



APPLICATION FORM II

CATEGORY II

“Urban Mobility: Putting Cities and Citizens in the Driving Seat” –
for a CIVITAS non-demonstration city

Please send your entry via e-mail to the CIVITAS Forum secretariat: civitas@fgm-amor.at
This call closes on 17. August 2007.

DETAILS OF APPLICANT

Local authority	>Municipality of Ponferrada	
Country	>Spain	
ADDRESS:		
Street / Post box	>Ayuntamiento Square,1	
Postal Code, City	24400, Ponferrada	
CONTACT PERSON:		
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Website	>www.ponferrada.org	
SIZE OF CITY/TOWN: Please tick / insert an “X”.		up to 50.000 inhabitants
	X	50,000 to 150.000 inhabitants
		150,000 to 500.000 inhabitants
		more than 500.000 inhabitants

DESCRIPTION

In your opinion, which ambitious measure(s) did your city successfully implement in the field of sustainable urban transport?

In our opinion the most ambitious measurement relative to the URBAN TRANSPORT is the new service of buses, with the acquisition of 10 buses of 12 meters and 4 minibuses (EURO IV), that work all of them with biodiesel. We have increased the frequency and we have created 5 new lines, such as two circular urban ones for short displacements within the city.

Another ambitious measurement is a PUBLIC VERTICAL TRANSPORT. Ponferrada has a lift which allows saving the different altitude between the high and the low part of the city. These systems are designed from a sustainable mobility stand point as an aid to pedestrian traffic, cycling and public transport. With this lift it is tried to increase the accessibility and the facility of use to that people with different psychophysical conditions.

The last measure is BICYCLE FREE LOAN SYSTEM. The city council has started up an innovating service of bicycle free loan service in the city, focused on the users of both the own city and visitors. The system is made up of four zones with bicycle parking located in the city high and centre zone and in the districts of "Flores del Sil" and "Cuatrovientos". These bicycle parkings include anchorage and usenet connection systems. 100 bicycles are available in total. The system is completed with an user control centre where is possible to claim in case of some anomaly or incident. Each user can use a bicycle for 4 hours, and the bicycle could be returned in any of the 4 zones enabled for that. After 30 minutes, a new request for another loan could be done. In case of delay in the devolution hour, incapacitations were applied depending on the time of delay. The service has the web: www.biciponferrada.es. The main advantages the system give us are: noise and pollution emission reduction, improvement in the public urban space occupation degree, improvement in the Ponferrada energetic supply and improvement in the users' health and well-being.

How did political leadership and support, and technical competence facilitate added up to the success of your measures?

> To bet by attractive prices, as well as better access to urban transport by means of transport bonds and more and better information to the user. In conclusion, making the public transport to the citizens more attractive.

How did you take local cultural circumstances into account in the development and implementation of your urban transport measures?

> The cultural and social circumstances of the citizens at the time of designing the new public transport system have always been considered. Before the beginning, a previous study was made to know the state of the urban transport until the moment, making surveys to the citizens and users. With these data, we knew the necessities of the people and we acted on the basis of it.

How did your city improve urban transport measures through qualitative and quantitative monitoring?

> The system has improved qualitatively because all the buses are new and comply with EURO IV. In addition, it has settled a vertical public transport system (lift) and a bicycles loan system. We have increased quantitatively the number of bus travellers a 60% respect to the previous service. The vertical public transport is used by 12,000 users daily. The bicycles loan system has 300 subscribers already (it started up the 17 of 2007 July).

New modalities of pre-payment have been created with a double objective : On one hand, to facilitate the use of the bus, and on the other hand, to descend the price for the consumer. We have 4 kinds of card:

- Multitravel cards
 - o Monthly card: Unlimited travels during 30 days since the first day of use. Price 18 €
 - o T5 Card : Bus pass with 5 travels (0.63€ instead of 1€ each one). Price 3.15 €
 - o T10 Card: Bus pass with 10 travels. Price 6.30 €

- Students card
60 travels for students (until 30 years old)
Price 24 € (0.40 € each travel)

- Elderly card
25 travels for retired people (more than 65 years old)
Price 5.25 € (0.21 € each travel)

- Free Cards
50 or 100 travels for elderly people with special economical circumstances

How did your city seek to exchange information with other cities engaged in related fields of action?

> In Forum CIVITAS 2006 we spoke with representatives of other City councils. These, we were told how to find information on the matter. Also we have collected experiences in other cities in the ELTIS and CIVITAS Web. We have visited also other European cities, among them, Berlin, Lausanne, London, Paris, Rome, and from them, we have taken some of its experiences.

If your local authority is selected as winner by the CIVITAS Policy Advisory Committee, you will receive this CIVITAS Award at the CIVITAS Forum Conference in Kaunas, 03 - 05 October 2007.