

**The European Union's ENPI programme**

## **EuroMed road, rail and urban transport project**

Service Contract N° 2011/273 168 - EuropeAid/130784/C/SER/MULTI

### **Regional Study Tour**

**On the implementation of the UN Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP)**

### **REPORT**



**Padova-Vicenza-Venice, Italy**

**2 - 7 June 2014**



Project funded by the European  
Union



Project consortium led by SAFEGE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In order to complement the work of the EuroMed Transport programme in the land transport sector, the European Union has launched the EuroMed Regional Transport Project “Road, Rail and Urban Transport” (EuroMed RRUT). This 3-year project aims at supporting the implementation of the Trans Mediterranean Transport Network (TMT-N) by developing appropriate regulatory framework and operational conditions in order to facilitate cross-border transport, enhance land transport safety and promote sustainable and efficient urban transport.

Throughout the life of the project, several seminars/conferences are organized, technical assistance, study tours and training are conducted and best practices are shared. The project covers Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, State of Palestine and Tunisia.

The Study Tour in Padova-Vicenza-Venice area, Italy fulfills Activity 1A20.3 of the EuroMed RRUT project work plan. It is part of the overall Activity 1A20 “organize and deliver Study Tours regarding AETR, ADR, ATP, the liberalization of the road transport sector and Visits to ECE, JRC and IRU”.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The Study Tour aimed to:

- Build capacity of representatives and senior staff of different Ministries of the Beneficiary countries involved with the transport of perishable foodstuffs, namely Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture;
- Assist participants learn from their visits to ATP related institutions, facilities and companies in the Padova, Vicenza and Venice region on the application of the ATP agreement in Italy and on the complete structure of the food safety and security chain;
- Help them comprehend the technical and financial issues related to the construction and the operation of ATP Test Stations (ATP Laboratories) and ATP Expert Tests; and learn the procedures required to release ATP certificates to hauliers and insulation material and cooling machines producers, as well as the technical specifications and standards applied under the ATP Agreement and the Italian legislation;
- Build capacity of the participants of the Partner countries to better understand the importance and rationale of enforcement of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) standards in all the food chain, with particular regard to International and Domestic transportation of foodstuffs.
- Train ATP experts of the Beneficiary countries in conducting ATP Expert and Laboratory tests for different types of carriers.

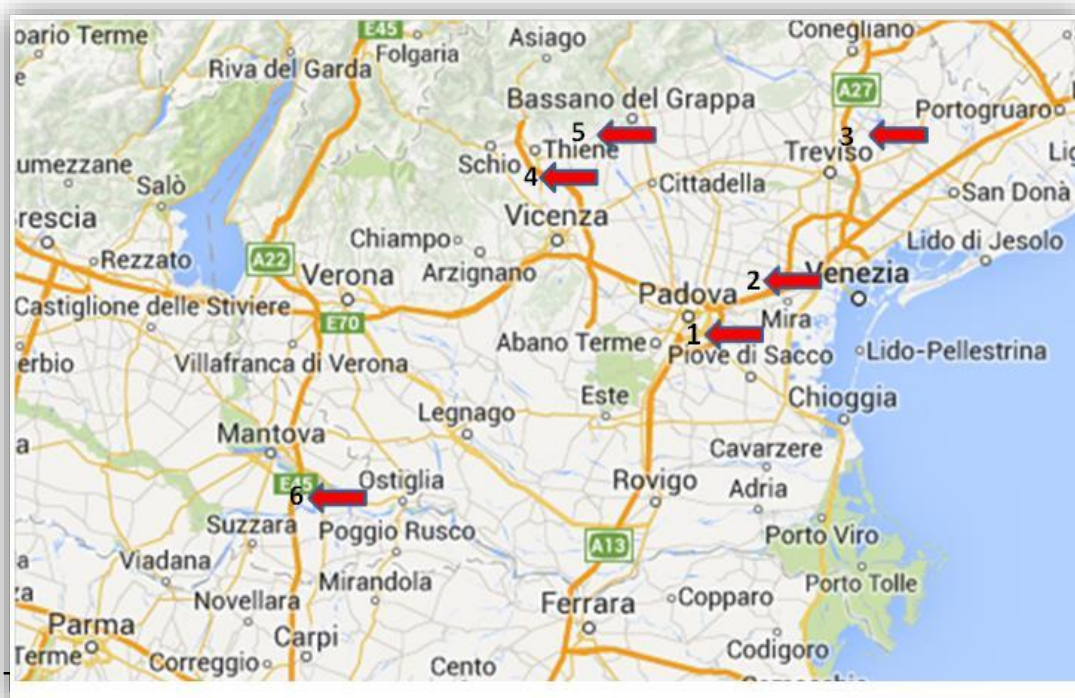
The ultimate goal of the Study Tour was to present to the delegates all operating aspects of an efficient, effective and reliable transport of perishable foodstuffs.

### 3. PROGRAMME OF THE STUDY TOUR

The Study Tour has been organized along 6 visits and respective subjects:

- 1) **Visit to the National Research Council (CNR) of Padova and its ATP Laboratory:** Testing of a vehicle suitable for ATP transport in an official test Laboratory;
- 2) **Visit to an Expert Test Station (C.S.E. s.r.l. Engineering):** ATP Testing in an Expert Test Station;
- 3) **Visit to a constructor of insulated trailers (Unitrans srl.):** Construction of a thermally insulated box for the transport of perishable foodstuffs;
- 4) **Visit to the Laboratory Veneto Agricoltura – CSQA:** Illustration of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and other techniques for the control and quality assurance of perishable foodstuffs;
- 5) **Visit to Alpetrans, a transport company operating in the field of refrigerated goods:** Operational aspects of the temperature-controlled transport chain;
- 6) **Visit to Zanotti S.p.A., a constructor of refrigerating units:** Construction of a refrigerating machine for the perishable foodstuffs.

The choice of Padova, Italy for the Study Tour was based on the high level of experience and quality standards of installations of the Padova ATP Laboratory, as well as because of the concentration of all above sites close to each other and in a very narrow area, as depicted below.



PROGRAMME	
<b>Monday, 2 June 2014</b>	<p><b>Travel and Arrival:</b> Departure of participants from their countries and arrival to Italy, Venice Airport “Marco Polo”</p> <p><b>Transfer from Airport</b> to Hotel in Padova: Participants will be met at Airport and be transferred to the Hotel by mini Bus</p> <p><a href="http://www.methishotel.com">www.methishotel.com</a></p>
<b>DAY 1: Tuesday, 3 June 2014</b>	<p><b>MORNING:</b></p> <p><b>Visit to the National Research Council (CNR) of Padova</b></p> <p>Participants will visit the Padua ATP Test Laboratory (test lab) be introduced on its composition, of the test trials and on the needed equipment and functions</p> <p><a href="http://www.pd.cnr.it">www.pd.cnr.it</a></p> <p>Departure form hotel: 08:30      Arrival on site: 09:15      Duration of visit: 3 hours</p> <p><b>AFTERNOON:</b></p> <p><b>Visit to an Expert test station (C.S.E. s.r.l. Engineering)</b></p> <p>Description and demonstration of the tests that can be carried out in an Expert lab, the needed equipment and its functions, the differences in comparison with an official national test station and new measurement system.</p> <p><a href="http://www.cse-engineering.it">www.cse-engineering.it</a></p> <p>Duration of visit: 2 hours      Departure time: 17:00      Arrival at hotel: 18:45</p>
<b>Day 2: Wednesday, 4 June 2014</b>	<p><b>MORNING:</b></p> <p><b>2nd visit to the NRC - Demo test for K factor at CNR</b></p> <p>Preparation of the test report and check of the results of the expert test via Internet in real time.</p> <p>Departure form hotel: 08:30      Arrival on site: 09:15      Duration of visit: 3 hours</p> <p><b>AFTERNOON:</b></p> <p><b>Visit to a constructor of insulated trailers (Unitrans srl., Cazzago, VE)</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.unitrans.it">www.unitrans.it</a></p> <p>Duration of visit: 3 hours      Departure time: 17:30      Arrival at hotel: 18:15</p>
<b>Day 3: Thursday, 5 June 2014</b>	<p><b>MORNING:</b></p> <p><b>Visit to the Laboratory Veneto Agricoltura (CSQA)</b></p> <p>Participants will be introduced to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) methodology, EC food regulations and activities of the laboratory in the field of food quality and safety.</p> <p><a href="http://www.venetoagricoltura.org">www.venetoagricoltura.org</a></p> <p>Departure form hotel: 08:30      Arrival on site: 09:45      Duration of visit: 4 hours</p> <p><b>AFTERNOON:</b></p> <p><b>Visit to a transport company operating in the field of refrigerated goods (Alpetrans, Marostica, VI)</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.alpetrans.com">www.alpetrans.com</a></p> <p>Duration of visit: 2 hours      Departure time: 17:15      Arrival at hotel: 18:30</p>
<b>Day 4: Friday, 6 June 2014</b>	<p><b>MORNING:</b></p> <p><b>Visit to a constructor of refrigerating units (Zanotti S.p.A., Pegognaga, MN)</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.zanotti.com">www.zanotti.com</a></p> <p>Departure form hotel: 08:30      Arrival on site: 10:45      Duration of visit: 2 hours</p> <p><b>AFTERNOON:</b></p>



	<b>Visit Venice</b> Duration of visit: 4 hours      Departure time: 20:00      Arrival at hotel: 21:00
<b>Day 5: Saturday, 7 June 2014</b>	<b>Departure of participants to their country of origin</b> Participants will be transferred to the Airport by mini Bus according to their flight schedules

## 4. PARTICIPANTS

The study tour was attended by 11 officers from three EuroMed Partner countries, namely Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia and 4 EuroMed RRUT project experts. The participants were representing the following authorities of the afore-mentioned Partner countries:

- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Food and Drug Administration
- National Office of Health Security of Food Products
- Public Security

The detailed list of participants is annexed to the present.

## 5. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Italy is one of the first 7 countries that signed the ATP Agreement back in 1970 and opted for building several official ATP Test Stations (also referred as ATP Laboratories). Italy has developed 14 official Test Stations. Out of these, 10 are directly owned by the Italian Government: the Department of Road Transport, Ministry of Transport; one is owned by the National Research Council (CNR), and another one by the SCI, a private company in Milan, and the last by the RFI in Rome<sup>1</sup>

ATP applies to international transport by road and by rail. However, Italy decided to adopt the ATP not only for the international transport but also for its domestic transport. As a consequence, every vehicle servicing the transport chain of perishable foodstuffs is tested at least once in an official test station. There are approximately 20,000 ATP certified trucks currently in circulation in Italy.



<sup>1</sup> RFI is part of the national railway company

According to the Italian legislation, a vehicle must be tested in an official Test Station, which issues a Certificate of conformity classification according to ATP standards. The prototypes of newly constructed vehicles and their refrigerated equipment are usually tested and certified by an official Test Station. It is mandatory that, after 9 years of life (if classified in FRC or RRC) or after 12 years (if classified in FNA or RRA), the vehicle and refrigerating equipment need to be tested and certified again (the checking after 6 years can be made by some experts, see art. 5, annex 1, appendix 2 of the ATP). All ATP trucks must pass an official test every 12 years.

## 6. SITE-SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

### 1. Visit to the National Research Council (CNR) and its ATP Laboratory: Testing of a vehicle suitable for ATP transport in an official test station

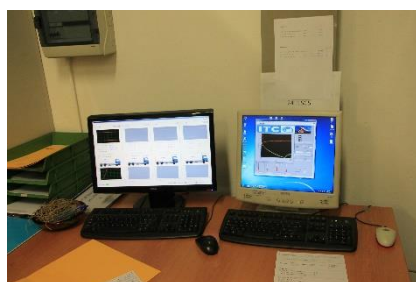
EuroMed delegation was received at Padua Construction Technologies Institute of the National research Council (ITC CNR) by Dr. Sergio Bobbo, Director of the CNR Area in Padua, Engineer Stefano Rossi, in charge of Padova ATP Laboratory and Mr. Paolo Bison, Thermography Expert. The participants were introduced to the structure, objectives and operations of the National Research Council (CNR) and its ATP Laboratory. The delegation was informed about the activities of the ATP Laboratory and watched a real life ATP Test.



The National Research Council (CNR) is a public organization. Its duty is to carry out, promote, spread, transfer and improve research activities in the main sectors of knowledge growth and of its applications for the scientific, technological, economic and social development of Italy. To this end, it conducts scientific and technological research in biotechnology, medicine, materials, environment and land, information and communications, advanced systems of production, judicial and socio-economic sciences as well as classical studies and arts.

CNR is present all over Italy through a network of institutes. Its main revenue comes from the State, but also from the market. A 30% of its revenue, described as extraordinary results, is coming from external job orders for studies and technical advice as well as from agreements with firms, contracts with the European Union and with the other international organizations.

The Padova Construction Technologies Institute of the National research Council - ITC CNR, carries out its activities in the construction sector, focusing on applied research, certification and training. Its mission is aimed at the improvement of the built-up environment, the performance of permanent research to find new construction methods and technologies, the management of refrigeration aspects, homes comfort, sustainable building, the assessment of performance and quality of construction products and systems.

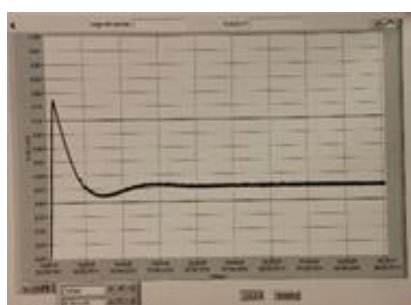


Among the ATP related activities of the ITC CNR of Padova, the most important is refrigeration and climatization. The work of the center is conducted by 20 full-time permanent employees, 6 of whom are professional researchers, 4 technicians and the rest are administrative personnel. There are 4 more centers of the same kind in Italy (Milan, Roma, L'Aquila and Bari).

The official ATP test station is situated inside ITC CNR Padova Branch. It possesses a tunnel of 30 m. length and is served by 4 persons: 1 Engineer and 3 technicians. The center conducts about 700 K-value tests per year and its annual revenue is estimated to be around 700,000 Euro.



The vehicle tests are divided in two main categories. Those that are meant for refrigeration capability of down to 0 degrees Celsius and those of down to -20 degrees Celsius: the so called IR and IN respectively.



The participants had the opportunity, during their two visits to CNR, to experience a real life test and verify its results. They also visited the Test Laboratory and its tunnel. Moreover, were introduced to the scientific and operational aspects for the test. They asked many questions and received fully satisfactory replies in relation to the procedures, management and operation of the Test Station and K-value tests.

## 2. Visit to an Expert test station (C.S.E. s.r.l. Engineering): Testing in an expert test station:



In Italy, the assessment for compliance with the obligatory standards can be carried out at one of the several existing "ATP Expert Test Stations", which are appointed by decree of the Ministry of Transport and authorized to operate in the "test rooms", also approved by the Italian Ministry of Transport.

If the vehicle is a van classified for transport of perishable foodstuffs at 0° C or higher, at the end of the validity of its first ATP-compliance certificate (the one issued when the vehicle is entering the temperature-controlled transport chain for the first time), the vehicle should be inspected again at an ATP Expert test station for a renewal of its certificate. Subsequently, the renewal of the Certification of ATP can occur only at a "Testing Centre" of the state. In this case, the validity of the new ATP certificate is valid for six years. The EuroMed delegation visited such an Expert Test Station, belonging to CSE Srl.

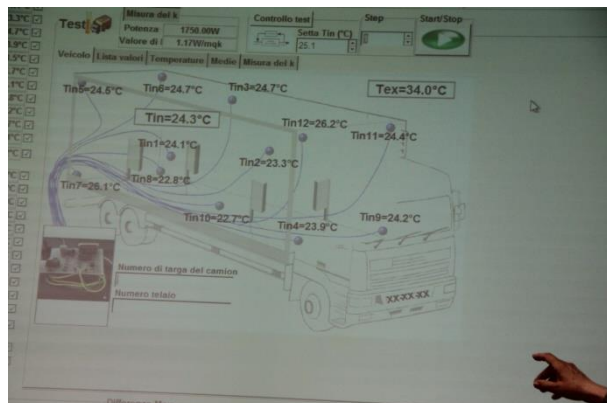


The President of CSE Srl, Eng. Carlo Serena, certified Security Consultant and Welding inspector, received the delegation. CSE Srl conducts tests to verify the suitability of ATP isothermal vehicles and fridges, for temperature-controlled transport of perishable goods. The tests are conducted at the three local test stations that the company operates and which are authorized by the Ministry of Transport. The company can also conduct Expert tests, upon request, at the requesting companies' premises, using its mobile testing vehicles/units. CSE is also involved in ADR tank code certification.

The participants had the opportunity to see the preparations for a K-factor test for a van operating in the temperature-controlled transport chain. All needed equipment were



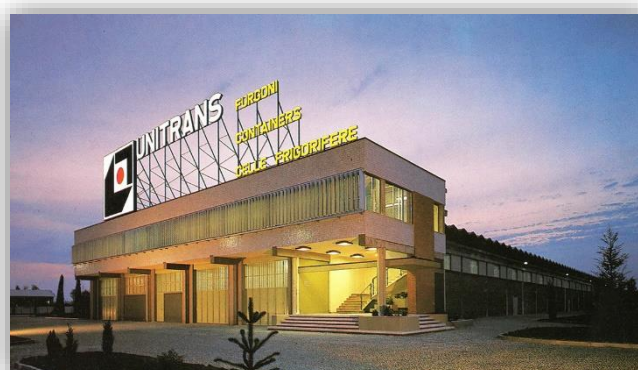
demonstrated, as well as all technical requirements and specifications. The participants watched on line, in real time, the results of the K-factor the following day, through internet connection, at the ITC CNR, while a CSE Srl Expert was present in order to provide specific explanations regarding the test and its results.



### 3. Visit to a constructor of insulated trailers (Unitrans srl.): Construction of a thermally insulated box for the transport of perishable foodstuffs

The EuroMed delegation was received by Mr. D'Alconzo, director of the Company and by its collaborators.

The participants were introduced to the history of the Company and its products by Eng. A. Cecchinato. Participants followed a guided tour into the company's factory.





The techniques used for the construction of insulated isothermal boxes were explained; these techniques are the company's advantage over its competitors.



Furthermore, the participants had the opportunity to be introduced on the technical specifications of Unitrans' products of the past decades. This was possible thanks to the 3 used trucks with Unitrans-manufactured attached isothermal refrigeration chambers.

#### 4. Visit to the Laboratory Veneto Agricoltura – CSQA: Illustration of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and other techniques for the control and quality assurance of perishable foodstuffs



Participants visited the Laboratory Veneto Agricoltura – CSQA. CSQA is a certification and inspection company formed in Italy in 1990 from a long established and prestigious institute of biotechnology. CSQA was the first institution to be accredited by the National Accreditation Body (Accredia) and authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture for the monitoring of products with Registered Designation of Origin (PDO, PGI, TSG). Today CSQA has branches in Croatia, Turkey, Poland and the UK.





Dr. Ferrarese and Dr. Spolaor received the EuroMed Delegation and presented some milestones of the Laboratory and CSQA. Dr. Maria Chiara Ferrarese presented the EU legislation for perishable foodstuffs and explained why such a legislation is important. She described the case of Italy and the legislative framework that is in effect, enabling competent Authorities to secure the perishable foodstuffs quality from their point of origin and production until the very consumption by the final customer (the so-called “from production to fork” chain).

Dr. Spolaor Presented the HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) concept. He highlighted the importance of HACCP concept and the critical role it can play in securing quality of perishable foodstuffs during the different steps of the food chain, in a “proactive way” rather than acting and checking, controlling and calibrating after the production phase is complete “reactive way”.



## 5. Visit to Alpetrans, a transport company operating in the field of refrigerated goods (Alpetrans): Operational aspects of the temperature-controlled transport chain



Alpetrans is a refrigerated goods transport company and logistic operator in the field of perishable foodstuffs transport. The EuroMed delegation visited its premises, located in Marostica.

Alpetrans possesses a fleet of over 150 vehicles, more than 200 employees and with a turnover in continuous growth. Specializing in the transportation of goods at controlled temperature and with isothermal protection, the company connects important production and commercial areas in Italy and Europe, using their three transit terminals for the collection and sorting of goods: Marostica (Vicenza), Conversano (Bari) and Lacchiarella (Milan).

Mr. Tolfo presented the company and its transport activities. He also presented the structure of the company and the goods that are mostly transported by it: Meet, Fish, Flowers, Nursery gardening, fruits, vegetables and other perishable foodstuffs, as well as pharmaceutical products. Alpetrans' thorough training scheme for new drivers was extensively presented, as well as special equipment the company use in order to secure the fulfillment of its clients special needs in terms of transport using high tech IT systems.





The high tech IT systems used by the company include, trucking and tracing, temperature controlling and critical situation alarm system, distant interventions to change refrigeration parameters, etc. That way the company can at any time monitor the conditions of the products in transport, the conditions in the isothermal chamber and the compliance of the truck driver with the policies of the company and law (for example, excess speed or other road traffic and security violations).

It should be mentioned that the heavy investment of the company in such technologies and its implementation give Alpetrans a competitive advantage and thus the delegation.



## 6. Construction of a refrigerating machine for the perishable foodstuffs: Visit to Zanotti S.p.A., a constructor of refrigerating units

Zanotti S.p.A. is covering a high percentage of the whole Italian production in the refrigeration field and is exporting its products all over the world. This was the reason why the EuroMed delegation visited the company's premises in Pegognaga area.

The delegation was received by Mr. Mr.Belloni, commercial director , Mr. Bulgarelli and Mr.Zarosso.



Participants were introduced to the company's, structure, network and historical background. and learned that Zanotti has grown from 30 employees in 1980 to 260 to 2014,

thanks to the growth and development of international trade. Today, Zanotti sells its products to more than 70 countries all over the world. Two of the main advantages, as presented by the company's officers are the commitment to constant technical innovation/research and the high levels of product adaptability (client demanded tailor-made solutions). Zanotti's range of products were showcased, as well as the competitive advantage of the company over its rivals.



The presentation was followed by a guided tour in the company's factory. During the tour, the whole construction process and its distinctive phases was presented and explained to the participants.



The visit to Zanotti completed the circle of visits to both legislative-related and technical-related sites of interest regarding ATP regulations, procedures and operating aspects.



## 7. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW UP

The Study Tour in Padova-Vicenza-Venice area, Italy offered the opportunity to senior staff of different Ministries of the EuroMed Partner countries concerned with the transport of perishable foodstuffs, namely Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture, to build capacity and learn on the application of the ATP agreement in the international and domestic transport of Italy and on the complete structure of the food safety and security chain.

Participants were introduced to the technical and financial issues relating to the construction and operation of ATP Test Stations (ATP Laboratories) and ATP Expert Tests and the procedures required to release ATP certificates to hauliers and insulation material and cooling machines producers.

The visit to the Padua ATP Test Stations (ATP Laboratory) and ATP Expert Tests Station and the opportunity to follow, in real time, ATP (K-Factor) test and see the results, was regarded as the Highlight of the study tour.

Covering all aspects of the perishable foodstuffs transport chain, from legislation to production of insulation and refrigeration equipment, to certification and to the actual transportation of such goods, this study tour has been regarded as a great success.

The follow-up would include further demand driven training events and TA to EuroMed Partner countries aimed at encouraging those that have not done so to accede to ATP Agreement and fully implement it.

It should also include, more efforts from the side of the EuroMed countries aimed at developing respective ATP Laboratories and Experts Test Stations in their territories, as necessary and appropriate.



**EuroMed RRUT Project Regional Study Tour Participants, Padova, Italy, 2-7 June 2014**

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