

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

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 690699.

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?

The following activities have been implemented during the measure's 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 trolleybus that will perform the courses was specially branded. In order to promote the "Good Night" Line, information brochures and posters have been developed that contain a detailed timetable of the routes and are available in all vehicles of the trolleybus public transport operator Municipal Transport Ruse EAD.

The "Good Night" Line was launched in the beginning of May and operates from 00:30 to 03:10. The new line has two routes. The main route connects Druzhba district with the Central Bus/Railway Station, passing through the main boulevards and streets of the city. The second one connects the starting point of the main route with the trolleybus depot.

The current route of the "Good Night" Line will be included in the new Municipal Transport Scheme. The plan is for it to run from 00:30 to 03:10 for a year and after that, depending on the demand of the nightline service, the present route will be preserved or modified, or other routes will be developed.

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.



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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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