

CIVITAS MOBILIS TRAINING WORKSHOP:

“Safe cycling: Learning lessons among Civitas cities”

Ljubljana, November 23, 2006

The CIVITAS cities are interested to promote cycling as an alternative mode of transport and not merely as a recreation activity.

They are at a different stage of cycling development (differences in the modal split in favor of cycling) and they have to tackle different issues to promote it (even further), so there are a lot of possibilities to learn from each other. The workshop on cycling that took place during the Civitas Forum in Burgos has clearly proven it.

Therefore partners in CIVITAS MOBILIS project organize a training workshop on cycling to be held in Ljubljana on Thursday, November 23, 2006, opened to all CIVITAS cities.

We propose to use the case of Ljubljana as a starting point of the workshop. Namely, through public consultation, the CIVITAS MOBILIS team in Ljubljana has identified a number of obstacles for cycling and consequently issues to be resolved in the city, related to:

- 1) maintaining traffic discipline/order (cars parked on cycling paths which represent serious threat to the security of cyclists,)
- 2) Security of bicycles (bicycles thefts, lack of secure bicycles' sheds and racks, lack of secure storage of bicycles in multi-flat buildings)
- 3) Aggressive behavior in traffic: drivers, cyclists, pedestrians – they all don't care enough about each other – specially about weaker ones, they act differently when they assume different roles
- 4) Lack of cycling paths - under construction or not completed, not well interconnected, poor maintenance
- 5) Physical barriers for cyclists in the city and on the cycling paths
- 6) Other: cars still have top priority, there are no possibilities of bicycles transport in PT, promotion of cycling is still occasional, random and weak.

In order to promote cycling in Ljubljana it is needed **to improve its safety first**; it is an absolute priority. But safety relates to many issues and it is not possible to tackle all of them at once, therefore a priority has been determined: to enable cyclists to use safely and at best the existing infrastructures and to solve the most critical points. Moreover, at workshops opened to the public and main stakeholders, it has been pointed out that cars, parked on cycling paths, are the biggest threat to safe cycling and consequently the biggest obstacle to cycling promotion. The CIVITAS MOBILIS team in Ljubljana therefore focused its activities on **car-free cycling paths**.



Campaigns, aimed at car-free cycling paths, launched in Ljubljana in spring 2006 and in the framework of European mobility week, have reached some results, yet long-lasting change of behavior is needed to guarantee safe cycling. **Strong awareness raising activities** have been identified as essential to achieve this goal.

Therefore the training workshop on safe cycling in Ljubljana will focus on exchange of experience and information on best practices among CIVITAS cities about **measures and tools** that have been successful in **promoting safe cycling**.

Program of the workshop:

- 9.00 -11.30** First part: a short presentation of cycling in each city, main issues, priorities in resolving them; measures and tools that are (were) used to promote cycling, especially safety of cycling, which of them were the most effective (15 minutes per city)
- 11.30-13.00** Second part: site visit; selected critical points for cyclists in Ljubljana
- 13.00-14.00** Lunch
- 14.00 – 16.00** Third part: work in small groups and discussion on best practice in promoting safe cycling (10 minutes of discussion in groups, short report/proposals, plenary discussion, common/final proposals, recommendations).

The workshop is opened to all Civitas I and II cities and to stakeholders from Ljubljana (participants to previous local Civitas Mobilis cycling workshops in Ljubljana, representatives of civil society, Ministry of traffic, Regional development agency, etc.).

To prepare the training workshop at best, you are kindly invited to register (please fill-in the enclosed registration form) before 13 November 2006 and send a short presentation (if you plan to have one) by e-mail: int.relations@ljubljanasi.si. The presentations will be published on the web site: <http://www.ljubljana.si/si/mol/projekti/default.html> or <http://www.ljubljana.si/si/mol/projekti/60421/podrobno.html>

We hope to meet wide response and have a fruitful exchange of experiences, ideas and best practices.

CIVITAS MOBILIS
Ljubljana