Regional logistics can do more!

Short portrait of the project

The Starting Point:

Products from the rural area must find their way to customers and buyers. In this respect logistics is a decisive prerequisite for economic success. However, due to small quantities of goods and long distances, classic delivery systems are usually not profitable and not very efficient in rural areas.

If you are looking for a way to boost your logistics in rural regions (and even cities) without employing more vehicles, we have the answer, **»CargoSurfer«**.

»CargoSurfer« focuses on making **better use of all players loading capacity by utilizing vehicles that are already on the road in the region on a regular basis**. The sole mission is to make use of all underutilized vehicles in the region, including those of regional producers, retailers, and service providers (such as publishers, driving and delivery services, and logistics providers), as well as bus and regional train journeys outside of peak hours and many other previously unused transportation capacities.

This has been shown by two feasibility studies already completed in cooperation with the associations Gutes aus Waldhessen e. V., SPESSARTregional e. V., and cantus Regionalbahn.
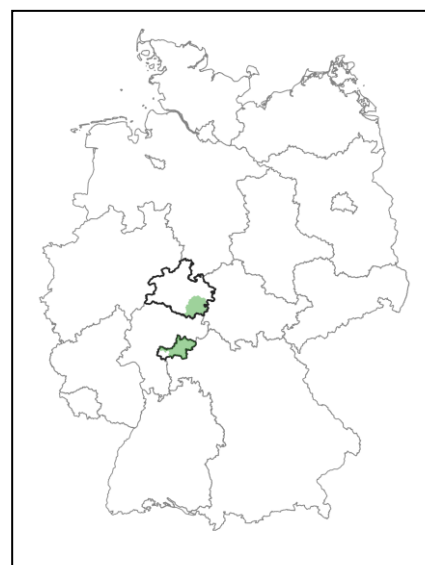
The Goal:

The fastest way to improve logistics in rural areas is to make consistent use of the free residual capacities of already existing journeys. However, these capacities have not been systematically recorded until now. There are questions like:

- *»How do I know where my neighboring business will be delivering tomorrow? «*
- *»How am I supposed to know that every day a logistics provider with residual/extra capacity is driving past my company to the next city? «*
- *»How do I know that the bus that passes by me several times a day can pick up goods? «*

We aim to build a digital logistics network that connects freight service providers, carriers, and receivers to allocate residual capacity for local goods transportation. A system of regional bundling points will be coupled with the logistics platform (so-called micro-hubs).

An initial test of the logistics platform is planned for spring 2023 in the Main-Kinzig district and in the region of North Hesse. This will be followed by improvements and extensions.
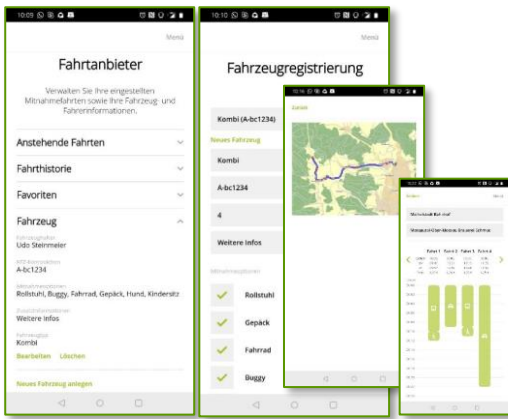

Region of North Hesse (above) and LEADER-Region SPESSARTregional are project regions for the testing of **»CargoSurfer«**

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© LaLoG LandLogistik GmbH, Concept »CargoSurfer«

Digital Application
(in development):

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The Added Values:

+ Networking and better utilization of existing journeys
+ Additional financial contribution margins for trans-porters and the public transport system due to the transport of goods
+ Creation of a new logistics option for local and regional goods transports
+ Strengthening of logistics relations between rural and urban, and opening of new sales markets for regional producers and traders
+ Time and cost savings for businesses through the elimination of their own costly journeys
+ Reduction of emissions using existing trips

Die Technik:

The technical foundation for digitally supported freight transport on existing routes are already present. However, the system will only be fully effective if multi-stage transports (e.g., pickup by logisticians, ultimate delivery by cargo bike) are also conceivable, and the system can respond flexibly to any disturbances (e.g., informing the recipient in the event of a delay or suggesting an alternative transport option). This »CargoSurfer« acts as a platform equipped with Artificial Intelligence (AI), which works in the background to guarantee that all cargo arrives safely, quickly, and as efficiently as possible.

The Development:

The »CargoSurfer« platform is a collaborative effort between several partners, each providing their own expertise. Development and testing are funded by the German Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV) as part of the mFUND funding program with around €1.85 million.

- **Project Partners**
- LaLoG LandLogistik GmbH   (Consortial leader and technical expertise)
- Kühne Logistics University (KLU)   (Technical and digital expertise)
- Trapeze Group Deutschland GmbH   (Technical and digital expertise)
- cantus Verkehrsgesellschaft mbH   (Practice partner with technical expertise)
- Regionalverkehr Main-Kinzig GmbH   (Practice partner with technical expertise)
- Gutes aus Waldhessen e. V.   (Practice partner with technical expertise)
- SPESSARTregional e. V.   (Practice partner with technical expertise)
- Behinderten-Werk Main-Kinzig e. V.   (Practice partner with technical expertise)

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Please find more information: www.cargosurfer.eu

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About the BMDV's mFUND funding program

As part of the mFUND funding program, the BMDV has been supporting research and development projects relat-ed to data-based digital innovations for Mobility 4.0 since 2016. Project funding is supplemented by active professional net-working between stakeholders from politics, business, admin-istration and research and the provision of open data on the mCLOUD portal. For more information, visit www.mfund.de