

The seaside city of Gdynia, a model for sustainable urban transport in Poland, will proudly host the CIVITAS FORUM 2016!

A fresh northern wind will grace the CIVITAS FORUM next year as the event heads to the delightful Polish seaside city of Gdynia. Considered a beacon of European modernity on the Baltic Sea with its impressive architecture, film festivals and waterside promenades, Gdynia is one of Poland's youngest cities and a model of sustainable urban transport. It won the bid to host the event over two other formidable contestants –Belfast in the UK and Donostia in Spain – impressing judges with a long history of sustainable transport initiatives and projects.

Gdynia embraced sustainable mobility even before Poland became an EU member state. It launched its first major transport plan in 1997, embarking shortly thereafter on a number of European-led transport initiatives such as BUSTRIP, YOUTH, INTERFACE, TROLLEY, SEGMENT, ENTER.HUB and CH4LLENGE. Equally noteworthy are the two CIVITAS projects that Gdynia has been part of, namely CIVITAS Tellus and CIVITAS Dyn@mo, having been as well runner up for various CIVITAS awards in recent years.

Today Gdynia is in the process of completing its Sustainable Urban Transport Plan for 2008-2015 and embarking on its Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for 2016-2025, the fruits of which will be already visible to the participants and visitors at next year's Forum. These ambitious plans are successfully introducing measures to upgrade the city's transport system and render it more eco-friendly, offering residents and visitors an admirable standard of living in a superlative urban environment.

Mayor Wojciech Szczurek of Gdynia who supported the city's bid to host the event was delighted with the results, particularly since he has been working fervently on sustainable mobility development for decades. In this context the CIVITAS FORUM 2016 will be held at the design-led PPNT Conference Centre which is close to many of the city's good hotels, promising an excellent forum.

Gdynia's city authorities along with the CIVITAS team are already working hard to ensure that the event plays an important role in furthering sustainable urban transport. This is a must-attend event for all urban mobility stakeholders, enthusiasts and media representatives.



If you are interested in joining the CIVITAS Initiative, or if you have questions, please contact the CIVITAS Secretariat at secretariat@civitas.eu

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CIVITAS ONLINE



<u>www.civitas.eu</u> is your portal to the CIVITAS Initiative. Visit the CIVITAS website to learn more about the CIVITAS Forum City Network, the ambitious policies and innovative measures many of its members have implemented, and how you can learn more about these at the annual CIVITAS Forum Conference.

With regularly updated News and Events sections, the site is your one-stop-shop for sustainable urban mobility.

Simply go to our website www.civitas.eu.

