



MOVE

The CIVITAS Initiative Quarterly Newsletter

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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

Forum Conference explores future of urban mobility

Experts from both the field of sustainable mobility and from CIVITAS cities from all corners of Europe met at the CIVITAS Forum Conference in Krakow, Poland. Participants gathered to discuss current projects and the direction the Initiative will take.

The event ran from 19-21 October, and featured several high level speakers. The recently elected chair of the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee (PAC), Roman Jakic, identified the challenges facing cities when speaking about what lay ahead.

Jakic is a councillor for the city of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He said that, "Intermodality, mobility of persons with reduced mobility, electric mobility and cycling should be at the core of CIVITAS in the future. Improvement of urban freight transport should not be forgotten as well as the issue of transit traffic, which very often is a major problem in our cities".



Roman Jakic

Magda Kopczynska, Head of the Clean Transport and Urban Transport Unit at the European Commission's DG Transport and Energy, was also delighted to attend the most important event in the CIVITAS calendar. When speaking at the Politician's Forum, Kopczynska outlined the keys to successful sustainable urban transport plans. "An integrated approach that builds on political synergy, multi-stakeholder cooperation, practical tools and good examples is needed."



Magda Kopczynska

The Forum Conference is a CIVITAS Forum Network event. The Network continues to expand, with 165 cities committed to introducing clean and sustainable urban transport.

During the three days, speakers and participants came to the conclusion that there is no one solution to the mobility problems facing cities.

Mobility consultant Robert Stüssi said, "Cities need to identify the specific areas for development and must create a focused Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan. They need to create conditions that change the behaviour of the people living and travelling in cities and promote a new mobility culture."

When summarising the outcomes of the event's sessions, Emeritus Professor of Transport Engineering at the University of Leeds Anthony May, pointed out that over 90 percent of citizens want the traffic situation in their city to be improved. He said citizens believe it is vital to raise awareness about climate change and to take action to stop it.

Cities agreed that indicators and tangible targets are needed in order to plan, monitor, evaluate and benchmark their activities, while the mass deployment and long term stability of measures were identified as the main goals of the CIVITAS Initiative.



Deep in concentration at the Politician's Forum

As the event came to a close, cities left with renewed energy about the possibility of what can be achieved in the future, aware of the opportunities to share their experience and gain from the experiences of others. The CIVITAS Forum Conference demonstrated the scope of an initiative, which continues to drive innovation and integrated approaches in the field of sustainable urban mobility.

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



CITY NEWS

Aalborg gets on its bike

As part of a city bike scheme, 135 bicycles located at 19 stations around the city of Aalborg, Denmark, are now available to the public.



The official launch of the Initiative took place in July when the bicycles were paraded around the city centre. The bicycles are released when a 20-Kroner coin is deposited in the lock placed on the handlebars. The coin will be returned when the bike is returned to any station in the city.

The city bike scheme is being run in cooperation with sponsor Vattenfall and represents a new generation of city bikes in Denmark. Each bicycle has a lightweight aluminium frame and is equipped with a basket, lights and three speeds.

The purpose of the scheme is to give tourists and citizens the opportunity to use city bikes to travel in an easy and flexible way. To encourage multimodal journeys, a number of stations are located in close proximity to the main bus stops and train stations. Several are also at tourist attractions to give tourists a chance to see Aalborg by bicycle. The city bike scheme has its own webpage at <http://www.AalborgBycyklen.dk>.

For more information, contact Anne Marie Lautrup Nielsen [aml-teknik@aalborg.dk] Aalborg is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

Ticket vending machine reporting in Brno

The city of Brno, Czech Republic, broke new ground in June, when a pilot project of ticket vending machine error reporting was introduced.



The first ten vending machines were equipped with wireless modems as part of the testing phase. These modems automatically send a message to the control centre if there is a problem.

The control centre was also equipped with the system during the testing phase, which finished in August 2009. The remaining 142 vending machines will be equipped in the next year, depending on how well the system functions and the possible requests for changes.

Prior to the launch, there were several problems with how the machines were functioning, but these problems have been addressed and solutions found. The current maintenance system is based on periodical checks by maintenance workers or passengers' notifications. The system will enable maintenance workers to act quickly and efficiently, thus increasing the quality of the service and improving customer satisfaction.

For more information, contact Zdeněk Jarolín [zjarolin@dpmb.cz] Brno is a member of the CIVITAS ELAN consortium.

Bicycle registration system in Vitoria-Gasteiz

The Spanish city of Vitoria-Gasteiz has launched an innovative bicycle registration system run by one centralised municipal database.



The municipal database contains information about bicycles and their owners, and aims to detect, recover and return bicycles when they get lost, stolen or abandoned.

The security can be increased using an additional system, called Bicitronic, which enhances the bicycle's security. This measure intends to encourage cycling as a sustainable and healthy mode of transport in and around Vitoria-Gasteiz.

The Bicitronic system can be installed in a number of authorised centres around the city. The owner registers for free and receives a sticker that is placed on the bicycle, so that it can be more easily identified and deters theft.

More information on the project is available in Spanish and Basque at <http://www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/registrobicis>.

For more information, contact Juan Carlos Escudero Achiaga [jcescudero@vitoria-gasteiz.org] Vitoria-Gasteiz is a member of the CIVITAS MODERN consortium.

EU NEWS

European Commission unveils Action Plan on Urban Mobility

The European Commission adopted an Action Plan on Urban Mobility in September, proposing 20 actions to encourage and enable local, regional and national authorities to achieve their sustainable urban mobility goals.

The Commission's Vice President Antonio Tajani, responsible for transport said, "Never before has the Commission proposed a set of concrete actions to make urban travel easier, greener and better organised. The proposed measures

will encourage and help cities to address the challenges they are facing."

The action plan encourages cities to exchange information and good practices. The measures include, better travel information through links between national, regional and local travel planners; access rules for green, environmental zones; passenger rights in urban transport; research and demonstration projects on lower- and zero-emission vehicles for urban public transport, and energy-efficient driving.

To accelerate the take-up of sustainable urban mobility plans, the Commission will prepare information material and launch training and promotional activities. Guidance documents on important aspects of these plans such as urban

freight distribution and intelligent transport systems for urban mobility, will also be made available.

For more information, please visit http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/urban_mobility/action_plan_en.htm

Stay informed!

Subscribe for 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

500 cyclists hit Szczecinek's streets

There was an extraordinary scene on the streets of Szczecinek, Poland, this September, as cyclists boarded their bikes as part of European Mobility Week.



As European Mobility Week came to a close with 'In town without my car day', 500 cyclists gathered in front of the city hall to demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection.

Many of the group were pupils, their teachers and parents while others were simply citizens demonstrating how they are embracing the city's attitude towards sustainable transport. After a short welcoming speech by Mr. Jerzy Hardie-Douglas, Mayor of Szczecinek, the participants took a ride through the city accompanied by the Mayor and his staff.

As a fitting end to the day, the participants and organisers came together for a public picnic. The event was the culmination of a week of different activities, which were part of a campaign targeting the youth of the city and, promoting the use of public transport and cycling in Szczecinek.

For more information, contact Piotr Misztak [p.misztak@sapik.pl] Szczecinek is a member of the CIVITAS RENAISSANCE consortium.

Virtual traffic light plans in Monza

Traffic light programming is being optimised on an important city corridor in the city of Monza, Italy, in order to reduce traffic congestion.



Six intersections have been selected and reproduced in a virtual environment that simulates the performances of the current traffic light plan, as well as traffic flows in different conditions (working days, holidays, morning and evening peak hours).

This preliminary study is necessary to re-design the traffic light programming according to real situations, with relevant green waves for those cars running along the corridor at the average speed of 40km/h. In July and August the municipality set the systems of traffic light control in motion.

When this measure is fully implemented every intersection will be put under the control of the urban traffic control system. This state of the art system will be connected to the computer as a system server in the central control room.

For more information, contact Paolo Confalonieri [paolo.confalonieri@p-a.it] Monza is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

Funchal goes in search of sustainable mobility

The City Hall in Funchal, Portugal, organised an orienteering competition for all between the ages of 5 - 75 in the old part of the harbour city.



The activity promoted sustainable mobility, a topic that is particularly important, as traffic in the city increases and habits must change and improve. The competition focused on other forms of active mobility such as walking.

Participants were informed about sustainable transport and how it benefits society by boosting the economy and improving citizen's health. Mobility is the social responsibility of all, and it is important that all citizens do their part to improve Funchal's mobility situation.

To collect initial baseline data, a survey was carried out with all participants of the event, in order to measure the mobility habits/lifestyle and the awareness of the CIVITAS Initiative among citizens. The results revealed a strong dependence on the car and a lack of awareness regarding the project - challenges to be addressed by the team from Funchal.

For more information, contact Lúcio Quintal [lquintal@madeiratecnopolo.pt] Funchal is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.

CIVITAS Award winners announced



Three cities were crowned the winners of the 2009 CIVITAS Awards at the CIVITAS Forum Conference in Krakow, Poland, on 20 October.

Gent, Belgium; London Borough of Sutton, UK; and Nantes, France; were recognised for their sustainable urban mobility activities and programmes, and described as the most outstanding, ambitious and innovative cities of 2009, by the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee.

The city of Gent came out on top as a CIVITAS demonstration city for its exceptional urban policy making achievements. The city has proven its dedication to urban mobility by creating a large pedestrian area in the city centre and by working on plans to build a garage for more than 10,000 bicycles.

The London Borough of Sutton emerged as the winner amongst the CIVITAS non-demonstration

cities. Since 2006, Sutton Council has made contact with every household in the borough to encourage them to complete a personal travel planning project. The £5 million campaign is the largest of its kind in Europe.

Finally, the city of Nantes was announced as the CIVITAS "ambassador" of the year. Nantes' entry focused on four action areas, including the development of a clean bus fleet and design of a new Chronobus. The three winners receive a trophy and certificate, and most importantly, recognition and visibility for the hard work they have put into developing sustainable urban mobility in their city.

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

CITY IN PROFILE

Coimbra, Portugal

Coimbra is a city and municipality in Portugal, which is home to one of the world's oldest universities. The city has a strategic geographic position in the centre of the country. The city's population is 101,069, with the municipality home to 148,443 inhabitants.



Coimbra is benefiting from its participation in the CIVITAS MODERN consortium to expand the city's urban mobility plans. Measures are being introduced to allow Coimbra to increase the quality and the effectiveness of the public transport system.

This strategy will make public transport smarter, more accessible, and safer for Coimbra's citizens and visitors. This will also reduce energy consumption, increase the use of biodiesel and locally produced electricity, and spread the culture of sustainable mobility among citizens, stakeholders and transport operators. Infomobility tools for traffic data management have already been introduced.

For more information about Coimbra's activities within the CIVITAS Initiative, contact Margarida Redinha [margaridaredinha@itap-net.org] Coimbra is a member of the CIVITAS MODERN consortium.

FUNDING AND OUTREACH

CIVITAS CATALIST reaches out for change

Outreach was the focus at a recent CIVITAS CATALIST Project Management Group meeting. The group discussed how CIVITAS CATALIST can continue to encourage cities to join the CIVITAS family.

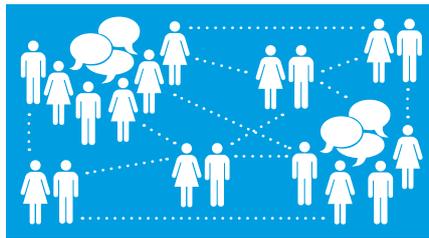
As reported in the last edition of MOVE, through CIVITAS CATALIST, funding opportunities are available through the CIVITAS Activity Fund. This funding covers a wide range of activities.

The Staff Exchange Scheme is one such activity. Cities are encouraged to exchange and/or transfer experiences, as they can second staff

EVENTS

Communicating with citizens

The second in a series of CIVITAS training workshops will take place from 8-9 February 2010, in Leuven (Belgium). The workshop will host a forum where participants can engage in discussion, share best-practices and pick up useful communication techniques.



The event will put theory into practice by putting the spotlight on cities that have already made a breakthrough and are getting the sustainable urban mobility message across in a unique and creative way. Participants will have the chance to examine these best practice cases and discover what does and doesn't work through discussion with peers. The topics of branding, media relations and getting to know your target audiences will also be demystified to assist cities in their local activities.

In the run up to the event, the programme and registration details will be posted on the CIVITAS website and those interested should be sure to register early. This workshop is jointly organised by the CIVITAS VANGUARD and MIMOSA projects.

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

members to a host CIVITAS city. This supports the transfer of knowledge and expertise in a hands-on environment.

As outreach is a core principle of CIVITAS CATALIST, another method of engaging with cities is via a series of seminars and workshops. Defined topics are discussed with participants during these events. Cities interested in taking part in similar workshops can find out more online.

The current deadline for applications to the CIVITAS Activity Fund is 16 February 2010.

For more information, visit: <http://www.civitas.eu/network> and <http://www.civitas.eu/events>.

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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