



WELCOME TO OUR Newsletter

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the eighth edition of the TRACE Newsletter.

This issue captures a dynamic period for the TRACE project, marked by strong dissemination activities, high-level participation in major ICT and logistics events, and continued progress across our large-scale pilots in Greece, Italy, and Slovenia.

From contributing to discussions on U-space and drone integration in Emilia-Romagna, to engaging with the Greek ICT ecosystem at Athens INFOCOM World 2025, TRACE continues to strengthen its presence across European innovation platforms. At the same time, we are proud to share the release of our new overview video, presenting the project's vision, smart platform, and real-world demonstrations.

As demonstrations intensify and collaboration deepens, TRACE continues to move forward – integrating technology, interoperability, and sustainability to shape the future of synchromodal logistics.

Warm regards,
The TRACE Team

↓ This issue features:

TRACE dissemination activities in Imola, Emilia-Romagna, and Athens INFOCOM World 2025, the new TRACE overview video presenting project goals and demonstrations, Partner Spotlight: ACS – autonomous last-mile delivery in Greece, Partner Spotlight: Codewheel – Virtual Cockpit for real-time supervision, Partner Spotlight: UNIMORE – drone delivery and cargo bike logistics.

Exploring Innovation

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TRACE DISSEMINATION
ACTIVITIES



TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF U-SPACE

On 9 February 2026, TRACE partner, ITL, participated in a meeting organised by the Emilia-Romagna Region to present ongoing drone-related initiatives and discuss the next steps towards developing an architecture capable of supporting safe and secure drone operations under the U-space framework.

During the meeting, three drone projects were presented: the EU projects Di-PEGASUS and TRACE, both introduced by ITL, and Dronecare, funded by the Emilia-Romagna Region.

ITL's presentation highlighted the TRACE project, with particular emphasis on the Italian pilot.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

TRACE PRESENTED AT "SICUREZZA STRADALE" EVENT IN IMOLA

On 12 December 2025, the TRACE project was presented during the event "Sicurezza Stradale", organised by the Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering (DICAM) of the Università di Bologna. The event took place at the iconic Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari in Imola, Italy.

Dissemination & Citizen Awareness
Action

The initiative aimed to enhance public awareness of TRACE and encourage participation in the TRACE Citizen Survey. The activity was integrated into a broader research paper dissemination effort focused on logistics, automotive systems, and road safety.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Exploring Innovation

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TRACE PARTICIPATES IN ATHENS INFOCOM WORLD 2025: “AI-VOLUTION - A BRAVE NEW WORLD”

TRACE was pleased to take part in the Athens INFOCOM World 2025 Conference & Expo, held on November 26, 2025. INFOCOM World is one of the most influential annual events for the Greek ICT ecosystem, bringing together key industry stakeholders, research organisations, policymakers, and thousands of visitors each year.

As part of this year’s theme, “AI-VOLUTION - A Brave New World,” TRACE contributed to the Science Section Workshop, an important forum showcasing cutting-edge research and innovation. The project was represented by Vassilis Papataxiarhis, PhD (NKUA), who delivered a presentation on TRACE’s objectives, progress, and scientific contributions.

In addition to the presentation, TRACE had a dedicated booth in the exhibition area, offering attendees the opportunity to learn more about the project’s activities, engage with consortium members, and explore ongoing developments.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



TRACE RELEASES NEW OVERVIEW VIDEO HIGHLIGHTING PROJECT GOALS & DEMONSTRATIONS

Explore the vision and real-world applications of TRACE

We're excited to share that the TRACE Project has published a brand-new overview video that introduces the core objectives of TRACE and showcases its ongoing demonstrations across Europe. The video offers a clear and engaging snapshot of how TRACE is tackling some of today's biggest logistics challenges by promoting synchromodal, data-driven, and collaborative logistics services through an integrated smart platform.

What's featured in the video?

- The key challenges facing modern logistics and how TRACE responds with intelligent, sustainable solutions.
- An introduction to the TRACE smart platform and its synchromodal capabilities that support stakeholders – from logistics managers and application developers to SMEs and public authorities.
- A look at real-world demonstrations in Greece, Italy, and Slovenia, featuring urban and intercity logistics scenarios with multiple transport modes such as trains, vans, delivery vehicles, electric vehicles and drones.

Watch the full video clicking [TRACE YouTube channel link!](#)





PARTNER VOICES

DRIVING INNOVATION ACROSS TRACE PILOTS

Behind every TRACE demonstration lies the expertise, collaboration, and operational commitment of its partners. In this edition of the TRACE Newsletter, we highlight three consortium members who are actively shaping the project's large-scale pilots through real-world implementation, advanced technologies, and cutting-edge research.

From large-scale courier operations and autonomous last-mile delivery, to immersive virtual monitoring systems and coordinated drone and cargo bike demonstrations, these interviews showcase how TRACE solutions are being tested, validated, and refined in real operational environments. Through the perspectives of:

- ACS Courier and Postal Services S.A. – bringing operational realism and autonomous delivery validation to the Greek pilots
- Codewheel Ltd. – developing the Virtual Cockpit for real-time monitoring and intervention
- University of Modena and Reggio Emilia – advancing drone delivery and coordinated cargo bike logistics

we explore how collaboration, interoperability, and experimentation under real conditions are driving TRACE forward.



Partner Spotlight: ACS

Delivering real operational insight and pioneering autonomous last-mile solutions within the TRACE pilots.



How can real courier operations accelerate logistics innovation? In this interview, ACS Courier and Postal Services S.A. shares its experience from leading large-scale TRACE pilots in Greece — including its first autonomous last-mile delivery in a real operational environment.

ACS Courier and Postal Services S.A. brings more than four decades of courier expertise into the TRACE project, contributing real operational insight to large-scale logistics pilots in Greece. As an operational partner, ACS provides concrete use cases, real data, and validation environments that bridge research with everyday courier operations.

A key achievement has been the successful deployment of an autonomous ground vehicle for last-mile delivery within the Greek Pilot Scenario C — marking ACS's first real-world autonomous delivery operation.



As noted in the interview, “TRACE stands out by actively involving large-scale operational pilots for demonstration and validation purposes.” For ACS, the value of participation lies in experimentation under real conditions: “The opportunity to test advanced concepts and models under real operational conditions is particularly valuable.”

By combining collaboration, interoperability, and operational realism, ACS helps position TRACE as a practical pathway toward more resilient and data-driven courier services.

[READ THE FULL INTERVIEW](#)

Virtual Cockpits and Real-Time Control: CDW's Contribution to TRACE

Harnessing immersive monitoring and human-robot interaction for smarter, scalable logistics operations.



In the latest partner spotlight, Codewheel Ltd. – the team behind the innovative Virtual Cockpit module in TRACE – shares how its immersive technology is helping redefine logistics monitoring and intervention.

CDW develops the Virtual Cockpit, a cutting-edge application that enables real-time remote feedback and supervision of autonomous vehicles used in automatic last-mile delivery within TRACE demonstrations.

One notable achievement from the collaboration has been the seamless remote intervention during operations of Robotnik's RB-VOGUI platform, proving how virtual control and robotic systems can interact dynamically based on human input.

ICDW sees TRACE as a catalyst for industry transformation: "TRACE is poised to be a generational catalyst for the European distribution and delivery sector," redefining how planning, monitoring and operational execution come together. The project also opens new market opportunities: the Virtual Cockpit's development responds directly to a need for scalable automation supervision, and CDW plans to refine and launch it as a dedicated solution after TRACE.

As the interview explains, "What excites us most is the sheer complexity and breadth of the solution," highlighting how robotics, virtual reality and optimisation are brought together to advance next-generation logistics.

[READ THE FULL INTERVIEW](#)

Autonomy & Sustainable Logistics: UNIMORE in TRACE

Advancing real-time systems, autonomous mobility, and coordinated last-mile solutions for smarter urban logistics.



University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE) brings advanced research in real-time systems and autonomous platforms into the TRACE project, driving innovation in coordinated and sustainable logistics. Through its High-Performance Real-Time Laboratory (Hipert Lab), UNIMORE bridges theoretical research and practical applications in autonomous mobility, optimizing delivery operations for the future.

Within TRACE, UNIMORE leads two main demonstrations: an urgent drone-delivery scenario with Difly, and a cargo bike platooning use case designed to improve last-mile logistics efficiency and responsiveness in urban areas. These pilots show how real-time tracking, coordinated control, and autonomous technologies can reshape delivery processes while reducing congestion and emissions.

Reflecting on the project's mission, UNIMORE emphasises that TRACE "strongly embodies values such as innovation, collaboration, sustainability, and efficiency, combining technological advancement with real societal needs." Looking ahead, the lab aims to mature its cargo bike systems toward real-world adoption, explore further prototype refinement and technology transfer, and foster broader impacts on smart city logistics.

[READ THE FULL INTERVIEW](#)

Partners



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