

SIPTRAM Project Update

Sustainability in the Urban Public Transport Market



ICLEI

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First Project Update

Welcome to the first SIPTRAM project update. The aim of the update is to provide participants of the project, and other interested people, with the latest information on the SIPTRAM project. It will provide readers with a thorough insight into the knowledge and research developed through the implementation of the project. The project update will also provide information related to competitive tendering in urban public transport.

For more information about the project and this update contact the Project Co-ordinator, Mark Hidson on tel: +49-761/36892-0, Fax: +49-761/36892-19, e-mail: mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org or write to ICLEI European Secretariat, Leopoldring 3, 79098 Freiburg, Germany.

Visit the SIPTRAM website is www.iclei.org/europe/siptram/.

Urban Public Transport and Competitive Tendering

For those of you who are not fully aware of the project, 'Sustainability in the urban public transport market' (SIPTRAM) is a project being developed by ICLEI's European Eco-Procurement Programme and Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. The project is being funded by the European Commission: DG Environment - Community Framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development.

The project is about assessing the opportunities to integrate social and environmental criteria in the competitive tendering process for public transport services. The first workshop of SIPTRAM took place on 24 and 25 February 2003 in Freiburg, Germany and brought together the partners from the Verkehrsclub Deutschland (VCD, Berlin, Germany) and Transport & Environment (T&E, Bruxelles, Belgium).



Front row left to right: Christoph Erdmenger, Amalia Ochoa, Vivien Führ and Mark Hidson (ICLEI). Back row left to right: Stefan Voht (VCD), Stephanos Anastasiadis (T&E) and Michael Müller (VCD)

In all European countries there is increasing pressure to open public transport markets. Experience from Sweden and Denmark indicate that increased efficiency together with high procurement standards can lead to better quality and cheaper public transport services. The issue is highly disputed at a local level in political discussions and many technical questions remain unanswered.

The project offers a framework for action for local authorities and a chance for transport authorities and companies to discuss technical questions. Politicians are invited to develop a position balancing risks and opportunities. A comparison of subsidies for public transport and motorised private transport and a benchmarking process between authorities will also be undertaken.

If you would like to participate in the project or find out more please contact Mark Hidson, Project Co-ordinator, telephone: +49-761/36892-0 or e-mail: mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org.

Sustainability in the Urban Public Transport Market

Hidden Subsidies

How much does your municipality invest in traffic?

The ICLEI European Secretariat took up this challenge in 2000 and investigated hidden subsidies in budgets of three major cities in Germany (Stuttgart, Bremen and Dresden). The aim of the study was to find obvious, as well as hidden sources of income and expenditure for the motorised private transport (MPT). The project was supported financially by the National Agency for the Environment.

The three cities showed a marked discrepancy in the per capita subsidy: Bremen had 111 Euro, Dresden 123 Euro, and Stuttgart 145 Euro. However, the result demonstrates that German municipalities pay a large amount of money towards MPT, which is in no way comparable to the income from that source.

Working with a conservative calculation, the subsidies still amount to over 84 million Euro in Stuttgart, 56 million Euro in Dresden, and over 60 million Euro in Bremen. If a projection is made for all 82 million German citizens (at local level, excluding the central government and governments of the Bundesländer) it amounts to more than 10 billion Euro in subsidies towards MPT during the year 2000! The highest figures arise from maintenance and upkeep of roads, city-drainage, cleaning and lighting of streets, and building of parking lots. The fire-brigade, police, economic development and parks and recreation departments also represent large sources for expenditure that strain a municipalities budget. If we take, on the other hand, sources of income through the MPT, we can list fines, tolls and parking fees.

A number of local authorities have already expressed an interest in piloting the hidden subsidies initiative in their country as part of the SIPTRAM project including, Ferrara, Ancona (Italy) and Genève (Switzerland). ICLEI will be developing a hidden subsidies tool kit for these local authorities. *For further information contact Vivien Führ e-mail: vivien.fuehr@iclei-europe.org, or tel 0049-761/ 368920.*



Political Drive

ICLEI has invited a working group of distinguished European local leaders, to draw up a strategy paper to boost European urban public transport. This group works in the context of the SIPTRAM project. The task is to assist in developing an implementation strategy that will encourage cities across Europe to improve the frequency and quality of public transport services through the competitive tendering process while maintaining high environmental and social standards. The group will communicate through telephone calls and via e-mail exchange. Work on the development of the strategy is to be finalised in October 2003.

The strategy will be distributed to politicians and Non-Governmental Organisations throughout Europe, seeking wide-spread endorsement and fostering new action. To avoid duplication of existing policy papers, such as the Aalborg Charter, the CIVITAS declaration and others, the process is designed to provide an implementation strategy for these documents and thus will focus on public urban transport exclusively.

If you would like to take part in the working group or would like further information please contact Christoph Erdmenger, e-mail: christoph.erdmenger@iclei-europe.org, tel +49-761/ 368920

Good Practice Guide

A Good Practice Guide is currently being produced which will provide information on improving the attractiveness of urban public transport. It showcases how cities in Sweden, Finland, France and Germany have improved the environmental, social and economic standards in urban public transport through the competitive tendering process or through preparations for competitive tendering.

Specifically the Guide provides a practical information source for authorities and operators who are designing contracts and tendering for the first time and authorities who are interested in improving the social and environmental aspects of the awarding of contracts. *The guide will be available in English from November 2003 and will be free of charge, if you would like to reserve a copy please contact Mark Hidson on telephone: +49-761/368920 or e-mail: mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org.*

Call for Hosts

The SIPTRAM project team are looking for local authorities and organisations to host workshops on sustainable urban public transport and competitive tendering. The aim of the workshops are to provide participants with information on improving the social, environmental and quality standards of urban public transport through competitive tendering. Benefits would include hosting a high-profile event concerning sustainable urban public transport with selected European stakeholders. The workshops can be linked with local initiatives about transport, such as conferences, seminars or any other initiative. Experts attending the workshop may also be available to get involved in local transport related events.

Themes discussed at the workshops will include European and national policy for competitive tendering, the decision of the European Court of Justice on the “Altmark” case, the European draft Regulation on public transport requirements and how environmental and social specifications can be applied in the tendering process e.g. specification and award criteria and exploring other measures that have environmental and social benefits for public transport.

The workshops will be held in the period December 2003 - June 2004. There will be five national workshops and one European workshop:

- Workshop in English - UK, Scandinavian Countries and Netherlands
- Workshop in French - France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland
- Workshop in German - Germany, Switzerland, Austria
- Workshop in Spanish - Spain
- Workshop in Italian - Italy
- European-wide workshop - English

If you would like further information or would like to host one of the workshops contact Mark Hidson: e-mail mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org or Amalia Ochoa: amalia.ochoa@iclei-europe.org or tel: +49-761 368 920.

European Workshop

During Green Week 2003 the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E) ran a workshop in Brussels as part of the SIPTRAM project.

The workshop held on the 5 June 2003 was attended by transport experts from professional organisations like T&E associate member UITP, and NGOs like Natuurpunt. The themes discussed included competitive tendering of public transport, the European draft regulation on public service requirements and the SIPTRAM project

Participants also discussed the development of an Implementation Strategy to encourage cities to commit to sustainable management and development of urban public transport. Key points suggested included:

- Developing a vision to achieving sustainable urban public transport across Europe
- Ensuring that transport strategies are considered alongside other important policy tools like spatial planning, price incentives and transport infrastructure investments
- Networking with other public transport authorities, national governments and the EU
- Working with key transport providers

For more information contact Stephanos Anastasiadis, European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E) on 00 32-2/502 99 09 or e-mail stephanos.anastasiadis@t-e.nu.

SIPTRAM Mailing List

An English and German SIPTRAM mailing list have now been set up. If you would like to be on either the English or German mailing list send an e-mail to mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org. No text is needed, the subject line should read either “subscribe siptram English” or “subscribe siptram German” depending on which mailing list you prefer to be included on. If you are already on the mailing list please recommend the SIPTRAM network to colleagues you think would like to participate.

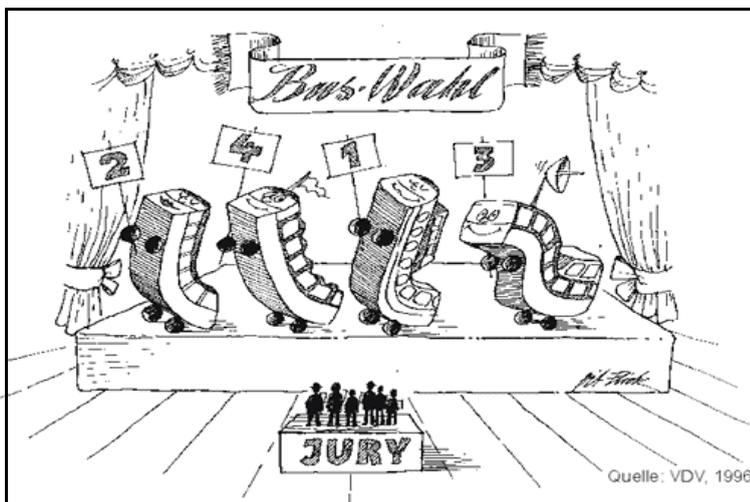


Thomas Avanzata, UITP, speaking at the workshop

The Beauty Contest

In 2002 The Verkehrsclub Deutschland (VCD) started the first German environmental ranking of public transport. In order to examine, evaluate and compare the environmental standards of public transportation networks a questionnaire was developed in co-operation with the chair of transportation ecology at Dresden University of Technology. Different aspects, such as vehicle fleet, infrastructure, transportation performance and environmental management were included.

After a call for participation 32 public transport companies from Germany completed the questionnaire. These companies show that for them the environment is an important issue. There were a number of categories and the winners are listed below.



CATEGORIES	WINNERS
Rural Area	Ohrebus Verkehrsgesellschaft mbH, Haldensleben Ohrekreis
Cities up to 100.000 inhabitants	KVS GmbH, Saarlouis
Cities 100.000 to 500.000 inhabitants	Freiburger Verkehrs AG, Freiburg
Cities over 500.000 inhabitants	üstra Hannoversche Verkehrsbetriebe AG, Hannover
Supply and Demand	Geraer Verkehrsbetrieb GmbH, Gera Stadtwerke Rosenheim Verkehrsbetriebe, Rosenheim
Operation of buses	Saarbahn GmbH, Saarbrücken
Operation of trams	Freiburger Verkehrs AG, Freiburg
Environmental management	Geraer Verkehrsbetrieb GmbH; Gera Heidelberger Versorgungs- und Verkehrsbetriebe GmbH, Heidelberg
Environmental engagement for the future	Stadtverkehrsgesellschaft Frankfurt/Oder mbH, Frankfurt/Oder Saarbahn GmbH, Saarbrücken Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe BVG, Berlin üstra Hannoversche Verkehrsbetriebe AG, Hannover Stadtwerke Augsburg – Verkehrs-GmbH, Augsburg

The initiative highlighted that there is still a high share of old diesel buses in companies fleets, but more and more usage of clean fuels and after-treatment is taking place. There are a rising number of companies with CNG buses (the most environmentally friendly). Public transport companies are also becoming more aware of the need for environmental aspects and being customer focused and this could lead to an advantage in cases of tendering. The initiative also highlighted that there is still a lack of political action from local authorities for example, priorities for public transport at traffic lights and priority roads for buses etc. The contest will continue next year with the focus on municipality action.

The initiative was funded by the German Environmental Ministry and the German Environmental Agency. **For more information contact Michael Müller: e-mail michael.mueller@vcd.org or tel +49-228 / 985 85 -19.**



For more information contact:
ICLEI European Secretariat,
Leopoldring 3, 79098 Freiburg, Germany
Tel: +49-761/36892-0, Fax: +49-761/36892-19,
e-mail: mark.hidson@iclei-europe.org,
www.iclei.org/europe/siptram/

