



„Transortation infrastructure, adopting a holistic approach to societal progress”

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Reducing Inequalities through Transport



► What works

Regional bus system connects villages to Velký Krtíš

Timetables aligned with schools, work, healthcare

Fare integration + free travel for students & seniors

► Impact

Reduced transport poverty

Better healthcare access

Less social isolation

Who Decides? Power & Responsibility



- ▶ **Governance model**

Region: strategy, contracts, fares

Municipality: local needs & feedback

Citizens: informal but direct participation

Operators: service delivery under public contracts

- ▶ **Challenge**

Moving from “consultation” to real influence

What helps

- ▶ Trust, transparency, small visible changes

Bridging Communities through Infrastructure

- ▶ **Main divide**

Not ethnic → territorial (village vs. services)

- ▶ **Tools**

Reliable bus links

Safe walking routes

Bus stops as social spaces

- ▶ **Cultural context**

Strong attachment to place

Connectivity preferred over urbanisation

Linked Trips & Everyday Life

- ▶ **Reality of daily travel**

School → work → shopping → healthcare

Especially for caregivers, seniors, low-income households

- ▶ **Planning response**

Timetables built around schools, clinics, market days

Integrated fares for multiple stops

Benches, shelters, short walking distances



Challenging Stereotypes



- ▶ **Common stereotype**

“Public transport is only for people without cars”

- ▶ **What data showed**

Users include workers, families, seniors, car owners

- ▶ **How it changed**

Sharing data in plain language

Participation in small improvements

Better lighting & maintenance at stops

- ▶ **Result**

Public transport seen as a shared community asset

Measuring Success Differently

- ▶ **Beyond passenger numbers**

Perceived accessibility

Social participation

Repeat use & trust

Community pride and care

- ▶ **Why it matters**

Low volume ≠ low value in rural areas



EU Projects as Systemic Change

- ▶ **More than funding**

Builds planning skills

Encourages cooperation between municipalities

Enables pilots and experimentation

- ▶ **Long-term impact**

Stronger governance

Higher community confidence

Better future decision-making



Mobility & Resilience

- ▶ **Mobility connected to**

Healthcare access

Emergency response

Energy affordability

Food and local supply chains

- ▶ **Rural reality**

Fewer alternatives → higher vulnerability

Reliability is resilience





Thank you for your
attention!



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