



ESNtrain • platform GmbH • Neuhofstrasse 30 • CH-8708 Männedorf

Vienna, 29.03.2009

Press release

ESNtrain was cancelled on the day of its planned departure

On the day of the planned departure of the ESNtrain, its team had to inform the passengers about the cancellation of the project.

This is the end of a huge European project, for which hundreds of participants from 97 nations signed in and for which volunteers from all over Europe invested an incredible amount of hours and enthusiasm.

Everything was ready. The train was loaded with drinks, food, materials, T-shirts and guidebooks, about to leave Bratislava, its departure point. The route was all planned and many activities were organized in the cities on the journey.

It was an ambitious project, the first of its kind. It involved the coordination of many railway companies. Barriers and differences between them were overcome and the technical issues could be solved in collaboration. However, financial issues stopped the project.

Until the end, the estimated costs were subject to changes. On the departure day, 150 000 euros were missing. This sum was supposed to be covered by tax refunds and reductions on the railway track prices. Those are still being negotiated on highest levels in railway companies and governments. Unfortunately, we did not get the official confirmations in time.

Despite a lot of good will of our partners and of the patronage committee, this amazing project could not be saved in time.

Especially in times of crisis, Europe needs this kind of initiatives. The cancelling of a project with such an important European impact shall ask questions about the future of Europe, also regarding the approaching European elections.

We want to apologize to everybody who trusted in the ESNtrain and in particular to the participants. We intend to pay back their tickets as soon as possible.

We encourage all participants to keep their enthusiasm and energy and to continue their travels through Europe. Some sections, listed on our webpage, already have agreed to support participants in their cities. We hope that our dream and vision of 'Connecting Europe' will be continued.

Note: The organizer of the ESNtrain, the platform GmbH, wishes to clarify that it is neither financially nor legally linked to ESN International. However, ESN wants to state clearly that it gave support to ESNtrain by providing it with the help of its network of local sections. The sections situated at the various stops of the train put a lot of effort into organizing activities for the train's participants.

Press contact: Tania Berman, pr@esntrain.org, 00423 66 313 28 16.

ESNtrain stops

Amsterdam • Bremen
• Brussels • Budapest • Copenhagen • Dresden • Hamburg
• Heidelberg • Innsbruck • Krakow • Lausanne • Ljubliana • Munich • Oslo • Pisa
• Prague • Rome • Stockholm • Trondheim • Vienna • Warsaw • Winterthur • Zagreb • Zurich
• and many more