



SMILE
SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY INITIATIVES FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT
THE GATEWAY TO SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY!
Results are available online at www.smile-europe.org

SMILE!

The European LIFE project SMILE (Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environment) aims to contribute to identifying and finding common solutions to urban mobility problems. The SMILE partners are four national environmental and energy agencies (ADEME – France (project coordinator), ENEA – Italy, EVA – Austria and IDAE – Spain), three city networks (ACCESS – Eurocities for a new mobility culture, Climate Alliance and Energie-Cités) and one NGO (EA.UE – Germany). SMILE developed tools for local authorities to tackle urban mobility problems: a database of 170 good practices, thematic recommendations and a study tour catalogue.

What is at stake in local mobility policy?

“The big problem that urban authorities will have to resolve, sooner than might be thought, is that of traffic management, and in particular the role of the private car in large urban centres. The lack of an integrated policy approach to town planning and transport is allowing the private car an almost total monopoly”.

White Paper on European Transport Policy: “European transport policy for 2010: time to decide”, COM(2001) 370

Most European local authorities are confronted with increasing problems of congestion and pollution due to the steady growth of urban motorised traffic. People moving out of the cities due to bad environmental conditions, increasing car ownership, and faster travel have given rise to dispersed urban structures, leading in turn to greater volumes of motorised traffic. But transport is also a challenge in terms of climate protection: By 2010, transport will be the largest single contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

To turn around these trends, reduce these problems efficiently and thus raise standards of living in our cities, it is necessary to:

- carry out a true modal transfer from private motorized traffic towards more sustainable modes of transport,
- implement urban planning strategies with planning principles like urban density, improve the mixed use of space, and limit new urban developments to areas served by public transport,
- develop the concept of responsible car use and introduce less polluting and quieter vehicles.

At the same time, specific organisation methods and innovative technologies in terms of energy saving and the environment protection must be introduced. It is moreover crucial to raise awareness among citizens about the effect of their choice of transport mode on the quality of urban environment.

SMILE offers a gateway to solutions for local mobility challenges.

SMILE aims to help local authorities to reach sustainable mobility objectives by presenting good practices. Targets to reduce private motorised traffic, concerted strategies for the implementation of measures and specific examples showing different stakeholders what is possible, pave the way for sustainable mobility policies.

In order to draft recommendations for local authorities, a questionnaire was prepared by the SMILE partners and sent to 700 local authorities throughout Europe with the objective of making an inventory of successful and replicable practices for sustainable mobility. Each local authority was asked to provide comprehensive information about its overall transport policy, measures implemented and actions undertaken to promote sustainable mobility. The

questionnaire was focused on permanent measures the local authority had implemented or intended to launch shortly. Measures were included which had been made permanent in the local authority, which contributed to modal transfer from private motorised traffic to more sustainable modes of transport and to a more sustainable urban mobility in general.



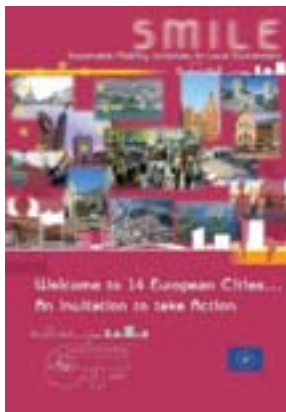
SMILE now supports local authorities by presenting these **170 successful and replicable practices** for sustainable urban mobility in its local experiences database (see www.smile-europe.org). The analysis performed afterwards by the SMILE partners jointly with experienced European cities and towns as well as with several experts in the field of sustainable transport policies led to the preparation of **recommendations for local authorities**. The recommendations focus on several fields of local mobility policy: sectorial integration, mobility management, urban planning, parking management and urban freight coordination, as well as on more transport modes oriented issues: responsible car use, public transport, walking and cycling and intermodality.

Three specific topics were highlighted in more elaborate recommendations, available on the SMILE CD-ROM and website:

- SMILE compiled the results and experience of European cities and towns in designing projects and measures according to the needs of specific target groups and presents successful models on how to involve citizens in **specific recommendations on target groups**.
- SMILE gathered experience on how to best include public transport in sustainable mobility initiatives in **recommendations on public transport** for both local authorities and public transport operators.
- SMILE identified innovative activities in reducing noise from urban traffic and elaborated **practical guidelines for noise-abatement** measures in a field for which local authorities are responsible and can therefore take action more easily.

SMILE study tour catalogue: an invitation to take action

“The approach of the school commuter plans was new for us. It is possible to use the method in our city. With some modifications many of the measures are possible to accomplish. We are planning to give a presentation of the study tour to our colleagues.”
(Quote of a participant of a SMILE study visit)



SMILE enables local authorities to benefit from the experiences of 14 of the most advanced European cities and towns in this field through the SMILE Study Tour Catalogue and Site Visits, showing some of today's most innovative sustainable transport measures.

In the catalogue, each city is shortly presented, with a special highlight on its most innovative measures and policies in the field of urban transport. More detailed background information and the full SMILE measures lists per city are available on www.smile-europe.org

The SMILE host cities are: Aalborg (Denmark), Berlin (Germany), Gent (Belgium), Krakow (Poland), Nantes and La Rochelle (France), Modena and Parma (Italy), London Borough of Camden and Nottingham (United Kingdom), Graz (Austria), Groningen (The Netherlands), Terrassa (Spain) and Lund (Sweden).

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