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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

Overcoming urban freight challenges in Utrecht

Mark Degenkamp,
City of Utrecht

From van-sharing and clean vehicles in Bologna, Italy, an environmental zone in Aalborg, Denmark, to freight public-private partnerships in Iasi, Romania, CIVITAS Plus cities are realising sustainable change. The Dutch city of Utrecht has also been implementing prize-winning freight transport solutions — the cargohopper and beerboat.

Both of Utrecht's solutions demonstrate how cities can work with the resources available and the existing environment to develop tailor-made solutions to meet their freight transport needs. The cargohopper is a solar-powered electric vehicle that transports goods throughout the city. As a result of its introduction, 100,000 fossil fuel-powered van kilometres per year, which is equivalent to 30 tonnes of CO₂, have been saved. The cargohopper was devised as a public-private partnership, and operates free of subsidies.



The cargohopper is a 16-metre long electric vehicle that delivers goods around Utrecht

Utrecht also makes use of its canals to deliver freight downtown, using a beerboat to service businesses along the waterways. The main aim of the boat is to prevent further damage to the city's historic bridges and cellars, but it also has auxiliary benefits, such as overcoming rigid timeframes and load restrictions. A second fully electric transport boat is under development.

Utrecht seeks to share its practical experience in sustainable urban freight with other European cities. The city hosted the CIVITAS MIMOSA workshop on sustainable urban freight transport in the autumn, which provided input for the EC's November conference on urban freight transport and logistics. Several CIVITAS cities participated in the event, which brought together high-level representatives from European institutions and key stakeholder associations to debate urban freight in Europe's cities.

Urban freight transport and logistics have a clear role to play in the EU's future transport policies. This was highlighted by Zoltán Kazatsay, deputy director of DG MOVE, who spoke at the event

and discussed freight transport and logistics in the context of the upcoming White Paper on Transport.

As policies continue to develop, it is important to encourage peer-to-peer exchange between leading cities like Utrecht and those that wish to learn from them. While many cities do not have navigable waterways, they can still follow Utrecht's lead in introducing a broad logistical concept combined with a practical yet innovative approach. Partnerships with the private sector and a cooperative regional approach were key to their success. Encouraging sound business planning and offering support and exemptions were also vital.

Utrecht still faces a number of challenges, such as convincing other companies to come up with their own innovative and substantial spin-off solutions. The city is also working to spur business owners into playing their role in supporting sustainable deliveries. To overcome these challenges, Utrecht is setting up a new action plan on freight transport, which should be approved in early 2011 and will lay the foundations for further success in this cutting-edge city.



Utrecht's beerboat means the city centre's historic bridges and roads are no longer damaged by freight traffic

Experts are invited to exchange experiences and contact their peers through a freight-themed virtual discussion group. To do so, contact Ivo Cré [IvCre@polis-online.org].

For more information, contact Mark Degenkamp [m.degenkamp@utrecht.nl]. Utrecht is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.



CITY NEWS

Bath hybrid double-decker up and running

A hybrid electric double-decker bus is making headlines and turning heads in Bath, UK. The bus is being tested for six months on the city's park & ride routes.



The bus runs entirely on emissions-free electric power, driving almost silently through the bustling streets and attracting plenty of attention. The trial is part of Bath's efforts to reduce emissions and decrease the use of private car transport, upon which the city's residents are highly dependent. Currently, journeys by bus count for just 10 percent of the modal split, with private cars making up 59 percent.

During the trial period, the company responsible for the bus will monitor and assess its performance, fuel consumption and emissions. The project expects to achieve significant reductions in fuel consumption, noxious emissions, noise pollution and operating costs compared to a conventional diesel bus.

Researchers from the University of the West of England will conduct regular interviews with passengers during the trial period to collect their views on the vehicle.

For more information, contact Gary Cockram [Gary_Cockram@bathnes.gov.uk]. Bath is a member of the CIVITAS RENAISSANCE consortium.

Spacious safe streets in Donostia-San Sebastian

Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain, has signed a Road Safety Pact with 35 local organisations involved in mobility in a commitment to protect vulnerable road users.



The Safety Pact aims to reduce accidents, and is based on a simple principle — respect for human life and the protection of pedestrians and cyclists. Signatories include associations, private companies and political parties. In this joint commitment, they agree to support and reinforce measures including traffic safety audits and the implementation of sustainable mobility policies.

In another move to bolster its sustainable mobility, Donostia-San Sebastian organised a photo shoot to produce images for an awareness campaign. The images visually demonstrate the space taken up by private cars.

Eighty-six cars, carrying 120 people, were lined up in two rows on a main road, occupying 1260m² of road space. The same 120 people then fitted into an 18-metre articulated bus, occupying just 45m² of road space, demonstrating how much more efficient public transport is.

For more information, contact Maarten Van Bemmelen [mvbemmelen@gea21.com]. Donostia-San Sebastian is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

Gent reduces emissions and energy use

Gent, Belgium, is applying holistic thinking to both its event and public transport management in a bid to make the city more energy efficient and sustainable.



With its CO₂ emissions reduction campaign, the city promotes travelling to events on foot, by bicycle, public transport, or with carpooling and shared taxis. An innovative travel advice service is in place for those who want to change their old habits but don't know how to do so.

The city is applying the same integrated thinking to its public transport management by measuring the energy use of the city's trams. While it is important to encourage citizens to use public transport, it is also vital to reduce the energy consumed by public transport to maximise its sustainability.

To ensure this is the case, the energy consumption on a CIVITAS-branded tram is being measured. The tram's main energy consumers, such as the heaters and pneumatic air suspension, are being monitored. Using this data, the transport company will adapt their trams in order to reduce energy consumption and costs.

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

EU NEWS

CIVITAS cities get their just rewards

Following on from Stockholm's success in 2010, fellow CIVITAS cities Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, and Nantes, France, were named as winners of the European Green Capital Award for 2012 and 2013 respectively.

The announcement was made at the European Green Capital Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, by Janez Potočnik, European commissioner for the environment, on 21 October.

Current Green Capital and CIVITAS I city Stockholm won the title because of its strong sustainability record. Between 2005 and 2006,

city traffic was reduced by 22 percent as a result of congestion charging, while clean vehicle strategies increased the stock of environmentally-friendly cars by 8 percent.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, a CIVITAS Plus city, impressed the judging panel with its long-term coherent policies and actions at local level, including its programmes to develop bicycle and pedestrian mobility. Nantes, CIVITAS I city and 2009 CIVITAS City of the Year, caught the panel's attention with its aim to cut its CO₂ emissions by a quarter by 2020.

Commissioner Potočnik captured the mood by saying, "Cities are the places where most Europeans see environment policy in action, and where environmental decisions matter.



I congratulate Vitoria-Gasteiz and Nantes on the work they have put in to improve the environment and quality of life for their citizens."

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



CITY NEWS

Intelligent ticketing in Brescia

Brescia, Italy, is taking bold steps in the field of electronic ticketing, introducing self-service machines and exploring integrated ticketing options.



Brescia aims to increase the intermodality of its public transport fleet with the introduction of smart cards, self-service and mobile ticketing options. The first two self-service machines have been installed, and the city has just finished functionality tests on the electronic ticketing devices prior to their introduction.

The testing phase is vital as it enables operators to iron out software issues and problems affecting efficiency. As a result of the tests, software changes will be made to the on-board equipment handling cards and validators.

Brescia is also phasing in integrated ticketing smart cards, which can be used on public transport and for bicycle parking, car-sharing and in the planned metro system. The city hopes to link the electronic ticketing and smart cards to devices like mobile phones, making them more user-friendly, while taking safe payment considerations into account.

For more information, contact Moris Urari [dissemination.brescia@gmail.com]. Brescia is a member of the CIVITAS MODERN consortium.

Safe cycling and shiny new trams in Gdansk

Gdansk City Council, Poland, has released an interactive DVD to teach young audiences about safe cycling. The city has also unveiled a new fleet of trams.



Entitled *The Cyclist's Handbook*, it is mainly geared towards children from 9-11 years old who want to pass the national cycling exam and start cycling on the roads. The interactive computer programme teaches users the principles and rules of smart cycling.

The programme is made up of seven different challenges: a cycle test course, traffic signs, traffic scenarios, simulations, games, tests and a virtual city. To overcome the challenges, one must analyse the situation and make the right decision accordingly. There are various levels, allowing users to chart their progress and improve.

Children and young people will also be among the beneficiaries of the 35 new trams unveiled by the city. The trams will operate in a district predominantly inhabited by young people, which was connected to the tram system recently. Many citizens went to wave goodbye to the old trams and explore the new ones at the launch.

For more information, contact Malgorzata Ratkowska [m.ratkowska@gdansk.gda.pl]. Gdansk is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.

Pupils study air quality in Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove, UK, has launched a groundbreaking project that allows children to monitor vehicle emissions around their schools.



The CIVITAS-funded project will use local data to improve the students' understanding of the effects of transport activity on local air quality. Local scientists have been working with teachers to develop lessons in the first school taking part in the national project, which runs for two years.

Data collection started during the last two weeks of Walk to School Month, which took place at the end of 2010. Accompanying educational programmes will also help the children develop an understanding of the biodiversity in their local environment.

Pupils can examine the results in the school's IT suite and are carrying out experiments with a portable unit in the playground in order to see how emissions travel. The results will also give the council a greater understanding of the impact of Walk to School initiatives. Two more primary schools have been lined up to take part in the project.

For more information, contact Veronika Moore [veronika.moore@brighton-hove.gov.uk]. Brighton & Hove is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Networks broaden CIVITAS's reach

The CIVINET National Networks, created to establish national and language-based networks of cities, have been busy spreading the CIVITAS message throughout Europe.

The five existing networks disseminate information about key success factors for, and barriers to, the implementation of integrated and innovative sustainable mobility strategies. Information is shared through many channels, including technical workshops, site visits and seminars. National Networks such as Spain & Portugal and the UK & Ireland disseminated

information through public events, sharing best practice across the CIVITAS measure fields; high-level fora, reviewing latest developments in the field of clean vehicles; and site visits on infomobility and interchanges. The Francophone Network organised a workshop to encourage more French cities to participate in EU projects.

September 2010 saw the launch of the Slovenia Network. In the course of the coming year, the CIVINET project will look to spread its approach to other nations and regions. It will target both existing CIVITAS cities and those that are interested in becoming involved. This includes both German-speaking countries, as well as Greece and Cyprus. Those interested in setting up a network or joining one of the



Infomobility in action in Genoa

existing CIVINET networks can receive additional information by using the addresses below.

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

CITY IN PROFILE

Szczecinek, Poland

Located in the Western Pomerania region of Poland, the city of Szczecinek is focusing on improving its transport system as part of its plan to develop tourism infrastructure.



Images: Sapik

Szczecinek has a population of almost 40,000, and is working on a strategy to ensure the public transport system meets the needs of both the citizens and tourists. Through CIVITAS RENAISSANCE, the city is encouraging citizens to get on their bicycles and embrace a culture of cycling. This is a trailblazing measure in a country where cycling is not traditionally a popular mode of transport.

The city is in the process of completing its cycle network, and is running a cycling and public transport promotional campaign, with children identified as the prime target group. A number of events have already been held, including a Children's Day.

In addition, the city has been working on implementing a number of other measures, including: an increase in the use of alternative fuels by introducing an LPG-propelled mini bus fleet for public transport, the establishment of a bicycle rental system and rickshaw services, and the modernisation of bus stops.

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

OUTREACH

Promoting examples of urban goods transport

Today, the sustainable distribution of goods is seen as a vital aspect of urban transport solutions.

Yet, for many cities, these solutions are regarded as a complex issue not within the mandate of public authorities. The fear of losing customers to increasingly decentralised retail stores is just one of the barriers they face.

However, there are schemes that are both profitable and environmentally friendly. The con-

EVENTS

Tyne and Wear freight transport conference

Stakeholders from across Europe will come together to share best practice and innovations in urban freight transportation on 22 February 2011.

The conference is co-financed by CIVITAS CATALIST, and will take place in the CIVITAS Forum city of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. Organised by the award-winning Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership, the event will examine various freight topics through a series of case study presentations, question-and-answer sessions, interactive workshops and site visits. The conference is free of charge.

For more information, visit <http://www.civitas.eu/events> or contact [peter.hayes@aecom.com].

Cities awarded at Forum Conference

Bologna and Genova, Italy, and Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, were recognised for their pioneering work to promote clean and better urban transport at the 2010 CIVITAS Awards ceremony.

The winners were announced at the ceremony, which took place during the annual CIVITAS Forum conference, in Malmo, Sweden in September 2010. Cities will have another chance to bid for success at the next CIVITAS annual event which takes place in Funchal, Portugal, in 2011.

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

solidation of deliveries and the use of timeframes and clean distribution vehicles are examples of how cities can maintain a lively and environmentally sound city centre.

CIVITAS CATALIST is promoting the sustainable urban transport experiences of the CIVITAS I and II cities of Gothenburg, Sweden, Bremen and Berlin, Germany, Genoa, Italy and Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Gothenburg and Bremen will also be under the spotlight at the upcoming February 2011 conference in Newcastle, mentioned above in the Events section.

For more information, contact Håkan Perslow [hakan.perslow@tk.goteborg.se].

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 Mobility and Transport. Free copies can be obtained from the CIVITAS Secretariat:

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