

Mobility Initiatives for Local Integration and Sustainability

Newsletter number 7

June 2007

Dear Reader,

After having reached halfway, the CIVITAS MOBILIS project is not a concept anymore but a demonstration action which is now becoming visible to the citizens of the 5 partners cities. The first evaluation activities are starting and all the efforts made by the project partners will certainly ensure some very interesting results to be transferred to other cities.

The CIVITAS MOBILIS partners have just met in Odense where a special workshop dealing with the relation between health and transport policies, has been organised. After preparing the Mid-Term Review, the participants put in practice their Danish colleagues' advice and had a 25 km bicycle ride across the countryside. This was the opportunity for some of the MOBILIS partners to demonstrate or to remember what clean mobility and healthy behaviour are...

Before wishing you some sunny and resting summer holidays, I would like to draw your attention to the forthcoming CIVITAS Forum which will take place on the 4th and 5th of October in Kaunas (Lithuania). This Forum will undoubtedly be a great occasion for all CIVITAS cities to meet and exchange experience on specific mobility topics such as the preparation of the EC Green Paper on Urban Transport.

Hoping that you will be able to attend this major event, I am pleased to wish you a pleasant read of the 7th CIVITAS MOBILIS newsletter.

Alexandre Blaquiere
Project Coordinator



City of Debrecen (H)

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Focus Article

Odense takes thematic leadership

Odense has been asked to be the thematic leader in the field of cycling and we gladly accept this assignment and look forward to cooperating and sharing our experiences with all of the cities in CIVITAS.

Thematic leadership in CIVITAS

Thematic leadership is a program that aims to extend the exchange of knowledge and experience between the CIVITAS cities. The program involves CIVITAS II cities, which have a leading role in one specific thematic field. They will be called thematic leaders.

A thematic leader:

- * is a forerunner in a certain theme
- * organizes technical workshops
- * establishes a program for expert visits
- * is a contact point and shares knowledge

The thematic leader is also asked to produce a brochure on the theme. GUARD will support the thematic leader in their work.

Odense Cycle City

Odense is well known as a cycle city. In 1898 Odense established the first cycle path in Denmark as new and smaller bicycles entered the market. Cycling became more popular among the citizens and cycle clubs were able to make the municipality interested in creating a cycle friendly city. In 1900 a magazine even announced that Odense was an “eldorado for cyclists”.

The first cycle path was built in 1898 along Sdr. Boulevard. The city filled up a ditch along the road with dirt and created a special path for cyclists. The path led to a popular sight in a green area of Odense. This place also housed





the first cycle-racing track in Odense. At the same place the very first parking facilities were installed. It was a small house where you could park your bicycle for a small fee. It took the citizens of Odense some time to get used to the cyclists and the cycle path but since 1898 Odense has developed the paths and we now have about 500 kilometres of cycle paths.

Today Odense is a very cycle friendly city with paths, parking and high awareness about cycling. Every year the citizens of Odense cycle 55 million trips - or every third trip of all trips in the city. Odense not only secures the infrastructure. The city constantly develops new methods to get citizens to cycle more - e.g. campaigns.

Would you like to know more about Odense and the thematic leadership?

Please contact Kristina Edrén, kme@odense.dk

Thinking of becoming a thematic leader?

Please contact Karl Reiter, CIVITAS-GUARD, reiter@fgm-amor.at.

MOBILIS Success Stories - First Two Years

Toulouse

The new parking plan workgroup can smile



One year after its implementation, the Local Parking Plan has just been evaluated:

- It is now easier to find a parking place in the city centre; 85% of residents and 60% of visitors can find a place in less than 5 minutes with less than 2 minutes walk to their destination; commuters are encouraged to use public transport and bicycle,
- Increase in the availability of parking lots.

The City of Toulouse decided to continue to develop the paying - resident parking system to all the neighbourhoods (20) of the city centre before the end of 2007. Five new neighbourhoods will be involved from September 2007.

Michel Rabinovitch, michel.rabinovitch@mairie-toulouse.fr



Odense

Involvement of citizens

It has been a great experience to work closely with the residents in the areas where we are creating environmental zones. After all they are experts when it comes to their own neighbourhood... They know the neighbourhood much better than us because they live there and



have their everyday life in the area. The communication between us and the residents in the area has also been very good simply because the working group has been able to communicate in another way that we would have done. They are closer to the residents and for the residents it has also been much more convenient to talk to people they know. It has made the process much easier.

For me personally it was a great day when the Ministry of Justice approved the project plans for the two areas. We worked hard in both project groups to find a solution for each area. And we succeeded in finding a solution for the areas which also the residents have accepted.

Now I am looking forward to continue the fruitful cooperation with the working groups. We are now in the phase of planning a campaign and an event in each area. When the zones have been implemented we are going to raise awareness about the changes and we will also celebrate the new zones with an event in each area.

Mette Fynbo, City of Odense - Department of Urban and Cultural Development, mlau@odense.dk



Venice

Managing boat parking in the central canals in Venice

Currently, Venice canals have great problems of congestion due to interference between waterborne traffic and local deliveries, compounded by the presence of parked boats.

This measure is very ambitious: it aims at the integrated management of boat traffic and circulation in order to have a real time picture of dock use and constant monitoring of the docks' assignment.

Mobilis has offered important opportunities regarding the modernisation and integration of information procedures linked to the administrative management of the concessions of the temporary and permanent boat parking spaces.

Manuele Medoro, manuele.medoro@comune.venezia.it



Venice

Transport services for disabled passengers in Venice

The 18 new waterbuses co-financed by the Mobilis project have improved accessibility for disabled passengers; they allow passengers with disabilities to travel between the bus terminal of Piazzale Roma and Murano faster, without changing line and with greater comfort.

All waterbuses have been tested by RINA, a company which provides assessment, inspection, certification and research activities in accordance with national, EU and international laws.

Certainly, one reason for the great success of this measure is the positive cooperation with local associations for disabled people and the integration of their needs into the public transport policies and planning.

Elio Zaggia, elio.zaggia@actv.it





Venice

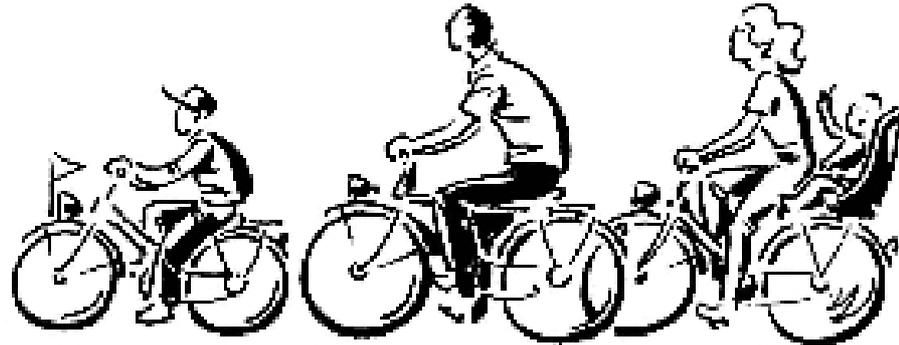
Increasing the use of the bicycle in daily urban trips

In 2002 the City of Venice created the “Bicycle Office” which on the 1st December 2006 inaugurated the bici park at the Mestre train station.

Thanks to its collaboration with the Italian Federation of Urban Cyclist and Bicycle Tourism, the Bike Office has promoted specific initiatives for school children like “Bimbibici”.

The strong political support has been crucial in order to approve the “Bicycle master Plan” which foresees the double extension of the bicycle network routes connecting the city centre to the main other mainland urban district, facilities and services.

Gabriele Vergani, gabriele.vergani@comune.venezia.it



www.civitas-initiative.eu

Ljubljana

Participatory planning in favour to cycling

Not only as a professional, also as a cyclist and public transport user I am very proud that the City of Ljubljana started participatory planning and promotion of sustainable mobility in Ljubljana with emphasis on safe and increased bicycle use. However, more focus on participatory design and assessment of transport and mobility planning, especially cycling, is still needed.

Miloš Bajt, milos.bajt@ljubljana.si





Debrecen

The mobility group in action

We elaborated a development plan for the benefit of sustainable development.

A mobility group has been set up within the framework of the project. It works as an expert advisory team for all the studies and working documents prepared within the CIVITAS project and it is stated by the members that the group should not finish their work just after closing the project.

Debrecen is one of the first cities in Hungary trying out this way of preparation of decision making and this is the first such opportunity in the life of the city as well.

Dr Antal Szekeres, jegyzo@ph.debrecen.hu



Debrecen

Park & walk in Debrecen

We believe that the extension of the pedestrian zone will make the city more liveable.

This is a real strategic measure: if the underground car park of the centre can serve as a real „park and walk“ facility, than the foreseeable impact of de-motorisation can reach further than the actual pedestrian zone itself. The newly built Conference Centre will be integrated to the pedestrian zone and it might be able to provide a park&walk option to the visitors coming to a conference or staying in the hotel of the Centre. It is important to protect the city centre from the car traffic of the visitors.

László Szucs, City of Debrecen,
szucs1@ph.debrecen.hu



Project implementation reports

Improving Boat Parking Management in Venice



The interaction between boat traffic, local deliveries and parking space is one of the great problems in the inner canals of Venice.

A docks use survey and analysis took place in the first year of the project, in order to make a census of the cargo delivery, the waiting and the delivery time, and the time that the docks are occupied by the boats.

An in depth study on current parking management in place in Venice and on the identification of parking and traffic problems was conducted in order to identify criteria for the allocation of permanent and temporary parking permits.

An electronic parking management system was designed in order to assist the city in reducing the amount of time needed to process permit applications.

The implementation of this system will thus benefit both the citizens and the city, and will help decrease the cost of traffic congestion.

For more information, please contact Manuele Medoro, manuele.medoro@comune.venezia.it

Toulouse is finishing its entirely new CNG bus depot

On the 21st of September 2001, Toulouse was shocked by the explosion of the AZF factory which destroyed the old bus depot of Langlade. The Public Transport Authority of Toulouse (Tisséo-SMTC) took the decision to rebuild this depot and to take the opportunity of this new construction to convert it into an environmentally friendly depot. The area of the depot has been extended with the purchase of two neighbouring parcels of land. Located in a 11 hectares area of which 16 000m² are maintenance and office buildings, this new depot will contain 320 bus parking slots of which 119 m² will be dedicated to CNG buses. The site will also contain a 2 500 m² green area.

The main works have already been carried out, the CNG compression centre is about to be installed and the green area is currently being finished. Tisséo-SMTC aims to open the depot in November 2007. The opening of this new depot which will be oriented towards buses using CNG and bio fuels will permit Toulouse to increase its clean public transport fleet (25 CNG buses will be purchased by 2008).

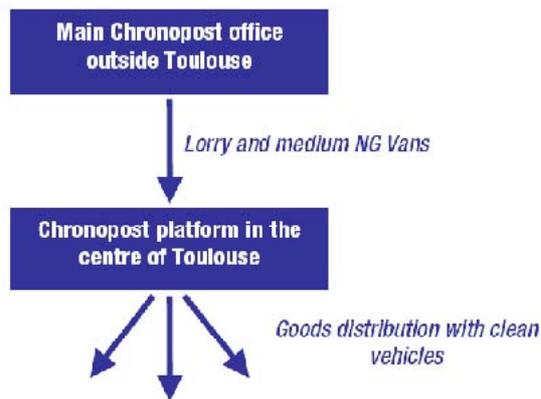
For more information, please contact Jonathan Turgy, jonathan.turgy@smtcat.fr



A New mail delivery platform in the centre of Toulouse

Since April 2005 and with the collaboration of the City of Toulouse, the Chronopost society which provides quick delivery of mail and pack services, has implemented in the Centre of Toulouse a new organization which takes into account a wide panel of economical, social and environmental criteria.

Presentation of the organization of the Chronopost delivery system:



Three types of clean vehicles are used: three electric vans, three natural gas vans and two innovative electric self propelled wagons called Chronocity, operated by a delivery man on the sidewalks.

The Economical assessment does not show any significant difference between the new and the previous organization, neither in relation to costs nor productivity. A survey conducted through a questionnaire distributed among the traders or the shopkeepers of the centre has shown a good level of acceptability; the impact of the new organization is considered as appropriate by half of them and even better by one third. The delivery men really appreciate the electric vehicles and the Chronocity and the new organization of their work makes them satisfied. The environmental impact is estimated to be a 58% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions (i.e. 15 tons a year). As a result, the assessment of the implementation of this measure in the centre of Toulouse is considered as satisfactory.

For more information, please contact Gilbert Tran-Thanh, Tran-Thanh.Gilbert@mairie-toulouse.fr

A new reservation call centre for Transport on Demand in Toulouse

On the 8th of April 2007, Tisséo (public transport authority and operator in Toulouse) launched a new reservation call centre for the transport on demand services. Ten transport on demand services are currently running in the agglomeration of Toulouse and each of them had a dedicated reservation call service before the launch of this new call centre. From now on, people can phone for free in order to make reservations on all the Transport on Demand lines or to ask for information.

This new service, which is also accessible through internet, functions between 6:30 AM and 10:30 PM seven days a week.

The creation of this unique reservation call centre aims to simplify the way in which the customers can make reservations for a service able to provide information regarding the whole Transport on Demand services and lines.

In case of necessity, the new reservation call centre can also reorganise services. When trips correspond to classical bus itineraries and timetables, customers will be directly oriented towards this solution.

For more information, please contact Jonathan Turgy, jonathan.turgy@smtcat.fr



Ljubljana training for info-points staff

CIVITAS MOBILIS team organized a training of the city information points staff on sustainable mobility, cycling, alternative fuels and clean vehicles. As CIVITAS MOBILIS is providing information material also at the three city info-points, additional training was provided for their staff with a goal to equip them with broader knowledge on contemporary mobility concepts.

Ex post evaluation questionnaires showed that all participants deepened their knowledge about the CIVITAS Initiative and above-mentioned issues. Participants pointed out there are still many issues where promotion and information dissemination is crucial for success of sustainable mobility development in Ljubljana.

For more information, please contact Milos Bajt, milos.bajt@ljubljanasi.si and Albin Keuc, albin.keuc@guest.arnes.si



The study for access restriction and parking management has been suggested for approval



Within the framework of Civitas II Mobilis the local government of Debrecen aimed to speed up traffic at major junctions and increase the efficiency of the use of parking houses.

This measure is completely in line with the schedule. The electronic countdowners have been installed at the traffic junctions and they work without any problems. The study for access restriction and parking management has been prepared and will be discussed and accepted by the general assembly in the near future; the mobility expert workgroup examined the content of the study and has put it forward for approval by the city council.

The city council is expected to accept it in October.

For more information contact: László Krajczár
krajczar@ph.debrecen.hu



Waiting for the construction permit

The goal of this measure is to connect the newly built convention centre with the pedestrian zone. The implementation plan for the planned sections of the pedestrian zone has been prepared, but obtaining the construction permit will possibly take over two months. In the optimal case construction will start just after the delivery of the permit, but the budget of the city can strongly influence the starting date of the construction. It is promising however, that the construction of the new conference centre - which also includes a four-star Hotel and a gallery of modern arts - has also been finished on time.

For more information contact: László Krajczár krajczar@ph.debrecen.hu

Car-pooling service for students has been launched in Debrecen

The car-pooling service for students will be a great addition to Debrecen's clean and sustainable urban transportation. The concept of the development and the possible ways of promotion has been elaborated. The roundtable discussion with the leaders of the students union with the cooperation of the University of Debrecen and the dissemination manager is the next step of the implementation of the measure. The plans for software installation and development has been discussed with the municipality technicians .

The new system is expected to be very popular among students.

For more information contact: László Erdey Laszlo.erdely@econ.unideb.hu

Positive feedback on Sustainable city-traffic development plan for Debrecen

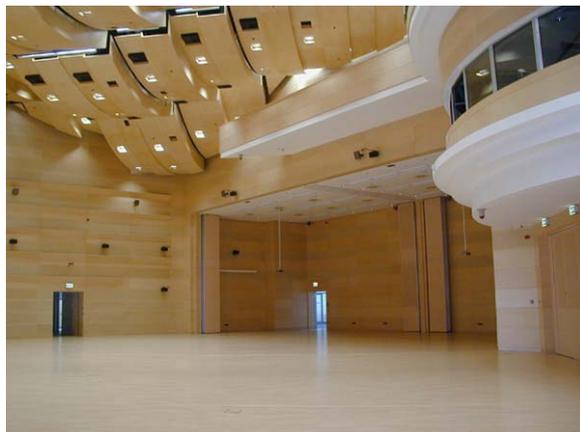
This strategic and ambitious measure is still in line with the planned schedule.

The mobility workgroup has been set up and works as an expert advisory team for all development in the framework of our local Civitas project. The sustainable city traffic development plan consists of three working documents. All documents are ready and have been discussed with the mobility group.

The mobility expert workgroup examined the content of the study and has put it forward for approval to the city council in order to get maximum political support. After the approval of the study the implementation process can be started.

Political support is ensured and all the leaders of political factions of the council have accepted the process and the study.

For more information contact: László Krajczár krajczar@ph.debrecen.hu



The cycling plan is ready

There has long been demand for an integrated and extended cycling network in Debrecen. Many inhabitants have the intention of using this clean and sustainable means of transport, but the infrastructure is still missing. With Civitas II Mobilis this goal seems to be achievable at last.

The development plan concerning the 36 km long bicycle network is ready and accepted by the leaders of the city. The mobility expert workgroup examined the content of the study and has put it forward it for approval to the city council.

After the approval of the study the process of accomplishment can be started, which will mean a significant improvement for all bikers.

For more information contact: László Krajczár
krajczar@ph.debrecen.hu

The project of the tram priority system is going to pick up speed

The inhabitants of the city are satisfied with the real-time passenger information system as it can be derived from the results of the survey conducted by the Department of Sociology at the University of Debrecen.

The working documents are ready and the complete development is almost finished. The AVL system for trams and trolley buses, the tram information system, the extension and development of the traffic control centre has been realised and accomplished. The equipment for the tram priority at defined junctions are purchased.

In several months' time, tram traffic will not only be the most popular, but also the quickest mean of transport.

For more information contact: Péter Frick fmea@dkv.hu



A new MOBILIS partner - PINUS TKI d.d.

PINUS TKI d.d. is a company with a long-standing tradition with headquarters in Rače. It is a joint-stock company with 155 employees. The basic principles of our work are good business relations with all our partners, HR development, and employees' satisfaction. Our effort results in successful company's performance today and in the future.

The company's activities are based on a strategic area of Crop Protection Products and other supporting activities such as production of biocides, production of biodiesel, waste management and logistic centre services .

In the last year PINUS TKI d.d. resolved to make biodiesel production a priority. It turned out to be the right decision. According to this our company effectively followed European and also World directions and put into force its own knowledge and capability at the same time. We have been aware of the fossil fuel problem for more than ten years and therefore our experts developed better and better products within the range of infrastructure and own knowledge. One of these products is also biodiesel, in Europe named B 100.

We are now focused on development optimization activities and intensively following European trends. In the years 2005 and 2006 we produced around 5.500 Tons of biodiesel per year. In the year 2007 we are planning to produce around 7.000 Tons. According to the information we have, the demand for biodiesel in Slovenia will increase up to 90.000 Tons per year in 2010. Following this directive we are also thinking about increasing the existing production in the following years. Some discussions with possible partners are already in progress.

Biodiesel is more expensive than fossil diesel fuel, but its big advantage is its biological decomposition. Therefore Europe is forcing the use of bio fuels in fuel in the transport sector according to the Directive 2003/30/ES and also to





MOBILIS meets stakeholders

Mobilis meets in Odense

On the 23-25th May the Mobilis partners met in Odense for a Technical Coordination Meeting. In connection to the meeting Odense planned a theme day about "Transport and Health".

Invited guests made presentations about initiatives regarding these issues. In Denmark it is common to connect transport with health rather than transport and environment. So when citizens are encouraged to bicycle (or walk) it is for health reasons and not as much for environmental reasons.

At the workshop the participants were made familiar with health policies in Odense, local initiatives and how to plan urban space for movement. In Odense it is common to consider how to inspire citizens to move and use the urban space for activities when planning the city. Two projects in Odense were introduced - Stige Island and the Harbour area. At the moment the harbour in Odense is really growing and developing from industrial area to housing area and the harbour will in that process become a part of the town. For both projects it has been very important to create so-called play spots where citizens can be active and at the same time learn and experience new things. Stige Islands has, over many years, been transformed from a waste disposal site to a recreational site. Now the work will begin to make the area attractive for the citizens of Odense. The area is for a great part of it an area based on events - both created by the citizens themselves and by other organizers.

Besides that, Troels Andersen talked about local initiatives such as cycling campaigns and health campaigns. Planning of urban space cannot stand alone. Planning,



Slovenian law. The other big advantage of biodiesel is that there are no excise charges to be paid for this fuel.

The interest of Slovenia is to produce as much as possible at home, to have the production of biodiesel at the centre of consumption, to keep money for fuel purchase at home and to stimulate local industry and agriculture. This is a great opportunity for PINUS TKI d.d. which has advantages in a long-standing tradition, knowledge, experience and most of all micro location: close to the main road Maribor-Ljubljana (about 2,5km), to the main train connection Maribor-Ljubljana (about 1 km), near the biggest cistern store-house in Slovenia - Petrol d.d. (about 1,5 km), where the main formulation line for biodiesel of Petrol d.d. is located, close to the Austrian border (distance 25 km) and near the main road connections to foreign countries.

So how to go forward? To take up the challenge with a lot of positive energy and knowledge, hard work and with confidence in people and showing great care for nature and the environment.

For more information contact Darjo Pungartnik, darjo.pungartnik@pinus-tki.si



MOBILIS Management Event

campaigns and politics have to complement each other if we want citizens to be healthier.

The theme day hopefully gave good ideas to the participants about how to incorporate health issues in the discussion about alternative transport or urban planning.

The day ended with a cycling tour or and walk along the small river in Odense. A group of 6 persons went cycling - all the way to Kerteminde. It is a small town on the coast and there are about 20 kilometres from the city center of Odense to this idyllic city.

Another group went walking. In Odense we are lucky to have both city and recreational areas in a small distance. Landscape architect Ulf Lobner-Olsen guided the tour along the small but beautiful river.

Technical Coordination Meeting in Odense

Yet another Technical Coordination Meeting was held in Odense on the 23-25 May. Among many issues the participants discussed the preparation of the Midterm Review. Also the 2nd payment of the EC's contribution was an issue.

At the meeting the Evaluation-team as well as the Dissemination-team met separately to discuss different issues such as the preparation for the CIVITAS FORUM in Kaunas, gadgets and how to improve contributions to the CIVITAS website.

In Mobilis we also have the obligation to deal with gender issues in connection to our projects. Annemie Van Uytven from Mobiel 21 was present to present the work already done. She furthermore laid out the next step for each partner city.

Next time the Mobilis project will meet is in Kaunas in connection to the CIVITAS Forum 4-5th October.



Upcoming events

Technical Workshop in September in Odense

Odense has been asked to be a thematic leader in the field of cycling and we gladly accept this assignment and look forward to cooperating and sharing our experience with all of the cities in CIVITAS. In this regard a Technical workshop will be held in Odense in September.

Odense has for many years worked to promote cycling in different ways. We have great knowledge and much experience to share. Our work has inspired both national as well as international partners to work with cycling.

We are planning a technical workshop on the 12 - 13 September presenting professional speakers and on-site-visits - an event where CIVITAS colleagues will get the chance to meet, get inspired and exchange knowledge in the area of cycling. As soon as a programme has been put together it will be announced at www.civitas-initiative.eu.

Experts in the field of cycling are also welcome to contact us if they wish to visit Odense on a more informal basis to learn more about Odense, cycling and soft mobility.

As we know a lot of interesting conferences regarding cycling and mobility is going on in the autumn we will consider to move the workshop to the Spring of 2008. To be fully updated please see www.civitas-initiative.org.

Please contact Kristina Edrén for further informations, kme@odense.dk



www.maribor-pohorje.si

International conference **ALTERNATIVE FUELS 2008 in Maribor**

Maribor is actively involved in experimental and numerical testing of biodiesel on bus engines. In the scope of this work we are organizing the conference Alternative Fuels 2008, which will be held in Maribor, Slovenia on January 10-11, 2008.

The goal of the conference is to bring together people from a variety of disciplines in order to promote modern alternative fuel technology and engines set-up to reduce harmful air pollution and the dependence on mineral diesel market. The experts, researchers, and practitioners who want to share their knowledge as well as theoretical and practical experience, related to alternative fuels, are kindly invited to join us in Maribor.

The detailed information on the conference is available at: <http://fs-server.uni-mb.si/si/conf/MobilisIC/>.

Please contact Breda Kegl for further information, breda.kegl@uni-mb.si





CIVITAS MOBILIS cities and partners

In 2004 the cities of Toulouse (France), Debrecen (Hungary), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Odense (Denmark), and Venice (Italy), and their main local mobility stakeholders established a European partnership for "Implementing Mobility Initiatives for Local Sustainability" – of which the CIVITAS MOBILIS project is the physical result.

MOBILIS aims to implement radical strategies for clean urban transport in all five cities and to create a new culture for clean urban mobility in the wider framework

The Main Partners:



Agglomeration of TOULOUSE (F)

<http://www.tisseo.fr/>

- Syndicat Mixte des Transports en Commu de l'agglomération toulousaine, Tisséo-SMTC
- Communauté d'Agglomération du Grand Toulouse
- Communauté d'Agglomération de Toulouse Sud-Est
- City of Toulouse
- City of Blagnac
- Connex Toulouse
- Gaz de France
- Centre d'Etudes Techniques de l'Équipement du Sud-Ouest
- Agence d'Urbanisme et d'Aménagement du Territoire Toulouse Aire Urbaine



DEBRECEN (H)

<http://www.debrecen.hu/>

- Municipality of Debrecen
- DKV Debrecen Transport Company
- Hajdú Volán Transportation Inc.
- Hajdú-Bihar County State Road Maintenance Company
- University of Debrecen



VENICE (I)

<http://www.comune.venezia.it/>

- City of Venice
- ACTV S.p.A.
- Azienda Servizi Mobilità S.P.A.
- VESTA S.p.A. Venezia Servizi Territoriali Ambientali
- Agire – Agenzia Veneziana per l'Energia
- Commissario Delegato dal Governo per il Traffico Acqueo nella Laguna di Venezia
- Forma Urbis S.a.S.

of sustainable development. The project will enable the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and the transfer of good practices to other urban communities across Europe.

Altogether 30 partners work on a range of mobility improvements scattered within eight technical and five policy themes during the four years lifetime of the project.



ODENSE (DK)

<http://www.odense.dk/>

- City of Odense



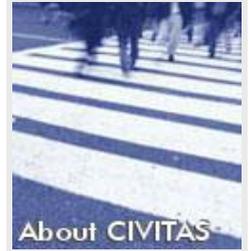
LJUBLJANA (SLO)

<http://www.ljubljana.si/>

- City of Ljubljana
- Ljubljana Public Transport Ltd.
- Pinus, Rače
- University of Maribor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Energy, Process and Environmental Engineering
- Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
- Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

- Mobil21 (B)
- Rupprecht Consult – Forschung & Beratung GmbH, (D)



About CIVITAS
CIVITAS - cleaner and better transport in cities - stands for City-VITality-Sustainability.

With the CIVITAS Initiative, the EC aims to generate a decisive breakthrough by supporting and evaluating the implementation of ambitious integrated sustainable urban transport strategies that should make a real difference for the welfare of the European citizen.

CIVITAS I started in early 2002 (within the 5th Framework Research Programme); CIVITAS II started in early 2005 (within the 6th Framework Research Programme).

Within CIVITAS I (2002-2006) there are 19 cities clustered in 4 demonstration projects, whilst within CIVITAS II (2005-2009) 17 cities in 4 demonstration projects are taking part. These 36 cities all over Europe will be funded by the EU with 100 M and the overall budget of the Initiative will be more than 300 M.

Objectives:

- to promote and implement sustainable, clean and (energy) efficient urban transport measures
- to implement integrated packages of technology and policy measures in the field of energy and transport in 8 categories of measures
- to build up critical mass and markets for innovation

Two horizontal projects support the CIVITAS demonstration projects & cities by:

- Cross-site evaluation and Europe wide dissemination in co-operation with the demonstration projects
- The organisation of the annual meeting of CIVITAS Forum members
- Providing the Secretariat for the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Development of policy recommendations for a long-term multiplier effect of CIVITAS

Key elements of CIVITAS

- CIVITAS is co-ordinated by cities: it is a programme "of cities for cities"
- Cities are in the heart of local public private partnerships
- Political commitment is a basic requirement
- Cities are living "Laboratories" for learning and evaluating

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