**THE BEST OF CIVITAS FORUM 2015**

This year one of the most important and expected European conferences on sustainable urban mobility, the CIVITAS Forum Conference, was successfully organised from 7-9 October in the lovely Slovenian city of Ljubljana. Now in its 13th edition, the CIVITAS Forum Conference 2015 carried the theme of ‘Sharing the city’, focusing on sustainable urban mobility as a driver to build an accessible and liveable city for all and continuously improve the quality of urban life.

This year’s Conference Programme included remarkable site visits, outstanding key note speakers, and 22 technical sessions with over 80 presentations in total. It was graced with the participation of Maroš Šefčovič, Vice President for Energy Union, Jyrki Katainen, Vice President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Transport, Miro Cerar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, and Zoran Janković, Mayor of Ljubljana.

Overall the Forum attracted close to 600 participants and brought together numerous cities, urban mobility experts, European Commission representatives, researchers and local authorities. The stakeholders actively discussed and exchanged experiences on how best sharing the physical and social space of the city can significantly contribute to further define and implement innovative, smart and sustainable mobility solutions in European cities and beyond.

Among the highlights of the event was a session for elected cities representatives entitled ‘From sustainable urban mobility to future cities’ and an interactive session entitled ‘Let’s think together; Low carbon future of cities: how to get electrification right’.

Furthermore, the newly established Political Advisory Committee (PAC) for the 2015-2017 mandate organised its first meeting, electing the Chair (Mr Steen Moller) and Vice-Chair (Mr Gabrielle Folli) on this occasion.

**Multi-Awards evening**

The results of the CIVITAS Awards 2015 for the most ambitious, innovative and successful efforts in the field of sustainable urban mobility were announced during the Forum and the Awards handed in by Magda Kopczyńska, Director for Innovative and Sustainable Mobility in DG MOVE.

In the category of Technical Innovation, the 1st place was won by Umeå that shined in innovation this year with its ultra-fast charging technology in electric buses. Noteworthy in 2nd place and 3rd place respectively, Odense and Palma de Mallorca were also recognised for their innovative projects.

In the category of Public Participation, Valencia claimed 1st place with its initiative ‘Travelling together every day’. In addition the City of Beja was also praised as runner up with an admirable campaign to promote public transport and improve accessibility for its citizens.

Finally, Reggio Emilia won the title of CIVITAS City of the Year for its urban mobility plan featuring several impressive mobility solutions that have transformed its historical city centre and engaged citizens in its vision for change. Noteworthy too is the runner up in this category, the city of Tallinn, incorporating valuable best practice from CIVITAS, successfully prioritising public transport over private car.

In addition to the traditional CIVITAS Awards on clean urban mobility, this year the ceremony included also the announcement of Ljubljana’s Sustainable Traveller Prize for the participants who travelled the longest distance to the 2015 Forum using sustainable means, and the CIVITAS Academy Training Certification ceremony recognising urban mobility professionals who had participated in trainings and e-courses of the CIVITAS Learning Centre.

**CIVITAS Forum Conference 2016 will take place in Gdynia, Poland**

The closing session of the conference revealed to the participants the Host City for next year’s CIVITAS Forum: Gdynia. The city is a model of sustainable urban transport among Polish cities, and in fact it embraced sustainable mobility even before Poland became an EU member state. Achievements resulting from its Sustainable Urban Transport Plan will be visible to the Forum 2016 participants, and we hope to see you there next autumn!

For more information contact forum.contribution@civitas.eu
CIVITAS WIKI Policy Note ‘Making urban freight logistics more sustainable’

Freight distribution is a vital part of life in modern cities and plays a pivotal role within the whole urban mobility system. However, it also poses substantial challenges for the city environment and its citizens and users. Promoting and sustaining alternative strategies and solutions for urban freight logistics is becoming a critical aspect of urban transport planning.

The CIVITAS WIKI project has released the fifth policy note, ‘Making urban freight more sustainable’, focusing on the topic of urban freight logistics.

Although urban freight systems have not received much attention to date, actual demographic trends showing increasing urbanisation, together with the pervasive role of information and communication technologies and the consistent growth of e-commerce, are bound to pose further challenges to the urban freight system. The trade-off between the economic advantages of an efficient and effective urban freight system and the environmental disadvantages derived are becoming ever more critical.

It is therefore urgent to start debating on alternative and more sustainable approaches to urban freight planning. In this vein, this note aims to raise awareness and increase knowledge of urban freight issues and challenges among policy makers. The document represents a toolbox of the most relevant initiatives and measures from both CIVITAS and other EU experiences.

The selection of measures presented here can be implemented by local small- to medium-sized European cities to achieve more sustainable urban freight transport, bearing in mind that no single solution can address and solve all urban freight transport problems. Only an appropriate blend of different initiatives and measures based on the specific features of the city, its characteristics and needs can make urban freight more sustainable.

To learn more on this topic, see the complete document available in the CIVITAS website (http://www.civitas.eu/content/making-urban-freight-more-sustainable-new-civitas-policy-note-now-available).
POLICY NEWS

Publication of policy note on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and traffic management in cities

Many cities across Europe are growing in population, and decision makers have to deal with a parallel increase in traffic and transport. Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and urban traffic management can provide help to manage this challenge.

The policy note produced by CIVITAS WIKI on ITS and traffic management in cities provides information and guidance to help municipalities select sustainable, environmentally friendly and cost-efficient ITS and traffic management measures in order to meet European, national and local goals.

The policy note provides a step-by-step guide on how to achieve this. It starts with the positioning of ITS and traffic management in the urban mobility context and then provides a structured approach to selection of services and measures. It concludes with guidance in ‘selling the story’. In addition to this guide the note also provides a measure catalogue offering measure descriptions, benefits and possible barriers, as well as insights on expected future developments and practical examples of measures implemented in cities.

See the complete document available in the CIVITAS website: http://www.civitas.eu/content/its-and-traffic-management-new-civitas-policy-note-now-available

CITY NEWS

Can you have Electric Vehicles (EV) without EV Infrastructure? What role should the City play?

What came first the chicken or the egg? A similar question can be asked with regards to EVs and EV charging infrastructure. The Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo recently posed a similar question when a feasibility study on the deployment of charging stations was carried out as part of the CIVITAS 2Move2 project.

The study was a learning process which identified the barriers and drivers to EV use. More importantly it outlined the actions and policies that the Municipality needed to take once EV technology matures and suits the local market, and once the use of EVs becomes widespread. The study also investigated issues surrounding charging infrastructure in the private and public domain. The work involved a case review of cities around the world that have adopted e-vehicles adapted to the unique circumstances of the local market.

The case review outlined tools such as making the preparation for charging infrastructure a requirement of new construction permits, collaboration in an electric shared car pilot to raise awareness, and operating charging points for e-motorcycles.

The city of Tel Aviv-Yafo cannot act in isolation from the rest of the country but must gain better understanding of EVs and EV charging technology within the unique local context as a necessary first step.

Tel Aviv-Yafo is member of the CIVITAS 2MOVE2 project. For more information contact Simona Leibovich - leibovich_si@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il

The study will be shortly available in the CIVITAS website (www.civitas.eu).

Let’s celebrate European Trolleybus Day in Gdynia!

On 20 September 2015 the City of Gdynia celebrated the 6th European Trolleybus Day by organising activities to mark the event. One of the many attractions was the opportunity to visit a historical trolleybus of Gdynia’s fleet (Skoda 9Tr20) and an up-to-date model (Solaris Trollino 12) which was bought as a one of the two trolleys within CIVITAS DYN@MO. The new vehicles are capable to drive about 15 km without power from wires. They use energy cumulated in lithium-ion batteries which are placed inside the trolleybus. Thanks to this new technology, trolleybus line 21 has now an extended offline loop reaching the popular Gdynia Aquarium, which hadn’t previously been connected to the public transport network.

Gdynia is member of the CIVITAS DYN@MO project. For more information contact Dorota Gajda - d.gajda@zdiz.gdynia.pl

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Brno is the second largest city in the Czech Republic with almost 400,000 inhabitants. The city’s public transport is provided by Brno Public Transport Company (DPMB) which operates about 750 vehicles (trams, trolleybuses, buses and also electric boats).

The years 2014-2015 saw a major change in the generation of vehicles. The first delivery of 36 articulated diesel buses from SOLARIS took place in early 2014, meeting the EURO 5 emission standard. According to the European Union support, DPMB decided to convert one third of all 300 DPMB diesel buses to CNG buses. A modern CNG filling station was built during the pilot project implemented in 2014 and 12 new CNG buses from IVECO and SOR were bought. In 2015 with EU financial support under the Environment 88 programme, additional CNG buses were bought. These buses are also made by IVECO and SOR, meeting emission standard EURO 6. According to the conditions of the European grant, 88 old buses with emission standard EURO 0 to EURO 3 were withdrawn from circulation.

In the first half of 2015, 30 new articulated trolleybuses from ŠKODA were delivered. The purchase of new trolleybuses was co-financed by European Union via a regional operational programme. The delivery of new trolleybuses allowed the sale of older trolleybuses to Ukrainian public transport operators and the new trolleybuses also replaced some articulated diesel buses that were operated on the trolleybus routes.

In the coming year the DPMB plans to open the tender for ten 12-meter-long trolleybuses with batteries that allow operation of trolleybus without overhead lines over a distance of a few kilometres. This was recommended by the feasibility study by Brno University of Technology as one of the CIVITAS 2MOVE2 measures.

In the last two years the DPMB renewed almost one third of trolleybuses and bus rolling stock. This has helped to improve the air quality in the city of Brno and improve the quality of public transport. The DPMB is still interested in new technologies and continues to monitor innovations in clean public city transport.

In May 2015 the city of Aachen put into operation an articulated electric bus that was converted from hybrid into a fully electric drive technology. The conversion encompassed the installment of a 180 kWh battery pack by the public transport organisation ASEAG in cooperation with Futavis GmbH. The vehicle inspection organisation, DEKRA, had been involved in the project from an early stage to ensure secure and reliable operation. The conversion was financed by CIVITAS DYN@MO and the Aachen Transport Association ‘Aachener Verkehrsverband’ (AVV). ‘The bus is now in daily operation for up to six hours on two different lines. Its operation is very stable and dependable, without any substantial disruptions up till now’ says Walter Esser, project manager in charge of ASEAG. ‘Our tests suggest that the range will possibly be higher than expected.’

The technology of the vehicle will continuously be further developed during operation. For example the batteries’ resistance to high temperatures will be improved, the lighting will be upgraded to save energy without any loss of efficiency and noise emissions, being already at a very moderate level, will be further reduced.

Experiences from regular service:

- **Day of approval**: 6 May 2015
- **Kilometres driven and consumption**: 2,620 km / 5,800 kWh
- **Average consumption per kilometre**: 2.2 kWh
- **Example: Shuttle service during European Equestrian Championships**: 90 km / 151.6 kWh 2015
- **Average consumption per kilometre (of the example)**: 1.68 kWh

Conclusion: The loading of the vehicle has no noticeable influence on its consumption.
CIVITAS Thematic Groups: Latest activities, outcomes and results

CIVITAS Thematic Groups exchanges and activities are involving an increasing number of professionals and city representatives. Have a look at the main activities, outcomes and results emerging from the Thematic Groups in the last months.

Several practical activities involving a great number of participants were organised during 2015 within the CIVITAS Thematic Groups and with the support of CIVITAS WIKI or CAPITAL:

- **A Study Tour** in Nantes (France) on 24 February 2015: ‘Rethinking bus network design and operation’

- **Three Peer Review Exercises** – ‘Cycling policies’ on 26 February in Malaga (Spain), ‘Demand-responsive transport in Catalonia’ on 1 July in Barcelona (Spain) and ‘Starting a SUMP process with a specific focus on resilience’ on 29 July in San Giuseppe Vesuviano (Italy)

- **Four Webinars**: ‘Intelligent Transport Systems and Traffic Management’ on 30 April, ‘Segmentation in campaigning’ on 28 April, ‘Mobility planning in polycentric and cross-border regions’ on 6 May, ‘Behaviour change theories for cycling promotion’ on 13 August

- **One training session**: Company Mobility Management on 9 October in Ljubljana (Slovenia)

All the presentations and summary reports are available via the respective Thematic Groups page on the CIVITAS website (http://civitas.eu/thematic-groups-all).

Thematic activities are deployed on a demand-driven basis, answering to real needs of the cities. If you have a specific topic you want to know more about or if you want to interact and exchange ideas with the CIVITAS community, please let us know at training@civitas.eu.

You can also contact the moderator of the Thematic Group of your interest in case you wish to showcase the achievements of your city or to invite experts from other cities for advice on policies you are implementing. In this respect, the CIVITAS WIKI team will be happy to assist you in organising and co-funding either a study tour or a peer review exercise. Shared ideas easily become future innovations!

A CIVITAS placement is the ultimate opportunity for you as host city to learn from another city. A mobility professional from another city will stay between 3-5 days in your city and work on a concrete local challenge that they are facing. With your support they will look for a solution. At the same time this mobility expert will peer-review other measures in your city. The emphasis during the placement is on practical knowledge exchange.

The CIVITAS Placement Exchange Programme has been running for one year. The following cities have already offered to be a host city: Koprivnica (Croatia), Bristol (United Kingdom), Madeira (Funchal, Portugal), Graz (Austria) and Ljubljana (Czech Republic). Several placements will take place in those cities within the coming months.

While CIVITAS has received many applications for cities to be placed, it has not yet found a host city for all of them. It is looking for more cities that would like to host a mobility professional. To illustrate, the city of Niksic (Montenegro) is looking for a medium-sized host city (around 75 000 inhabitants) where the applicant can learn more about how to improve and extend the existing public transport network operated by different private companies.

**How can you host a mobility professional in your city?**

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How can you become a host city?

How can you apply for a placement?
Transport professionals who want to take part, should read first the requirements for an application and then fill in the online application form. A Quality Board will decide on the application proposals three times a year.

**More information**
- learningcentre@civitas.eu
2015 Annual Polis Conference
– Innovation in Transport for Sustainable Cities and Regions

(19-20 November 2015 – Brussels) The Annual Polis Conference on Transport innovation for sustainable cities and regions will take place on 19 and 20 November 2015 in Brussels. The Annual Polis Conference provides an opportunity for cities, metropolitan areas and regions to showcase their transport achievements to a large audience. It will also encourage the wider transport community to engage with representatives of city and regional authorities on innovative transport solutions.

The conference offers a mix of high-level plenary sessions, with prominent figures debating topical issues, and a wide selection of technical sessions showing innovation in policy and practice across the transport spectrum. More information at: http://www.polisnetwork.eu/2015conference

TRIP stakeholder workshop - Future of Urban Mobility

(17 November 2015 – Brussels) TRIP will organise a one-day stakeholder workshop in Brussels aimed at senior researchers and consultants, policy makers, city planners and other stakeholders with an interest in the future of urban mobility.

TRIP stakeholder workshop - Future of Urban Mobility

Valencia is on the east coast of Spain, capital of Comunitat Valenciana region. The city of Valencia (www.valencia.es) has almost 800,000 inhabitants while its metropolitan area is home to over 1.5 million inhabitants. It is the third biggest city in Spain, lying in the centre of the Mediterranean Corridor, with one of the most important ports in the Mediterranean region (5th port in freight transport).

Valencia has a holistic approach to mobility. It includes different aspects such as a Smart City strategy, as well as communication and innovation projects. The Valencia Mobility Department and Traffic Management Room represent the mobility backbone of the city. They coordinate mobility with different stakeholders: private vehicle owners, public transport, pedestrians, public and private bicycle riders, local police, emergency services, and the media among others.

Valencia uses technology to monitor traffic, with more than 3,900 devices to detect traffic volume and 1,100 traffic lights. This is supported by information broadcasts about the traffic situation in real time using an online app, website, information panels on the street, and radio.

The public transport network includes a bus network, public bike system, subway and tram. In 2010 the City Council introduced the successful Valenbisi public bicycle service, comprising 275 rental stations around the city and 2,750 bicycles.

Valencia promotes sustainable mobility in several ways, especially reducing use of private vehicles by encouraging sustainable transport alternatives.

Welcome Valencia!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Annual Polis Conference
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Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the progress in Urban Mobility research, how the results can be used to guide future urban developments, as well as to influence recommendations for future policy development.


Save the date:
28 January 2016: EU Summit: Moving Europe’s smart urban mobility frontier – Innovation and business summit on smart mobility in cities, with the participation of European Commissioner for Transport Ms Violeta Bulc.

Contact person: Axel.Volkery@ec.europa.eu

6th European Transport Research Conference

Under the theme Moving Forward Innovative Solutions for Tomorrow’s Mobility, the Transport Research Arena 2016 will take place in Warsaw, from 18-21 April 2016. The deadline to submit presentations for an outreach session is 13 November 2015. More information at: http://www.traconference.eu/
**CEMOBIL final congress and CIVITAS@Work event:**
The City of Klagenfurt, member of the CIVITAS Deutscher Sprachraum, as Europe’s capital of e-mobility for two days

On 16-17 September, more than 100 participants came together in Klagenfurt to conclude the LIFE-project CEMOBIL with a big final congress. The event demonstrated that e-mobility does indeed work in European cities and that effective and sustainable improvement in environmental quality in cities is achievable without imposing undue restraints on individual mobility.

The second day of the conference represented a CIVITAS@Work event and provided best practice examples from Aachen and Hamburg. The path towards integrated mobility and the EU Strategy for Clean and Sustainable Urban Mobility were presented, as well as the ‘klimaaktiv Programme’ of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. A site visit to learn about Klagenfurt’s e-bus and e-boat system completed this CIVITAS@Work event.

This event was also the perfect occasion for members of the CIVINET Česká a Slovenská republica to finalise their study tour, which started in the City of Graz. It also gave them the opportunity to meet with members of the CIVITAS Deutscher Sprachraum in the City of Klagenfurt.

Author: Fred Dotter, Austrian Mobility Research, FGM-AMOR | CIVINET Deutscher Sprachraum

**The CiViNET Spain and Portugal Network organised a workshop on 29 September entitled ‘Cities and the Bicycle’ in Madrid.**

More than 90 people and 30 cities attended the event where three European experts (Pascal van den Noort from Velo Mondial, Philippe Crist from the OECD, and Allan Ahmad from the Copenhagen City Council) showed three aspects of cycling in the city: political, financial and planning.

The workshop also included a presentation by the Spanish Cities Network for the Bicycle and the Observatory of Public Bicycle in Spain, two platforms with whom CiViNET has always collaborated. Noteworthy was a presentation of the latest document produced by the Network dubbed ‘Cities and the Bicycle’ which is also available for download in the CiViNET website. The report was produced in collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Madrid and with the support of the cities within the network. It highlights the general vision and status of the bicycle in 18 Spanish and Portuguese cities.

**CiViNET workshop in Hungary on clean fuels and vehicles in public transport**

17-18 September, Zalaegerszeg

With Kecskemét and Budapest rolling out hybrid bus fleets, while Miskolc and Kaposvár opt for CNG, cleaner alternatives to diesel buses are gaining ground also in Hungary. In addition, several cities are experimenting with electric drive – including trolleybuses that can leave the overhead lines for ever longer distances. On the other hand, experience in operating alternative bus and trolley systems is still scarce and lies with a couple of operators and cities.

Magyar CiViNET volunteered to facilitate the exchange of experiences and transfer of knowledge to cities who are still facing decisions to renew their fleet or public service contracts. Its 5th workshop – held in September 2015 in Western Hungary’s city of Zalaegerszeg as part of a wider programme on electric mobility – was dedicated to clean fuels and vehicles in public transport.

Public transport professionals from several cities (Kecskemét, Budapest, Kaposvár, Szeged) presented their experiences on technical, operational and financial aspects of different technologies, including parallel and series hybrid, CNG and biogas, and electric drives (battery and battery trolleybus). Border areas of public transport – electric car-sharing and bike-sharing – were also part of the programme. Professors from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics gave an overview of different technologies and revealed insight into cutting edge research areas.

The two-day workshop ended with a test ride, featuring a brand new hybrid articulated bus from DAKK Kecskemét and a biogas-fuelled bus by local operator ÉNYKK. It also featured a visit to the sewage plant of Zalavíz water utility company where biogas is produced for buses running on local and suburban lines of Zalaegerszeg.

Authors: Antal Gertheis, Metropolitan Research Institute (MRI) / Magyar CiViNET Secretariat

Photos by András Ekés and Zsófia Sipos, Metropolitan Research Institute (MRI) / Magyar CiViNET Secretariat
Time and time again cities ask us about the EU financing opportunities for urban mobility. Here’s a recap on what those opportunities are.

There are not less than ten sources of funding which cities can turn to for sustainable urban mobility:

1. The biggest source is the European Structural and Investment Funds, composed by European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund. They are managed by specific authorities in the Member States who agreed specific Operational Programmes on a regional level with the European Commission. For more information about whether your project can fit into an Operational Programme, contact the authority in charge in your country: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm. If you are in one of the 15 cohesion countries, you can also receive assistance from the JASPERS programme: http://www.jaspers.eu/.


3. The European Investment Bank (EIB) can give loans and guarantees. It does so directly for large-scale projects of more than €25 million, or via national and regional banks for smaller projects. More information at: http://www.eib.org/infocentre/publications/all/eib-transportlending-policy.htm. The EIB also offers via its ELENA programme grants to cover the preparation costs of large energy efficiency and renewable projects and help attract private investors. See http://www.eib.org/products/advising/elena/index.htm for more information. The EIB also manages the JESSICA programme through which Member States can choose to invest some of their ESI funds in so-called revolving funds: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/special-support-instruments/jessica/. And finally the EIB manages the European Energy Efficiency Fund co-financing energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean urban transport projects: http://www.eeef.eu/home.html.


8. The Horizon2020 programme finances the CIVITAS initiative. CIVITAS now includes not only city-led demonstration projects and support projects but also knowledge-generating projects. More information and calls at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html.

9. The European Fund for Strategic Investments is the tool set up for the Juncker Investment Plan: http://ec.europa.eu/eib/about/invest-eu/ (a €21 billion guarantee from the Commission and the EIB). Cities should partner together and group their projects to be more attractive in terms of scale, and engage with the EIB and the National Promotional Banks to seek support from the EFSI. An Advisory hub is available: http://www.eib.org/eiah/index.htm, and specific advisory service, Fi-Compass: http://www.fi-compass.eu.

10. Lastly, projects focused on fuel cell and hydrogen vehicles may benefit from co-funding from the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking. Find out more and follow the calls at: http://ec.europa.eu/jrc/fch.

Isabelle Maës, Policy Officer, DG MOVE Isabelle.Maes@ec.europa.eu