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 and 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.

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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 throughout the year. The Multicore Pipeline System 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.

For the Hungarian city of Pécs the involvement is decisive for the development of its future transport policy. As a result of CIVITAS measures, the city will develop its World Heritage zone into a car free zone.

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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 show knowledge and experience. The CIVITAS Declaration is posted on www.civitas-initiative.org.

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The CIVITAS Initiative

The Need for Action

Over 80% of Europe’s citizens consider urban traffic congestion 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 about 7 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 are 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 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 new urban transport sector demands better solutions to the transport and environmental problems of urban areas.

- Smaller cities need to solve problems that are similar to those found in the larger conurbations.
- Some cities need to improve already good services.
- All cities need to develop new strategies that take into account the impacts of all transport modes on the urban environment.

A key policy concern for local authorities is the problem of transport in cities by almost 9 out of 10 people. For example, the car is widely used for transport but it is responsible for emitting huge quantities of CO\textsubscript{2} and other pollutants.

The raw figures speak for themselves. Cars represent over 75% of transport CO\textsubscript{2} and nearly 40% of transport CO\textsubscript{2} emissions.

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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.

The eight Building Blocks of an Integrated Strategy

1. Energy efficient, cost-effective and clean public and private vehicle fleets using alternative fuels and 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. Strictures of collective passenger transport and improved quality of service to passengers
5. New forms of vehicle use and ownership, and fan-free innovative business models
6. New concepts for the distribution of goods
7. Innovative urban sprawl measures for managing mobility demand, walking and cycling and targeted planning approaches
8. Transport management systems and related information services

Working Together for a New Mobility Culture

The CIVITAS approach is proving a success: CIVITAS cities are leading best practice both in improving the transport systems that serve the cities and in altering the culture of transport use. The core objective of each CIVITAS project is to produce a sustainable mobility plan, cutting transport CO\textsubscript{2} by 40% of transport CO\textsubscript{2} and improving environmental and health problems derived from transport.

CIVITAS has delivered a set of benefits far in excess of the concrete outputs implied by the original objectives of the initiative. New political alliances and change mechanisms, customer-driven planning processes, emerging new industrial partnerships and new lower technology solutions that drive change are some of those value added outputs that the CIVITAS cities are delivering.

CIVITAS triples existing Clean Vehicle Fleets

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 consol-
The CIVITAS Initiative

The Need for Action

Over 80% of Europe’s citizens consider urban traffic congestion, pollution and noise 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 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.

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, in such a place the appropriate planning framework, ensures political involvement and support, and establishes the necessary partnerships to ensure delivery of the plans.

The Eight Blocks of an Integrated Strategy

1. Energy efficient, cost effective and clean public and private vehicle fleets using appropriate fuels and 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 in public transport
5. New forms of vehicle use and ownership, and new innovative business models
6. New concepts for the distribution of goods
7. Innovative traffic management for managing mobility demands, walking and cycling and integrated planning approaches
8. Transport management systems and related information services

The Challenge of a New Approach

The one thing that stands for Downtown Cuts in Lille is the diversity of EU conurbations. Increased car use has been accompanied by congestion, safety, environmental and health problems derived from transport pollution, as well as by a downwards spiral of customer involvement 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 CO2. Nearly all of Europe’s inhabitants are exposed to air pollution levels that are deemed shopping centre for onwards consolidation. Loads destined for retailers in the Broadmead shopping centre are received by the city centre.

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 consignment.

Benefits for All

The outcome of every CIVITAS city project is of benefit not just to urban citizens, but to local authorities 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. 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.

Working Together for a New Mobility Culture

The CIVITAS Approach is proving a success: CIVITAS cities have adopted far-reaching strategies, that have had success at the local level. These successes have had a knock-on effect, as a number of countries are now looking at CIVITAS successes and are introducing similar strategies throughout their country. CIVITAS is seen as a successful project, which has the potential to embrace the whole continent of Europe. The success of the initiative has been acknowledged not only through the numbers of people who have participated, but also the extent to which these initiatives have been taken up throughout the continent.

Project Funding to Date

The Directorate-General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission co-fund the projects that are part of the CIVITAS initiative. The European Commission has doubled its initial input from €350 to €170 million, which will in turn lead to a total investment of over €1000 million.
The CIVITAS Initiative encourages the development and demonstration of ambitious, innovative ideas that truly address the key policy concern for local authorities. In the year 2000 the European Commission recognised the need for action and launched the CIVITAS Initiative, to help cities in testing strategies to the inner city areas and other sensitive zones.

The eight Building Blocks of an Integrated Strategy

1. Demand management through access restrictions to the inner city areas and other sensitive zones
2. Demand management and revenue-raising strategies based upon integrated pricing strategies
3. Straddling of collective passenger transport and improved quality of service to passengers
4. New forms of vehicle use and ownership, and less car-intensive lifestyles
5. New concepts for the distribution of goods
6. Innovative ‘soft’ measures for managing mobility demand, walking and cycling and integrated planning approaches
7. Transport management systems and related information services
8. New forms of vehicle use and ownership, and less car-intensive lifestyles

Benefits for All

The outcome of every CIVITAS city project is of direct benefit to citizens and businesses 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.

The Need for Action

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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 must place the appropriate planning framework, ensures political involvement and support, and establishes the necessary partnerships to ensure delivery of the plans.

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.

Working Together for a new Mobility Culture

The CIVITAS approach is proving a success. CIVITAS cities have found that they can take advantage of the concrete outputs implied by the original description of the initiative. New political alliances and change mechanisms, customer-driven planning processes, emerging political alliances and change mechanisms, customer-driven planning processes, emerging partnerships to ensure delivery of the plans.

Project Funding to Date

The Directive on Urban Transport and Freight Transport of the European Commission co-finances the projects that are part of the CIVITAS Initiative. Over the past five years the European Commission has doubled its initial input from €50 to €100 million, which will in turn lead to a total investment of over €200 million.

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 consignment Lille’s biogas plant, probably the biggest in Europe, will set a milestone in generating energy from household waste.

The CIVITAS Initiative is playing a crucial role in helping cities to introduce innovative clean vehicle technologies. In Italy, cities had planned to triple existing clean vehicle fleets, up to 3600 low and zero-emission vehicles by 2008. 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.

In the city of Graz looks to the entire supply chain (foot-to-wheel) and has come up with impressive results. The city supplies 100% of the municipal bus fleet with biokerosene, based on used cooking oil that is collected from restaurants and households in the city. Stockholm, will, with the help of CIVITAS further expand the probably largest municipal clean vehicle fleet in the world. France has its fuel production on organic waste and sewage. The implementation of Paris’ biogas plant, probably the biggest in Europe, will in turn lead to a total investment of over €200 million.

CIVITAS triples existing Clean Vehicle Fleets

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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 preferred 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.

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

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, as member of the CIVITAS Forum, 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 bus fleet 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.

Membership
All European cities that are committed to the CIVITAS approach are eligible for membership, with more than eighty having been accepted so far. Nineteen cities are conducting 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 that are elected by representatives 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 show knowledge and experience.

Policy Advisory Committees (PAC)
A group of elected politicians from cities that are members of the CIVITAS Forum share the work of the Forum and meet 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.

The CIVITAS Initiative
Ambitious Strategies for Clean Urban Transport in Europe

The CIVITAS Forum
Gleaner and better transport in cities
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The CIVITAS Initiative
Ambitious Strategies for Clean Urban Transport in Europe

The CIVITAS Initiative is decisive in new Member States

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