

ViWaS (Viable Wagonload Production Schemes) is a research and development project co-financed by the European Commission in the scope of the Seventh Framework Programme. The project aims at developing operational solutions capable of strengthening the efficiency and competitiveness of single wagonload and wagon group transport.

### Challenge

Single wagonload (SWL) transport is still a major component in numerous European states transport systems and in the logistics of different economic sectors such as steel, chemical industry and automotive. However, changing framework conditions and increasingly demanding market requirements have led to dramatic market losses and even to complete shutdown of SWL business in some countries. As this business segment has been evaluated as important for specific transports in a European co-modal transport system also in the future, significant improvements are needed.

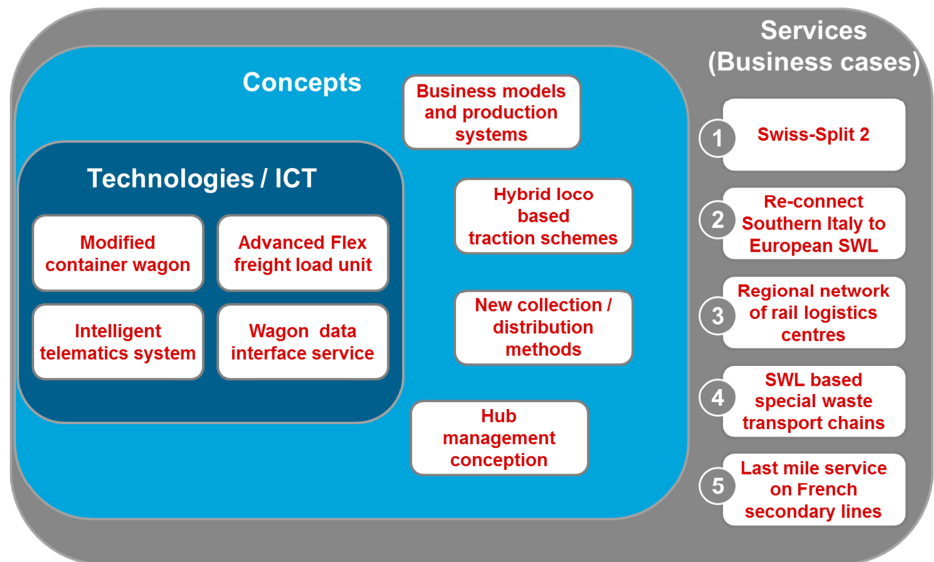
### Approach

The ViWaS partners believe that for the success of SWL the following two issues are crucial:

- (1) A viable SWL system is highly dependent on the critical mass. Thereby all options have to be considered to secure a high utilisation of the trains operated on the trunk lines, including bundling of traffic e.g. by a combined production with intermodal loads.
- (2) Only comprehensive and complementary measures are able to sustainably improve and preserve the European SWL systems in accordance with increasingly demanding market requirements.

The ViWaS project follows such a comprehensive approach; therefore developing

- Market driven business models and production systems to secure the critical mass needed for SWL operations,
- New ways for “Last mile” organisation to raise cost efficiency,



- Adapted SWL technologies to improve flexibility and equipment utilisation,
- Advanced SWL management processes & ICT to raise quality and cost efficiency

The applicability of these solutions and their effects will be proved on the basis of business cases by field tests and pilot operations. By doing so, important conclusions will be drawn with respect to a European wide implementation of the developed solutions.

### Key facts & Contact

- Duration:** 3 years; 09/2012 – 08/2015
- Funding scheme:** EU Seventh Framework Programme
- Budget:** 4.2 mio €; EC funding: 2.9 mio €
- Website:** www.viwas.eu
- Contact:** info@viwas.eu
- Coordinator:**

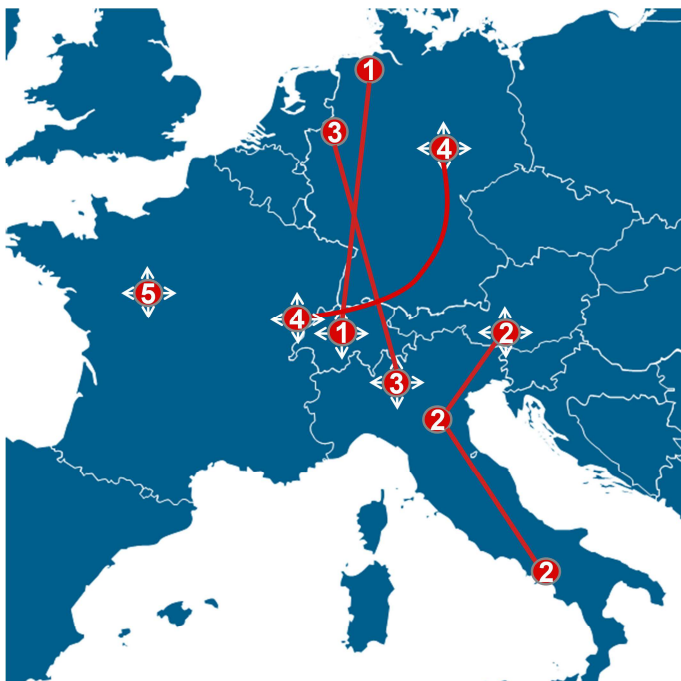


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## Project partners

The ViWaS consortium is set up from vital competencies in the field of rail transport. This includes railway operators, rail infrastructure operators, technology companies and other rail service providers, consulting firms and academic partners. Additional support generated from the ViWaS advisory board that consists of other SWL stakeholders, not being part of the consortium.



## Business cases

ViWaS aims at developing solutions that can be easily integrated in real life business of SWL stakeholders. By doing so, it is expected to generate a real impact in securing the viability of single wagonload transport.

The applicability of these solutions will be tested or demonstrated on the basis of real business cases of the ViWaS consortium members and their cooperation partners associated to the project. A business case will comprise one or more organisational and/or technical developments.

Currently five business cases are considered:

- (1) **Swiss Split 2**
- (2) **Reconnect Southern Italy to European SWL**
- (3) **Regional network of rail logistics centres**
- (4) **SWL based special waste transport chains**
- (5) **Last mile service on French secondary lines**