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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!

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COVER STORY

CIVITAS Plus builds up transport know-how

Greg Spencer, Regional Environmental Center

The largest ever phase of the CIVITAS Initiative came to a close at the end of 2012. Supported with EUR 80 million of EU co-funding, CIVITAS Plus gathered 25 demonstration cities in five collaborative projects, which together carried out almost 350 demonstration measures. Despite starting in 2008, the scheme carried out more than half of the 658 measures implemented over the Initiative's 10-year run.



For over 10 years CIVITAS has been bringing cleaner and better transport closer to citizens.

Whilst continuing to support the CIVITAS Initiative's core agenda, the phase placed greater emphasis on topics including energy efficiency and road safety; the "package approach" of measure implementation; involvement of new member states in line with the EU's Cohesion Policy; and the development of ambitious, integrated transport plans.

On the first point, CIVITAS Plus yielded 43 measures on clean fuels and alternative vehicles and many more aimed at improving energy efficiency. In CIVITAS ELAN alone, measures were carried out in three cities to improve the energy efficiency of trams. (see article, page 2, on Craiova's measures). Thanks to a measure enacted in Ghent (Belgium), the city saves around EUR 200,000 per year in power costs.

CIVITAS Plus also implemented 32 measures on safety and security, effectively quadrupling the CIVITAS experience base in this area.

Several cities embraced the "package approach" to achieve a sustainable modal

shift in demonstration areas. ARCHIMEDES city Brighton & Hove, UK, employed personalised mobility planning, social marketing and street modifications to reduce school car trips by 13 percent within its CIVITAS corridor.

Cohesion policy was also moved forward by CIVITAS Plus, with 11 demonstration cities from new member states taking part – two as leading cities in their respective consortia: Ljubljana, Slovenia and Tallinn, Estonia.

Integrated transport planning gained significant traction during the latest phase, with virtually all cities adopting or at least proposing, a plan to their political leaders.

By the time evaluation work concludes later this year, CIVITAS Plus will have greatly expanded European research in the field of sustainable urban mobility.

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

Image: www.elan.org / Harry Schiffer



CITY NEWS

Audio schedules arrive at bus stops

In 2007 Brighton & Hove introduced "talking bus stops" to aid visually impaired passengers. The innovative technology provides public transport users with audio details of the city's bus service.



Users were assigned a battery-operated key fob which alerts them when they are near one of the talking bus stops. When the fob is pressed, audio information plays. Feedback has been extremely positive; in a survey conducted prior to the talking bus stops introduction, 78 percent of respondents said they found it 'difficult' or 'very difficult' to obtain bus information – by the end of the CIVITAS intervention this figure had decreased to 0.

In a recent poll, 70 percent of respondents said that the talking bus stops are now their primary source of bus information, with a clear call being made for the service to be rolled out further. The bus stops have since won several national awards for innovation and promotion of accessibility.

For more information, contact Debbie Reed [debbie.reed@brighton-hove.gov.uk]. Brighton & Hove are a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

Energy-efficient fleet management in Ghent

To lower the emissions of its vehicular fleet, the City of Ghent, Belgium, introduced a host of green measures, ranging from eco-driving training for employees, to the purchase of electric cars, to the promotion of car sharing.



As a result of the measures, fuel use in the municipal fleet has decreased by 24 percent. The total number of kilometres driven has dropped by 30 percent and, thanks to better information on mobility alternatives, a higher number of staff walk and cycle to work. Forty-five standard cars were removed from the fleet in August 2011 and replaced with clean vehicles procured through a sustainable purchasing strategy.

Ghent will continue to improve the cleanliness of its fleet and aims to introduce 100 electric cars and 24 compressed natural gas vans in the near future. Regular tyre pressure checks will also become standard, as properly inflated tyres are proven to lower fuel consumption by up to 4 percent.

For more information, contact Patty Delanghe [patty.delanghe@gent.be]. Ghent is a member of the CIVITAS ELAN consortium.

Craiova upgrades trams to lower consumption

Nine of Craiova's 34 trams went unused in the past due to high electricity consumption. Through CIVITAS, a new technology was installed that greatly reduced power usage, bringing the trams back on-line.



Upon first evaluation, energy consumption was found to have declined by 35 percent. Known as a chopper system, the upgraded trams are assisted by an on-board computer and application that processes energy consumption. The system transforms kinetic energy into electrical energy, which is recovered in the power line and consumed by other vehicles. A more comfortable and safer journey is also provided thanks to a smoother start-stop phase.

The technology has been expanded to read and store energy usage data related to driver behavior, and to evaluate electricity flows in order to optimise energy distribution. Installing the system has resulted in energy costs decreasing by 34 percent, feeding into Craiova's goal to lower emission rates.

For more information, contact Dorel Popa [ppdor@yahoo.com]. Craiova is a member of the CIVITAS MODERN consortium.

CITY NEWS

Bologna reduces car use demand

Faced with high traffic congestion and lowered air quality, the Municipality of Bologna, Italy, put in place a number of techniques designed to make the private car a less attractive option. The measures, known as demand management techniques, are producing good results, with the city streets clearer and air pollutant levels falling across the board.

Since the techniques were enacted, carbon dioxide has fallen 12.2 percent, nitrogen oxide 12.1 percent and levels of particulate matter (PM10) 22 percent.

Bologna trialled a number of measures and performed an analysis of their efficacy in meeting the city's goals. This information was then shared with other European cities. Among the most successful measures used were access restrictions for motorists, a road pricing system that encouraged walking, cycling and public transport, and stringent parking policies.

The city's road pricing system was fine-tuned throughout the project to increase effectiveness. Bologna also completed a semi-pedestrian area within the university district. Vehicular access is forbidden in the area and access control is provided by an intelligent transport system, based on video cameras detecting permitted vehicles. A new flexible

system for access management to the city's limited traffic zone was also introduced.



For more information, contact Mauro Borioni [mauro.borioni@comune.bologna.it]. Bologna is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.



FEATURE

Four more years of CIVITAS get underway

As CIVITAS Plus comes to a close, the Initiative, running now for over ten years, launches a fourth phase.

New kids on the block

Two collaborative projects, both active until 2016, will implement around 50 measures and bring together eight demonstration cities.

DYN@MO connects Aachen (coordinator), Germany; Gdynia, Poland; Palma de Mallorca, Spain; and Koprivnica, Croatia, to share the mission of strengthening sustainable mobility by promoting environmentally-aware lifestyles, social interaction and collaboration.

Within the 2MOVE2 project, new forms of sustainable urban transport and mobility will be implemented in coordinating city Stuttgart, Germany; Brno, Czech Republic; Malaga, Spain; and Tel Aviv, Israel. These cities aim to base urban transport on clean, energy-efficient vehicles and transport systems, to reduce the ecological footprint of mobility and to improve the health and well-being of citizens.

The two projects will be supported by CIVITAS WIKI ensuring the horizontal activities of CIVITAS PLUS II.

CIVITAS 2.0

Capitalising on developments within the way we all work, communicate and build knowledge, this new phase of the initiative will focus largely on web 2.0 technologies. With CIVITAS now well-established as a brand

in the world of sustainable urban transport, the main aim of this phase will be to widely promote the results and data generated by the demonstration projects in a more accessible way.

Traditionally, CIVITAS has focused on local authorities and transport stakeholders. This new phase will see the most important stakeholders of all being brought in to the discussion, the citizens, who will now be able to share impressions of the transport situation in their cities through stories, video and images.

A living, learning Initiative

Key to any phase of CIVITAS has been the detailed evaluation of the measures implemented in the demonstration cities. As such, long-term evaluation will be undertaken to assess the real impact of CIVITAS, which will be of benefit to those making policies for cleaner and better urban transport, as well as those implementing relevant measures.

For more information, contact Annemarie Mahieu [a.mahieu@uniresearch.nl], as part of the CIVITAS WIKI Secretariat.



Image: www.eltis.org

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CITY NEWS

Funchal embraces low-emission bus line

The Funchal "Green Line" aims to curtail traffic congestion in the region by providing a low-emission bus service. After gaining renown as an attractive holiday area, traffic flow in the Portuguese region increased starkly, spurred by a rise in property development. Thanks to the Green Line, Funchal Public Transport Company has seen a 10 percent increase in revenue and a reduction in operating costs of 13 percent.

Hotels have been backing the move, with 34 percent of all hotels in the tourism hot spot promoting public transport over shuttle buses.

This greener choice has also been rubbing off on the locals. According to a recent survey, overall public transport satisfaction increased by 1.5 points (on a scale of one to 10) and the new route is seen by residents as essential to the local economy.

The Green Line has also opened up public transport for mobility-impaired passengers. The number of wheelchair users taking the service has increased exponentially, with over 300 more such trips recorded in 2011 than the year before.

For more information, contact Claudio Mantero [claudiomantero@horariosdofunchal.pt]. Funchal is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.



POLICY UPDATE

EU launches clean fuel strategy

The European Commission has announced ambitious measures to build-up alternative fuel stations across Europe. Policy initiatives so far have neglected to consider the necessity of wide-spread fuel availability.



The high cost of vehicles, a low level of consumer acceptance, and the lack of recharging and re-fuelling stations all act as barriers to clean vehicle uptake.

The Commission is proposing a package of binding targets on Member States for a minimum level of infrastructure for clean fuels such as electricity, hydrogen and natural gas, as well as common EU-wide standards for equipment.

EC Vice President Siim Kallas responsible for Transport said: "Developing innovative and alternative fuels is an obvious way to make Europe's economy more resource efficient, to reduce our overdependence on oil and develop a transport industry which is ready to respond to the demands of the 21st century."

For more information, visit:
[<http://bit.ly/EU-clean-fuels-press-release>]

NATIONAL NEWS

CIVINET looks to the future

The CIVITAS national networks have the ability to reach out to cities that do not benefit from the CIVITAS demonstration programme directly. They also foster dialogue on sustainable transport issues, both at national and EU level.

Carlos Bernardes, Vice President of the Municipality of Torres Vedras, Portugal, spoke recently of the importance of the national networks, saying, "Thanks to CIVITAS and the added value of CIVINET España y Portugal, we have not only raised awareness of key

EVENTS

Final results workshop to take place in Geneva

The last CIVITAS workshop in the series "Effective solutions for green urban transport" will take place alongside the European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns (ESCT) from 17-19 April 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland.



Focusing on CIVITAS cities' achievements in the fields of mobility management and promoting car independent lifestyles, examples from CIVITAS cities will be showcased to present what they have achieved through the implementation of their measures; how they cooperated with other cities; and finally, what they learned and how they made use of this knowledge.

For more information, visit:
[<http://bit.ly/CIVITAS-workshop-4>]

Save the date!

**11th CIVITAS Forum Conference
30th Sept - 2nd Oct 2013
Brest, France**

Visit www.civitas.eu for details.

projects, such as MOBI.E (Electric Vehicles), but supported the development of staff training and peer exchange."

The good news is that the continuation and expansion of the CIVITAS national networks is foreseen within the FP7 work programme for this year. There is potential for greater integration of the national/regional networks into the CIVITAS family, and proposals to achieve this are currently being developed. More details will soon be available on the CIVITAS website.

For more information, visit:
[<http://www.civitas.eu/civinet>] or contact [civinet@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. Free copies can be obtained from the CIVITAS Secretariat:

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