

## Local Partnership and TRANSPORT

- France

The para-public DK'BUS Marine network comprises 9 city bus routes and 1 suburban route. It serves 18 municipalities in Dunkerque Grand Littoral, a total of 210,000 inhabitants. Two routes have even been extended beyond the Franco-Belgian border to Adinkerke.

DK'BUS Marine has always sought to develop new services in order to meet specific transport needs, within the bounds of cost control. It therefore set up, many years ago, a number of services to fulfil the transport needs of individuals, to which a conventional bus is poorly adapted:

- Handibus: Introduced in 1982, this service is for persons whose handicap prevents them from using conventional buses.
- The "Etoile" Line: This service, made up of three circuits, is adapted to persons with mobility problems, mainly the elderly.
- Taxi Bus: This service takes over from conventional buses, from 10 p.m. until 12:30 a.m., at a 30-minute frequency.
- The City-Centre Shuttle: It is free-of-charge and circulates during the school year between the city centre and the university.
- The Starfish: This summer shuttle offers free transport between alternative car parks and the Malo-les-Bains sea wall.

Associations and other social economy organisations working with the elderly, persons with disabilities and others had encouraged the set-up of these services. They were partially involved in their planning and related initiatives.

Access to the Handibus service is managed and administrated by an association for people with disabilities.

There are also services that were set up via a partnership with museums (see the Zao Wou Ki exhibition), theatres (e.g. the Bateau Feu), etc. and that require telephone reservations.

In a bid to simplify and improve transport around its perimeter, the Dunkerque Grand Littoral and DK'BUS Marine decided to create Illico, an on-demand transport service that combines three services that were previously separate: Taxibus, Handibus and the "Etoile" Line. In time, Illico will be providing service to areas with a lower population density.

The benefits:

- a service based on strong partnerships among different local service providers,
- the development of a cross-border urban network,
- coordination of childcare services at unusual hours with transport services: 50% of people who use the Taxibuses work in the restaurant sector,
- pro-active, simple and rapid on-demand reservation service,
- a service that also meets the needs of the elderly, who make increasing use of the Illico service (Etoile and the Taxibus).