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COVER STORY

Cleaner and better transport in more cities

Cities, Vitality, Sustainability: 25 new cities from all corners of Europe have committed themselves to making mobility more sustainable. Launched in 2008 under the 7th Research Framework Programme, CIVITAS Plus is the third and current phase of the CIVITAS Initiative.

CIVITAS Plus began in 2008 and runs until 2013 with some bright and challenging years lying ahead. 25 new cities involved in five new projects have already begun to put their plans into action and are now forging ahead with optimism and confidence.

The five collaborative projects have identified specific areas to focus upon. ARCHIMEDES cities aim to introduce integrated ambitious strategies for clean, energy-efficient urban transport. ELAN cities plan to mobilise citizens by working together to develop clean mobility solutions ensuring access for all.

MIMOSA hopes to demonstrate the viability of novel solutions and make them available to the rest of the community. RENAISSANCE encourages an innovative approach in the field of sustainable development and MODERN is focusing on increasing the quality of life in each city by reducing pollution, encouraging respect for the environment and promoting a less car dependant lifestyle.

CIVITAS Plus builds on the success of the CIVITAS I and CIVITAS II projects. At the CIVITAS II Final Conference in 2009, European Commissioner

for Transport and Vice-President of the European Commission, Antonio Tajani, looked to the future with hope and recognised the important role that CIVITAS Plus can play.

"Today Europe is facing serious economic recession, we must turn this into an opportunity. We must invest in innovative new policies and technologies to make our cities work better. That means reducing congestion, promoting public transport, as well as healthy modes of transport, such as cycling and walking. We want to work in partnership with cities and national governments to achieve this," explained Mr Tajani.

Several support systems have been put in place to facilitate the needs of the cities. The CIVITAS Forum Conference will provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between both participating cities and cities that are committed to introducing clean urban transport strategies.

For more information, contact the CIVITAS Secretariat [secretariat@civitas.eu]



www.civitas.eu

CIVITAS ONLINE

www.civitas.eu 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, <http://www.civitas.eu>.



CITY NEWS

Gent's first hybrid bus

The first hybrid bus has arrived in the city of Gent (Belgium). Mobility Minister, Kathleen Van Brempt unveiled the bus at a press conference earlier in the year.



The first of its kind in the Benelux region, the new hybrid bus will undergo a testing phase for three months so that any initial problems can be addressed. Twenty additional buses will then be introduced, with another fifteen going to Bruges and Leuven. The hybrid bus is a transitional measure between the present old high-floor trolley buses and the new tramcars that will be developed.

By the end of 2009, Gent will have a complete fleet of easily accessible vehicles reaching the highest standards of energy efficiency and reducing the negative aspects of public transport, such as noise and emissions. The new hybrid buses will also reduce the use of diesel by 25 percent.

Visiting delegations have been impressed by the silent take off and the smooth driving style of the bus, with fellow ELAN city Ljubljana already visiting to take a closer look.

For more information, contact Patrick Debeuf [patrick.debeuf@delijn.be] Gent is a member of the CIVITAS ELAN project consortium.

Utrecht sets sail with second clean beerboat

Following the success of Utrecht's (Netherlands) first clean energy beer boat, a second boat will set sail in 2010.



Beerboats are a common form of delivery transport in Utrecht as they can easily navigate through the downtown canals to supply hotels, bars and restaurants with heavy goods.

This boat will be particularly special, as it will be the first electrically driven ship in the Netherlands, where all functions can be carried out electrically including offloading. The city introduced its first beerboat in 1966 to stop the historic bridges and roads near the canals from having to support heavy freight traffic. As the demand for waterborne transport increased, the decision to introduce a second beerboat was made.

It is expected that the boat will emit 16,5 tons of CO2 less than regular freight traffic each year. It will be charged using green electricity and can navigate for eight to nine hours at a time. Utrecht's new beerboat should be in operation by January 2010.

For more information, contact Mark Degenkamp [m.degenkamp@utrecht.nl] Utrecht is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA project consortium.

Burgos scoops Energy Globe Award 2009

It was a night to remember for the City of Burgos (Spain), when it won the Energy Globe Award 2009 at a lavish ceremony in Prague (Czech Republic), in April 2009.



Over 600 projects entered the competition, but Burgos' work on sustainable mobility impressed the judges and clinched top prize in the air category. The Spanish city was a highly active member of the CIVITAS II CARAVEL project and implemented a broad range of sustainable measures.

The Energy Globe Award is the most prominent environmental prize worldwide with more than 110 nations participating in this year's selection process. Representatives from the European institutions, including EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas, attended the glittering gala ceremony.

The excitement was palpable in Prague's Veletřní Palác, as the winners were announced. The Lord Mayor of Burgos, Juan Carlos Aparicio, and the project team accepted the award, marking a hugely successful end to the city's involvement in the CIVITAS CARAVEL project.

For more information, contact the City of Burgos [proyectos@burgosciudad21.org] Burgos was a member of the CIVITAS CARAVEL project, which ran from 2005-2009.

EU NEWS

Commission supports clean and sustainable transport in cities



The European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport presented more details on a number of significant actions aimed at improving the sustainability of transport in our towns and cities at a Conference on Urban Mobility, held in Brussels in association with the European Sustainable Energy Week in February.

More than 300 participants from 50 countries, including representatives from public authorities, industry, academia and civil society attended this Conference on Urban Mobility to consider how best to provide high quality urban transport for citizens and businesses in the years to come.

Aimed at improving mobility in European cities, these actions include the preparation of a new CIVITAS programme to fund urban mobility research, as well as the launching of studies on so-called 'green zones' and the integration of different transport modes in urban areas.

Another action is the creation of an internet site to help public authorities in their purchases of clean and energy efficient vehicles. Vice-President Antonio Tajani had initially presented these proposals at the CIVITAS II Final Conference at the start of the year in Toulouse (See SPEECH/09/17).

For more information please visit:
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/index_en.htm.

Young and old on public transport in Coimbra

An outdoor awareness campaign brought together the citizens of Coimbra (Portugal) to learn about the city's innovative transport measures being introduced as part of the CIVITAS Initiative.



Hundreds of children, parents and teachers participated in the Coimbra Outdoor Awareness Raising Campaign, which took place on the Day of the Children.

The campaign aims to give visibility to the many measures that have been introduced in Coimbra's public transport system and inform the citizens about the use of public transport. Twenty social and cultural animators explained the measures and mingled with the crowd promoting the campaign slogan. "Better, more ecological, safer and easier to use public transport for Coimbra".

The Mayor of Coimbra also attended the event, demonstrating the political support behind the activities. Combining political commitment and citizen involvement is a recipe for a successful CIVITAS experience.

For more information, contact Margarida Redinha [margaridaredinha@itap-net.org] Coimbra is a member of the CIVITAS MODERN consortium.

Donostia-San Sebastian gives away 170 bikes

In a lottery organised together with commercial associations, the city of Donostia-San Sebastián (Spain) has given away 170 free bicycles to people who shop in the city centre.

The campaign was launched in May with shops in the city centre handing out "scratch & win" cards to customers. Some days later, 170 lucky shoppers cycled off on their new bikes, equipped with a useful basket to carry their groceries. For maximum impact, the bikes were presented on a busy Saturday morning, giving

Planes, trams and automobiles in Zagreb

Zagreb (Croatia) has introduced 45 buses that will run on biodiesel. The city has also purchased 37 new trams as part of its renewal project.

The vehicles were presented to the Zagreb's citizens during a press conference in March. The event was attended by the Mayor of Zagreb, Mr. Milan Bandic, and representatives from Zagreb Holding, Department ZET. The Mayor then tested the new vehicles as they took to the street for their maiden journey.

During its participation in CIVITAS ELAN, Zagreb's tram fleet will be completely renewed by introducing low-floor trams that present a modern and innovative experience of public transport.

The new fleet will be air-conditioned and will have more space to provide easier access for disabled and elderly users. The complete tram fleet will also be compliant with the international environmental standards, as well as being more energy efficient, reducing emissions significantly and decreasing noise levels.

It was a busy month for the city as Zagreb showed that the sky's the limit for its CIVITAS work. The University of Zagreb took to the air, arranging a helicopter flight above the CIVITAS ELAN corridor at the end of March.

The corridor is a high-quality mobility area going from the historic city centre towards and across the river, where the city plans to ensure that public transport, bicycle lanes and pedestrians will have priority over individual motorised traffic.

During the flight, data on traffic flow performance was recorded and images of the



corridor were taken. This will ensure accurate traffic modeling and a sound evaluation of activities. The helicopter was equipped with a multi sensor imaging system containing a GPS unit, Red-Green-Blue RGB, thermo-vision and infrared cameras.

The initial analysis of video images taken during the test flight showed that data for several indicators such as the number of vehicles, average vehicle speed and traffic flow speed can be collected. The data, along with geo referenced digital video system and corridor maps, will be used for traffic modeling. Traffic modeling and simulation will then provide an opportunity to test several scenarios.

A CIVITAS ELAN tram was also launched in April and will operate along the demonstration corridor. Its purpose is to raise citizen's awareness about CIVITAS and other mobility issues in the city.

The number 20 tram is painted in the CIVITAS blue and contains stickers with project information, logos and partner contacts. Leaflets promoting the CIVITAS project have also been handed out on all trams.

For more information, contact Lidija Pavic Rogošić [lidija@odraz.hr] Zagreb is a member of the CIVITAS Elan project consortium.

other shoppers the hint that it is possible to bike to the shops.

The "Go shopping on your bicycle" campaign is part of a wider programme that combines the promotion of shopping in the city centre and the use of sustainable modes of transport. In autumn, a similar campaign for public transport will be organised.

The campaign supports the package of CIVITAS activities, or measures, on cycling being implemented in the city of Donostia-San Sebastián. Within the CIVITAS Initiative, the bicycle lane network will be extended and new bicycle parking facilities will be developed.

Already in 2009, 450 meters of new exclusive bicycle lane have been added.

For more information, contact Leire Aguirre [Leire_Aguirre@donostia.org] Donostia – San Sebastián is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

Stay informed!

Subscribe for the electronic version of the MOVE newsletter and stay up to date on CIVITAS activities in the field of Sustainable Urban Mobility. Simply go to our website, <http://www.civitas.eu>, and click on News.

CITY IN PROFILE

Gorna Oryahovitsa, Bulgaria

Gorna Oryahovitsa is located in Northern Bulgaria, between the Sub-Balkan valleys and the Danube River. It has a population of 38,764.

The first Bulgarian town to participate in CIVITAS Initiative, the city's strategy will be to positively influence it's population's behaviour, rather than attempting to remedy, in what is a relatively short time, the difficult transport situation.

Gorna Oryahovitsa is one of the most important transport centres in the country, being a national crossroad. It is also home to the third largest railway junction in the country, servicing freight and passenger flows from much of Bulgaria. Three international railway lines cross the area and connections with three more international lines are planned. The annual demand of transport services is estimated at 5.1 million attracted and generated cargos and 6 million attracted and generated passengers.

The Municipality operates 13 public transport scheduled bus lines run with a rather low average occupancy rate. The average daily number of buses running through the downtown area is 270, all with conventional diesel engines. The harmful bus and car emissions are particularly high in some parts of the town.

Within CIVITAS Plus, Gorna Oryahovitsa is a "learning" city and its main objectives are to:

- Learn from other cities experience
- Prepare a strategic document and plan
- Perform small tests on the identified
- Disseminate the experience gained

For more information about Gorna Oryahovitsa's activities within the CIVITAS Initiative, contact Polina Kirova [polinakirova@abv.bg] Gorna Oryahovitsa is a member of the CIVITAS RENAISSANCE project consortium.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CATALIST spreads the word on CIVITAS results

CIVITAS CATALIST is a special additional project of the CIVITAS Initiative that seeks to foster the take-up of the most successful CIVITAS measures among interested cities.

CIVITAS CATALIST intends to establish a city-to-city exchange, and to motivate new cities to join the CIVITAS Forum Network. CIVITAS CATALIST offers funding opportunities to promote uptake of the CIVITAS approach and concretely demonstrate benefits. Funding is available

EVENTS

Krakov hosts CIVITAS Forum Conference 09

The City of Krakow (Poland) has been selected to host this year's CIVITAS Forum Conference, which will take place from 19-21 October 2009.



An experienced CIVITAS city, Krakow participated in the CIVITAS II project CIVITAS CARAVEL, which ran from 2005-2009.

The Forum Conference will offer participants the opportunity to discuss sustainable mobility concerns and explore the future of urban mobility. As always, the Forum will be a significant occasion for high level representatives of the European Commission to share news on its policy and programme initiatives, and to hear the views of local politicians, mobility practitioners, academics, and non-governmental organizations on the future of urban mobility. Occasion will also be offered for the exchange of experience and know-how among urban mobility practitioners from Europe and beyond, via a series of eight Technical Sessions, based on the thematic building blocks of CIVITAS.

Only cities that have signed the CIVITAS Forum Declaration may participate at the event. This commitment must be politically endorsed by the signature of a local politician who has executive power for example a Councillor or Vice Mayor.

For more information, visit <http://www.civitas.eu>.

for a wide range of activities from attending conferences and site visits to staff training and transport studies.

Interested cities, typically through their public authorities and transport operators, can access funding with the assistance of CIVITAS CATALIST partners and/or via dedicated Calls for Applications. Eligibility rules, procedures, application forms and application deadlines are downloadable on the CIVITAS website.

For more information, visit: <http://www.civitas.eu/network>.

About the MOVE newsletter

This quarterly newsletter serves to inform all those with an interest in sustainable urban mobility. It reports on developments in the field, including activities of pioneering CIVITAS cities and policy updates from the European Commission. Contributions are sourced from participating cities and organisations, as well as from the Directorate General for Transport and Energy. Free copies can be obtained from the CIVITAS Secretariat:

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