



# CiViTAS

Cleaner and better transport in cities



THE CIVITAS INITIATIVE  
IS CO-FINANCED  
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

## **The CIVITAS-Initiative**

### **Ambitious Strategies for Clean Urban Transport in Europe**

# The CIVITAS-Initiative

## The Need for Action

Over 80% of Europe's citizens consider urban traffic congestion, accidents and pollution to be very serious problems, which need to be addressed urgently. The current rate of petrol and diesel fuel use is regarded as the biggest problem of transport in cities by almost 9 out of 10 European citizens.

It is no surprise that transport and mobility is a key policy concern for local authorities. In particular the cities in the new EU Member States have a huge challenge in front of them. In the year 2000 the European Commission recognised the need for action and launched the CIVITAS Initiative, to help cities in testing and assessing new approaches.

The CIVITAS Initiative encourages the development and demonstration of ambitious, innovative ideas that truly address the the transport, energy and environmental problems of Europe's cities. CIVITAS supports integrated solutions that will be effective across a wide spectrum of transport measures and promotes sharing of ideas across national boundaries.

## The Challenge of a New Approach

The raw figures speak for themselves. Cars cover about 75% of all kilometres travelled in EU conurbations. Increased car use has been accompanied by congestion, safety, environmental and health problems derived from transport pollution, as well as by a downward spiral of under-investment in public transport. In some European cities the average traffic speeds at peak times are lower than in the days of the horse-drawn carriage. Urban traffic produces 40% of transport CO<sub>2</sub>. Nearly all of Europe's citizens are exposed to air pollution levels that exceed EU objectives for particulates.



## Bristol - Reduction of 66% in Freight Delivery Trips

As part of its CIVITAS project, Bristol City Council has established a freight consolidation centre serving city centre retailers. This cutting-edge scheme combines individual loads destined for retailers in the Broadmead shopping centre for onwards consoli-

dated delivery. In the initial five months of operation delivery trips amongst participating retailers have dropped by 66%, saving over 4 700 lorry kilometres in and around the city centre.



### Strategic Building Blocks

Eight categories of measures have been identified as the basic building blocks of an integrated strategy. Each CIVITAS city chooses an appropriate set of measures from those building blocks and combines them to form integrated

solutions for clean urban transport in cities. In addition, it puts in place the appropriate planning framework, ensures political involvement and support, and establishes the necessary partnerships to ensure delivery of the plans.

#### The eight Building Blocks of an integrated Strategy

1. Energy-efficient, cost-effective and clean public and private vehicle fleets using 'alternative fuels' plus the necessary fuelling infrastructure
2. Demand management through access restrictions to the inner city areas and other sensitive zones
3. Demand management and revenue-raising strategies based upon integrated pricing strategies
4. Stimulation of collective passenger transport and improved quality of service to passengers
5. New forms of vehicle use and ownership, and less car-intensive lifestyles
6. New concepts for the distribution of goods
7. Innovative 'soft' measures for managing mobility demand, walking and cycling and integrated planning approaches
8. Transport management systems and related information services

### Clearing the Barriers to Change

Inevitably, during the implementation of this ambitious approach barriers will arise. Institutional structures, political and commercial interests, social and cultural pressures, attitudes that say 'we've always done it this way', all present barriers to progress. And that is even

before the technical aspects have been addressed. The CIVITAS Initiative provides cities with the recognition, support and validation that projects need to drive the change process at local level.



Photo: © Stockholm Transport



### Working Together for a new Mobility Culture

The CIVITAS approach is proving a success: CIVITAS has delivered a set of benefits far in excess of the concrete outputs implied by the original description of the initiative. New political alliances and change mechanisms, cus-

tomers -driven-planning processes, emerging public-private partnerships and - last but not least technology solutions that drive change are some of those value added outputs that the CIVITAS cities are delivering.

### Project Funding to Date

The Directorate-General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission co-finances the projects that are part of the CIVITAS initiative. In 2004 the European Commission has doubled its initial input from €50 to €100 million, which will in turn lead to a total investment of over €300 million.



### CIVITAS triples existing Clean Vehicle Fleets

The CIVITAS Initiative is playing a crucial role in helping cities to introduce innovative clean vehicle technologies. Initially, cities had planned to triple existing clean vehicle fleets up to 3600 low and zero-emission vehicles by 2006. Collaboration and information exchange within CIVITAS helped them overcome initial barriers with the result that by mid 2004, an impressive number of 2400 vehicles were already in operation. Some cities decided to purchase even more vehicles than originally planned.

As part of its CIVITAS project, the city of Graz looks at the entire supply chain (well-to-wheel) and has come up with impressive

results. The city supplies 100% of the municipal bus fleet with biodiesel, based on used cooking oil that is collected from restaurants and households in the city. Stockholm, with the help of CIVITAS further expand the probably largest municipal clean vehicle fleet in the world. It bases its fuel production on organic waste and sewerage. The implementation of Lille's biogas plant, probably the biggest in Europe, will set a milestone in generating energy from household waste. As part of CIVITAS, the city of Toulouse will implement Europe's first "CNG at home" project. Small compressors at 1000 homes will provide gas to private vehicles.

### Benefits for All

The outcome of every CIVITAS city project is of direct benefit to citizens and business in the participating cities. Reduced congestion, better public transport, improved conditions for cyclists and pedestrians, and many other advantages will all contribute to providing a

better quality of life. And it is not only local people who will gain, as over time the practical lessons learned will cascade across every town in the European Union, to the benefit of all citizens.



### Rotterdam - a leading-edge Public Private Partnership

The Multicore Pipeline System is an underground public-private distribution system for the chemical industry, and consists of a bundle of four pipelines over a 20 km distance. Businesses can lease pipeline capacity from MultiCore over the required distance and connecting it up to their own installations to transport chemicals.

The result of this innovative public-private partnership is an underground transport system that is multifunctional, faster, safer and cleaner than surface transport. In its 1st year the MultiCore Pipeline saved about 150 vessel journeys together with associated loading and unloading and time required for each shipment reduced from 25 to 6 hours.

### Assessing and Disseminating the Results

As part of the CIVITAS Initiative, separate activities are undertaken to independently evaluate the impacts of the different measures, to compare the overall city results, and to report on the lessons learned to practitioners, politicians and the scientific world. The results of CIVITAS are disseminated through newslet-

ters, workshops, via training activities and through an active involvement of the local, national and international press.

Information on cities and their demonstration projects is posted on [www.civitas-initiative.org](http://www.civitas-initiative.org). This website furthermore provides links to different project websites.

### CIVITAS Participation decisive in new Member States

For the Hungarian city of Pécs the involvement in CIVITAS is decisive for the development of its future transport policy. As a result of CIVITAS the city will develop its World Heritage zone into a car free zone. Gdynia in Poland has re-developed its central street and will organise an annual event to celebrate the

re-development. The large scale introduction of biodiesel for the busfleet in Ljubljana and the establishment of the biodiesel plant, both CIVITAS measures, will kick off the large scale domestic production of alternative fuels in Slovenia.





# The CIVITAS Forum

## Join the Most Advanced Cities in the Field of Urban Transport

Currently more than 80 cities that are committed to clean urban transport are part of the CIVITAS Forum. The CIVITAS Forum is a political and technical meeting place and the members have signed the CIVITAS declaration. The Forum provides a platform for constructive and open exchange of information at

all levels. In addition, members of the CIVITAS Forum have preferential access to information, may use the CIVITAS logo and can participate in training actions and networking events that are specially organised for Forum members. Each year three prestigious CIVITAS awards are nominated to the Forum members.

### How the CIVITAS Forum Operates

The CIVITAS Forum meets annually. Plenary sessions, small group work sessions and site visits in the host city are organised. Interest groups are formed and develop their work through the year.

Practical follow up actions, such as joint procurement of vehicles, are initiated. The Forum is also attended by speakers from programmes similar to CIVITAS from outside Europe.

### Membership

All European cities that are committed to the the CIVITAS approach are eligible for membership, with more than eighty having been accepted so far. Nineteen cities are conduct-

ing major CIVITAS demonstration projects and more than sixty other cities are engaged in CIVITAS-related activities. Seventeen more cities will start implementing CIVITAS demonstration activities in 2005.

### The CIVITAS Declaration

Membership of the CIVITAS Forum is granted to cities where an elected representative with executive authority in transport signs the CIVITAS Declaration committing the city to introduce ambitious and innovative measures. Of course, there is also a requirement to share knowledge and experience.

### Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

A group of elected politicians from cities that are member of the CIVITAS Forum steers the work of the Forum and meets to ensure that needs and issues relevant to local policy-making are addressed by the CIVITAS Initiative. Political PAC statements are published and sent to stakeholders across Europe.

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