

Newsletter, 2nd Edition

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Editorial

GUTS partners driving towards the project's second phase: Pilot projects will speed up clean public transport systems in Central European cities

Partners from EU – CENTRAL Europe project Green Urban Transport Systems (GUTS) met in Vienna, Austria, at a First Transnational Workshop on 26 & 27 January. The presentation of the results of preliminary researches on making public transport more sustainable will enable partners to refine solutions and prepare for upcoming pilot projects. With the leading of “knowledge partners” CERE & IBDiM, the GUTS partnership has currently prepared regional & local analyses, as well as a baseline study including benchmark at EU and global level on current initiatives and models linked to clean public transport systems regarding technology, financing and governance.

The background

Analyses of urban transport systems are carried out according to the same format by all cities participating in GUTS Project. Cities compile a set of indicators enabling the comparison of partner cities with each other and with the chosen model city Burgos. A comparative report will form the basis for evaluating the green urban transport system development in all analyzed cities.



The studies focus on the analysis of the local situations: they describe the measures and initiatives taken as well as citizens' and users' needs, and assess the political agenda providing for the institutional and political uptake of the project's results. The GUTS partnership has agreed to carry out these activities in full synergy: under the lead of its partners from Austria (Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Environment, CERE) and Poland (Road and Bridge Research Institute - Instytut Badawczy Dróg i Mostów, IBDiM) a joint baseline study on clean public transport (PT) solutions has been prepared, serving as a comprehensive benchmark, while partners have prepared their regional/local analyses focused on their needs and opportunities. The elaborated studies will be compiled and compared, while also cross-feeding their outcomes into each other. To support this, a benchmark visit was organised by the Municipality of Sopron, Lead Partner of GUTS to a “model city”, identified as being Burgos, in Spain. The GUTS project is now entering its “Second Phase”: Partners channel results of compiled analyses to jointly defined pilot actions that are implemented on the basis of a common methodology.



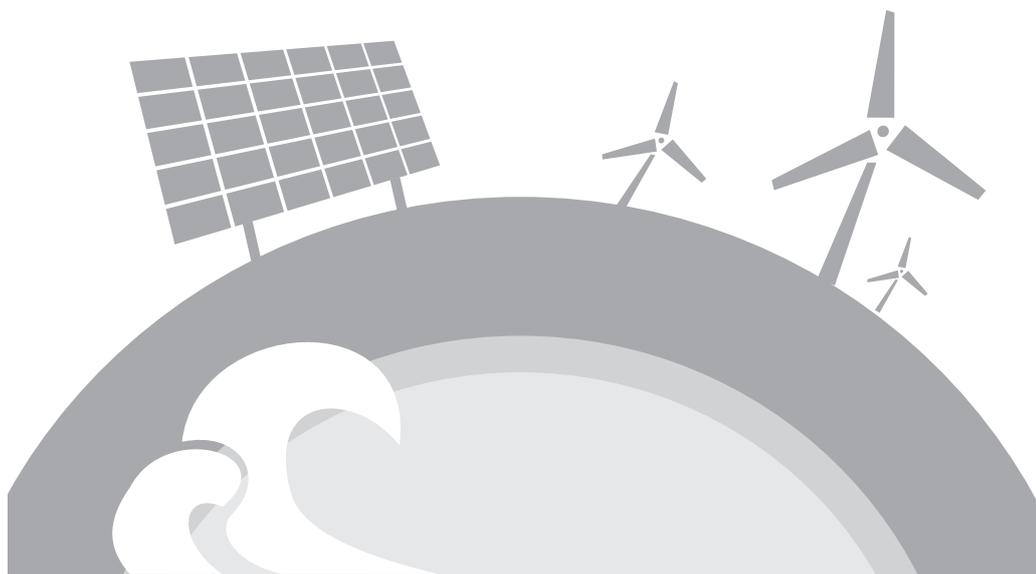
Outcome of the 1st Transnational Workshop, Vienna (Austria)

At the project's 1st Transnational Workshop hosted on 26th-27th January by the Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Environment (CERE) in Vienna, GUTS partners were presented conclusions of the European Analysis developed by CERE as well as of the project's Baseline Study identifying how common methods could be applied in urban development and urban planning. Project partners presented their local & regional analyses, which were also debated with the participation of key experts. Following the workshop, a study visit to the model city of Graz was organised for the GUTS partners. Following the workshop, a study visit to the model city of Graz was organised for the GUTS partners.



“Making urban mobility sustainable is key, not only towards an improved quality of life but also from the perspective of a balanced economic development, stronger social cohesion and environmental protection” stated CERE President and Founder, Renate BURIAN. “The open and free-flowing knowledge-sharing and international cooperation of project partners and experts coming from the Austrian Ministry of Transportation, Innovation and Technology, Bombardier Transportation Austria, the Austrian Institute of Technology and the Mobility Cluster of the Business Agency Vienna were very beneficial to partners and made high quality contribution to the further development of policy frames by GUTS project.”

In comparing different cities' policies, the European Analysis points out the need for Europe to take a new look at spatial planning with an approach known as comprehensive and sustainable transportation planning. The focus has shifted from setting the rules to setting the targets, based on well-implemented models of good governance. The study identifies a need for cooperation to develop a shared view among cities regarding the nature of transport policy objectives. Underlined by the GUTS Baseline Study, the transition to more renewable energy in public transport crucially requires an increase in the energy efficiency of vehicles as well as fundamental reduction of unnecessary transport activities. As European cities and regions nowadays needs are massive, the only recourse to the use of renewable energy sources cannot provide entire capacity. Besides alternative energy supplies, transportation needs can be also contained and hence reduced by spatial planning & development aiming at minimizing travel distances.



News

GUTS going local: GUTS partners' regional strategic platforms

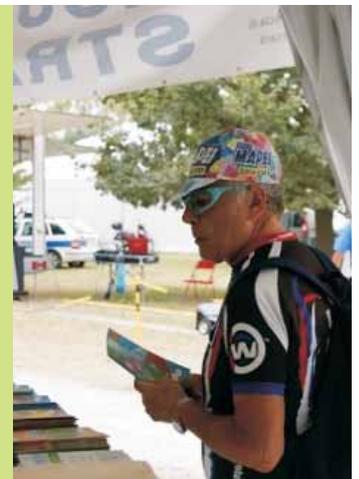
GUTS in the midst of local awareness raising campaigns conducted in the Province of Ferrara, the City of Sopron, Velenje and Vienna, and also the cities of Karlovy Vary, Humenné and Warsaw.

During the months of September & November 2010, three GUTS partners held their Regional Strategic Platform (RSP) meetings dedicated to awareness raising among key local and regional stakeholders (citizens, transport companies, energy suppliers, etc.) by introducing local actors to the projects' goals and benefits. Stakeholders are invited on the basis of a "Triple Helix approach" which includes public authorities, knowledge institutions and representatives of industry and transport sectors.



GUTS Vocabulary

RSP meetings give room to exchange with key actors on local development needs and targets regarding greener urban mobility, hence to gain local support and commitment to the project. The platform is an important forum and information resource on new public transport solutions and on the development of GUTS project. The platform is gathered regularly and its outcomes are to be incorporated into the GUTS project (local analysis, planning, local campaigns, and elaboration of the strategy and of local action plans).



A first RSP meeting took place on 24th September, 2010 in the frame of the European Mobility Week (EMW) 2010 "Travel smarter, live better" (www.mobilityweek.eu) in Ferrara, Italy during the Balloons Festival of Ferrara. Two additional RSP meetings took place later in Slovakia, organized by Citizen Association No Gravity on 28th and 29th October, followed by the RSP meeting prepared by the Transport Company of Karlovy Vary in the Czech city, on 11th November, 2010.

Organized in cooperation with the Local Public Transport Agency of Ferrara (AMI), the first RSP meeting entitled "The winds of change on public transport" was promoted in junction to information stands and exhibitions of the Mobility and Energy, Highway Traffic Safety, Agenda 21 and Culture offices.

Taking the opportunity of the EMW 2010 events, the Province of Ferrara prepared a communication package and trainings involving thematic areas covering sustainable mobility, road safety, renewable energy and environmental sustainability. The information campaign delivered collective transport timetables, car, bicycle and bus connection modules, as well as road information. The “Blue Sticker” campaign was promoted, aiming at the control of pollution by cars and informing on car maintenance requirements. Workshops presented other EU projects (BICY – Cities and Regions for cycling: www.bicy.it) on sustainable transport. Local schools participated in the EMW campaign in the form of didactic courses on the new Highway Code.

GUTS was presented as an instrument of how to reconcile economic development and accessibility of the cities with the improvement of the quality of life, taking into account the challenges of climate change. Stakeholders discussed sustainable mobility solutions in major Italian cities, and in the city of Ferrara, the importance of public/collective transportation, and set the dates for the next meetings of the Regional Strategic Platform. The Province of Ferrara explained its contributions to the inter-institutional coordination of transport planning in cooperation with the Region of Emilia Romagna and Ferrara Local Mobility Agency – AMI, towards greener public transport solutions. Ferrara showcased the objectives of the territorial planning through the “Province Energetic Programme Plan”, the “Province Public Transport Plan” and the “Air Quality Remediation & Protection Plan” which are mandatory in each Italian Province and deal with emission levels, air quality parameters and clean energy solutions in the transport sector.

The Ferrara meeting showed large interest amongst participants in gaining more information on how to incorporate the project's objectives into local territorial & spatial planning and understand its objectives regarding the development of infrastructure and local economy and environment protection.

Further Strategic Platforms followed in other partners' cities, too, in the New Year. On 3rd February 2011, the RSP meeting organised by CERE in Vienna opened discussion with the city's experts.



Brigitte Kinniger, Engineer, Technical Director, City Directorate of Construction & Technology provided information on her department and its activities. She explained the functioning of a “traffic audit committee” that meets bi-monthly and involves all relevant city departments and the Vienna Transportation Company “WienerLinien”. This committee discusses and coordinates new traffic projects by resolving issues

solutions before these projects go for approval and receive funding. A traffic experts' meeting is also convened on a monthly basis and includes members of the audit committee as representatives from automotive organizations, neighborhood and district organizations, citizen action groups, as well as affected stakeholders. Vienna's legal framework regarding environmental protection is based on the "Polluter Pays" principle, whereby the party responsible for causing the pollution pays for repairing the damages. This is often taken into account at the stage of project planning and helps to reduce the environmental impact of traffic before projects are implemented.

Limited mobility as well as bicycle traffic receive considerable attention and are taken into account in every construction project. Simple measures, such as lowering the curb at corners or ensuring adequate visibility at corners (i.e. cars driving up to at least 5 meters from the corner) are common practices. In addition, Ms. Kinniger emphasized how important it is to compare cities of similar sizes.

Peter Schmiede, a representative of the City of Vienna Department of Construction & Building Management, provided information on the environmental impact of construction sites and on opportunities for such impacts to be reduced. He presented conclusions of a report called "RUMBA" outlining how truck traffic in a residential neighbourhood was reduced by 75%, which in turn also reduced CO₂ as well as noise emissions thanks to more efficient planning. The measures outlined in the presented report have been implemented in several construction projects. Mr. Schmiede added that environmental impact studies are a core component of traffic construction projects.

Representative of Energy Park Bruck/Leitha, Kai Burkhard, explained the many different aspects to be taken into account for all kind of users: parents, children, multi-modal users, etc. Mr. Burkhard presented the new alternative propulsion concepts which are now being tested by the City of Vienna Transportation Company and provided information on his hometown of Karlsruhe, Germany regarding the multimodal concept "Stadtbahn Karlsruhe", combining urban and heavy rail trains on the same rail tracks and providing connections between the regular railway network and the city's trams network.

City of Vienna Building Site Management – the values: *

- Two thirds of the quantitative goods traffic (in tons) is building material transportations.
- 99% of the building site traffic are completed with trucks.
- 7% to 10% of the NO_x and particle emissions in traffic are due to building site traffic.
- A four-wheel truck (18 tons) affects the roads 17,000 times, a four-axis truck (36 tons) 30,000 times more than a passenger car.
- The building of a dwelling causes 60 truck drives and 2,500 - 3,000 truck kilometers.
- 75% of the waste arising are building remainder masses, only one third of them can be used again.
- 3% of the inhabitants feel disturbed by building noise.

* Source: RUMBA - Guidelines for Sustainable Building Site Management - Short Report www.rumba-info.at

Benchmarking smart transport systems beyond Central Europe in Burgos, Spain

The visit organised on 22-23 November 2010 to the Spanish city permitted GUTS partners to gain knowledge on innovative & smart sustainable public transport and traffic solutions in an advanced medium-sized city situated outside the Central Europe area.

The Benchmark Visit of GUTS to Burgos, Spain took place on 22-23 November, 2010. The aim of the visit was to capitalize on the experience of existing systems in Burgos and explore possible solutions regarding green urban transport to be adapted and further developed in the GUTS partner cities. Site visits included the Mobility Office of Burgos, where the Mobility Observatory was presented in detail, the traffic garage and depot, the city centre with its extended car-free pedestrian area, a bicycle point of the free rent-a-bike system including a detailed demonstration of its operation, and the traffic department of the city of Burgos, where the traffic monitoring system was presented. Furthermore, GUTS partners attended a stakeholders' meeting organized by the Strategic Plan City of Burgos (Plan Estratégico Ciudad de Burgos). During the visit in Burgos, two GUTS project meetings were held on 23rd November: the first Expert Panel meeting and an informal partner meeting.

The Benchmark Visit was organized with the substantial support of Mr. José Maria Diez, Project Manager of the Spain and Portugal CiViTAS Network Secretariat of the Strategic Plan City of Burgos, who guided the group in Burgos, arranged meetings with representatives at the different sites that were visited, and explained all the developments that have been implemented in the city. GUTS partners very much appreciated his efforts and contribution to the success of the study tour. Partners were honoured to be



welcomed personally by the Mobility Councillor, Mr. Esteban Rebollo, and the Head of the Department, Mr. José Escalante.

Thanks to the well-organized preparation and the various forward-looking developments in Burgos, the Benchmark Visit was a successful and highly informative event. GUTS partners have been able to channel the presented solutions and developments into the local/regional analyses, the European analysis and Baseline study, and will consider relevant aspects also in future developments and strategies.

Events to come

Project events & information

- **2nd GUTS Transnational Workshop, Warsaw Poland 20-21 June, 2011. Organising partner: Road and Bridge Research Institute - Instytut Badawczy Dróg i Mostów, IBDiM.**
- **Detailed implementation plan for the preparation of pilot studies by partners to be ready by 13th June, 2011: Partners (except CERE & IBDiM) prepares guidelines & framework for feasibility studies**
- **Project partners' 3rd Regional Strategic Platform meeting to take place in April/ May 2011**

Other European events

- **First International ICST Conference on Green Intelligent Future Transport Systems, 16 – 18 March, 2011, Athens (Greece)**

The First International ICST Conference on Green Intelligent Future Transport Systems (GIFTS 2010) is an excellent opportunity to gather all the experts within the field of ITS in Athens. Researchers, engineers, students, industrial partners, government delegates and all relevant stakeholders are invited to discuss and exchange ideas about the future and viability of the transportation domain. There will be technical sessions running in parallel during the conference. Special care will be taken by the organisers in order to avoid overlap between related topics. In this way, the attendees who are interested in a specific topic will not miss the latest developments related to this and exchange ideas with the corresponding experts. For more information: <http://www.giftsconference.org/>

- **ERTICO Forum on ITS for ElectroMobility, April 6, 2011, Brussels (Belgium)**

ElectroMobility is seen as a major opportunity to make mobility more sustainable especially in the context of cities. There are many industry initiatives on this issue and ElectroMobility has high priority on the political agenda. The ERTICO Forum on "ITS for ElectroMobility" will examine and debate opportunities and challenges for Intelligent Transport Systems and Services to support the deployment of electric vehicles and related new customer services. High level speakers from industry, service providers, cities, users and other important stakeholders will present their views on and activities in this topic. For more information click: www.ertico.com

- **AENEAS final conference, April 8, 2011, Brussels (Belgium): registration is now open!**

Registration is now open for the final conference of the AENEAS project in Brussels on 8 April, 2011. At this conference, European policy makers will share their views on the challenge of making urban mobility greener while improving the quality of life of older people. The conference will feature a panel discussion with members of the European Parliament and representatives of the European Commission, national and sub-national European governments and leading international players such as AGE Platform. Participation at the event is free but registration is requested. For further information, please go to: <http://www.aeneas-project.eu/?page=finalconference>

- **Smart mobility for better cities, May 12 - 13, 2011, La Rochelle (France)**

CityMobil is celebrating the end of its five year programme on the development and demonstration of innovative transport technologies for cities with a major international conference in La Rochelle (France), a city well known for pioneering sustainable mobility solutions. Results from the three large-scale implementations (Heathrow, Castellón and Rome) and from the industrial and academic research will be presented together with general analyses on the advantages and challenges of introducing automated transport technologies in urban mobility. Delegates will also learn about the experiences and plans of a number of European towns in the area of automated transport.

To view the programme, register and find out more about the conference, click on the following link: <http://www.citymobil-project.eu/site/en/Conference.php>



Editorial:

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