

CONTENTS

- **Cover Story:**
Saving lives with safer roads in Donostia-San Sebastian 1
- **EU News:**
Guidelines on sustainable urban mobility plans 2
- **City News:**
Pioneering incentive system in Bologna 2
Ljubljana establishes bike-sharing system 2
Planning sustainably in Gorna Oryahovitsa 2
Safety first for children in Usti nad Labem 3
Citizen consultation process in Craiova 3
Utrecht is Dutch car-sharing front-runner 3
- **Policy update:**
CIVITAS helps shape EU transport policy 3
- **City in Profile:**
Brighton & Hove, UK 4
- **Events:**
CIVITAS Forum Conference 2011 4
Exchange at CIVITAS results workshop 4
- **Outreach:**
Prioritising motorcycle safety in Nantes 4

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

Saving lives with safer roads in Donostia-San Sebastian

Maarten Van Bemmelen,
GEA 21, Donostia-San Sebastian

With the involvement of CIVITAS, the city of Donostia-San Sebastian is implementing a set of infrastructure and awareness-raising measures on road safety. The city aims to reduce car speed, make city roads more cycle-friendly and reduce the number of fatal accidents involving pedestrians. The initial results show that the city is going the right direction.

For 20 years the Spanish city of Donostia-San Sebastian has been enforcing a strong integrated policy in favour of pedestrians, bicycles and public transport. Prior to its involvement in CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES, the city developed a road safety plan in co-operation with local stakeholders. The plan identified main priorities and CIVITAS funding provided the financing needed to roll out measures.

In each of the areas concerned the average speed of car traffic was reduced by between 2.5 and 5 km/h. The annual number of accidents also dropped from 44 to 38 in the district with the new radar systems. As a result of these positive outcomes, the city is considering extending the 30 km/h zones to other areas and further evaluation should make it clear if these zones can be incorporated into the cycling network.



The city launched a comprehensive promotional campaign

Other CIVITAS cities are implementing similar measures. Among these, Utrecht, the Netherlands, is promoting a road safety label for primary schools. The sign-up rate has now reached 70 percent, compared to 8 percent prior to the city's involvement in CIVITAS. In Poland, Szczecinek has installed traffic surveillance at selected main road intersections, with 10 cameras and two operational centres up and running. The city has also illuminated four pedestrian crossings and added push-button signals at two others. Measures such as these have allowed CIVITAS cities to make their roads safer, putting the welfare of citizens first and ensuring lives are not put in jeopardy.

Since 2002, the number of accidents continuously decreased, while the number of accidents with fatalities remained stable. The figures show that while pedestrians only account for 10-15 percent of the overall number of people involved in accidents, they accounted for 40-50 percent of fatalities from 2002-2009. During the first CIVITAS year, citizens and other stakeholders contributed to the development of concrete measures, culminating in the joint signing of the Citizen Road Safety Pact in the summer of 2009.

The measures include 50 upgrades in road infrastructure, the introduction of 30 km/h zones in three central districts and the installation of radar systems in a fourth district. In each of the new 30 km/h zones, on-street campaigns were organised to inform residents. The Safe-Way-to-School programme includes the participation of pupils in the identification of both safe walking routes and the needs for infrastructural improvements.



By reducing speed limits in certain zones, the number of accidents has significantly dropped

Many more cities are keen to share the lessons learned from their activities and experts in the field are invited to contact their peers through a dedicated discussion group. To do so, contact Ivo Cré [icre@polisnetwork.eu].

For more information, contact Andrés Martínez [andres_martinez@donostia.org].



CITY NEWS

Pioneering incentive system in Bologna

Bologna, Italy, has introduced an innovative credit incentive system, MobiMart. Citizens that cycle, use public transport or car-share now receive mobility credits.



These credits can be redeemed for prizes, such as a free bus ticket, thereby encouraging citizens to consider sustainable travel as a viable option. This pilot scheme is based on the Kyoto incentive mechanism for pollutant emissions. Bologna is identifying the challenges of implementing a certification method for mileage savings, resource use and emission reductions.

The scheme is comprised of four pilot projects, two of which have been completed. The first is an experimental flexible urban transport service. The second is a bike campaign aimed at monitoring the habits and frequency of bike usage. Currently, the city is experimenting with a carpool system for regional government employees; a car-sharing initiative will also be launched in September.

The MobiMart system took centre stage at the international scientific conference Mobil in Munich earlier this year, where it was regarded as an innovative tool with potential for duplication.

For more information, contact Katrin Dziekan [katrin.dziekan@tu-berlin.de]. Bologna is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.

Ljubljana establishes bike-sharing system

The City of Ljubljana, Slovenia, has launched a bike-sharing system, making 300 bicycles available from 31 terminals. The system covers an area of approximately 12 km².



Ljubljana has 275,000 inhabitants, almost half of whom commute daily by car. This combined with the city's population of 45,000 fit and active students creates an excellent opportunity to encourage citizens to travel by bicycle. More than 14,700 registrations have been made through the online portal Bicikelj since May.

Registration is simple and is based on a credit card guarantee. It costs EUR 3 to become a member or EUR 1 per week. The first hour is free; the second is EUR 1 and the third EUR 2. Each additional hour is EUR 4 and the system operates all year round.

This scheme is part of a comprehensive cycling strategy developed through CIVITAS, which aims to improve safety conditions for cyclists, increase accessibility and strengthen the promotion of cycling. The city expects to increase the number of bicycle journeys by 20 percent and reduce the number of accidents involving cyclists by 20 percent by the end of the project.

For more information, contact Vita Kontić [vita.kontic@ljubljana.si]. Ljubljana is a member of the CIVITAS ELAN consortium.

Planning sustainably in Gorna Oryahovitsa

Gorna Oryahovitsa, Bulgaria, has adopted a transport plan and strategy for the development of sustainable urban transport.



The main focus areas are the use of cleaner vehicles and reorganisation of insufficiently developed traffic areas. Specific requirements for choosing a new urban public transport operator were included in the contract.

The Council is trying to increase public awareness about the use of cleaner vehicles in public transport fleets. Buses that meet Euro 4 and 5 standards will be introduced, making a huge difference in the city, which has high levels of pollution in the city centre.

A range of measures will be implemented to encourage people to leave their cars at home and travel by bus into town. This will help to reduce congestion in the centre during weekdays and relieve the underdeveloped infrastructure. The Sustainable Urban Transport Plan will be included in the city's current development strategy, which was adopted by the Council and is being incorporated in the expanded strategy for 2012-2020.

For more information, contact Ivan Stanev [stanev.bg@gmail.com]. Gorna Oryahovitsa is a member of the CIVITAS RENAISSANCE consortium.

EU NEWS

Guidelines on sustainable urban mobility plans

Stakeholders and practitioners in urban transport and mobility are invited to comment on guidelines on the development and implementation of sustainable urban mobility plans.

The European Commission's Action Plan on Urban Mobility calls for an increase in the take-up of sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMP) by local and regional authorities in Europe, and the guidelines provide a common understanding of their necessary components.

They also provide an opportunity for practitioners to influence European Commission strategies after 2013 and present a portfolio of examples from different European cities to show that good planning approaches are possible in different contexts.

The EltisPlus project welcomes comments on the guidelines and encourages submissions of examples of planning practices, especially from cities in Central and Eastern Europe. Many CIVITAS cities are integrating SUMP through various measures. They are invited to share their lessons learned with other European cities by providing input to the guidelines.

The guidelines will remain a working document and will be fine-tuned using the input of SUMP

stakeholders and the knowledge gained in the training and promotional events on SUMP all over Europe between 2011 and 2013.

For more information, visit <http://www.mobilityplans.eu> or contact Frank Wefering [f.wefering@rupprecht-consult.eu].

Give feedback on MOVE

The CIVITAS team is striving to constantly improve MOVE.

Please take a few minutes and tell us your opinion in a short survey at <http://tinyurl.com/CIVITAS-MOVE-survey>



CITY NEWS

Safety first for children in Usti nad Labem

Usti nad Labem, Czech Republic, is running a campaign focusing on educating children on road safety. The city has organised a traffic training as part of its Drive Safely campaign.



All the primary schools in the area take part in the training, which involves the municipal police. Children are taught basic traffic rules and practice correct behaviour in traffic, both as pedestrians and cyclists.

They also learn how to read signs and understand signals. Scooters, mobile traffic signs, traffic lights and hand-held stop signs, which allow children to cross the street safely, are used. As part of the campaign, Usti nad Labem had a stand in the city centre for three days and citizens were encouraged to learn more about CIVITAS.

In cooperation with the police and the Ministry of Transport, reports from road accidents were presented to the public, including pictures, videos, presentations, safety warnings. Usti nad Labem hopes the campaign will contribute to reducing the number of car-related deaths and serious injuries by 40-50 percent by 2012.

For more information contact Katerina Oktabcova [katerina.oktabcova@mag-ul.cz]. Usti nad Labem is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

Citizen consultation process in Craiova

As a result of an intense stakeholder consultation process, Craiova, Romania will ensure limited disruption to citizens during construction work on its transport system.



The city is constructing an overpass and renovating 5 kilometres of tramline. To ensure the upgrades don't lead to a huge increase in congestion, the municipality launched a citizen consultation initiative, giving citizens the chance to express their opinions on how the city centre should be closed during the construction of the overpass.

"It was the first action of this kind when the municipality asked the opinion of the community and acted following the majority decision. We will do the same whenever a similar situation arises," said Deputy Mayor of Craiova Municipality Marinica Dinca.

Around 60 percent of the 6,024 participants voted to maintain the access restrictions put in place as part of CIVITAS. These restrictions include the creation of a pedestrian zone in the city centre as part of a larger project, whereby the municipality will gradually close the centre completely to traffic.

For more information, contact Virginia Matei [virginia.matei@ipacv.ro]. Craiova is a member of the CIVITAS MODERN consortium.

Utrecht is Dutch car-sharing front-runner

Utrecht has been unveiled as the city with the third most shared cars in the Netherlands in a survey carried out by the Dutch Transport Knowledge Resource Centre.



The CIVITAS city came in just behind Amsterdam and Diemen. The Netherlands has seen a 17 percent increase in car-sharing per year and over 120 municipalities now have some variation of the scheme. In addition to purchasing electric smart cars, two Dutch companies will introduce peer-to-peer car-sharing, which is becoming popular in the United States. Car owners share their car with others when they have no need for it themselves.

The promotion of car-sharing is one of Utrecht's most successful measures within CIVITAS and a detailed lifestyle analysis was carried out based on a survey of 1,040 citizens. As a result, a promotional campaign focusing on certain target groups is underway to promote car-sharing and further increase the amount of shared cars available.

An in-depth look at Utrecht's car-sharing survey will be presented at the CIVITAS Forum in Funchal, Portugal, in 2011.

For more information, contact Marijijn Kik [marijijn.kik@utrecht.nl]. Utrecht is a member of the CIVITAS MIMOSA consortium.

POLICY UPDATE

CIVITAS helps shape EU transport policy

A new CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee (PAC) is in the process of being formed, with high-ranking political representatives applying to replace the outgoing members.

The PAC acts as an advisory body to the European Commission (EC). Members serve a two-year mandate, meeting twice a year to interact with the EC and discuss the implementation of sustainable urban transport policy. Shortly before concluding their tenure, the current PAC released two statements, which aim to provide a vision for the evolution of CIVITAS and urban transport policy.

In the first statement, the PAC encourages CIVITAS to develop a benchmarking system across Europe for cities tackling urban transport issues. Possible areas for future benchmarking include information about modal split, travel times, parking fees, fuel and ticket prices, including earnings, cultural background and urban structure. As it is key to the decision-making process in a city, such a methodology should be prioritised over any other research, according to the PAC.

The importance of continuing the CIVITAS Initiative was also underlined in a second official statement. The Initiative has the potential to show what works and doesn't and the CIVITAS Forum Network should be further engaged to disseminate this knowledge across the EU-27 and beyond.



The PAC also requested calls for participation in CIVITAS to be made every two years, so cities can increase their chances of a successful proposal. The selection process for new PAC members is underway and the new committee will meet for the first time at the 2011 CIVITAS Forum Conference in Funchal, Portugal, in October.

To read the official PAC statements, or for more information, visit: <http://www.civitas.eu/pac>.

CITY IN PROFILE

Brighton & Hove, United Kingdom

The historic seaside city of Brighton & Hove in the south-east of England is using the latest in cutting-edge technology to further its reputation for sustainable mobility initiatives.



Continued economic growth, accompanied by major developments and a growing population, has led the City Council to adopt a vision for the city as a place with a co-ordinated transport system that serves the needs of all users and minimises damage to the environment. This strategy aims to make this vision a reality and was developed within the framework of a local transport plan, following national guidelines.

ARCHIMEDES also supports this vision, enabling the city to propose innovative tools and approaches to increase energy efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of urban transport. This funding has led to the development of innovative projects such as the Council's Talking Bus Stops and School Travel Planning schemes.

The funding also allowed the city council to pilot projects, such as electric vehicle charging points, the winning entry in the 2011 CIVINET PRISM Awards for the most outstanding and innovative scheme in the field of sustainable urban mobility in the UK and Ireland in June 2011.

For more information, contact Debbie Reed [debbie.reed@brighton-hove.gov.uk]. Brighton & Hove is a member of the CIVITAS ARCHIMEDES consortium.

OUTREACH

Prioritising motorcycle safety in Nantes

European Green Capital 2013 Nantes, France, is keen to share its experience regarding motorcycles or powered two wheelers (PTW).

The city's transportation system has observed a reduction in both car traffic and accidents in recent years and the CIVITAS CATALIST partner is keen to share its experiences with other European cities. In 2002, a working group was set up involving the local authority and the main PTW associations to improve inadequate infrastruc-

EVENTS

CIVITAS Forum Conference 2011

CIVITAS MIMOSA city Funchal, the capital of Portugal's Madeira Islands, is the host of this year's CIVITAS Forum Conference, which takes place from 17-19 October, 2011.

The Forum 2011 seeks to balance an exchange of dialogue and views between city and European politicians and experts in the field of urban mobility.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their own essential factors for success, with the aim to conclude the event with a 'toolbox' of proven measures and less formal conditions that cities can build upon according to their own local circumstances. Visits to the most exciting mobility sites in Funchal will complete the programme.

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

Exchange at CIVITAS results workshop

Transport experts are invited to learn more about the ambitious strategies of CIVITAS cities at a results workshop on 13 September, 2011 in Brussels, Belgium.

The event focuses on two topics: safety and security, and collective passenger transport. It will run in parallel with the ICLEI European Convention 2011: Cities in Europe 2020 - Enhance Sustainability Now!

Participants will learn what pioneer cities have achieved and how, and will be informed of how they can replicate these measures at home.

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

ture and identify dangerous areas in the case of a collision.

In 2008, the group signed an official charter to commit to action, such as getting involved in designing technical guides for the development of public spaces in urban and peri-urban areas, and developing prototypes and design concepts. A year later, improvements had been made on 90 percent of all danger spots identified by PTW drivers. These experiences are currently ready to be shared across Europe.

For more information, visit Thematic Groups at <http://www.civitas.eu/network>.

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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