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator> and <https://erasmusgeneration.org/grant-simulator>)
- daily allowance of 79 € per day
- additional allowance for travel days, green travel, special funding etc., depending on eligibility

Please contact your university's Erasmus coordinator as soon as possible to check whether you are eligible for financial support. Inform them in advance that you are applying for the Summer School supported by the Erasmus+ BIP Project.

Submit your grant application in March 2026 as soon as you receive confirmation that you have been selected for the Summer School.

**If you have any questions or encounter issues regarding financing your participation in the summer school, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

#### **Learning agreement:**

Please clarify with your university if you need to sign a learning agreement at least two months prior to the start of the summer school. Send it to us for signature.

#### **Training contract:**

If you receive confirmation around March 2026 from us that you have been accepted as a participant in the summer school, we will send you a training contract and ask you to sign it.

#### **Your costs:**

- 200 € fees for the Summer School
- Travel costs to and from Zilina
- 147 € for Accommodation (Double room)
- Ticket to go around in Zilina - leisure time
- Dinner

#### **Service included:**

- Transportation for one day inside Zilina and Ostrava
- Breakfast and Coffee break
- Lunch on all days
- One Dinner
- Materials in the frame of lectures and workshops
- Lecture and workshop costs
- Excursions

Participants are expected to bring their **own laptops**.

#### **Organised by**

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- UNIVERSITY OF ŽILINA faculty of operation and economic of transport and communications
- Austrian Association in Support of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- European Platform of Transport Sciences EPTS

## Register now!

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Registration deadline: Application deadline: **28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

You can apply for the summer school [here](#).

The number of **participants is limited to 30**.

Notification of acceptance: **30 days after application deadline**.

## Program

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The physical event may be preceded (not fixed yet) by a virtual session and complemented by a pre-reading of suggested materials. The program will also include various social events. Here you can find the current version of the agenda of the Summer School 2026 (Subject to changes): <https://epts-hg-summerschool.eu/current-summer-school>