

Editorial

The Winds of Change on Public Transport

While urban mobility contributes significantly to all kinds of environmental, social and economical pressures which need to be addressed by cities and urban areas, transport is precisely one of the strategic policy areas in which cities can decisively influence the quality of the urban environment, as well as their effect on the wider environment and climate change.

In its Communication of 2006 *"Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment"*, adopted in 2006 describing a number of common environmental challenges and problems faced by most European conurbations on different scales and intensities, the European Commission has underlined the importance of developing Sustainable Urban Transport Plans (SUTP) which is seen as a thematic priority to be addressed by cities.

Since the adoption of the Strategy, the Commission decided to launch a wider debate on urban mobility and the new policy received the backup of the Members States and the European Parliament. In the same time, the bottom-up approach resulted in EU grants for projects promoting sustainable urban mobility throughout the EU's territorial cooperation programmes. Policy recommendations for greener urban transport systems in Europe are in the core of project "family" financed under the Central European Programme focusing on trendsetting, ecological friendly means of transportation throughout Europe. Late 2009, the circle of approved projects within priority 2 - Accessibility of the Central Europe Programme (INTER-Regio-Rail, TROLLEY, BICY, SOL together with GUTS) started their cross-fertilization activities during an annual workshop in Verona targeting solutions for project synergies, common timeline including foreseen milestones of projects and the Programme for 2010 as well as issues and good examples of steps in the project implementation phase that can be shared with, given to and taken from other projects.

Initial inputs and experiences from countries of the Central European region and Sopron's ambitions towards new greener urban transportations policies launched **the "GUTS" exchange: innovative yet financially viable and technically feasible solutions, meeting the global challenges of environmental pollution stemming from urban transport.**

Having successfully started its own project activities in March, 2010, the GUTS has been officially launched by its Lead Partner, the Municipality of Sopron (Hungary) at an international conference welcoming a hundred guests benefiting from a huge media coverage. The launch event overviewed the challenges of urban mobility and some international projects run in the same thematic, introduced European model cities such as Graz, and presented the GUTS project to the wider public. As a meeting apart, the GUTS Working Group & Political Board agreed upon the detailed work plan which will govern the first project year, elected the members of the Expert Panel, discussed the organization of Regional Strategic Platform.

The GUTS project is now ready to pull away at top speed...

guts- What news?

GUTS Launching Conference: The International conference, held in Sopron on July 1st 2010, welcomed about a hundred guests and gave an overview of the project's challenges. Participants from similar international projects, experts in sustainable mobility, as well as European model cities were invited to present their work and exchange on the issues at stake.

Second Meeting of GUTS Working Group held in July 2010 discussed actual issues related to project implementation and coordination by partners: it agreed the detailed work plan for the first 12 months, suggested members for the Expert Panel and overviewed the organization of Regional Strategic Platforms.

First Meeting of GUTS Political Board discussed and accepted the final version of the Partnership Agreement, the Project documents (Management Handbook, the Financial Guidelines and the Communication Plan) and agreed suggested members for Expert Panel in July 2010.

guts- Events to come

Benchmark Visit – October 2010 GUTS study trip will be organized in Burgos, Spain. The city has undertaken many efforts concerning sustainable mobility, and has won the CiViTAs City of the Year and the Energy Globe awards of the category “Air” in the recent years. Burgos is the leader among Spanish cities in terms of sustainable mobility with big efforts for a city centre free of cars, a free bicycle loan system. 100% of the city's bus fleet is “clean”: 78% biodiesel and 22% CNG. Burgos now leads the CiViNET Network of cities dealing with sustainable mobility in Spain and Portugal. Experiences of the visited city will be channeled into the GUTS outcomes.



GUTS partners to set up Regional Strategic Platforms

Relevant stakeholders will be invited based on "Triple Helix approach" including public authorities, e.g. municipalities and regions, knowledge organisations, representatives of vehicle industry and public transport companies. The forum will meet regularly to be involved into GUTS project: into the local analysis, planning, local campaign, elaboration of the strategy and the local action plans.

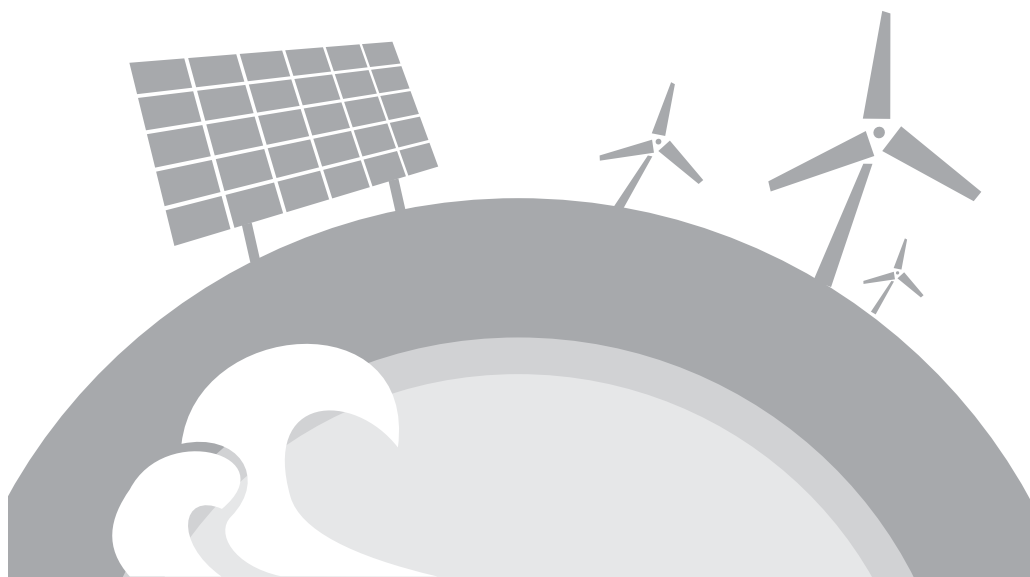
Local and Regional Analyses to assess alternative fuelling for local transports – your input welcomed

The analyses, elaborated by the GUTS partners, will present opportunities, expectations, plans and constraints on local public transport and on alternative energy use. Draft versions of the Local / Regional Analyses shall be elaborated by **10th November 2010**. If you wish to take part in this local activity, and would like to share your ideas and give your inputs, please contact the relevant local partner:

- Austria: Mr Michael Wernle Wernle@cere.com
- Czech Republic: Mr Jakub Mraz mrz@dpkv.cz
- Hungary: Ms Erika Schmidt Schmidt.erika@sopron-ph.hu
- Italy: Mr Domenico Casellato Domenico.casellato@provincia.fe.it or Mr Michele Balboni Michele.balboni@ami.fe.it
- Poland: Mr Jacek Malasek jmalasek@ibdim.edu.pl
- Slovakia: Mr Gabriel Adamek Gabriel.adamek@no-gravity.sk
- Slovenia: Mr Marko Govek marko.govek@velenje.si

Baseline study

Two GUTS partners will elaborate a study that will reveal the development of alternative fuel use for urban buses in Europe. The study aims to give an overview on the state of art. Two partners of GUTS: the Austrian CERE (Center of Excellence for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Environment) and Polish Road and Bridge Research Institute will present the draft **by 10th of November 2010**.



Interview

Mihály Pócza, Manager of Sopron's Regional Public Transport Provider Kisalföld Volán

Winner of the ECOPROFIT Award three times in the recent years, Kisalföld Volán Public Limited Company (KV) is the public transport (PT) provider in the West Trans Danubian region of Győr - Moson – Sopron of Hungary. The company ensures transport of passengers and provides services for the maintenance, repairing and control of company-owned fleet and other vehicles.



KV is owned by a state government agency (ÁPV Rt.) at 73%, and by private owners at 27%. The company possesses a fleet of 424 buses, of which 77 are in use in the city of Sopron (30 for local transportation and 47 deservng regional lines). The fleet includes IKARUS, IKARUS EAG, NABI EXCEL, RÁBA, CREDO, and Mercedes vehicle types. With its 1507 employees (243 of which working in Sopron) KV produces a net income of about 37 million euro, while its profits before taxes raises over 592 thousand euro. The network carries more than 100 million passengers a year, the number of passenger-kilometres are over one billion. The company meets demands for journeys within the city of Győr (140.000 inhab.), Mosonmagyaróvár (32.000 inhab.) and Sopron (60.000 inhab.). It also provides county-wide bus networks: the 175 settlements are all accessible by bus. KV is also manages 7 tourist offices and provides visitors with bus trips to various destinations within Hungary and abroad. The company received the ISO 14001 certification in 2000.



□ **What relationship does Kisalföld Volán (KV) have with the Municipality of Sopron? Could an independent public transport (PT) provider work efficiently in a city like Sopron?**

□ Our company strives to have good relationship with all municipalities in the region. I am happy to state that we have excellent relations with the city of Sopron in all fields of intervention: planning, organization, management and administration. We joined our common efforts in two tenders for PT development for the city, which gained funding for the amounts of respectively more than 1,3 million euro and about 1,4 million euro.

Due to the limited size of Sopron (60.000 inhab.) a local PT company could not work profitably though. On a business level, experience shows that a PT company can be sustainable over a fleet of 100 to 120 vehicles functioning with adequate infrastructure. Local transport demands in Sopron could be satisfied with a fleet of about 30 vehicles only. Such capacity involvement is not viable enough to establish an independent company, which hence would be facing permanent human resources problems and be unable to hire professional staff members for vehicle maintenance and accomplishment of innovation tasks. On the other hand, it would be judicious to asses the need for a municipality company ensuring traffic management only, which could largely benefit to the Municipality of Sopron, as an example of good governance.

- ***Environmental protection is a key stake at KV and your company's business strategy commits to "minimalising impacts of professional activities and equipment on the environment by using the Best Available Techniques (BAT)". By which means, what technological utilisation does your company develop its environmental performance? What environmental plans do you have for the coming years?***

- KV has an ISO 14001 environmental management audit system since 2000. We have detailed plans on waste management for our sites until 2014. Concerning air quality measures, our integral bus fleet is equipped with environmentally friendly engines. We also have a Water Quality Protection Plan. In the city of Sopron we have developed environmental-friendly vehicle-cleaner systems provided with wastewater treatment. Thanks to our commitment and to the 10 years old environmental management system promoting integrated pollution prevention control, we meet all BAT requirements and we only have minimal impact on environment. KV won three times the "Ecoprofit" award of the Hungarian Cleaner Production Centre.

- ***KV is a regular exhibitor and participant of the Mobility Week organised by the city of Győr. These events are especially dedicated to sustainable modes of commuting, especially to the promotion of collective urban transport. What success does KV achieve with being present at the event? How does it call upon the end users' attention on the benefits and utility of public transport? Could similar events be organised in Sopron as well?***

- The Mobility Week events in Győr are organised by the Municipality, and our company, together with local NGOs, takes part in the implementation. Our aim was to popularize public transport mostly among the younger generation. We directed actions dispatching posters of the Mobility Week in all local buses, organising guided tours to the bus shed, selling relics and tokens of public transport with the gains being transferred to the benefit of our employees. We also organised free daily journeys on Győr's bus network, provided free night runs from the nightclubs and offered free rides on our City Tour buses.

The benefits of these Mobility Week activities are not measurable in terms of money, as we neither had measurable increase of the number of passengers after the events. However, Győr's main street was cleared from car traffic during the whole event, preventing our busses from the usual traffic jam causing regular delays in our schedules. These measures largely helped our traffic flow and let our buses run according to the schedules, which also helped saving fuel. We are convinced that similar events could be organised in Sopron too, and we are looking forward it!

- ***The number of visitors to the "VOLT" summer festival in Sopron reached the hundred thousand in 2010. The city almost doubled the number of its residents. How can KV meet such extreme demands?***

- The temporary "festival" bus line which was set up to deserve the VOLT Festival's sites was covered within the contract between Sopron and our company and also included in our bus networks' schedules. During the festival, we enlarged our fleet capacity with bigger vehicles and special fleet. During the festival we have sold more than 5.500 tickets and more than 800 season passes on the line deserving the festival sites.

guts Partner Cities

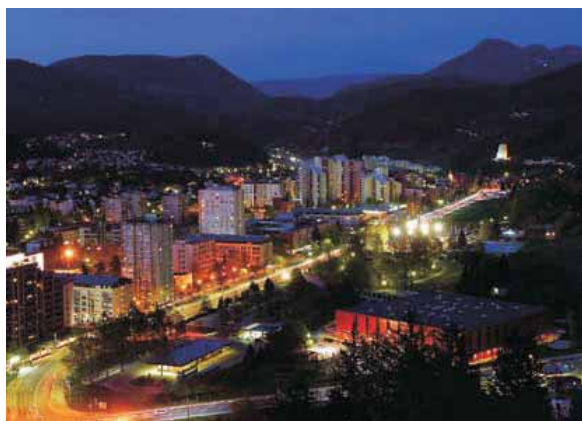
Karlovy Vary & Velenje: Small cities with great treasures

Past and present are tightly linked in these two small sized central European cities. As partners of the GUTS Project, the old tourist city & spa center of Karlovy Vary and the young and modern industrialized town of Velenje are facing similar challenges rising from modern times and increasing mobility. Both cities are committed to develop a joint strategy for sustainable urban mobility and pave the way for technically and financially feasible though innovative and green transport solutions.



Public transport system in fourteenth century founded **Karlovy Vary** was initiated in the middle of the 20th century only and is today managed by the town municipality.

The city, historically famous for its hot springs, became a popular tourist destination in the 19th century. Collective transport in the spa area is a crucial problem and needs to be solved by means of recreational tourist trains or ecological minibuses. The Transport Enterprise of the Karlovy Vary Municipality has launched the use of natural gas for the municipal mass transportation car park as to lower the ecological stress in the zone frequented by tourists.



The city is currently realising investments in renewable energy related projects in the field of urban transport and reconstruction of technical servicing background for alternative energy fuelled vehicles. A 2010 target sets a new fleet of buses using compressed natural gas (CNG) which would represent 25% of the total number of the city's transportation vehicles.

The experience in urban transport of the Transport Enterprise KV covers transport planning in both technical and political aspects. Thus the city will involve planning experts in the GUTS project with regards to the introduction of CNG-fuelled vehicles including technical, logistical and operational support. The City of Karlovy Vary wishes on its turn to learn from the GUTS experience how to complement the CNG-fuelled vehicles with hydrogen based solutions.



The young, modern and multicultural city of **Velenje** with its 35000 inhabitants lies in the North-East part of Slovenia. The city is the employment, administrative and educational centre of the wider *Saša* region, one of the most powerful economic poles of Slovenia due to massive industrialization also famous for GORENJE's products.

Velenje has **to reconcile economic development and accessibility to urban areas with improving the quality of life and of the surrounding environment, while fighting against climate change.** In this regard, public transport has been recognized as one of the most important factors impacting on the city's air quality. Public transport in Velenje carries about 400,000 passengers a year and is based on bus and railway network used only on a small scale. The city's main challenge is to cut down the increasing use of personal vehicles and to popularize the yet marginally used public transport means. However the bicycle use is promisingly growing.

In 2008, the Municipality launched a local free-of-charge bus line for the convenience of its residents and visitors as well as for the population living in remote rural zones. More recently, the city built a **new central bus station** as to achieve higher quality public transport, connections and ensure the protection of the environment. Railway connections with surrounding cities are poor and the infrastructure is very obsolete. Plans to modernize the railway infrastructure in the future have already been launched.



SLOVENIA
Ljubljana

European Model City: Graz



European Sustainable City to run bio-gas factory for energy supply in public transport

Questioned on transport development plans of the ancient Austrian city of Graz, Mr. Thomas Fischer, from the Directorate of City Planning, gave an overview to the audience of GUTS Launching Conference of the progressive introduction of greener city development policies accompanied by Graz city dwellers' new behavior towards urban mobility.

As the number of cars started increasing in the 1960's and 1970's, commuting became difficult in the old narrow streets of Graz. Tentative for new visions and alternative ways of tackling the challenge of city growth started in the '70s when debates on the priority of private car use were launched and reviewed. The first manifestation called "Place for People" (Platz für Menschen) campaign was finally launched in 1987; change in people's mind and behavior is a "hard and permanent work" Mr. Fisher said.

From 1989 onwards, special attention was given to awareness raising campaigns. Car speed has been limited to gradually 50km/h and 30 km/h since 1992. These measures resulted in a 20% decrease in the number of accidents and in a great increase in the attractiveness of Graz's city center.



The management of Graz's car park needs permanent monitoring and reorganization which is often carried out, Mr. Fischer said. In the same time incomes from car park houses are redistributed to the building of Park and Ride facilities which facilities, in return, are free of charge, as well as to the development of public transport. Graz has 2.100 Park and Ride places, and a further 2.000 places are planned.

The rate of use of public transports in Graz has been increasing for the recent years thanks to major developments. However, Graz aims to have a well-balanced intermodality in the use of the different transport means. The city that has about 230.000 inhabitants and a network of six tram lines, deserved by 70 vehicles. The bus network carries passengers on 37 lines, covering some 343 kilometers. The city plans to invest in new and more attractive vehicles in the upcoming years. Graz also plans to extend the tram network, and to have new bus corridors. The tram and bus stops are designed to be practical and attractive. The "Bike and Ride" project is in progress: all tram and bus stops are equipped with bike racks. The bicycle network is 116 km long. Unfortunately, interest for walking has been decreasing for long years, a series of measures are being undertaken to enhance pedestrian activities though. Graz bus fleet is fuelled by bio-diesel. The city is looking into projects for building a bio-gas factory by 2020, said Mr. Fischer and to pave the way in being autonomous in energy resources for public transport.



As a result of these measures, Graz won the European Sustainable City Award in 1996. The old town has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1999, and Graz proudly organized the European Cultural Capital events of year 2003.

in view - Europe Goes Green

TROLLEY Project - Celebrating 70 years of trolleybuses in Eberswalde

In this context, BBG, partner of *TROLLEY* Project is looking for enthusiastic cities, companies, associations or institutions have the opportunity to commit themselves to the trolleybus concept by providing T-shirts with their institution's logo. All T-shirts will then be fixed on a trolleybus positioned on the market place in Eberswalde, Germany, on **21 August**, resulting in a colourful mosaic promoting trolleybuses in Central Europe. If you wish to commit yourself to the trolleybus concept, contact Ms. Mandy Kutzner unterwegs@bbg-eberswalde.de or +49-3334-52233 +49-3334-52233.



NICHES+ Summer school 9 -10 September, Clermont-Ferrand

The project looks into 12 innovative concepts, structured in 4 thematic areas: accessibility, efficient infrastructures, urban traffic management centres and automated vehicles. The NICHES+ summer school aims at providing participants with a solid grounding in the basic concept of transferability assessment and background information about innovative concepts such as neighbourhood accessibility planning, Bus Rapid Transit, Urban Traffic Management Centres and electric vehicles. The two-day programme is part of the longer summer school entitled 'New Urban Mobility Services' which is organised by the universities, high schools, and public transport provider of Clermont-Ferrand in cooperation with Polis. The Polis days at the summer school will take place 9-10 September in Clermont-Ferrand. **The deadline for registration is 3 September 2010.** Contact: icre@polis-online.org Phone: +32 2 500 56 76 Website: <http://www.niches-transport.org>



European Mobility Week - Travel Smarter, Live Better - 16-22 September

The European Mobility Week is an awareness raising campaign aiming at sensibilising citizens to the use of public transport, cycling, walking and at encouraging European cities to promote these modes of transport and to invest in the new necessary infrastructures. From 16 to 22 September 2010 the Mobility Week is the opportunity for European cities and towns to participate to the most widespread event on sustainable mobility. Theme 2010: Travel Smarter, Live





Intelligent Transportation Systems - Conference - 19-22 September, Funchal

The IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society (ITSS) is sponsoring its 13th annual international conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). This conference is one of a few premier conferences focusing on research and applications of leading advances in communications, computer, control, and electronics technologies related to ITS. It is an international forum that brings together professionals from the fields of traffic engineering, information technology, automotive engineering, as well as many other ITS-related fields.
<http://itsc2010.isr.uc.pt/site/>

CIVITAS CATALIST -



"The activities for the sustainable mobility - good practices' transfer between CIVITAS cities"- Conference 21 September, Krakow

The CIVITAS CATALIST conference will be organized by the city of Krakow on the 21st September 2010. The conference will be a great opportunity for Polish take up cities to familiarize themselves with the best practices in the field of sustainable mobility from different cities belonging to the CIVITAS family. The organizers of the conference would like to pay particular attention to the issue of their transferability to the Polish ground.

More information: Municipality of Krakow, Joanna Majdecka joanna.majdecka@um.krakow.pl and Tomasz Zwolinski tomasz.zwolinski@um.krakow.pl Tel: 48 12 616 8770

Annual Polis Conference - Innovation in transport for sustainable cities and regions - 25-26 November, Dresden

Learn about the innovative transport actions and policies pursued by cities and regions. Learn about current practice and future plans to: Reduce the environmental impact of road transport, to more effectively manage the movement of people and goods, to deliver safer roads and a more secure transport network, to finance transport systems and improve accessibility. Gain an understanding of the research needs for sustainable mobility in cities and regions." Contact: polis@polis-online.org <http://www.polis-online.org>



EUROPEAN CITIES AND REGIONS NETWORKING FOR INNOVATIVE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS



resources

Information resources:

European Commission Mobility & Transport: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/index_en.htm

European Union Sustainable Energy Week: <http://www.eusew.eu/>

European Portal on Urban Transport & Mobility: <http://www.eltis.org/Vorlage.phtml?sprache=en>

European Urban Knowledge Network: <http://www.eukn.org/>

Links to other projects and initiatives:

<http://www.polis-online.org>

<http://www.trolley-project.eu>

<http://www.bicy.it>