



NICHES+ NEWSLETTER

New and Innovative Concepts for Helping European transport Sustainability Towards implementation

December 2008 (issue 1/2008)

Read more about the mainstreaming of innovative urban transport concepts, the selection of Champion Cities and the first Working Group Meeting

Editorial

Mainstreaming urban transport innovation

NICHES+ builds on the successful first NICHES project, which coordinated research on seamless mobility services, innovative approaches in city logistics, new non-polluting and energy-efficient vehicles and innovative demand management strategies. Throughout the NICHES project, it became clear that a range of other innovative themes have the potential to become crucial for sustainable urban transport. The project also identified a significant need for further guiding local authorities in actually integrating and implementing such innovative concepts in their urban transport policies.

The NICHES+ consortium – which incorporates the universities of Newcastle and Southampton, consultant companies Rupprecht Consult and Transman and city networks EUROCITIES and POLIS (Coordinator) – has selected 4 new themes, each with 3 innovative urban transport concepts. For each of the themes, a Working Group of experts has been set up to facilitate networking activities and provide expertise:

WG1 - Innovative concepts to enhance accessibility,

including travel training for public transport, neighbourhood accessibility planning, tailored traveller information for users with reduced mobility



Source: Rupprecht Consult

WG2 - Concepts for efficient planning and use of infrastructure and interchanges,

including passenger friendly intermodal interchanges, innovative cycling facilities for intermodal interchanges and infrastructure for innovative bus systems



Source: Wikipedia

WG3 - Urban traffic management centres,

including finance models for traffic management centres, mobile travel information services for the public and use of environmental pollution data in traffic management



Source: NU picture library

WG4 - Automated and space efficient transport systems,

including Cybernetic Transport Systems (CTS), Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) and Advanced City Vehicles



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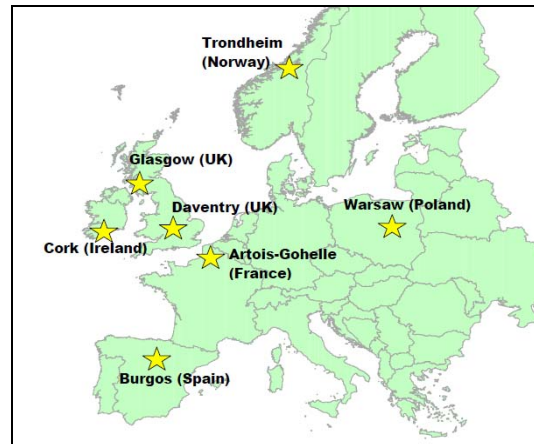
In order to transfer these concepts from their current “niche” position to a mainstream urban transport application, a five step approach has been adopted which includes the involvement of Champion Cities, the identification of user needs and stakeholder expectations, a review of the transferability of innovative concepts, the development of research and policy recommendations, implementation scenarios and preparation of take up.

What's new?

NICHES+ Champion Cities selected

By actively involving seven Champion Cities - which have been selected through a call for proposals - NICHES+ wants to demonstrate how urban transport innovation can move from theory to practice. Taking into account quality of applications, mix of concepts, level of commitment, geographical spread and urban scale, the NICHES+ jury selected the following cities:

- Artois-Gohelle (France) and Burgos (Spain) for innovative concepts to enhance accessibility;
- Glasgow (UK) and Warsaw (Poland) for efficient planning and use of infrastructure and interchanges;
- Trondheim (Norway) and Cork (Ireland) for urban traffic management centres;
- Daventry (UK) for automated and space efficient transport systems.



For each of the selected cities, implementation scenarios, site visits, plans and recommendations for take up will be developed. At a later stage in the project, they will also play an active role in promoting the innovative measures they have introduced by organising national promotion events.

First Working Group meeting (10-11 December 2008)

Identifying needs of users and implementers

The aim of the first Working Group meeting will be to better understand the 12 innovative transport concepts that will be examined in NICHES+ and to define the needs of both users and stakeholders involved in the implementation. Twenty four invited experts from across Europe will address these issues in thematic focus group sessions. The WG meeting will also involve representatives of the 7 NICHES+ Champion Cities that are interested in uptake of selected innovative concepts. They will of course also contribute with their expertise on the topic. The meetings' results will be summarised in official minutes and feed into the NICHES+ report "Needs and expectations of potential users and implementers", which will be made available online in the course of 2009.

Next steps

Reviewing the transferability of innovative concepts

This work package will carry out an in-depth analysis of the most relevant innovative concepts and examples. The analysis – drawing on expert input and interviews with key actors involved - will focus on the conditions for a successful implementation of the innovative concepts and on their expected transferability to other urban contexts, taking into account also the country and regional conditions.

For more information on NICHES+ contact Polis (coordinator):

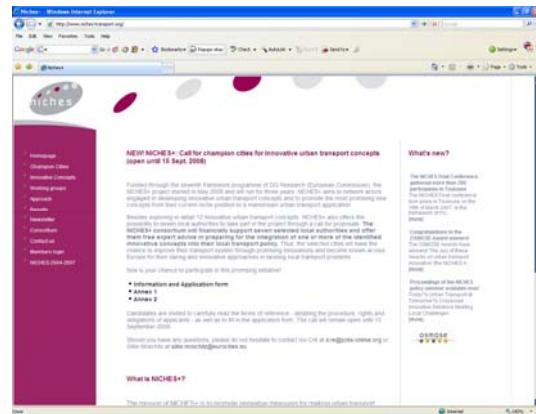
Ivo Cré,
icre@polis-online.org
Karen Vancluysen,
kvancluysen@polis-online.org



NICHES+ online

Promotional leaflet available for download

Interested stakeholders are invited to visit the project website www.niches-transport.org, where you can download the promotional leaflet and also consult the results and outputs of the first NICHES project.



The website is also linked to www.osmose-os.org, an open source for urban transport professionals providing information on innovative urban transport solutions.

