New challenges for CIVITAS and EU Urban mobility policy

The recently launched EU Horizon 2020 and the new Urban Mobility Package will bring vital support and important challenges to CIVITAS 2020 – the next phase of the CIVITAS initiative.

A set of new opportunities, challenges and solutions related to sustainable urban mobility lies ahead for the CIVITAS initiative. The EU’s framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020, is focussing on pivotal issues in the next decade such as climate change and sustainable transport. The programme’s launch will also mark the beginning of CIVITAS 2020: innovation in resource-efficient and competitive urban mobility and transport.

This ambitious initiative aims to improve the efficiency of urban transport in Europe and beyond while reducing the negative impacts of the transport sector and combatting harmful emissions. It will consider technological, socio-economic and urban development trends, improving the standard of living for Europeans in a variety of ways.

The CIVITAS 2020 initiative will drive innovative policies and technologies required for achieving cleaner and better urban transport based on a user-oriented approach. CIVITAS will continue to support local partnerships in implementing and testing new approaches under real-life condition, by developing a knowledge-base platform, technical capacity and support for up-scaling and transfer which are available to all European cities. HORIZON 2020 will offer unparalleled support to the CIVITAS 2020 initiative through the area of Smart, Green and Integrated Transport.

The launched calls for EU-funded projects under HORIZON 2020 – and of course CIVITAS 2020 – will cover the years 2014 and 2015. Within urban mobility, for this year, three main calls will be opened for submission of projects:

- MG.5.1-2014: Transforming the use of conventionally fuelled vehicles in urban areas
- MG.5.2-2014: Reducing impacts and costs of freight and service trips in urban areas
- MG.5.3-2014: Tackling urban road congestion

For more information about HORIZON 2020 and the mentioned calls see http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/.

Other key topics under Horizon 2020 that will also contribute to advancing sustainable urban transport in European Cities have been recently launched by the Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership. These calls aim to identify and spread relevant information on technology solutions and needs required by stakeholders further sustainable urban transport.

Finally, with the Urban Mobility Package, the European Commission aims to reinforce its supporting measures in the area of urban transport by:

- sharing experiences, show-casing best practices, and fostering cooperation,
- providing targeted financial support,
- focussing research and innovation on delivering solutions for urban mobility challenges,
- involving EU Member States and enhancing international cooperation.

For detailed information see http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/ump_en.htm

Through the new HORIZON 2020 calls, launch of CIVITAS 2020, recent Urban Mobility Package policy and Smart Cities and Communities initiative, European sustainable urban transport mobility is set to leapfrog into the future and encourage the rest of the world to follow suit.
Brno Public Transport Company (DPMB) tests and promotes electric transport technologies for private and public use including the introduction of electric minibuses in operation within the city centre.

Supported by the CIVITAS 2MOVE2 project, the city of Brno tested different types of electric mini buses in the city during 2013. Thanks to its large tram and trolleybus network, as well as the availability of many recharging points all over the city, Brno is well prepared for establishing electric bus lines with low investments. In addition, the price of electricity for trams and trolleybuses is lower than regular tariffs, making such an investment more feasible.

The first electric bus tested was a CitySmile 10E made by Polish-Lithuanian manufacturer AMZ. The second bus tested was an electric minibus Stratos LE30 E made by Czech manufacturer SKD. The latter was operated on regular lines and was also used on a special minibus route for disabled passengers, as well as on a summer tourist minibus route.

Since both electric buses can be charged through an electric plug, the maximum range per charge can be easily monitored. Comparing this indicator in both models revealed that while the SKD Stratos was better than the AMZ CitySmile in range per charge, the SKD Stratos bus can only hold half the passenger capacity of the AMZ.

The third electric minibus tested was Siemens/Rampini ALÉ EL which has completely different charging technology. It is equipped with a tram pantograph through which it can be recharged everywhere via tram or trolleybus overhead lines. Siemens/Rampini was tested in Brno over one week in October 2013. It operated on a special line ‘E’ from the city centre to the Brno reservoir where passengers could transfer to an electric boat and enjoy a short cruise. After each trip to the city centre there was a 20-minute break during which the electric bus was recharged using the pantograph. This valuable study of the three technologies will certainly be useful and inspirational for other cities.

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Brno is member of the CIVITAS 2MOVE2 project.

Since both electric buses can be charged through an electric plug, the maximum range per charge can be easily monitored."
Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo spearheading the e-vehicle revolution

December marks the start of a yearlong pilot undertaken by the municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo. The pilot is in line with the city’s commitment to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Under a new, ambitious pilot scheme, the Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo will purchase some 20 e-motorcycles and will assess their operational capabilities (riding experience, environmental footprint, safety) compared to petrol motorcycles currently in use (125cc model). The ‘Green Patrol’ Inspection Unit of the city Parks and Gardens Division is the first to make use of the five e-motorcycles. They will be followed by the city employees from the Sanitation and Inspection divisions. Their opinions of the experience will be noted throughout the pilot scheme and will contribute to the e-motorcycle performance assessment. If proven successful, the municipality will consider gradually replacing its 300 strong motorcycle fleet with e-motorcycles. With over 25,000 motorcycles now in the city – which represent a significant environmental footprint - the pilot scheme can help raise awareness of alternative fuels.

For more information contact Radmila Abramov abramov_r@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il

Tel Aviv-Yafo is member of the CIVITAS 2MOVE2 project.

Personal Rapid Transit: a new public transport concept in Gdynia

Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) is a public transport mode based on automated, small vehicles available on demand and operating on a network of specially built ‘guideways’. PRT vehicles are dedicated for individual or small groups of passengers. The system allows for 24/7 service and point-to-point travels.

Within the CIVITAS DYN@MO project, the Gdansk University of Technology (GUT) in cooperation with City of Gdynia elaborated the PRT concept. The idea of PRT in Gdynia is to complement existing public transport services and create a more complete transport system. The GUT prepared a concept which included connections in the city centre and between the most important districts. The PRT system structure proposed by the GUT could save travellers as much as 30 minutes of a journey compared to busses or trolley busses (estimation based on the traffic model – also elaborated by GUT within CIVITAS DYN@MO). The length of the PRT in Gdynia would be about 44.5 km and would feature 99 stops. The implementation process would consist of 4 stages and the estimated cost would be about EUR 200 million. Three PRT systems are being considered for Gdynia, namely Mister, ULTra and Vectus. This will help position the city of Gdynia as a true model of sustainable urban mobility in Europe.

For more information contact: Dorota Gajda gajda@zdiz.gdynia.pl

Gdynia is member of the CIVITAS DYN@MO project
CIVITAS will open its first in a series of four calls for Activities Fund in the field of sustainable urban mobility on 28 February 2014. The call will offer a total of EUR120,000 in co-funding to support the take-up of sustainable urban mobility measures related to the CIVITAS thematic area. Up to 20 take-up activities are expected to be funded and receiving a co-funding between EUR1,000-10,000.

CIVITAS Activity Fund is seeking proposals for the following take-up levels:

1) *‘Being inspired’*: Up to 50% co-funding for study tours, workshops or similar activities at the initial take-up phase;

2) *‘Structural dialogue’*: Up to 50% co-funding for staff exchanges between take-up and donor cities;

3) *‘Studies’*: Up to 50% co-funding for evaluation (long-term; impact and process), feasibility studies, etc.;

4) *‘Systematic transfer’*: Up to 50% co-funding for feasibility studies leading towards pilot demonstration and implementation.

The call will be open for five weeks. The deadline for electronic submissions of applications will be on the 4th April 2014 while the co-funded take-up activities are expected to start by the end of May 2014.

Applications may be submitted by individual or teamed-up organisations that have not been or are not involved in projects already funded by the CIVITAS Initiative. Organisations applying for funding need to be established in an EU Member State or Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland or Turkey.

For more information contact Bernd Decker b.decker@rupprecht-consult.eu

Applications may be submitted by individual or teamed-up organisations that have not been or are not involved in projects already funded by the CIVITAS Initiative.
Follow the DYN@MO Summer University 2014 in Palma

How to learn more about city and citizen friendly electric vehicles

This year the DYN@MO project will host the second edition of the Summer University aiming at offering a set of strong professional competencies in sustainable urban mobility. Following the successful 2013 edition, this year Palma will once again offer the opportunity to achieve strong European exchanges and high-value learning experiences related to the CIVITAS themes.

Based on the lessons learnt from the previous edition, students, young professionals, and key decision makers will be able to further develop and acquire new competencies while attending the interesting sessions organised by the University of the Balearic Islands.

University partners, competence centres and other partners of the CIVITAS DYN@MO project will provide the content of the course, mainly focusing on the European and local experiences in the field of electromobility. In addition, international experts will be contributing to efforts to improve the quality and the attractiveness of the courses.

The second DYN@MO Summer University will be held in Palma, Spain from 14 to 16 May 2014. Draft agenda will soon be available on the CIVITAS website.

Join us in Palma!

For more information contact Emilio Lopez Sancho  elopec@conselldemallorca.net

Palma is member of the CIVITAS DYN@MO project
European Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas in Tel Aviv-Yafo

During his two-day visit to Israel on 12-13 December, European Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for Transport, met the Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo, Ron Huldai, to discuss the EU co-financed CIVITAS 2MOVE2 project in Tel Aviv.

Dr. Benjamin Maor, Director of Infrastructure & Construction Administration and the Chairman of the CIVITAS 2MOVE2 Steering Committee at the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality, introduced the city’s transportation challenges and its vision for future solutions. In addition, Dr. Maor explained about the 2MOVE2 project focusing on the measures in Tel Aviv-Yafo. Mayor Huldai and Vice-President Kallas agreed that the European Union and Tel Aviv-Yafo have common interests within CIVITAS such as the promotion of new and innovative urban mobility solutions, prioritisation of public transport and advancement of non-motorised transportation modes. Later, Vice-President Kallas and First Deputy Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo, Doron Sapir visited the Tel Aviv Museum of Art where the Senior Deputy Director of the Museum, Ms. Shuli Kislev guided them through the museum’s popular new wing. Through these valuable exchanges and its membership in CIVITAS, Tel Aviv-Yafo is certainly on an excellent path to becoming a greener city.

For more information contact Radmila Abramov abramov_r@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il

Tel Aviv-Yafo is member of the CIVITAS 2MOVE2 project.
CITY PROFILE

From 2014 the CIVITAS Forum Network has a new city member in the EuroMed region: Casablanca - host city of the next CIVITAS FORUM 2014.

Casablanca will be the first non-European city hosting the CIVITAS forum conference. The choice of Casablanca as CIVITAS forum 2014 host officially seals the cooperation in the urban mobility field between the EuroMed transport project stakeholders and the CIVITAS Initiative.

With about 4 million inhabitants, Casablanca is the economic capital of Morocco and one of Africa’s largest and most important cities.

Supported by the important activity of its port, Casablanca has rapidly expanded in recent decades and many urban projects are currently in progress, confirming the city as a key cultural and economic hub in North Africa.

The history of public transport in Casablanca is maybe one of the oldest in Africa as public transport systems have been developed since the fifties. In order to respond to the challenge of growing motorisation and urbanisation, in a region that registers today more than 11 million daily trips, local authorities have made huge steps to develop an urban mobility plan (2004-2019) and build the foundations for an efficient, integrated and modern transport system.

One of the main results of this strategy since 2004 has been the launch of the first tramway line of Casablanca in December 2012. This 31 km line with 48 stops serves socially mixed areas and is expected to transport over 250,000 passengers daily, once the integration with the existing bus network will be completed.

Social inclusion is one of the main targets of the urban mobility strategy of the city.

Finally, the Organising Transport Authority (Autorité Organisatrice des Déplacements Urbains) was also established in 2008 to ensure the successful integration among modes and operators as well as the promotion of public transport.

All eyes are on Casablanca for the CIVITAS FORUM 2014!

www.casablanca.ma
CITY EVENT

GRAZ STUDY TOUR | Open eyes - Open mind - Open space. CIVITAS local politicians speak out

The City of Graz, the CIVINET-German group and the CIVITAS Initiative invite you to participate in the GRAZ Study Tour organised by the City of Graz on the 12 February 2014, in conjunction with the Political Advisory Committee Meeting (11 March 2014).

The participants of the Graz Study Tour will discover how local politicians from Graz and from other European cities view their role in promoting sustainable mobility and what key challenges they encounter. They will also learn how being a member of CIVITAS has supported the exchange information between cities and supported them in realising their visions. Politicians will share their own thoughts and experiences, revealing valuable insights into attaining clean and better transport in cities.

Recognising the impact politicians have and reflecting on the advances already made by CIVITAS member cities, the City of Graz will enable participants to ask questions and share experiences with members of the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee (PAC) and with the representatives of the European Commission.

The CIVITAS Study Visit is open to all CIVITAS Forum Network Member Cities, all members of the CIVITAN German language area, CIVITAS Cities, Thematic Group members and mobility experts interested in this topic.

For more information contact: Gerhard ABLASSER, City of Graz gerhard.ablasser@stadt.graz.at
Chiara FRENCIA, CIVITAS PAC Secretary chiara.frencia@inovamais.pt

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

CIVITAS Thematic Groups: new collaborative tools and upcoming webinars

CIVITAS Thematic Groups just inaugurated their new webpages and collaborative tools on the new CIVITAS website http://www.civitas.eu/thematic-groups-all. The new tool will facilitate the interaction among peers in each specific CIVITAS thematic area by involving his members in a set of collaborative works like policy analysis, study tours, webinars and workshops.

Everybody interested in urban mobility can become a member of the CIVITAS Thematic Groups by registering on the CIVITAS Interactive cooperative platform http://www.civitas.eu/thematic-cooperation and participating in the discussions and in the activities organised by the Thematic Groups.

The next CIVITAS webinar “Clean buses for your city” will be organised by the TG Collective Passenger Transport on the 27th February 2014.

During the month of March 2014, four webinars focussed the following themes will be organized: demand management strategies, public involvement, car-independent lifestyles and mobility management.

Dates and programme will be announced shortly, so please keep a keen eye on the CIVITAS website.

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

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 Mobility and Transport.

For further information on the MOVE newsletter please contact:
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Discover the new CIVITAS Urban Mobility thematic group on LinkedIn and become member of the community! For more information http://www.linkedin.com/groups/CIVITAS-Urban-Mobility-4286016 or contact Tito Stefanelli stefanelli@trt.it

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