SIPTRAM Project Update

Sustainability in the Urban Public Transport Market

Issue 5: 2005



Exchange on Public Transport & Sustainability



Discussions amongst **participants** at the European workshop.

The European Networking workshop on Better Urban Public Transport for Europe was held on the 19 May in Bruxelles and triggered a lively exchange amongst 34 participants representing transport authorities, NGOs, consultants, unions and policy-makers. The workshop was organised as part of the SIP-

TRAM project and was the final of a series of national events on improving the environmental and quality standards of urban public transport through the competitive tendering process.

The workshop was used to disseminate the results of the key initiatives of the SIPTRAM project, such as the studies undertaken into the hidden subsidies paid by local governments towards private car transportation, and the environmental and quality criteria to consider for the procurement of public transport services (and vehicles) developed as part of the multi-stakeholder dialogue process. The results of a survey of European local and regional transport authorities were also presented (see page 29. Participants also benefited from the practical exchange of experiences from the Netherlands and the cities of Frankfurt am Main and Ferrara (in Italy). This exchange triggered a lively debate on the benefits of operating under a system of controlled competition as opposed to a non-competitive system. "We do not get more money (subsidies) for public transport and we will not receive more in the future" was a comment made by Hans-Jörg von Berlepsch from TraffiQ (Frankfurt am Main). This comment was made following one of the largest independent trade union organisations in Germany (Ver.di) saying that transport authorities should be cautious about promoting "alleged" cost savings from introducing competition as often savings can be made at the expense of reductions in other areas, e.g. salaries of personnel.

An insight into the European legal framework was presented

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Final Project Update

The aim of this update is to provide interested readers with the latest information on the SIPTRAM project.

The SIPTRAM project, funded by the EC-DG Environment under the Community Framework for Co-operation to promote Sustainable Development, started in January 2003 and will concluded in June. Follow up on subsequent action from the EC and other key organisations on the key results and tools developed through the project is currently being undertaken by the project partners.

For more information on the project, please contact Mark Hidson (Project Coordinator) on mark.hidson@icleieurope.org or tel: +49 761 368 920.

Visit the project website at: http://www.increase-public-transport.net by Michaela Strohschneider from the European Commission's DG for Transport & Energy who explained that the European Regulation on public service obligations in passenger transport, although having passed the internal review round, still needs to be approved by the European Council and the Parliament during the forthcoming months. It seems that several of the criteria covered by the Regulation will not be as stringent with the recent EU enlargement, however, one of the main principles of the Regulation will be that contracts shall be awarded under transparent, objective and non-discriminatory processes. Furthermore, awarding contracts for "in-house operation" will, under certain conditions, also be permissible.

The discussions and input from participants at the workshop were useful for presenting both the opportunities and threats of operating under different kinds of public transport systems. It remains clear that there are benefits to be gained from operating under controlled competition but favourable local framework conditions are also essential.

To download the workshop presentations please go to http://www.increase-public-transport.net/ index.php?id=724

Results from the European Public Transport Survey

During autumn last year a European survey on Sustainability in Urban Public Transport was undertaken by the SIPTRAM project team with the aim of providing European legislative bodies, decision-makers and transport authorities with an improved understanding of environmental performance and quality standards in urban public transport. The survey was sent out to over 2.000 local governments and transport companies across Europe and achieved a response rate of 9% with over 180 responses.

Countries with the highest number of responses were Germany, France and the United Kingdom with most respondents being municipal public transport authorities. Key results of the survey are that transport authorities operating their public transport service under a system of controlled competition, rather than under a deregulated or non-competitive framework, have higher environmental standards for



their bus fleets (i.e. based on the EURO emission standard for buses). This result is similar for including quality criteria for the provision of public transport services. Quality criteria, in this case includes criteria targeting punctuality, passenger satisfaction, cleanliness and security.

The information gathered from this survey is intended to assist practitioners in European cities and regions to see what others have achieved and make comparisons with other cities and regions. The results also serve to identify good practice cases in the field of sustainable urban public transport.

Results of the survey can be obtained in the form of a short report from http://www.increase-public-transport.net/index.php?id=725. The responses received are also available in an Excel file from the same webpage. The results will also be available in German – please send an email to michael.mueller@vcd.de to obtain a copy.

Suggestions for improving local urban air quality

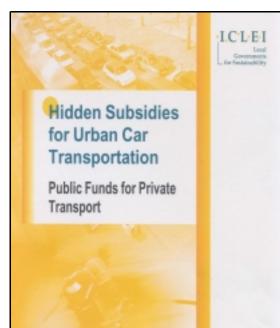
Several cities across Europe have exceeded EU-limits for soot particles (PM) already more than 35 times in the first three months of 2005. This is despite the requirement that these limits may only be exceeded 35 times a year under the EU Air Quality Framework Directive. The values are mainly exceeded at traffic sites, where PM is produced mostly by vehicles that run on diesel. To improve urban air quality the Verkehrsclub Deutschland (VCD) published suggestions for local actions to reduce transport related emissions. The overall goal is to reduce car traffic and to shift passengers and goods to environmentally friendlier modes of transport.

The short paper contains suggestions of how to improve local public transport and also on how to manage motorised individual transport in a better way.

In this paper VCD also calls on local governments to invest money for transport activities in a more efficient and sustainable way, in light of the results of the hidden subsidies in private car transportation studies.

The paper is available in German and can be downloaded from http://www.vcd.org/themen/download/





Hidden Subsidies for Urban Car Transportation – brochure now available

The results of the Hidden Subsidies analysis that was carried out in the framework of the SIPTRAM project in the cities of Ferrara (Italy), Genève (Switzerland) and Graz (Austria) have been published in the form of an information brochure.

The aim of the Hidden Subsidies analysis was to investigate how much a municipality subsidises motorised private transport by analysing their respective budgets. For the three cities involved, considerable subsidies were identified: 169€per inhabitant in Graz, 142€per inhabitant in Genève and 44€per inhabitant in Ferrara. Details of these findings together with the results from a number of German cities are presented in the brochure.

To order a brochure please send an email to <u>vivien.fuehr@icleieurope.org</u>

German Environmental Ministry funds clean public transport services in Frankfurt (Main)



The City of Frankfurt am Main is the first of the larger German cities to have begun using competitive tendering for their public transport service. At present, the first part of the bus network, i.e. 20% of the city's entire public transport network, has been tendered.

The German Environmental Ministry have decided to fund some initiatives to show that public transport can contribute in reducing environmental impacts in favour of improved air quality and less noise. As a follow on the Ministry announced that they would fund the operator who introduces the cleanest buses. The result is that a total of EUR1.4 million will be awarded for 57 buses operating in Frankfurt am Main.

King of Customer Friendly Public Transport - 2nd VCD Contest

In December 2004 the Verkehrsclub Deuschland (VCD) started its second contest to find the "king" of customer friendly public transport in Germany. The aim of this contest was to award best-practice examples for customer friendly and innovative projects as well as to encourage transport companies and authorities to learn from these examples. Some 40 projects were presented for participation and then divided into the following three categories by an evaluation committee comprised of public transport experts: "comfort, security and service", "communication" and "system. Three projects were nominated for each of the categories and the most

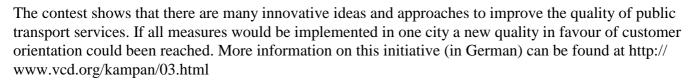
successful projects were announced in April 2005. The winners of the competition were:

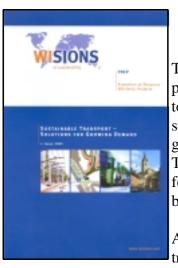
- Comfort, security and service: Großraum-Verkehr Hannover (GVH) for the project HANNOVERmobil
- Communication: Verkehrsgesellschaft Hamburg-Holstein mbH (VHH) / Pinneberger Verkehrsgesellschaft mbH (PVG) for the project *Castingbus*
- System: Freiburger Verkehrs AG (VAG) for *customer orientation in all fields*

Hannovermobil is the name of the new integrated ticket offer for public transport users in the Region of Hannover. It combines the classical commutation ticket with the added benefits of cheaper access to car sharing, taxi, delivery and bicycle services. Hannovermobil also functions as the German rail ticket (BahnCard).

In the project Castingbus the operators decided to have a casting for their new announcement of bus stops. A bus served as "rolling studio" and stopped at different places around Hamburg. Passengers had the opportunity to cast their voices. This project influenced the image of public transport in a positive way and demonstrated that public transport can be amusing.

The transport company of the City of Freiburg has been renowned for implementing various measures to improve the quality of its public transport system. These include easy access and a simple fare system, attractive offers, customer orientation and communication. Over 90% of all customers are using commutation tickets and there is a high identification with the local public transport company.





Sustainable Transport - Solutions for Growing Demand

The SIPTRAM project was selected as one of four projects for inclusion in a short publication called *Sustainable Transport – Solutions for Growing Demand* designed to promote selected resource efficiency projects. The four projects selected for inclusion in the publication were positively evaluated as making a significant impact on global energy and resource efficiency.

The guide has been prepared by WISIONS, an initiative of the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, carried out with the support of the Swissbased foundation Pro-Evolution, to foster practical sustainable energy projects.

A copy of the publication can be downloaded from http://www.increase-public-transport.net/index.php?id=726



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For more information on SIPTRAM please contact:

ICLEI European Secretariat, Leopoldring 3, 79098 Freiburg, Germany. Tel: +49-761/36892-0, Fax: +49-761/36892-19 www.increase-public-trtransport.org



