



CiViTAS
Cleaner and better transport in cities

Sustainable Mobility Highlights 2002-2012

CIVITAS is a European Initiative involving more than 200 cities across Europe in the testing and sharing of new technologies and innovative concepts to achieve sustainable and integrated strategies for urban transport.

COLLECTIVE PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Public transport is for everyone

Urban congestion can be addressed by encouraging high-quality and innovative energy-efficient public transport, including integration with other transport modes.

In the field of collective passenger transport CIVITAS cities have worked on intermodality; service improvements; better ticketing and tariffing; and accessibility. This highlight focuses on the last of these. Accessibility pertains to the quality of being accessible or of admitting approach. It particularly looks into the accessibility of regular public transport to people with reduced mobility, lower income groups, school students and senior citizens. Another important issue is the accessibility of public transport to cyclists with their bikes. Waterborne solutions can be considered as well to make certain areas more accessible.

For those who are not fit to drive and do not have access to regular public transport, demand-responsive buses or minivans are the key to preventing social exclusion.

CIVITAS encourages new ways to maximise the potential of local public transport systems. The CIVITAS Initiative has realised 20 innovative measures in 15 different European cities with regard to a better accessibility of public transport. This highlight features some of the most successful and eye-catching among these to inspire other European cities.



Funchal

Improving accessibility for impaired people

Brighton & Hove, United Kingdom, installed 12 talking bus stops, each equipped with real-time information displays. With a special key fob, sight-impaired users can activate speakers that give audio information. The city of **Toulouse**, France, worked out an Accessibility Charter that is now a reference document for all new public transport infrastructure. The associated action plan resulted in 100 percent accessible bus stops, public transport vehicles and metro system and a plan for accessibility training for customer reception points.

Other inspiring cities are Bologna (Italy); Brno (Czech Republic); Burgos (Spain); Iasi (Romania); La Rochelle (France); Ljubljana (Slovenia); Krakow (Poland); and Prague (Czech Republic).



Brighton & Hove



Demand responsive services

Ljubljana, Slovenia, set up a demand-responsive public transport service to meet the mobility needs of people with disabilities. The city prepared a proposal for local legislation to make equal access to public transport services a fundamental right for people with disabilities. A first test of the demand-responsive transport system involved two electric on-call vehicles, available especially for the elderly. The vehicles operated in the pedestrian zones of the city centre to improve mobility within these zones and link them to the closest bus stop.

Other inspiring cities are Bristol (United Kingdom); Brno (Czech Republic); and Funchal (Portugal).

Bus and bike

To promote biking in the hilly region of **Funchal**, Portugal, 14 bike racks were installed on the backs of buses. New bus lanes were designed that allow loading and unloading of bikes without interrupting traffic. The bus and bike service was launched during the European Mobility Week in September 2010. There is no additional fee for using the bicycle service.

Other inspiring cities are La Rochelle (France) and Krakow (Poland).



Waterborne solutions

The city of **Szczecin**, Poland, situated on the shore of a lake, introduced two water trams and two water taxis. Through integration of the water tram and water taxi service with other public transport modes such as buses, bicycles and rickshaws, viable alternatives to the private car are available. Bicycle rental points were placed at the stops of the water trams and water taxis. Mainly tourists make use of this mode of transport during the summer season.

Other inspiring cities are Nantes (France) and Gothenburg (Sweden).



Learn more at www.civitas.eu/collective-transport/accessibility

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