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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!

Simply go to our website  
<http://www.civitas.eu>

## COVER STORY

### Re-thinking commuting by bicycle in Aalborg

Gustav Friis, Anna Driscoll  
City of Aalborg

**When it comes to sustainable mobility, Aalborg has applied its expertise with a particular emphasis on cycling. Measures that target school kids to university students, tourists and employees have one goal in common: to re-think travelling by bicycle and increase the city's share of cyclists.**



Cycling is well-established in Denmark and a relatively good cycling infrastructure is in place. In the Municipality of Aalborg, the modal share of cycling is 15 percent, but national figures indicate a downward trend.

To counteract this, through its activities in CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES, Aalborg focuses on different target groups to make short commuter trips by bicycle more attractive. In the long-term, creating a high level of cycling positively influences energy efficiency and public health.

School children were the target of Aalborg's "Cycle to School" campaign, which was driven by mobile and internet communication. For two months, school children solved riddles and competed for the title of champion. By the end of the campaign, 22 percent of the children considered cycling to school more often.

The Cycle Motorway targets students cycling to the university located in Aalborg East. The Motorway includes cycle lanes, signposts, traffic light priority and shortcuts, as well as air pumps for unlucky cyclists. The Cycle Motorway allows for faster cycling, improves the safety and visibility of cyclists, and increasing the overall-attractiveness of cycling. A counter has recorded an increase in the number of cyclists on the route.

Students and tourists are the main target groups of the city bike scheme with 200

bicycles and 21 stations in place. The bikes are popular, with only a small share reported lost or damaged. Fifty employees used an electric bike to get to work for three months instead of commuting by car as part of company travel planning. The employees were positively surprised by the ease of using the bikes and 50-60 percent plan to bike more often. One employee even decided to sell his car and buy an electric bicycle instead.

The combination of these cycling initiatives motivated different users to consider cycling and is a stepping stone to a less car-dependent lifestyle.

Other CIVITAS cities are implementing similar measures. Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain, has also introduced a city bike scheme to boost the growing number of bicycle trips in the city. Zagreb, Croatia, and Szczecinek, Poland, have been making efforts to improve and extend their cycling infrastructure. Ghent, Belgium, is reducing bicycle theft through the development of unique frames and GPS locaters.

Many more cities are keen to share the lessons learned from their activities and experts in the field are invited to contact their peers through a dedicated discussion group. To do so, contact Ivo Cré [[icre@polisnetwork.eu](mailto:icre@polisnetwork.eu)].

For more information on Aalborg's activities, please contact: Gustav Friis [[guf-teknik@aalborg.dk](mailto:guf-teknik@aalborg.dk)].



**CITY NEWS**

## Assessing innovation and feasibility in Coimbra

**Coimbra, Portugal, has released preliminary findings on the feasibility of implementing hydrotechnology to produce renewable energy for trolleybus lines at a local mini-dam.**



In a recent conference Coimbra's local dissemination manager, Luis da Vinha, presented the findings of the study. Developed by the School of Science and Technology at the University of Coimbra, the study identified two options as the most suitable solutions.

The first costs €1.7 million and would produce 2.6 GWh of electricity annually, while the second has an estimated cost of €2.9 million, producing 3.9 GWh a year. Both solutions contribute to significant annual reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>: 973 and 1,425 tonnes respectively.

The research demonstrates that the energy produced through either solution would cover the needs of the local transport service's trolleybuses and electric mini-buses, 750,000 kWh. This would also generate revenue for the city through the sale of surplus energy to the national energy companies.

For more information, contact Luis Da Vinha [luis.vinha@cm-coimbra.pt]. Coimbra is a member of the CIVITAS MODERN consortium.

## Ljubljana opens first CNG station in Slovenia

**Ljubljana, Slovenia, opened the first compressed natural gas (CNG) fuelling station in the country in December 2012 and presented 20 methane buses co-funded by CIVITAS.**



The new buses will reduce air pollution in Ljubljana by up to 80 percent. The buses feature state-of-the-art technology, including an ergonomic and adjustable cockpit and dedicated space and lowering ramp for wheelchairs and prams.

The new buses also fulfil the most demanding exhaust criteria of the Enhanced Environmentally Friendly Vehicle standard. This means that the exhaust emissions of such buses are so minuscule that they cause minimal harm to citizens and the environment.

The levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons emitted are also extremely low. In comparison to (Euro 4) diesel bus engines, a methane bus releases 80 to 90 percent less nitrogen oxides. Compared to older buses, it releases up to 10 percent less CO<sub>2</sub>. Methane is lighter than air and can easily be stored in containers on top of the bus.

For more information, contact Vita Kontić [vita.kontic@ljubljanasi.si]. Ljubljana is a member of the CIVITAS ELAN consortium.

## Utrecht goes for gold on impact evaluation

**CIVITAS cities know it can be difficult to demonstrate the true effect of a measure. To prove a measure has made an impact, Utrecht, the Netherlands, applies the gold standard in impact evaluation.**



Utrecht believes it is not sufficient to simply show that more people are satisfied with a measure after its implementation than before, as external impacts such as a tax relief may have contributed to improving general satisfaction. Using "Control Site Assessment" to validate results, the city applies the gold standard in several of its measure evaluations.

For example, a road safety label is awarded to schools that deal with traffic safety. When evaluating, two schools without traffic safety activities in place act as control sites that are examined alongside those awarded the label.

Utrecht also applies this approach to its car-sharing awareness-raising measures. Surveys are carried out in the campaign area before and after the introduction of the measures, as well as in a control area. The results for both areas provide high-quality data that helps to determine whether the measure is successful.

For more information, contact Katrin Dziekan [katrin.dziekan@tu-berlin.de]. Utrecht is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.

**POLICY UPDATE**

## Commission delivers clean power for transport package

**The European Commission has been focusing on the potential of alternative fuels to significantly contribute to decarbonising transport. The Commission demonstrated its commitment to this objective in its work programme for 2012-2014, which announced the development of a Clean Power for Transport package which will be closely linked to the EU White Paper on Transport.**

The package will include information about an alternative fuel strategy that aims to identify

possible EU actions to stimulate the use of EU alternative fuels. It also seeks to provide the industry, public sector and consumers with a clear and coherent vision of the market developments for alternative fuel transport systems.

The document includes a legislative proposal for infrastructure development to ensure the deployment of specific infrastructure needs for each of the main alternative fuels according to the respective technical maturity and the current market situation.

In March 2012 the European Commission established a stakeholder expert group on future transport fuels with the objective of providing advice on the development

of political strategies and specific actions aiming towards finding substitutes for fossil oil as transport fuel in the long-term and decarbonising transport, while supporting economic growth.

For more information, contact: [secretariat@civitas.eu].

## Stay informed!

Subscribe to 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 NEWS

### Breaking records in Donostia-San Sebastián

The number of bus passengers in Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain, has increased for the seventh consecutive year. Since 2004, the figure has grown by 12 percent and surpassed 29.2 million in 2011.



This achievement is more impressive when compared to the downward trend of 5 percent in such figures nationally in Spain. The increase in passengers is a result of the continuous efforts of public transport company DonostiaBus to increase the quality of its service.

Over the course of CIVITAS Plus, an integrated set of public transport measures has been implemented. These include the introduction of the Bus Rapid Transit concept; exclusive bus lanes and public transport priority at traffic lights; passenger information systems and on-board video cameras.

The increase was achieved primarily because of the growing number of trips on two specific lines. These were redesigned in the course of the city's CIVITAS measures to improve the public transport connection to the university campus and the Miramón business district.

For more information, contact Maarten Van Bemmelen [mvbemmelen@telefonica.net]. Donostia-San Sebastián is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

### Bike paths completed in Szczecinek

As part of its CIVITAS activities Szczecinek, Poland, has closed the missing links and completed the last part of the city's new bicycle lane network. The new section stretches for 5.8 km along Lake Trzesiecko.



The lanes are equipped with an excellent lighting system and adjoining recreation areas have also been developed. New bicycle racks have been installed together with new benches and other street furniture to encourage citizens to make the most of the public space.

More than 7 km of bicycle lanes have been built since the city got involved in CIVITAS. The overall length of the bicycle network is now 25 km and covers the entire urban area.

Cycling is high on the city's agenda, as Szczecinek's administrative area has been enlarged and the new bicycle network is the main link between the old and new areas of the city. This also demonstrates that the city is committed to promoting a less car-dependent lifestyle and raising awareness of the benefits of bike use among citizens.

For more information, contact: Maciej Wiórek [civitas@sapik.pl]. Szczecinek is a member of the CIVITAS RENAISSANCE consortium.

### Bologna wins Mobility Week Award 2011

An independent jury of mobility experts has awarded CIVITAS MIMOSA city Bologna the 2011 European Mobility Week Award. The runners-up were Larnaka, Cyprus, and CIVITAS ELAN city Zagreb.



Bologna was judged to have done the best job in promoting clean alternatives to using cars and involving citizens in activities to support sustainable urban mobility.

Vice-President Kallas, who co-presented the award with Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik, said: "By sharing experience on alternative mobility, cities can implement more attractive and reliable options, thus making a positive impact on our quality of life."

Bologna was praised for its ambitious programme to make citizens more familiar with sustainable means of transport. Many elements of this approach are funded through CIVITAS. The highlight was the so-called 'T-days', which launched a pedestrian revolution in the city centre. The 2012 edition of European Mobility Week will focus on planning for people with sustainable urban mobility plans.

For more information, contact: Cleto Carlini [cleto.carlini@comune.bologna.it]. Bologna is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.

NATIONAL NEWS

### CIVINET goes back to school

Learning is a key part of the CIVINET experience, with members across Europe showing the way. In the UK, children from a primary school in Brighton have made a short film about a groundbreaking science project where they have monitored air quality.

'Testing the Air' is narrated by children and shows how they have been monitoring air quality both in the playground and outside the school. They've been helped by amongst others Brighton & Hove City Council, who apart from being involved in CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES

are a key member in the UK & Ireland National Network Management Communication.

Part-funded by CIVITAS, the project has raised pupils' interest in science and increased their



understanding about the effects of transport activities on local air quality.

It is access to transferable examples like this that give CIVINET members added value and despite the current economic climate, the National Networks continue to grow.

The Nederland & Vlaanderen Network emerged in November 2011 and has already attracted significant interest. In the other four original National Networks and Slovenian task force there are currently 78 city members.

To find out what your National Network is doing visit the CIVITAS website or contact [civinet@civitas.eu] to be put in contact with your local CIVINET representative.

**CITY IN PROFILE**

## Tallinn, Estonia

**Estonia's capital city Tallinn is the country's largest with its 400,000 inhabitants. Since Estonia regained independence in 1991, the number of private cars in Tallinn has increased rapidly, while the public transport network remains under-developed.**



Tallinn's biggest challenge is to renew and extend the network including buses, trolleys, tramways and suburban trains. To do so the city has adopted the Tallinn Development Plan for 2009–2027. Tallinn's participation in CIVITAS MIMOSA supports its efforts to meet growing mobility demands in a sustainable manner. Through MIMOSA, Tallinn plans to implement a public transport real-time information and integrated ticketing system and develop a marketing strategy to promote public transport, walking and cycling.

Another task is to flesh out a new strategy to meet the needs of freight traffic generated by the harbour. Tallinn also aims to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport in several ways including the introduction of an eco-driving programme for bus drivers. The city also expects an increase in the share of public transport through the promotion of collective transport.

For more information, contact Anu Leisner [anu.leisner@tallinnlv.ee]. Tallinn is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.

**OUTREACH**

## Bremen leads car-sharing revolution

**Bremen, Germany, is widely recognised as the car-sharing city by CIVITAS cities. Its car-sharing service has already taken an impressive 1,500 cars off its roads, with more than 7,000 car-sharing users now signed up.**

To achieve a similar effect by building parking garages, an investment of €25-50 million would be required. Bremen's 2010 car-sharing survey showed that 43 percent of subscribers had a car before joining the cambio car-sharing service. A year later this had dropped to 12 percent.

**EVENTS**

## CIVITAS Forum 2012, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

**September may seem a long way away, but it won't be long before calendars start to fill up. The CIVITAS Forum 2012 will run from 24-26 September 2012 and is an event you will not want to miss.**



Hosted by European Green Capital Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, the conference will be the 10th such annual event. This year it is a combined event which will also serve as the CIVITAS Plus Final Conference, as the demonstration projects that started in 2008 are coming to a close.

The three-day event will again promote an exchange of dialogue and views between CIVITAS Forum city-politicians and European-level representatives on the one hand, and experts in the field of urban mobility on the other.

The conference will reflect on four years of CIVITAS Plus and reveal many results of the third phase of the Initiative. Participating cities will answer the question, "Where do we go from here?" and hand over the baton to those new cities participating in the fourth phase of the CIVITAS Initiative: CIVITAS Plus II.

More information will follow on the programme and speakers soon on the CIVITAS website.

**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:

c/o The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)  
Ady Endre út 9-11  
2000 Szentendre  
Hungary  
Email: [secretariat@civitas.eu](mailto:secretariat@civitas.eu)  
Tel: +36 26 504 046  
Fax: +36 26 311 294

**Publisher**

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Freiburg, Germany.  
Executive Director  
Wolfgang Teubner

**Editors**

Ciara Leonard, Ailish O'Donoghue (ICLEI)

**Layout**

Stephan Köhler (ICLEI)

Printed on Recystar paper.

**Acknowledgement**

This publication is produced under the auspices of CIVITAS VANGUARD, a Support Action for coordination and dissemination funded through the EC's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. VANGUARD stands for Advancing Sustainable Urban Transport in an Enlarged Europe through CIVITAS.

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The CIVITAS Initiative is co-financed by the European Union

