



European Commission
Directorate-General for Energy and Transport
Clean Urban transport

Annual Conference
Citizen's Network Benchmarking
Initiative - Citnet
25 February 2002, Brussels

Kevin Leydon





Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative - Citnet

- Response to the Green Paper “The Citizens’ Network: fulfilling the potential of public passenger transport in Europe” (1996) and the Communication on “Developing the Citizens’ Network” (1998)
- Integration of transport systems in order to promote the use of public transport, cycling and walking and lessen dependence on private cars.



Citizens' Network Approach

- The main aims of the Citizens' Network approach was to use information and promotion of best practice as a tool for helping all stakeholders involved in local mobility to improve the situation through the use of dissemination means to all interested parties.



Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative: Citnet

- This approach for urban transport has been kept and further developed in the **White Paper** on “European Transport Policy for 2010: time to decide” (2001)
- The WP reinforces the need and the commitment to promote the identification and the dissemination of best practices in urban transport and includes a clear reference to the principle of subsidiarity



In that frame, what is the Commission doing in general to promote the mobility in urban areas?

With respect to the subsidiarity principle, the responsibility of most of the tasks related to urban transport are with the local, regional and national authorities.

The European Community is offering tools that support their work and to provide the right policy framework.



Commission activities relating to clean urban transport

1. Promoting best practice in designing and operating a clean and efficient urban transport system (CIVITAS, Eltis, Citnet)
2. Encouraging the use of alternative transport fuels and vehicles (new regulatory framework, demand stimulation by R&D experimentation)
3. Setting reference of the legal framework for public transport services (more attractive and efficient transport)



Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative: Citnet

In that context, Citnet is an important piece of the European Commission puzzle,

dedicated to the promotion of efficient, clean and attractive urban transport from an economic, environmental and social point of view.



Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative: Citnet

- This initiative, launched in early 2001 by DG Energy and Transport, aimed to enable cities and regions from Europe to share experience and to learn from each other by comparing the performance of their local and regional transport systems.



Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative

The project has been developed in co-ordination with other initiatives at EU level, such as:

- **Voyager Thematic Network** on public transport of which the European Local transport Information Service – **Eltis** forms an important part
- **BEST** Thematic network aimed at supporting European and national transport policy-makers to use benchmarking to improve the implementation of transport policy. The findings of BEST are tested in the **BOB** benchmarking pilot projects (airport accessibility, road safety, rail)



Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative

- RTD projects (FP5, FP6), EEA TERM (DG TREN, DG ENV, Eurostat), DG ENV European Common Indicators, DG REGIO Urban Audit
- The project has also been linked to other local, national or international projects through the action of local authority networks (UITP, Polis, EMTA, CEMR, Eurocities, etc.), NGOs/campaigns (ICLEI, Agenda21, European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign), benchmarking clubs ('Nordic' BEST, CoMET/NOVA, Metrex network), private sector initiatives, International organisations (OECD, UNHCS, UNEP, UN-CSD).



Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative: Citnet

- The project has reached ambition objectives in various fields.
- It has offered decision-makers from urban and regional authorities the possibility of hearing or reading about cases of good practice
- It has enabled through the site visits local authority managers, transport planners and operators to go and see for themselves how particular measures were planned and how they are being implemented.



Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative: Citnet

- The project will contribute to rapid gain of experience, and to the implementation of good practices through a process of direct interaction between participants and a full involvement of all local stakeholders (authority, operators, user groups).



Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative: Citnet

- Finally, it will also contribute to establish a set of practical methods and guidelines aimed at enabling authorities to carry out in a self-sufficient manner benchmarking exercises in the field of urban and regional transport.



Citizens' Network Benchmarking Initiative: Citnet

- But Citnet-benchmarking is just a tool, not an end in itself.
- In consequence, the activity shall be kept operational if we want to support urban transport policy within the next years at Community level.