

# Introduction of 'Good Night' Line to Druzhba

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- Convenient public transport increasing overall usability
- Reductions in air pollution at night
- Accessible cities for all, also at night

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**Location:** Ruse, Bulgaria

**Organisations involved:** [Municipality of Ruse](#)  
[Club "Sustainable Development of Civil Society"](#)

## What is the solution?

In Ruse, there is currently no option for people to use public transport to or from the district of Druzhba after 21.00. Most people either opt for using their own cars or rely on taxi services. For many people, taxis are not a feasible option - leaving them feeling isolated and discriminated against.

This measure will provide public transport service during the nights in Druzhba. The measure's implementation will consist of the creation of the new 'Good Night' bus line; and the promotion of the new service. The main output is the creation of a new nightline bus service, which fulfils people's need for safe public transport.

Druzhba is Ruse's 'living lab' (or demonstration/pilot area) in CIVITAS ECCENTRIC, and one of the entrances to the city centre with high volumes of traffic.

## How does it work?

Activities carried out so far - mostly during the research and planning phase:

- Planning and research activities concerning the conditions and procedures for establishing a 'Good Night' line to service people travelling to and from Druzhba to the city centre.
- Research on the options available for purchasing or leasing vehicles to operate the nightline. This led to the decision of contracting the service to the locally-based public transport operator who will use their own vehicles (trolleybuses).
- Meetings with experts in the field.
- Information about the measure and its promotion to the general public is being undertaken via the Information, Training and Awareness Raising measure Ruse is implementing in parallel to this one. The events have been held as follows: for professionals in transport (in February 2017); for Druzhba residents (in May 2017); and for locally-based NGOs (in September 2017).

The first steps for the integration of the new night service have been taken, with the public procurement for the development of the new Municipal Transport Scheme completed. When the new transport network will be developed and approved (by mid-2019) the 'Good Night' line will be launched and begin operation.

In terms of the nightline service, the current plan is for it to run for three to four hours, on an hourly basis. The definitive route of the service will follow once several routes are piloted during the night. The service is scheduled to begin operation in Spring 2019.

The introduction of the new night line of PT for the Druzhba district will complement the services of the new Park&Ride facility, currently being set up in Druzhba as part of CIVITAS ECCENTRIC.

The main challenges faced while developing and implementing this measure thus far have been:

- Finding the best solution for the vehicles to be used for operating the new line, and
- Identifying an appropriate solution to award the operation of the service.

## Expected results

- The main aim behind this measure is to turn public transport into the preferred mode of choice for those living in the peripheral districts, such as Druzhba. In the mid and short terms, the measure is expected to impact on the use of the service during the night - an option which was not possible prior to CIVITAS ECCENTRIC.
- In terms of environmental sustainability, this measure is expected to result in less use of cars (private vehicles and taxis) thereby contributing to better air quality in the city centre and in Druzhba.
- A 20% reduction in the use of cars during the night is expected.

## Business model

The measure is funded by CIVITAS ECCENTRIC and has a total planned budget of €96,669.

The implementation of the measure is strongly dependent on the adoption of the new Municipal Public Transport Scheme, as the scheme defines the actual route of the new nightline. The process for updating the transport scheme takes around 12 months and the subcontracting procedure for the start of the operation of the nightline should take one to two months, in addition.

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