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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

Public transport breaks records in Vitoria - Gasteiz

Juan Carlos Escudero Achiaga,
Centro de Estudios Ambientales

There has been a spectacular increase in the number of urban public transport passengers in the city of Vitoria - Gasteiz, Spain. A radical change in the structure of the public transport network and quality of service, combined with an extensive citizen engagement campaign explain its success.

The CIVITAS MODERN city changed its entire public transport system in October 2009, and the increase in passengers shows that the change is paying off. Combined with the new bicycle lane grid and pedestrian paths, the plan is adapting citizen's mobility behaviour.



Just missed the bus? Don't worry, in Vitoria-Gasteiz there is now one every 10 minutes

Previously the network was based on 17 bus lines with frequencies of 20-30 minutes and long routes. The new system is made up of one tram line, one bus rapid transit line and nine bus lines. The new bus lines all have 10 minute frequencies. Routes are now more direct, without compromising comprehensive coverage of the entire city.

Allowing for more effective transfers between lines are a range of supporting measures, including bus lanes, queue jumpers, traffic-light priorities and new platforms. The result is that passenger numbers have rocketed with a 45 percent increase in the number of trips per month. This translates into just over half a million more users since the first tramway line came into operation in January 2009.



Feedback from citizens of all ages helped shape the new public transport network

The speed of the services has improved by 14.5 percent and fuel consumption has been reduced by 6 percent since the new bus network was launched. Central to the action's success was an intensive public participation process.

An information campaign was at the heart of this. Over 100 volunteers travelled with public transport users, provided support and informed them about the new network.



Volunteers collect information about the habits and needs of public transport users in the city

New measures are also planned for the rest of the year, including the construction of four queue-jumping lanes, 20 new bus platforms, increased tram schedules and the development of new communications and promotion campaigns for public transport. The new public transport network is one of the key elements of the city's Sustainable Mobility and Public Space Plan.

Its main objective is to implement a new mobility model in Vitoria - Gasteiz, with a view to minimising the negative effects caused by the excessive use of private cars. Through its participation in the CIVITAS Initiative many of these challenges can now be met.

For more information, contact Juan Carlos Escudero Achiaga [jcescudero@vitoria-gasteiz.org].



CITY NEWS

Upgrading energy savings in Craiova

Nine trams owned by Craiova's public transport company are set to be technically upgraded by the end of the year.



The upgrade consists of equipping these trams with an electronic device called a chopper - to help reduce their electricity consumption by approximately 40 percent.

The chopper is incorporated into the old trams in order to manage and streamline energy consumption. A team of engineers developed the initiative and are currently working on the prototype and implementation, which will be completed by the end of 2010. The first three trams have already been prepared for the installation of the choppers.

It is estimated that the first trams equipped with the new electronic systems will be ready in three months. In parallel, the next series of three trams will enter the modernisation process. The newly equipped trams will be tested and monitored under normal working conditions, with energy savings in particular, examined carefully.

For more information, contact Virginia Matei [virginia.matei@ipacv.ro]. Craiova is a member of the CIVITAS MODERN consortium.

Donostia - San Sebastián gets a lift

In March 2010, the Mayor of the city of Donostia - San Sebastián, Spain, unveiled a new public lift in the Antiguo district of the hilly CIVITAS city.



Mayor Odón Elorza was joined by local citizens for the inauguration of the lift, which covers a distance of 40 metres. During CIVITAS Plus five new lifts and one new escalator are being introduced. The installation of vertical public transport provides citizens with a competitive and attractive alternative to the private car.

The new lift forms part of a wider strategy to promote walking and cycling in the city. The height difference of 40 meters is covered in two stages. A first lift in a tower of 30 meters, takes users 25 meters up while the second covers the final 15 meters.

The tower is wrapped in an attractive spinnaker structure, which among other functions serves to diminish the feeling of vertigo. From the ground floor to the summit there are six stops, giving users the opportunity to disembark at different levels of the district. In addition, the spacious lifts both have a capacity of 13 people.

For more information, contact Fermín Echarte [fermin_echarte@donostia.org]. Donostia - San Sebastián is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

Green spirit alive and kicking in Funchal

Green Line, the new westbound public transport service in Funchal, Portugal, is now fully in service, providing a win-win solution for both tourists and citizens.



Many of Funchal's roads are much more than mere transport routes. The Green Line route in particular winds its way along beautiful cliffs, offering fantastic views and access to historical landmarks. Unsurprisingly, it's a big favourite with tourists. As part of its CIVITAS activities, the city council has been working with the hospitality industry to ensure a greener solution. Much effort has been invested in encouraging hotels to use public transport services rather than providing their own courtesy buses.

As a result, a local 4-Star hotel has signed up to the Green Line and hopefully more will follow. Hotels that promote the use of public transport are given a tailor-made 'Tourist Pack' for their guests, including a ticket personalised with the hotel name. Not only is this initiative proving to be an efficient way of encouraging new sustainable mobility habits, it is sending out a clear message to tourists that Madeira is a high quality and environmentally friendly destination.

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

EU NEWS

European transport getting greener

While technological advances produce cleaner vehicles, more and more passengers and goods are travelling further distances, thereby offsetting efficiency gains. A new European Environment Agency (EEA) report calls for a clear vision defining Europe's transport system by 2050, and consistent policies to achieve it.

On its tenth anniversary, the EEA's TERM report presents an overview of transport's impact on the environment, built on an analysis of 40 policy-

relevant indicators. The report's findings for the period 1997-2007 present a mixed picture, with some improvements in air pollutants and serious concerns regarding persistent growth in transport's greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to translate investment in transport infrastructure into gains for citizens and the environment, Professor Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of EEA reflected that, 'In the future we will need to focus not only on the mode of transport, but also the reasons why people choose to travel, because ultimately mobility is inextricably linked to our quality of life.' Transport, including international aviation and maritime transport, accounts for around a quarter of total EU greenhouse gas emissions.

Unlike some sectors, transport's impact on the environment continues to be closely linked to economic growth.

For more information, please visit <http://www.eea.europa.eu>.

Grant opportunity

Notice of call for proposals with a view to obtaining grants in the field of transport

Deadline: September 9, 2010

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/grants/2010_09_15_en.htm



CITY NEWS

Blue CIVITAS buses in Skopje

A CIVITAS branded bus has been travelling around the Macedonian capital, Skopje in an effort to promote the Initiative within the city.



The distinctive blue bus can be seen on the main routes in Skopje, and is a cost effective, professional, effective and mobile form of promotion. Skopje is the first CIVITAS city from an accession country to the EU and the bus branding is one step in the city's promotion campaign, Skopje – a clean city through mobility measures.

The city aims to inform its citizens about the benefits of public transport and to promote the measures being implemented as part of the CIVITAS RENAISSANCE project. The municipality and the public transport operator, JSP-Skopje, are working together to promote CIVITAS.

The mayor's office has already received many questions about the project's progress as a result of citizens seeing the bus travelling through the city's streets. The bus also features in several newspapers when the city's work in the mobility field is covered.

For more information, contact Mirjana Apostolova [mirjanaa@skopje.gov.mk]. Skopje is a member of the CIVITAS RENAISSANCE consortium.

Green light for hybrid car-sharing in Ghent

Within the framework of CIVITAS, the Cambio car-sharing company is researching client interests to integrate environmentally friendly cars into their fleet in Ghent, Belgium.



Cambio surveyed their users on whether they would use these cars and results were positive. The survey found that the environmental aspect of car-sharing is already a very important factor in choosing the service. Over 90 percent of users think that integrating environmentally friendly cars into the fleet is a good idea.

In addition, 70 percent of the users are prepared to pay more to drive environmentally friendly cars and 80 percent agree to driving a car that is a little less user friendly. The users that did not react positively to this new initiative had several reasons. Some think they already do enough by sharing a car, while others believe they would have to make a detour to fuel the car.

In both Flanders and Brussels, there is a clear preference for the hybrid car, with second place being filled by electric cars in Flanders, and compressed natural gas proving to be the second fuel of choice in Brussels.

For more information, contact Geert Gisquière [gg@cambio.be]. Ghent is a member of the CIVITAS ELAN consortium.

Forging travel plans for all in Iasi

Over 2,000 students from five universities and 11 schools have been given the chance to forge travel plans for young pupils and students in the city of Iasi, Romania.



In a mass information collection exercise, 7-23 year olds were able to give their perspective on their commute, so that Iasi City Hall and the local public transport company can create meaningful travel plans for students of all levels of education. Variables analysed included the distance travelled, the type of transport used, and the type of transport preferred.

The study also explored factors to help students and their parents shift from using the private car. Using the information provided, tailor-made travel plans have been finalised for 7-11 year olds, who are mainly reliant on parents or school transport, 11-15 year olds who rely on parents, but are also budding public transport users and finally, 15-23 year olds, who travel either on public transport or by their own private means. In the coming months, Iasi intends to encourage travel behaviour change through public transport promotion campaigns, with a special section dedicated to pupils and students.

For more information, contact Ninel Vlaicu Berneaga [ninel.berneaga@gmail.com]. Iasi is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

NATIONAL NEWS

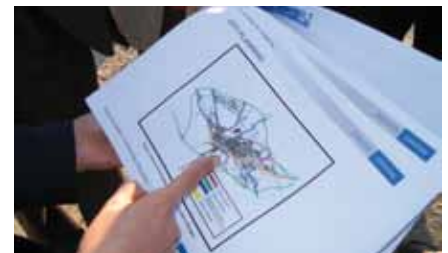
National networks share best practice

The CIVINET national networks have been busy with launch events and meetings to promote CIVITAS demonstration programmes to their members and other cities, engaging them with the CIVITAS approach to sustainable mobility - in their own language.

Sharing best practice has already begun in the Spanish and Portuguese network, with the city of Burgos, Spain, showcasing measures developed under the second phase of CIVITAS to more than 20 peers.

In Winchester, the UK & Ireland Network met to reflect on the impact of the MIRACLES project from the first phase of CIVITAS, which included the cities of Winchester, UK, and Cork, Ireland. The event gave those present the chance to find out what worked and what did not in each city's sustainable urban freight and bus rapid transit programmes. The next 'Change in Action' event is on 2 July in Brighton, UK, and will look at the host city's progress within CIVITAS Plus.

Finally, following the launch of the francophone network earlier in the year (see April 2010 edition of MOVE), the next of the five networks to be launched will be the Italian network, which will commence in June. It will bring together cities, government bodies, academia and existing



National networks have been sharing experiences on sustainable mobility issues, such as city planning

networks and aims to work closely with active CIVITAS Plus projects in Italy.

For more information, contact: [civinet@ttr-ltd.com].

CITY IN PROFILE

Bologna, Italy

The city of Bologna is located in the heart of Italy, and is the capital city of the Emilia Romagna Region.



Image: Alessandro Salomoni

A hub of mobility activity, Bologna is the coordinator of the CIVITAS MIMOSA project and is involved in a strategy developed by a group of local partners to improve the urban mobility system. The coherence between the CIVITAS programme and the city's objectives demonstrates a common approach to mobility.

In June 2007, the Municipal Town Council approved the new Master Plan of the Urban Traffic (PGTU). Its objective is to improve citizens' quality of life through a radical re-thinking of urban mobility. The PGTU promotes an increase in public transport and cycle-lanes, while safeguarding valuable environmental and architectural zones. These measures are in line with those being introduced as part of CIVITAS.

CIVITAS is helping Bologna to progress and to act as a pilot site for other European medium-size cities. Its nomination as one of the top 10 cities for Mobility Week 2010 shows that the city is on track in this regard.

For more information about Bologna's activities within the CIVITAS Initiative, contact Mauro Borioni [Mauro.Borioni@comune.bologna.it]. Bologna is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA project consortium.

FUNDING AND OUTREACH

Better collective passenger transport

Improving the attractiveness of public transport and the quality of service offered is a key tool for achieving sustainable urban development. However, finding the right strategy for moving commuters from one place to another is not always easy. There is no one-size-fits-all solution for every city.

No-one is more aware of this than the members of the CIVITAS CATALIST Thematic Group on collective passenger transport. Since 2002, the cities of Bremen, Bucharest, Graz, Kaunas,

EVENTS

Car-sharing supports public transport

From 3-4 November, the city of Bremen invites you to learn how car-sharing schemes can support public transport.

Bremen has a long and successful history with car-sharing. Following its launch in 1990, the scheme now has some 5,600 customers sharing 130 cars. Its success means that there is less parking pressure in the city centre. It also helps to create a culture of more sustainable travelling choices by citizens.

It is important to note that the event will be held in German and targets a German speaking audience. However, if a considerable number of participants from outside the German-speaking area are interested in attending, translation may be organised. Early notification of this is appreciated.

For more information, visit <http://www.civitas.eu>, and click on Events.

Don't miss the Forum Conference 2010

Malmo will be the place to be from 27-29 September, when the CIVITAS Forum Conference 2010 takes place in the Swedish city.

The event is an opportunity for the exchange of dialogue and views between local, national politicians and experts in the field of urban mobility. The CIVITAS Forum Network currently includes 179 cities from 30 European countries, that have formally committed to clean and sustainable urban transport.

For further information, visit <http://www.civitas.eu> or contact [secretariat@civitas.eu].

Nantes and Rome have been exploring solutions tailored for their own economical, geographical and administrative situations.

The resulting knowledge can now be tapped by cities seeking to explore how their existing public transport networks can be improved, upgraded or expanded. The cities mentioned above are happy to welcome site visits and study tours, support workshops and even help develop feasibility plans. Experts are also on hand to offer conference contributions.

For more information, visit: <http://www.civitas.eu/network> and click on Thematic Groups.

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 Transport and Energy. Free copies can be obtained from the CIVITAS Secretariat:

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