



## KOMBIBIKE – Public bike rental system

**Keywords:** mobility, sustainability, cross border cooperation, culture, tourism

**The aim of the project:** to set up an international public bike rental system in the Slovakian-Hungarian cross border area, near Komarno-Komarom

**Partners:** Pons Danubii EGTC (lead partner), local government of Nesvady, local government of Tata

**Project implementation time:** 01/01/2018-31/05/2021

**Budget:** 980 954,70 €

**Granted by:** European Regional Development Fund (85%), co-finance of Slovakia and Hungary (10%)

**Program:** Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation program (2014-2020)

**Priority line/Specific objective:** to enhance the mobility of people as well as to intensify tourism in the Komarno-Komárom cross border area

**Context:** Komárom and its area is inhabited from the oldest ages, and disposes of a very rich historical heritage: it served as the place of a Roman Legion (Brigetio), as well as the border of the former Roman Empire (called Limes) run along this area. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, serious fortresses were built in and near Komárom, in order to defend the town against enemies coming along the Danube river. In 1920, the Treaty of Trianon divided the town into two parts: Komárom is located in the Hungarian side of the Danube, while Komarno belongs to Slovakia, with thousands of Hungarian residents. The socialist period was characterised by closed borders and strict border control between Czechoslovakia and Hungary. After transition, the borders were opened and the EU accession of both Slovakia and Hungary in 2004 raised new cooperation possibilities between the two countries, as well as among their settlements and residents. In 2010, Pons Danubii EGTC was founded by 3 Slovakian and 4 Hungarian settlements located in the Komarno-Komárom area in order to increase economic and social cohesion in the municipal territory of its members by implementing different territorial cooperation programs (e.g. Interreg) co-financed by the European Union. Pons Danubii EGTC has been playing a very active role in the Komarno-Komárom cross border area with its successfully implemented and ongoing projects in the field of tourism, sustainable heritage management, workplace establishment, transportation and building of a complex innovation management center. The Komarno-Komárom cross border area is quite well-endowed with cycle roads (e.g. Eurovelo 6, Nové Zámky-Nitra, Komárom-Gönyű, Komárom-Tata), and the construction of further biking routes are under consideration (e.g. Komárom-Nové Zámky).

**Description:** Enhancing mobility in a formerly closed cross border area needs efforts. Since 2021 public transportation has been established between Komarno and Komárom in form of an electric bus line connecting the two towns with a free public transportation service. KOMBIBIKE public bike rental system ensures a flexible and active completion to this system in Komarno-Komárom relation, moreover, it ranges to 9 settlements of the cross border area. This sustainable and environmental friendly transportation mode can motivate people to discover the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Komarno-Komárom cross-border area, as well as it can contribute to the intensification of tourism and mobility of people in this cross border area. KOMBIBIKE can serve as an exemplary project for other areas being in a similar geographical and historical situation, especially in places where connective function of the border should be strengthened.



**Results:** KOMBIBIKE public bike rental system has been established in 5 Slovakian (Nové Zámky, Kolárovo, Nesvady, Hurbanovo, Komárno) and 4 Hungarian (Komárom, Tata, Kislér, Oroszlány) settlements of the Komarno-Komárom cross border area. 95 traditional and 35 e-bikes stay at disposal in 13 rent stations established in the 9 above mentioned settlements. Two rent stations are located in Komarno, Komárom, Tata and Nesvady, while Nové Zámky, Kolárovo, Hurbanovo, Kislér and Oroszlány dispose of one rent station. During implementation, Pons Danubii EGTC was responsible for the establishment of the whole public bike renting system, for its integration into the local transportation systems, as well as for organising trainings about conscious biking for teachers and students. Integration of the bike renting system into the local transportation systems included tasks like lokalization of rent stations, preparing promotion material and introductory video, as well as preparing maps indicating also rent stations next to bus timetables.

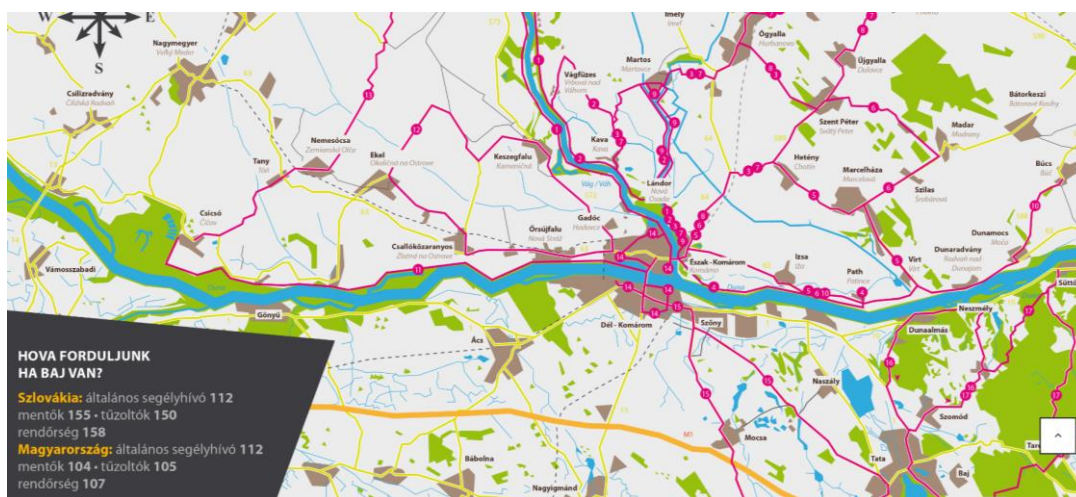
**Success factors:** Successful project application and implementation has required an excellent horizontal cooperation among the involved settlements in the Komarno-Komárom cross border area. Good horizontal cooperation of the settlements has also been the most important prerequisite of formation and maintenance of Pons Danubii EGTC. The EGTC has ensured a necessary and perfect legal form for this type of cooperation, including first of all non-discrimination among settlements located in different sides of the borders. Aim of the project can also be regarded as a success factor, because it fits into the actual, future oriented trend of shifting city transportation systems into an active and sustainable direction preferring e.g. biking. Furthermore, KOMBIBIKE project strenghtens the connective function of the border by increasing the active and flexible mobility of both tourists and residents.

**Limiting factors:** The public procurement process was too long, it took ca. 2 years. It is a typical problem in case of complex projects; in Slovakia, the approval of the ministry is necessary before publishing the call for tender, which usually takes quite long time. Furthermore, the first winner firm of the tender was problematic; it turned out that its references were not real, therefore, an other firm (T-Systems) was chosen to construct the KOMBIBIKE public bike rental system.

**Applicability and upscaling:** Moving city transportation systems into an active and sustainable direction is a future oriented international trend; cities and towns usually welcome projects serving this goal. In frame of the KOMBIBIKE project a public bike renting system was established in a formerly closed cross border area, which can serve as an examplary project for other areas being in a similar geographical and historical situation as well, first of all in places where it is necessary (from any reason) to strenghten the connective function of the border.

## Other resources

Map of cycle roads in the Komarno-Komárom cross border area

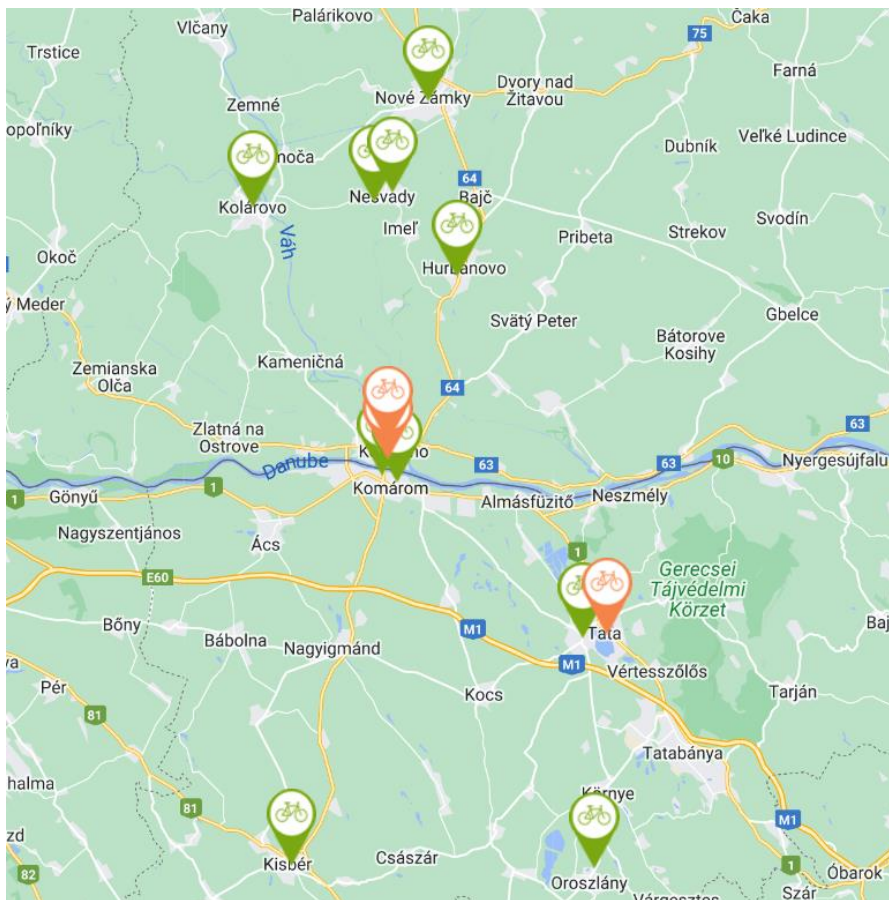


Source: <https://iranykomarom.hu/hu/kerekparutak-komarom-kornyeken>





### Location of KOMBIBIKE rent stations



Source: <https://kombibike.eu/en>

### KOMBIBIKE rent station in Komarno



Source: own photo.

### KOMBIBIKE rent station in Komarno



Source: own photo.

### KOMBIBIKE rent station in Kisbér



Source: own photos.

### Website:

<https://kombibike.eu/>

<https://www.ponsdanubii.eu/hu/kombi>

<https://iranykomarom.hu/hu/kerekparutak-komarom-kornyeken>

<https://en.eurovelo.com/ev6>

