



New and Innovative Concepts for Helping European transport Sustainability

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Register now for the OSMOSE Awards on urban transport innovation!

Everyday European local and regional governments develop innovative initiatives to meet urban transport challenges. Public bicycles, inner city night delivery, "call a bus services" or city-wide campaigns promoting the use of public transport... these are some of the new initiatives that already operate successfully and should become widespread across EU regions and cities.

The European OSMOSE Awards (Open Source for MOBILE and Sustainable city) reward local and regional authorities who have introduced innovative and daring measures to improve urban transport. If you have developed a successful transport project in your town or region and wish to share your experience with others, participate in the OSMOSE Awards by submitting your application before 15 October 2006.

The OSMOSE Awards are organised and promoted by NICHES project, aiming at mainstreaming urban transport innovation. More information and application forms are

available on: www.osmose-os.org. We look forward to receiving your applications!

What's new?

Integrated urban transport strategies
The NICHES team has produced what constitutes the main element of the third step of the project: advice to local decision-makers on "Integrated urban transport strategies". These strategies are based on the Innovative Urban Transport Concepts (NICHES concepts).

For each NICHES concept and related urban transport policy aims, the document proposes policy strategies as well as key aspects of their implementation and potential impacts. All strategies also include information along the categories by city size, costs, time horizon for implementation, stakeholders, crucial factors, excluding factors and undesirable secondary effects. The aim of the strategies is to highlight the possibility of combining useful NICHES concepts with mainstream measures. Eleven integrated urban transport strategies are proposed in total, including "Flexible services to increase mobility options", "Public bicycles within an integrated strategy to promote cycling", "Pricing strategies encouraging clean vehicles", "Local biogas production fuels the local economy" and "Fossil fuel free public transport".

The document will soon be available on NICHES website: www.niches-transport.org.

Working Group meetings

Mobility trends and vision

The fourth NICHES working group meeting took place in Karlsruhe, Germany, on the 7th and 8th of September. About 40 urban transport experts from all over Europe participated to the plenary and parallel sessions. The brainstorming was articulated around two main axis: first, imagine mobility trends and vision by the 2020 horizon (what urban transport challenges and needs in

2020? What policies are needed now to prepare?); secondly, develop policy recommendations to local elected representatives and decision-makers for implementing the NICHES innovative concepts and urban transport strategies.

Parallel sessions were organized for five focus groups: financial issues, public support and awareness, inter-organisational cooperation, legal and regulatory issues, research and technology. They presented their conclusions and recommendations to the final plenary session. The experts notably recommended to: show the advantages of sustainable urban transport measures to politicians, citizens and businesses; develop a common definition of sustainable mobility; set up metropolitan sustainable mobility agencies; enable legislation to develop clean vehicles and congestion charges; introduce EU standards on clean vehicles and clean fuels; set up urban transport innovation funds; etc.

Next Steps

Research and policy recommendations

The fourth NICHES working group meeting kicked off the last step of NICHES: the elaboration of research and policy recommendations for urban transport stakeholders of different sectors (public authorities, research community...) at local, national and EU level on innovative and sustainable urban transport and mobility.

The research recommendations will highlight some research gaps and some key issues that should be considered in future research. How should future research programs look like? What research should be done?

The policy recommendations, a key output of NICHES, will summarise the most relevant information to encourage the uptake by local and regional authorities of the NICHES concepts and give directions on how to drive forward the process of implementation. They will notably explain how to create the local framework conditions and the right political climate for implementing innovative transport measures and strategies derived from the NICHES concepts. Policy notes will also be developed for each NICHES concept.

A several brochures compiling the results of this last work step of NICHES will be published, targeted to local transport stakeholders and publicly available free of charge.

Events

NICHES policy seminar, Brussels, 12 December

Today's Urban Transport at Tomorrow's Crossroad – Innovative Solutions Meeting Local Challenges.

The aim of this policy seminar is to illustrate how the innovative transport measures that NICHES is exploring can contribute to meet local policy goals. High level speakers from leading European cities will illustrate how the NICHES concepts can help to make urban mobility more sustainable and come to a cleaner, safer and more efficient transport systems in European cities.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss innovative measures on the following NICHSE thematic areas:

- New Seamless Mobility Services
- Innovative Approaches in City Logistics
- New Non-Polluting and Energy-Efficient Vehicles
- Innovative Demand Management Strategies

The meeting will take place at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels, on 12 December 2006. Participation is free of charge.

Download the announcement, registration form and practical information at www.niches-transport.org.

NICHES Final conference

Toulouse, 16 March 2007

At the conference the results of the NICHES project will be presented by representatives of the cities where the NICHES concepts have been successfully implemented.

www.niches-transport.org

Polis coordinates the NICHES consortium, which includes six other partners: Rupprecht Consult, PTV, Eurocities, City of Stockholm, Warsaw University of Technology and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. NICHES is funded by DG Research of the European Commission, under the 6th Framework Programme.