

## **COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2011 – MAY 2012**

### **• BIKE TO SCHOOL GRANT COMPETITION 2011**

In September 2011 the Commission on Transportation announced a grant competition entitled "Bike to School" that was addressed to junior secondary schools, secondary schools or non-governmental organisations. The applying organisations had to prepare a project/programme concerning promotion of cycling on the way to school for young people aged 13-18. The project was to be realized within the school year 2011/2012. The Commission intended to award the best projects which:

- promote bicycle as a means of transport and encourage young people to cycle to school
- introduce healthy lifestyle into the daily routine of young people
- promote sustainable urban mobility
- reduce speed in the school area
- reduce parking problems around schools

The results of the competition were announced in November 2012.

There have been submitted 13 grant applications from Johvi, Tallinn, Tartu, Voru (Estonia), Jurmala (Latvia), Kaunas, Panevezys, Siauliai (Lithuania) and Elbląg, Gdynia, Koszalin, Pruszcz Gdański, Ustka (Poland). From the submitted application forms the jury has chosen two best projects, each of them received 1000 euro grant.

The winning cities were:

#### **1. Tallinn (Estonia) - Tallinn Rahumae Basic School**

Tallinn Rahumae Basic School is a junior secondary school situated in the district Nomme. Many students live in small and quiet streets and for them it is safe to come to school independently on foot or by bicycle. The main problem was lack of sheltered places to lock the bikes. A dedicated shelter was needed to protect bikes from spring and autumn rains. Within the "Bike to school" project the school planned to build a bicycle shelter to the school yard together with students. It should store bikes, but also sledges and skis during the winter, cameras in school territory minimize the risk of theft.

Project activities include also other events, like for example, bike trips to nature, freestyle cycling competitions, lectures by the police about traffic safety and bicycle use. Each student will create a personal home-school itinerary using a special website during the geography lessons. Students will map dangerous places on their way to school and spot those on the map. The ways to school and dangerous places in traffic will be discussed in open discussion with teachers. "Mapping dangerous spots on your school way" is an interactive map that integrates traffic education and map using skills. The school promotes safe cycling and this interactive tool is meant to raise student awareness. Another project activity is improving (tuning) bicycle safety equipment, this creative activity aims at making safety equipment e.g. helmets more attractive to use. On 18<sup>th</sup> of May the bike shelter opening ceremony is planned connected with many accompanying events.

#### **2. Koszalin (Poland) - Association Sustainable Development Institute**

The Polish applicant noticed that there is lack of widespread use of bicycles in travelling to schools by pupils of Koszalin. The reason for this seems to be lack of proper cycling infrastructure (paths and bicycle parks), fear about the safety of children in urban traffic as well as lack of tradition and positive role models in surroundings. The lack of marked out, developed, tested, regulated and

supervised bicycle routes leading to schools in Koszalin the applicant perceives as a major problem in the current conditions limiting the number of student travelling by bicycle to school. The main objective of the project was to answer this need. As a result of the project RODOS (acronym that stands for “Rowerem DO Szkoły” = Bike to School) such cycling routes (not to be confused with paths) will be created that will allow students to travel to school more securely than now. This is a temporary solution that will work until proper bike routes will be created in Koszalin. The essence of this project is to develop access routes for cyclists to the school in Koszalin and thereby increase the safety of students commuting to school. The number of pupils involved in the project will be around 650. Association Sustainable Development Institute has proposed cooperation in the implementation of the project to one of the best secondary schools in Poland – I LO Stanislaw Dubois, located in the very centre of Koszalin, so students come here from all directions.

The project includes promotional campaign, survey on identification in which parts of the city live mainly secondary school pupils and indication of key access directions. In the next phase the proposed runs of bicycle access routes to school are to be collected. Next stage includes consultation and verification process of the run of cycling routes with the police, Municipal Road Management, the association “Roweria” and housing committees. In the final stage the maps of access routes to school will be prepared. The project results will be presented on the final conference.

#### • EUROPEAN ROAD SAFETY CHARTER

Since 2009 the UBC has been a signatory of the European Road Safety Charter. The Commission on Transportation has been fulfilling 3-years’ commitments resulting from the membership in this Charter. One of these commitments is to write articles on road safety in the Baltic Cities Bulletin. As a consequence, the following articles were published:

- Baltic Cities Bulletin 2/2009 – article: European Road Safety Charter – road safety prevention measures taken by UBC cities
- Baltic Cities Bulletin 1/2010 – article: Road safety for vulnerable road users
- Baltic Cities Bulletin 2/2010 – article: Safe route to and from school
- Baltic Cities Bulletin 1/2011 – article: ERSC: Road safety in Sweden
- Baltic Cities Bulletin 2/2011 – article: Traffic Safety in the TRISTAR System
- Baltic Cities Bulletin 1/2012 – article: Road Safety Measures in Aalborg

#### • SUPPORT FOR ABC.MULTIMODAL PROJECT

The UBC Commission on Transportation is the associated partner in the abc.multimodal project. Five partners in the South Baltic Region cooperate in this project until 2014 to integrate cycling into multimodal transport system and mobility culture. Cycling connects people at different places by moving from A to B by cycling. ABC-project partners are connected by the common goal to promote cycling: the Hanseatic City of Rostock, the ADFC Rostock (German Cycling Association Rostock), the Kalmar Municipality, the City of Gdańsk and PSWE (Pomeranian Association Common Europe). There are also two associated organisations involved that help to disseminate the project outputs within the South Baltic Region: the UBC Commission on Transportation and MV Bike (the network of cycling friendly towns in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania).

The representative of the Commission on Transportation took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> project meeting in Gdańsk on 28<sup>th</sup> February. The first newsletter of the abc.multimodal project is published on the website of the Commission on Transportation.

## • **UBC COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION SURVEY**

The UBC Commission on Transportation has sent out a survey on transport issues. It was prepared on the basis of the EU document: "White Paper 2011. Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area - Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system". By means of this survey the Commission wanted to get to know the interests of UBC member cities in the field of transport in order to focus more and better adjust its future actions to the actual needs.

18 cities answered the questionnaire: Naestved (Denmark), Guldborgsund (Denmark), Jogeva (Estonia), Paide (Estonia), Tartu (Estonia), Kardla (Estonia), Kuressaare (Estonia), Kotka (Finland), Siauliai (Lithuania), Jurmala (Latvia), Liepaja (Latvia), Riga (Latvia), Gdynia (Poland), Pruszcz Gdański (Poland), Karlstad (Sweden), Örebro (Sweden), Tierp (Sweden) and Växjö (Sweden).

The fields of biggest interest of the majority of cities concerned the issues of transport safety and security including safety of cyclists and pedestrians, security in public transport. Cities were also interested in the "zero vision" idea on road safety as well as in the promoting of the more sustainable behaviour through using public transport, cycling and walking, generally by means of promoting alternatives to car. The least interest was shown in the fields of civil aviation safety, safe shipping, rail safety, promoting more sustainable behaviour through car sharing and car pooling.

## • **"REVITALIZE THE CITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY" - JOINT SEMINAR OF THE UBC COMMISSIONS ON URBAN PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT**

The UBC Commission on Transportation co-financed the joint seminar "Revitalize the city for sustainability" that was organized in Halmstad (Sweden) between 8 and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The seminar focused on practical group work as well as discussions and interesting presentations on this interdisciplinary topic.

## • **UBC COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION WEBSITE**

The Commission's website is constantly updated. It contains all relevant information concerning transport issues. The website serves as a source of information which includes links to international organisations dealing with transport. The website provides its visitors with automatically updated EU transport news from EurActiv portal.

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