



APPLICATION FORM I

CATEGORY I

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

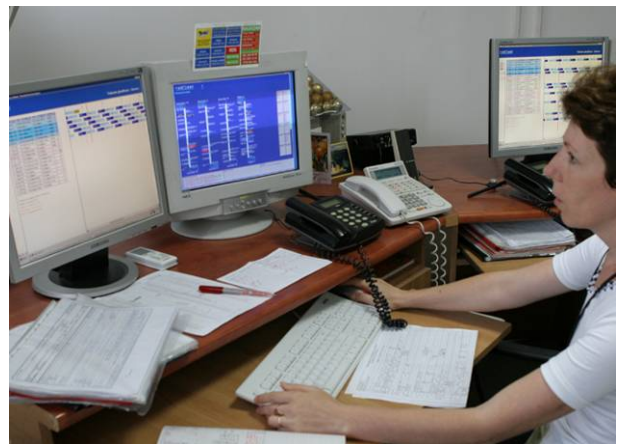
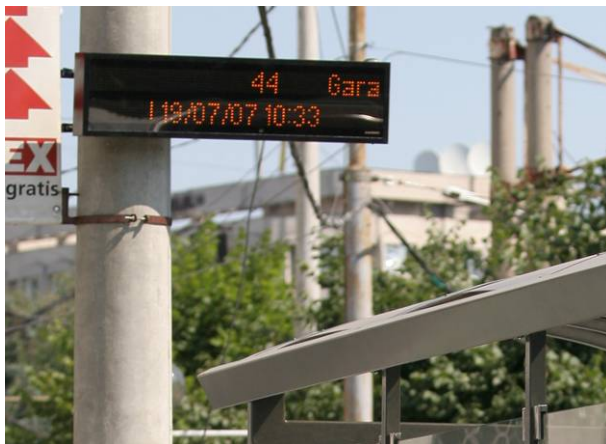
Local authority	Ploiesti City Hall	
Country	Romania	
ADDRESS:		
Street / Post box	Republicii Bd. No. 2-4	
Postal Code, City	100066, Ploiesti	
CONTACT PERSON:		
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SIZE OF CITY/TOWN: Please tick / insert an “X”.	<input type="checkbox"/>	up to 50.000 inhabitants
	<input type="checkbox"/>	50,000 to 150.000 inhabitants
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	150,000 to 500.000 inhabitants
	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 the framework of sustainable development, Ploiesti City acknowledges and sustains the value of pedestrian and cycling environment, sustainable traffic system for a new urban space structure.

Traffic monitoring system. A great improvement of the public transport service in Ploiesti was achieved by means of a traffic monitoring system and a unique dispatching centre for 190 buses and 17 trolley buses so that their activity can be continually tracked. Thanks to this GPS monitoring system, the network's traffic can be now controlled in real time and the promptness in solving unexpected situations has greatly increased. The ultimate benefit reflects in the number of the journeys: 58 million journeys were recorded in 2006 compared to just 52 million in 2005.



A part of the data received from the GPS system is displayed on 38 panels installed in the main stops across the city. Passengers get information regarding the next bus/trolley to come: the number of the route, the waiting time as well as other data such as date, time etc.



LPG busses. The introduction of 25 busses equipped with LPG engines after being fully modernized. LPG means modern maintenance facilities for the clean vehicles, a decrease in air pollution in Ploiesti and better quality of the urban transport. The economic aspects are also to be taken in consideration consisting in the availability of the LPG in Romania and the decrease in the fuel costs even if LPG buses fuel consumption is almost double in comparison with diesel buses.



Bicycle lanes. Cycling is as much about public health, the environment, land use and freedom as it is about transport. Urban planning and development includes also infrastructure for cycling and walking. The innovative aspect for Ploiesti is achieved by creating the first 5 km bicycle lanes on the city's main boulevard, out of 14 km previewed. Together with the other successfully implemented measures, the use of alternative means of transport is the way to a cleaner and safer urban habitat, a healthier way of life.

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

Being the first to bring transport and environmental innovations in an industrial city like Ploiesti, it was not a problem for CIVITAS project to get all the political support it needed. The local authority, Ploiesti City Hall is the leader of this project and it works in close collaboration with the Local Council keeping the latter informed every step of the way. Our partners, the Local Public Transport Company (RATP) and the Oil and Gas University, bring fully appreciated ideas that benefit from the support of the political parties regardless of their political affiliations.

Ploiesti mayor, Mr. Emil Calota, has been a member of the Political Advisory Committee for the last two years, continuing to show his commitment and deep involvement in the new transport policies and in the shaping of our new vision of a European city.

After evaluating some effects and the public response regarding the measures already implemented, and after promoting them in annual meetings of the Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR), we count on further support of the local authorities and stakeholders.

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

The **GPS monitoring system** meets the needs of Ploiesti citizens for better and easier mobility. Using this system we eliminate traffic congestion, we decrease the number of incidents facilitating at the same time the access to the cultural centre of the city.

The **LPG buses** offer our citizens cleaner and safer transport as well as a healthier environment. They promote the use of alternative fuels and demonstrate their utility and advantages along with the Oil and Gas University (UPG) studies. In this partnership we hope for a serious drop in the level of pollution, and for the cultural centre to become more attractive to every citizen.

By setting up **the first real cycling** and walking space, with facilities designed and improved, we are trying not only to avoid road congestion and reduce air pollution, but also to re-establish higher levels of physical activity and opportunities for social interaction.

It is important to view cycling and public transport as complementary 'environmentally friendly' transport modes. Cyclists represent a potentially significant new group of transit customers, with the potential to increase transit rider-ship through provision of improved access and bicycle parking at transit stations. Our citizens now have the opportunity to exercise outdoor, to save money with transport and help keep the urban environment safe and clean.

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

The GPS system itself is a monitoring system that makes data collection possible. Together with the results of the studies conducted by the Oil and Gas University, they guide the measure implementation in CIVITAS.

Also the public consultations as well as the decisions and feedback received from the Local Council help our measures go the right way, and, if needed, improve by adding extra data.

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

The Romanian Municipality Association (AMR) organises periodically different events that facilitate the information exchange at a national level.

The representatives of Ploiesti City participated at the meeting and events organised by the other Romanian CIVITAS cities, Suceava and Bucharest, working together with the local factors and international stakeholders, expressed their interest and willingness to cooperate. We have created the Task Force in Romania that aims to spread the gained experience in Romanian cities and to involve them in developing new transport policies as an integrated part of the urban planning.

The SUCCESS CIVITAS periodical meetings held in Ploiesti, represent a good opportunity for information and opinion exchange between the cities forming the CIVITAS family.

Continuing to participate in local or international events, we hope to keep a close relationship between the members of the project and all interested factors, based on information, close collaboration, trust and advice, in order to fulfil our common dreams and to successfully contribute to make the world a better place.

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.