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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

# Charging forward to cut congestion in Zagreb

Marko Slavulj,

Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering, University of Zagreb

**Home to almost a quarter of the total Croatian population, Zagreb experiences many of the challenges that most cities face: traffic jams in rush hour, congestion problems, and a large number of privately owned vehicles. For this reason, the city is carrying out a feasibility study on congestion charging in the Croatian capital.**

In just 12 years, the number of vehicles on the CIVITAS ELAN city's roads has more than doubled, jumping from 273,480 in 1996 to 555,372 in 2008. A congestion charging system is a powerful tool for managing mobility demand and has the potential to improve traffic flow and encourage a modal shift.

Cities like London, Stockholm, Milan or Norwegian cities using toll rings have experienced a 15-30 percent reduction in incoming traffic, and Zagreb is keen to emulate this result. The European Commission is also currently investigating whether to harmonise urban road pricing within the new White Paper 'European transport policy for 2010: time to decide'.



The CIVITAS tram is an effective means of public transport promotion in Zagreb

Research in Zagreb indicates more than 100,000 cars enter the city centre each day between 7am and 7pm, with an average of 1.37 people per car. Transit traffic makes up 25 percent of this number. According to a recent citizen survey, 60 percent would support a congestion charging initiative, with 70 percent of businesses also backing it.

The rates for entering the charging zone could range from EUR 0.70 to 2.70 and approximately 60 percent of the respondents agreed to pay this amount. Significantly, however, public transport is free within the city centre, providing cost free alternatives for those that would have to pay the charges.

A document outlining the potential introduction of the congestion charge concept into the

Zagreb Plan was presented in August by the office for Strategic Planning and Development of the city. During European Mobility Week in September 2010, a workshop about congestion problems in Zagreb was organised to raise public awareness.



The congestion charging scheme would reduce the need for parking spaces in the city centre

Supported by CIVITAS ELAN, which aside from Zagreb includes the cities of Gent, Ljubljana, Porto and Brno, a feasibility study on congestion charging is being prepared by the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering and should be finished by August 2011.



Public workshops are an ideal platform for stakeholder involvement

Taking the mixed response to congestion charging in European cities into account, introducing an integrated sustainable mobility strategy – where road pricing is combined with a number of other measures, such as partly free public transport – may be the way forward. The support of citizens and local business is a strong indication that Zagreb can become a forerunner in South Eastern Europe.

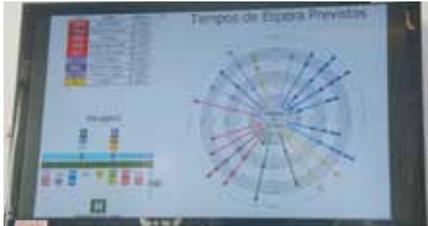
For more information, contact Marko Slavulj [mslavulj@fpz.hr].



**CITY NEWS**

## Porto supplies real-time information on the go

**The city of Porto, Portugal, has introduced Information for Mobility Support (IMS) technology that enables its citizens to plan their trips based on real-time information.**



IMS provides users with information from different operators whose services are available in a particular area. The information is intended to appear on LCD screens, which display the latest timetables, routes and waiting times.

The screens shall be located in buildings like universities and hospitals, so as to avoid wasted time at bus stops. One such example is São João Hospital, where display prototypes, now in the final testing phase, display the collected travel information.

A second screen will be located in the University of Porto from September. Later in the project, information will also be made available through an SMS service.

The experimental solution was developed by transport company OPT. The initiative was tested using information provided by three different operators, creating an intermodal concept.

For more information, contact Sara Meireles [smmeireles@opt.pt]. Porto is a member of the CIVITAS ELAN consortium.

## Bologna cleans up its delivery act

**Bologna City Council and the Regional Council of Emilia-Romagna, Italy, will test a pioneering solution to make commercial freight distribution vehicles less pollutant.**



Almost 350 lorries will be fitted with technological retrofit tools known as diesel particulate filters. The project aims to reduce the emission of fine particles produced by diesel engines by up to 90 percent. Commercial lorry owners can access grants of up to EUR 2,000, which is 50 percent of the total cost of retrofitting the vehicles.

This initiative by the CIVITAS city is an excellent opportunity to examine the effectiveness of the system and to discover if it is worth introducing it to other cities in the region. It also demonstrates the collaboration of both city and regional councils in working together to reduce air pollution in the urban area.

The strategy forms part of a wider framework to reduce the environmental impact of freight traffic in the city of Bologna. Regulations are already in place restricting access to the inner city depending on the pollution level of the freight vehicle.

For more information, contact Mauro Borioni [Mauro.Borioni@comune.bologna.it]. Bologna is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.

## Vitoria-Gasteiz puts its best foot forward

**Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council, Spain, launched a walk-for-health campaign to encourage citizens to exercise regularly and to use green spaces within the city.**



The initiative aims to help citizens get to know their city better, to inform them about new routes and about open spaces where they can exercise. Vitoria-Gasteiz also hopes to foster long-term social bonds among the participants. Practical advice on walking and a follow-up service on the walkers' progress are also available.

Over 80 percent of the CIVITAS city's inhabitants are employed within the municipal boundaries and walking is the most popular means of travel to work. There is ongoing investment in the provision and maintenance of pavements, boulevards and of the bicycle network. Over 25 percent of public space is reserved for pedestrian access only and there are 33km of pedestrian pathways inside the urban area.

As part of the autumn schedule guided walks will take place daily. The length and intensity of the walks will depend on how fit participants are.

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

**EU NEWS**

## New CIVITAS Plus II call for proposals

**On 21 September 2010 the European Commission expects to publish the new CIVITAS Plus II call for proposals. The call has an indicative budget of EUR 18 million and will close on 12 April 2011.**

Cities can apply for funding as part of CIVITAS Plus II, which aims to support them in designing, deploying and evaluating ambitious new policies and technologies for more sustainable urban transport. The focus will be on innovation and several well-defined themes have been identified. These include innovative, clean,

energy efficient vehicles and integrated transport systems for personal, collective and freight applications, as well as the deployment of information and communication technology and information technology services for traffic management and vehicle guidance, and finally sustainable urban transport planning.

Speaking at the Information Days for Transport in July 2010, where the call was announced, Jean-Eric Paquet, Director for European Transport Networks & Smart Transport at Directorate-General MOVE, highlighted the importance of CIVITAS in the European transport sector. "CIVITAS is a pilot and a frontrunner of what we hope to achieve through the Strategic Transport Technology Plan. It is research, but it is also an



integrated framework between research and demonstration, supporting European, national and local efforts to create more efficient urban transport systems," he stated.

For more information, visit <http://cordis.europa.eu>.



CITY NEWS

### Rolling out CIVITAS in hilly Perugia

Currently, the hilly city of Perugia, Italy, is not very bicycle friendly; however, this is something the city is working on changing with the help of CIVITAS.



Just one trip in 500 is made by bicycle in Perugia, and the city's cycle lanes measure only 6km. During National Bike Day in May 2010, streets were given cycle priority and Perugia offered the largest cycle network of all Italian cities. The event also marked the start of an initiative to develop an integrated strategy for cycling.

The cycling development project aims to improve accessibility to the city centre by bike. In addition, a bike-sharing scheme is planned at major interchange points across Perugia. Cycling will be integrated with other public transport modes, such as the bus and Minimetro, which plans to develop bicycle-friendly carriages.

The bike-sharing scheme also allows for electric bicycles and photovoltaic shelters. CIVITAS RENAISSANCE was the trigger for the local authority's decision to develop the cycling plan and to apply for national funding in the course of 2010.

For more information, contact Stefania Papa [s.papa@comune.perugia.it]. Perugia is a member of the CIVITAS RENAISSANCE consortium.

### Innovative Aalborg navigates a sustainable mobility course

The city of Aalborg, Denmark, has signed an agreement with portable navigation system company TomTom to deliver highly accurate traffic information to improve the management of traffic flow in the city. A new hybrid bus route has also been launched.

TomTom will provide better information to road users. Through the agreement, Aalborg will leverage TomTom Custom Travel Times, which is based on a unique, proprietary database of historical travel times, with road speed measurements gathered in recent years. The project has been incorporated into the ARCHIMEDES project within the CIVITAS Initiative.

To further build on the volume of data available in the TomTom solution, the city of Aalborg has entered into an agreement with Taxa, a local taxi company, whereby 100 TomTom navigation devices will be used to collect more local road congestion data. This data will provide thousands of additional local GPS measurements to TomTom anonymously, which can be used, along with its powerful database of historical traffic information, to calculate route directions more precisely.

Aalborg City Councillor Arne B. Schade says: "based on this traffic information, our citizens will get better knowledge of where and when congestion is worst. By working with TomTom, we are assured a highly-accurate product on which we can rely to deliver these solutions in our city, and in an environmentally-friendly way."

Citizens are at the heart of Aalborg's policies, and the city demonstrated this with another initiative that took place in the summer months. A new hybrid bus route was launched and transported



City Councillor Arne B. Schade hands over the TomTom units to local taxi company Taxa

citizens and tourists to and from attractions in and around the city centre. The bus was free and operated every weekday between 9am and 7pm and between 10am and 3pm at weekends. Guides also travelled on the bus at certain times of the day to inform the passengers about the city, the bus and the CIVITAS Initiative. The guides also helped the passengers, many of whom were tourists, find their way around the city.

The hybrid technology has the potential to save up to 35 percent of the fuel consumption for the Volvo 7700 Hybrid Bus. Aside from running on diesel it is also equipped with an electric engine. The engine can be charged both overnight and during the day, and energy from braking is also captured and stored in the batteries. The technology makes emission savings of up to 50 percent. The bus was also driven on a 10 percent biodiesel blend which saves even more fossil fuel.

For more information, contact Jens Mogensen [jms-teknik@aalborg.dk]. Aalborg is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

NATIONAL NEWS

### National Networks forge ties in their own countries

The CIVITAS National Networks have been forging alliances with key transport players in their countries to support their activities and reach a wider audience.

It is vital for the members of the National Networks to be aware they are part of a bigger European movement towards cleaner and more efficient urban transport, and cities are encouraged to join the CIVITAS Forum Network. The Spanish and Portuguese Network has gained the support of the Spanish Ministry of Transport, which regards CIVINET as a key

tool for dialogue with cities. This alliance is being replicated by the Francophone, Italian and UK & Ireland Networks. The Italian Network was launched recently, with integrated pricing strategies identified as the topic that members are most interested in. The Slovenia Task Force will be the next network to be launched and will promote the CIVINET concept to other countries in the surrounding region.

In order to publicise the work these National Networks are undertaking, the CIVINET web pages have gone online. The pages showcase the five CIVINET Networks and the work they are carrying out in their respective regions. Each Network operates in its own language, overcoming language and contextual barriers



A view of the train station in Burgos, secretariat of the Spanish and Portuguese Network

for cities that want to share their best practices on sustainable urban mobility.

For more information, visit: <http://www.civitas.eu/civinet> or contact: [civinet@civitas.eu](mailto:civinet@civitas.eu).

**CITY IN PROFILE**

## Gent, Belgium

**Gent is a bustling historical city, with art and culture of the highest quality, an overflowing calendar of events and numerous shops, bars and restaurants.**



With the 24 measures being implemented as part of the CIVITAS ELAN project, Gent will continue its policy of sustainable development. In 1997, a Mobility Plan was introduced, including a large pedestrian zone in the city centre and the introduction of traffic calming measures. Within CIVITAS ELAN, Gent wants to proceed with its plans to become one of the most advanced 'mobile' cities in Belgium.

A successful car-sharing scheme is already in place, with nine car-sharing stations and 26 cars available to the public. Gent also launched its first electric 'shared' car as part of a pilot project. Aside from these initiatives, numerous other activities are ongoing. The youth project Trammelant, which deals with safe public transport, has proved to be a huge success.

Research studies and various cycling and public transport measures have been implemented, and Gent plans to establish an open dialogue with citizens, schools, companies and many others.

For more information, contact Patty Delanghe [patty.delanghe@gent.be].  
Gent is a member of the CIVITAS ELAN consortium.

**FUNDING AND OUTREACH**

## Cities encourage peer-to-peer exchange

**The CIVITAS CATALIST Thematic Group on integrated pricing strategies has many years of experience in exploring tailored solutions to improve citizens' quality of life and access optimisation in general.**

The group members – Bristol, Genoa, Graz, Kraków, Nantes, Rome, Rotterdam and Stockholm – have been focusing on this area, targeting a shift from the car to more sustainable modes of transport. In Poland, Kraków and the surrounding small

**EVENTS**

## Mobility management under the spotlight

**A training session on company travel planning will take place in Szentendre, just north of Budapest, Hungary, from 18-19 November 2010. The session will provide an overview of mobility management and practical information about company travel planning implementation.**

Participants will come away with a sound understanding of mobility management and information about company travel planning. Through group discussions, reviews of European case studies and interactive exercises, the travel planning process will be examined. The preliminary programme and registration form are available on the CIVITAS website. The session is organised by CIVITAS VANGUARD, in cooperation with CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES and EPOMM-Plus.

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

## CIVITAS MIMOSA to explore sustainable freight transport

**At the next MIMOSA consortium meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands, a range of open events will take place from 26-27 October.**

The events include a political session, featuring the vice-mayors from the MIMOSA cities, and a workshop on sustainable freight transport. Two site visits will showcase what the city has achieved so far.

For more information, visit <http://www.civitas.eu/event>.

municipalities have been improving the public transport system, to make it competitive when compared to individual vehicle use. The city's integrated ticketing and tariff system encourages inhabitants to use public transport.

Cities around Europe are invited to learn from the cities mentioned above, which are happy to welcome site visits and study tours, support workshops and 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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