TRANSFORMING TRANSPORT

PRESS RELEASE

TransformingTransport reveals first results of its Big Data projects. The pilot study involving Athens International Airport is now in full swing.

Over the next few years, Europe will be seeing major upgrades to air transport, with enhanced circulation models fuelled by the processing of Big Data. Excitement is building around the latest plan to enhance circulation at Athens International Airport (AIA), which is set to become a model for other European airports.

In late September 2017, the first high level advisory board meeting under the TransformingTransport project took place in Athens at the premises of INTRASOFT International, one of the project partners in Greece. The event was powered by the project's coordination team: lead coordinator Rodrigo Castineira (Indra), scientific coordinator Andreas Metzger (Paluno), impact leader Akrivi Vivian Kiousi (INTRASOFT International) as well as project officer Riku Leppanen. It revealed the first round of results emerging from the project which are set to improve European transport on multiple levels. Weighing in on the discussions, global transport experts and advisory board members included Tobias Knobloch (Stiftung Neue Verantwortung, Berlin), Kevin Craig Lea (407 ETR, Canada), Maxime Flament (ERTICO-ITS), J. Rod Franklin (ALICE ETP), Ramon Garcia (European Logistics Association) and Thorsten Huelsmann (Industrial Data Space Association).

Among the different pilot projects discussed, the TransformingTransport team unveiled how AIA is becoming the first testbed for better passenger flow under the Smart Passenger Flow Pilot led jointly by Aegean Airlines and AIA, coordinated by Juan Francisco García López from global consulting and technology giant Indra. The pilot project's outcomes are expected to increase operational efficiency, improve passenger satisfaction and reduce operational costs in a new paradigm that is expected to be implemented in other European airports.

After the pilot presentation at INTRASOFT International had discussed in more detail how Big Data will be leveraged to achieve these aims, the coordination team and board members were invited to a presentation by AIA at the airport itself and a subsequent tour the airport's premises and Airport Services Operations Centre (ASOC) and the Airport's Boarding Pass and security screening areas, which are the key areas generating most of the information utilised in the project's Big Data analytics engine. Crucial to the organisation of this event was Nikos Papagiannopoulos, Senior Project Manager, IT&T Data Services for AIA supported by Georgios Tzavaras and Nikos Iosif (AIA/ACI).

Hot topics explored during the tour and presentation included how the airport is coping with a rapid rise in arrivals, future expansion of the airport itself and the invaluable contribution of Big Data to streamline operations. The airport tour also revealed the latest changes related to better passenger flow, such as the recent operational upgrade of the Intra-Schengen Area, including the new centralised passenger security screening, giving passengers more time to shop and feel more relaxed. AIA is a young airport that already uses cutting-edge technology, and the Smart Passenger Flow Pilot will make it a pioneer and model for many airports, thanks to the innovations and research emerging from TransformingTransport.

Smart Passenger Flow Pilot falls under the TransformingTransport project led by Indra in which 47 partners from 10 different countries take part. It is also one of the main initiatives promoted by the European Commission within Horizon 2020. Its objective is to improve mobility and logistics across the EU by taking advantage of Big Data technology.

If you are interested in the TRANSFORMING TRANSPORT initiative, or if you have questions, please contact info@transformingtransport.eu

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