



# **ARCHIMEDES**

# lasi

T 22.1: Access control to Historic Centre in Iasi

April 2011



THE CIVITAS INITIATIVE
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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background CIVITAS

CIVITAS - cleaner and better transport in cities - stands for Clty-VITAlity-Sustainability. With the CIVITAS Initiative, the EC aims to generate a decisive breakthrough by supporting and evaluating the implementation of ambitious integrated sustainable urban transport strategies that should make a real difference for the welfare of the European citizen.

**CIVITAS I** started in early 2002 (within the 5th Framework Research Programme); CIVITAS II started in early 2005 (within the 6th Framework Research Programme) and **CIVITAS PLUS** started in late 2008 (within the 7th Framework Research Programme).

The objective of CIVITAS-Plus is to test and increase the understanding of the frameworks, processes and packaging required to successfully introduce bold, integrated and innovative strategies for clean and sustainable urban transport that address concerns related to energyefficiency, transport policy and road safety, alternative fuels and the environment.

Within CIVITAS I (2002-2006) there were 19 cities clustered in 4 demonstration projects, within CIVITAS II (2005-2009) 17 cities in 4 demonstration projects, whilst within CIVITAS PLUS (2008-2012) 25 cities in 5 demonstration projects are taking part. These demonstration cities all over Europe are funded by the European Commission.

#### **Objectives:**

- to promote and implement sustainable, clean and (energy) efficient urban transport measures
- to implement integrated packages of technology and policy measures in the field of energy and transport in 8 categories of measures
- to build up critical mass and markets for innovation

#### Horizontal projects support the CIVITAS demonstration projects & cities by :

- Cross-site evaluation and Europe wide dissemination in co-operation with the demonstration projects
- The organisation of the annual meeting of CIVITAS Forum members
- Providing the Secretariat for the Political Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Development of policy recommendations for a long-term multiplier effect of CIVITAS

#### **Key elements of CIVITAS**

- CIVITAS is co-ordinated by cities: it is a programme "of cities for cities"
- Cities are in the heart of local public private partnerships
- Political commitment is a basic requirement
- Cities are living 'Laboratories' for learning and evaluating





## 1.2 Background ARCHIMEDES

ARCHIMEDES is an integrating project, bringing together 6 European cities to address problems and opportunities for creating environmentally sustainable, safe and energy efficient transport systems in medium sized urban areas.

The objective of ARCHIMEDES is to introduce innovative, integrated and ambitious strategies for clean, energy-efficient, sustainable urban transport to achieve significant impacts in the policy fields of energy, transport, and environmental sustainability. An ambitious blend of policy tools and measures will increase energy-efficiency in transport, provide safer and more convenient travel for all, using a higher share of clean engine technology and fuels, resulting in an enhanced urban environment (including reduced noise and air pollution). Visible and measurable impacts will result from significantly sized measures in specific innovation areas. Demonstrations of innovative transport technologies, policy measures and partnership working, combined with targeted research, will verify the best frameworks, processes and packaging required to successfully transfer the strategies to other cities.

## 1.3 Participant Cities

The ARCHIMEDES project focuses on activities in specific innovation areas of each city, known as the ARCHIMEDES corridor or zone (depending on shape and geography). These innovation areas extend to the peri-urban fringe and the administrative boundaries of regional authorities and neighbouring administrations.

The two Learning cities, to which experience and best-practice will be transferred, are Monza (Italy) and Ústí nad Labem (Czech Republic). The strategy for the project is to ensure that the tools and measures developed have the widest application throughout Europe, tested via the Learning Cities' activities and interaction with the Lead City partners.

### 1.3.1 Leading City Innovation Areas

The four Leading cities in the ARCHIMEDES project are:

- Aalborg (Denmark);
- Brighton & Hove (UK);
- Donostia-San Sebastián (Spain); and
- Iasi (Romania).

Together the Lead Cities in ARCHIMEDES cover different geographic parts of Europe. They have the full support of the relevant political representatives for the project, and are well able to implement the innovative range of demonstration activities.

The Lead Cities are joined in their local projects by a small number of key partners that show a high level of commitment to the project objectives of energy-efficient urban transportation. In all cases the public transport company features as a partner in the proposed project.

# 2. lasi

The City of lasi is located in north-eastern Romania and is the second largest Romanian city, after Bucharest, with a population of 366,000 inhabitants. It is also the centre of a metropolitan area, which occupies a surface of 787.87 square kilometres, encompassing a total population of 398,000 inhabitants.





The city seeks to develop possibilities for habitation, recreation and relaxation for all citizens in the region, business opportunities and provide opportunities for more consistent investments.

The city has five universities with approximately 50,000 students, the second largest in Romania. The universities and their campuses are located in the central and semi-central area of the city. In the same area, there are also a large number of kindergartens, schools and high schools with approximately 10,000 pupils. This creates a large number of routes along the main corridor, served by the public transport service number "8" (Complex Tudor Vladimirescu -Copou) with an approximate length of 10 km. The City of lasi will implement its integrated measures in this area to be known as the "CIVITAS+Corridor".

The city's objectives in CIVITAS - ARCHIMEDES are based on the existing plans related to transport, Local Agenda 21, approved in 2002, and the Sustainable Social-Economic Development Strategy for City of Iasi. The CIVITAS Plus objectives were integrated in the Integrated Urban Development Plan development which was finalized in October 2009.

# **Background to the Deliverable**

Before the implementation of the ARCHIMEDES project, the historical centre of the city of Iaşi was open to all traffic. In order to increase the attractiveness of this area, the traffic had to be reduced and, consequently, the appropriate measure was to adopt a control scheme to restrict the vehicle access in this area.

## 3.1 Summary Description of the Task

The city of lasi has implemented a control scheme which restricts vehicle access to its historical centre. Access is allowed only to emergency services, trams, cyclists and pedestrians during the day. The Municipality has started a cooperation with the local post office in order to achieve the objectives of this measure. A supply program has been drawn for this area, to which ARCHIMEDES contributes by planning and evaluating the scheme.

# 4. T22.1 Access Control to Historic Centre in lasi

# 4.1 Description of the work done

The historical centre of lasi is an area of the city characterized by a mixture of activities (shops, offices, schools, administration etc.), which makes it appropriate for pedestrian traffic.

NGOs defending the interests of the community and condominium associations have requested the Municipality of Iaşi to forbid cars to pass though the historical centre with a view to reducing pollution due to exhaust gases and noise and to increase the attractiveness of the area for tourists and to passers-by. These aspects were concluded in the survey conducted in this area, by the National Association of Students of Administrative Sciences, for the Application Form of another European Project initiated by Iasi.





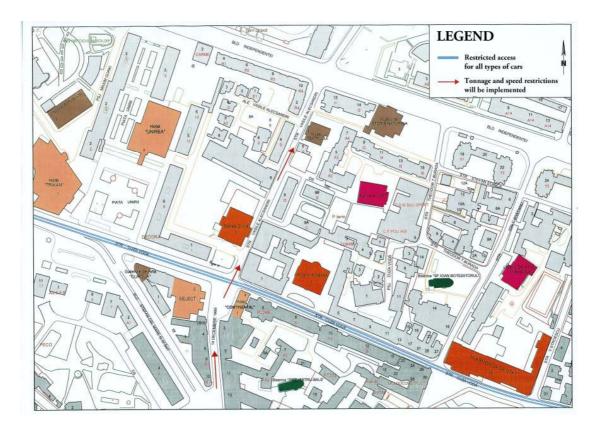


Figure 1: Historical centre of the city of Iaşi

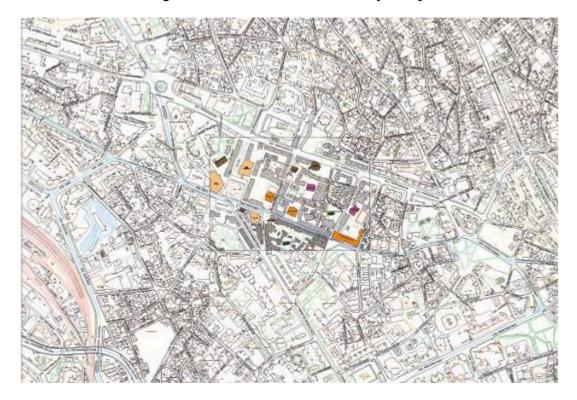


Figure 2: The area in a larger urban context

Several activities have been initiated for this purpose, and they have been included in the Historical Centre of the City of Iaşi Access Restriction Scheme.





At the beginning Decision no. 198 was approved by the Local Council in the year 2000 in order to organise road traffic in the city of Iaşi. Nine years later, on September 29th, 2009, Decision no. 418 was approved, which modified article 14 of Decision no. 198/2000 to deny access of animal-drawn vehicles, automotive cars and machinery used for construction, agricultural or forestry works within the boundaries of lasi and to place signs indicating the penalties that would be imposed if the above-mentioned restrictions are not observed (constraint failure is punished with a fine between 500 RON and 1000 RON).

Along the same line of action, in 2010 the City of Iaşi Local Council approved Decision no. 153 which forbids parking of the following vehicles within the public domain of the city:

- vehicles or combination vehicles longer than 5.2 m,
- trailers which are not attached to a vehicle,
- tractors used in agricultural and forestry works,
- vehicles intended for maintenance and services.

The parking of these types of vehicles is allowed only in places which are in the possession of the owner or of the certified holder of the vehicles.



Figure 3: Speed restrictions in the historical centre of the city of laşi

The speed and weight of the vehicles transiting the historical centre of lasi had to be restricted as part of a second phase. The Municipality of lasi has therefore transmitted formal requests for approval to the City Commission of Traffic, to the Traffic Police and to the Direction of Public Services of lasi. Some of the streets included in these requests are located within the historical centre, e.g. V. Alecsandri street, Cuza Vodă street and Lăpuşneanu street. The approval of the





City Traffic Commission has been requested in order to restrict car access in the area of Vasile Alecsandri and 14-15 December 1989 Streets to the maximum speed of 30 km/h and with the maximum weight of 1.5 t/axle.



Figure 4: Speed restrictions in the historical centre of the city of laşi







Figure 5: Speed and weight restrictions in the historical centre of the city of laşi

The speed and weight restriction in the historical centre of lasi requested by the Direction for Development and European Projetcs of the Municipality of Iasi was approved after debate within the meeting of the City Commission of Traffic on August 30, 2010. Traffic signs were then purchased and mounted.







Figure 6: Weight restrictions in the historical centre of the city of Iași

As part of the same issue of access restriction in the historical centre of lasi, the problem of traffic generated by the supply activities of the post office located in this central area had to be included. The hours when supply activities took place coincided with the peak traffic hours. As a result of negotiations, the supply programme was correlated with the programme set by the strategy of improving the distribution of goods so that the access of vehicles used for supplying the post office is forbidden in the time intervals 7 am - 9 am and 3 pm - 5 pm.

#### 4.2 Main Outcomes

The Historical Centre of the City of Iaşi Access Restriction Scheme was drawn up and implemented. The approval of the City Commission of Traffic for speed and weight restriction to 30 km/h and 1.5 T/axle, respectively, was granted. Negotiations were conducted with the post office in order to make a time-based scheme of the supply activities that would meet the strategy of the distribution of goods, which meant restricting supply vehicle access in the time intervals 7 am - 9 am and 3 pm - 5 pm. The meetings organized with the businesses based or active in the area and the reaction of the residents have shown a positive attitude, they have accepted easily the restriction proposed, being aware of its positive impacts.

The traffic that is now prevented from entering in the restricted area was deviated to different roads without immediate obvious problems. This will be further investigated as part of the measure evaluation.





#### 4.3 Communication Activities

Articles related to the implementation of the measure have been published on the website of lasi City Hall. Posters presenting the necessary information were displayed in the historical centre of the city. Moreover, informative meetings were organized for the businesses based within the area.



Figure 7. Poster - version 1







Figure 8. Poster - version 2















munanver civitas (ceie 50 de orașe memore are acester impacive), cat și numeroși memori ai unium Internaționale a Transportatorilor Publici.

Proiectul a demarat pe 15 septembrie 2008, în perioada 20-23 octombrie 2008 având loc la Aalborg întâlnirea de start (Kick-off meeting) a proiectului. În cursul lunii noiembrie vor fi demarate primele licitații în vederea achizitiei echipamentelor, echipamente ce vor fi instalate în prima iumătate a anului 2009 Echiparea a 30 de autobuze cu instalații GPL, sistemul de ticketing automat, sistemele GPS de control al traficului, cât și panourile de afișaj în timp real, benzile speciale pentru transportul public sunt măsuri ce vor

aduce această zonă la nivelul țărilor al căror transport public este la cel mai înalt nivel. Pistele pentru bicicliști, sistemul de ticketing special pentru elevi și studenți, campanile de promovare a transportului public și al unui altfel de comportament, care nu este dependent de mașină au ca scop o schimbare fundamentală a atitudinii celor tineri față de modul de a se deplasa și de a economisi energie și

Echiparea a 10 microbuze cu sisteme speciale pentru persoanele cu dizabilități, construirea a 40 de statii pentru acestea, cât și echiparea intersecțiilor semaforizate cu sisteme speciale de avertizare pentru ersoanele cu dizabilități vizuale vor să dea un acces neîngrădit tuturor ieșenilor la transportul public. În luna noiembrie vor fi lansate proceduri de achiziții ale acestor sisteme, ce urmează a fi implementate în primul an al proiectului.





Home Declaratii de avere Relatia cu societatea civila Acte de interes public Turism Forum

Figure 9: Positive article http://www.primaria-iasi.ro/content.aspx?item=1855&lang=RO

#### 4.4 Problems Identified

No problems have been identified.

#### 4.5 Future Plans

Based on this experience and on similar good practice examples, the city of lasi has in view the extension of this type of measure to other areas of the city, choices based on the level of the traffic in the different zones. The future urban development of the area of pedestrian zone is included in the lasi's project "The road network development of the cultural, historical and touristic zone", co-financed by Regio European Programme.

The impacts of this measure on local vehicle flows and environmental impacts will be evaluated according to the measure evaluation plan.





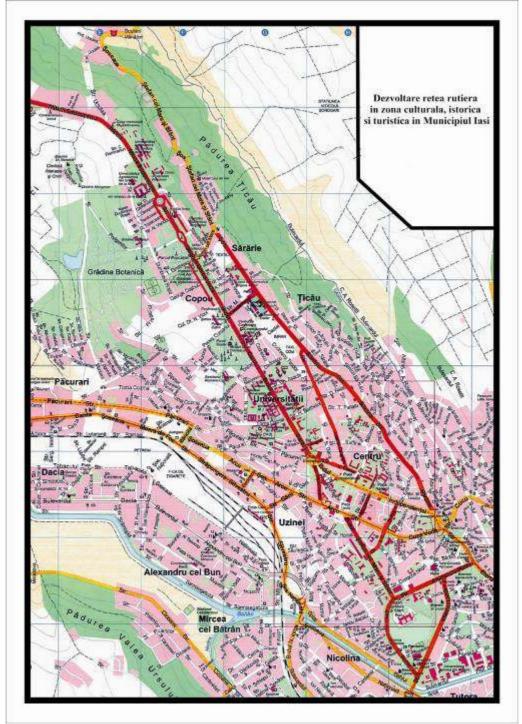


Figure 10: The map of the project co-financed by Region