TRAFFIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Koper, Slovenia

By SUMPORT project

KEY FEATURES

Challenges

- Air and noise pollution
- Traffic congestions
- Excessive use of private cars
- Lack of public transport coordination and information

Main Objectives

- Reduce traffic congestions
- Improve the environmental conditions
- Reduce air and noise pollution

Investment/Maintenance Costs

The full action, from planning, developing to implementing and monitoring cost around € 250.000, during a 12-month period.

Impacts & Results

The action carried out provides the ability to integrate all traffic data in the traffic information centre, which distributes the information to the citizens and users in order to make better use of public transport and change mobility habits.

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https://urban-transports.interreg-med.eu

CONTEXT

As part of the SUMPORT project and within the development of its SUMP, the Slovenian partner Municipality of Koper planned to focus on its citizens by providing them with a healthy and safe environment in which they could really enjoy to travel and live. They made this possible by developing a new traffic information system. This platform enables mobility data sharing and public transport enhancement, unifying data transfer from different traffic monitoring and management systems into a single one: the traffic information system.

The infomobility system, supported by an intuitive smartphone App, is willing to encourage people to combine the use of transport modes. This mobility measure, among other things, provides a better service for public transport in the suburbs of the city, that should, in the long term, increase the use of the public bus network and decrease the carbon emissions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SUMPORT project aimed to increase the planning capacities on sustainable mobility of port cities through training activities and exchange of experience.

Apart from the similar challenges that EU cities face, MED cities having ports are challenged with even more complex issues within their urban mobility, needing a long-term mobility planning approach, integrating both city- and port-originated transport flows, in order to achieve a sustainable urban mobility.

The principal outputs of the project were:

(a) Offering training for MED port city officials in drafting SUMPs, also benefiting from MED port cities already having them

(b) Drafting SUMPs in two MED port cities and updating one already existing

(c) Implementing pilot actions and small-scale investments for sustainable mobility in six MED port cities

(d) Implementing an e-learning platform for transferring project's results.

HEAR THE PIONEER CITY'S VOICE

Koper is a port city with highly intensive flows of traffic coming from its commercial activity. The port of Koper is located north of the city, within 5 kms from the city centre. Because of government jurisdiction, it is only in 2016 that important decisions concerning the access to -and exit from- the port, and connection with the nearby highway, were taken.

From that moment on, the municipal and regional administrations have started a fast-paced activity on a variety of aspects within the mobility thematic.

In 2017 the first SUMP for the city was developed through the cohesion funds of the Republic of Slovenia Operational Programme. The winning strategy is to implement the different measures of the plan through EU projects funding, and to adopt UE requirements to make state plans compliant to the corresponding European directives.

The aim of SUMPORT intervention was to promote and enhance the use of the city PT bus network, with a special attention to the peri-urban area, making urban mobility service smarter through the development of an info-mobility service (an App was developed) for traffic and parking management, and installing advanced IOT devices for monitoring vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians:

- 10 display LEDs for bus tracking
- 3 bigger LEDs displays for car parking
- 3 parking lot occupancy counters
- 38 sensors for traffic counting
- Traffic counters for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists

The new traffic information system developed in Koper has enhanced capabilities for monitoring and management and traffic analysis. It includes: installation of GPS on buses and monitors in real-time at bus stops; creation of smart parking systems with sensors for recording occupancy/availability of parking spaces (also of those dedicated to electric vehicles); development of mobile applications for journey planning and real-time information; an integration with the regional traffic information centre.

The Mobility App gives an overview of the road situation enabling better traffic management and cooperation with the national info centre. This useful information service is willing to induce a change in citizens' mobility habits, increase the use of public transport, thus reducing traffic and CO2 emissions. On the other side, data gathering through the App is beneficial not only for statistics but also in the decision-making process, since it provides

important information on the frequency of road use, types of users and any traffic offences committed. Then, it is up to the decision-makers to find corrective actions, such as providing for more controls, new mobility measures, and/or more targeted maintenance interventions, where needed.

Major issues encountered

Dialogue with regional and national PAs is not always easy and immediate. For example, peri-urban area mobility is managed by the Transport Ministry and there is a constant dialogue with the Municipality may claim something more, but very often those requests remain unfulfilled and the Municipality has to integrate PT service with other financial resources. Although negotiation is frequent and demanding, both the region and the state administrations co-operate in several projects to advance sustainable mobility for the city

Investment/maintenance costs

The full action, from planning, developing to implementing and monitoring costed around € 250.000, for 12 months

Monitoring activities implemented

The development of a smartphone App to be downloaded by users gives the possibility to gather useful data on traffic and movements of people and vehicles that can be further studied for future planning decisions. Also, traffic counters and road sensors can help in the control and management of traffic flows

Positive side effects and continuity of the measure

The Municipality and the city's development Agency are eager to collaborate between them and in broader international projects' partnerships in order to develop even more complex and innovative mobility solutions that can respond to the needs of the citizens, improving their quality of life. Other measures that were and are being implemented through various projects and programmes are:

- Development of a regional SUMP – Chestnut project (the preliminary analysis phase has already been performed, now the action plan needs to be developed)
- Following state legislation, the city has developed the Environment Protection Municipal Plan that, together with the LEC (Local Energy Concept) can be almost

considered a SECAP but it misses some EU requirements, so through the SECAP project, the city will develop its SECAP by 2021 (SEAP has been developed in 2019 through CitiEnGov project).

- A Low Carbon Transport Plan has been developed through the MED Locations project.
- A network of bike lanes has been planned and implemented with the Interbike2 project.
- The city of Koper has not only equipped itself with 3 small electric shuttles for people -especially elderly one- to move around the city centre (MULTI-E project), but it is going to transform its historical centre in a pedestrian area with multimodal external car parks and a last-mile logistic centre (Smile project).
- Moreover, a maritime/coastal public transport service is under study, as well as the construction of a light railway track whose line has been traced by the Regional Office and that foresees a stop in the city of Koper (Adria A project).

Key actors and stakeholder to involve

- Local planners at the municipality
- city's development Agency
- PT operator
- parking management agencies
- technology manufacturer
- citizens