


NR.	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
0	Photograph	
1.	Title of the practice	Narrow - gauge railway in Aluksne – Gulbene (P11)
2.	Precise theme / issue of the practice	“Dedicated” mobility initiatives: social, leisure, tourism.
3.	Objectives of the practice	To offer Vidzeme region dwellers a way to move in daily life, as well as interested parties who want to enjoy the ride, looking at Vidzeme’s most scenic places. Gulbene - Aluksne railway is a popular tourist attraction; it is also a fascinating trip through Vidzeme and a travel in time. Gulbene - Aluksne railway is the only narrow-gauge railway in the Baltics. The Vidzeme Banitis or Gulbene – Aluksne railway is the only railway in Latvia which has been declared as a national cultural monument.
4.	Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country: Latvia - Region or district, or municipality: Vidzeme region – Gulbene and Aluksne amalgamated municipalities
5.	Detailed description of practice	<p><u>Origin:</u></p> <p>Operating company “Gulbene–Aluksne Banitis” Ltd founded by enthusiasts and local municipalities on 21st century. "Gulbene - Aluksne Banitis" Ltd, which operates Gulbene–Aluksne narrow gauge railway, is a private train company founded on 20th of February, 2001. The company’s founders are Gulbene, Aluksne and Stāmeriene local governments, Latvian Railwaymen Society and six individuals. "Gulbene - Aluksne Banitis" Ltd was registered in the Register of Enterprises on 20th of April, 2001 and re-registered in the Commercial Register on 15th of December 2004.</p> <p><u>Timescale:</u></p> <p>The first information about Gulbene – Aluksne narrow gauge railway appears in 1890. The project is being implemented currently (periodically the Gulbene-Aluksne gauge railway infrastructure and operation are being improved).</p> <p><u>Bodies involved / implementation:</u></p> <p>Municipalities of Aluksne and Gulbene, LR Ministry of Transport, state joint stock company and Latvian railway (Vas „Latvijas dzelzceļš”), LDZ rolling stock service” Ltd (SIA „LDZ Ritošā sastāva serviss”), „LDZ Cargo”. Ltd „Rīga varnish and paint factory”.</p> <p><u>Process and detailed content of the practice:</u></p> <p>„Gulbene-Aluksne Banitis” Ltd offers tours or leisure trips as part of scheduled daily trips twice a day, and a special train trip can be ordered at the desired time. It’s possible to complete a</p>

special composition of the train according to customer needs in terms of the number of wagons and of the design, as long as it does not conflict with the Railway Technical operating rules.

Can provide the following on the regular and special trains:

- Guided tour on the board of train.
- Improvised performance with train robbery or gypsies.
- Activities for wedding party in the decorated train.
- Catering in the open air at the specific locations or in bar carriage during the journey.
- Soviet stile services of „ bufetcitsa”.
- Transportation of bikes for cyclists (up to 40 persons), by prior arrangement.

There is a possibility to visit Gulbene depot. It is typical for the first half of the 20th century with broad and narrow gauge tracks, as well as repair shops.

Visitors can order:

- A tour of the depot, including demonstration of turntable.
- Riding by hand driven or motor trolley.
- Accomodation in quest house „Depo”

Legal framework:

Law On Public Transport Services, Cabinet Regulations and “Gulbene – Aluksne Banitis” Ltd Statute.

Financial framework:

- Project funded by the revenues, Ministry of Transport grants, local government and private financial investments, co-financing from various funds for projects implemented.
- The exent use of results (%): Users of the total population (if it is possible).

Accurate statistics are not carried out.

6.	Evaluation
	<p><u>Possible demonstranted results (through indicators):</u></p> <p>At the moment one railway station (Gulbene) and 9 railway stops are officialy approved for the operation on the Gulbene – Aluksne line. Most significant of them are Kalniena, Stameriene, Papatde, Umernieki and Aluksne where historical station buildings have been preserved. Railway stop Birze was erected between railway stops Gulbene and Stameriene after World War Two, but railway stops Purini, Dunduri, Vejini were erected from 1970 to 1980, installed small waiting sheds for passengers.</p> <p><u>Possible success factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March, 2007 changes were made to the structure of the capital for the benefit of private capital - "Gulbenes - Aluksne banitis" private shareholders increased to eight individuals. • "Gulbene - Aluksne banitis" Ltd was the first Latvian train operating company that received the new European Union Safety Certificate in 2008.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulbene - Aluksne narrow gauge railway has been preserved as a historical evidence of the Latvian Railway and an attractive railway-museum has been created. • Allows to explore the railway's history and traditions, to promote railway's historical and industrial heritage. • Rises interest of the public, especially young people in railway, creating the opportunity to participate in the railway industry processes. <p><u>Difficulties encountered:</u></p> <p>Public transport planning has not got a single methodical and economically reasonable normative basis.</p>	
7.	Lessons learnt from the practice	<p>„Banitis” is very popular between the tourists, as to the railway is a scenic landscape, as well as interesting natural and historical objects. Railway operators host a variety of events such as holiday trips - Easter and Christmas trips and Annual Narrow Gauge Railway Festival. „Banitis” demonstrates that in addition to traditional mobility and with a relatively small investment, it is possible to make attractive travel by train, attract tourists, thinking about clean and safe environment.</p>
8.	Contact information	<p>"Gulbene - Aluksne banitis" Ltd Address: Viestura street 16G, Gulbene Gulbene district, LV-4401 Phone / Fax: 64473037 Mobile phone: 20228884 E-mail: info@banitis.lv</p>
9.	Other possible interesting information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional information provided by the respondent www.banitis.lv • Various documents (reports, presentations)