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Europe's pioneering cities for sustainable urban mobility

Four cities receive EU award for forward-looking transport solutions

TORRES VEDRAS, 28 September 2017 – At a high-profile event in Torres Vedras today, four European cities were named winners and runners up of the 2017 CIVITAS Awards: Bologna, Joinville, Murcia, Irun for their pioneering work in sustainable urban mobility activities and programmes.

Winners were selected by the CIVITAS the members of the Award jury and the Political Advisory Committee. The award was given at a special ceremony on the occasion of the 2017 CIVITAS Forum Conference.

CIVITAS, which stands for City-VITALity-Sustainability, is an EU initiative to promote cleaner, better, more sustainable and energy efficient urban transport strategies in European cities. The four 2017 CIVITAS Award winners and runners-up are:

CIVITAS Award: "Bold Measure Award" for a daring and innovative approach that has not been widely implemented yet and positions the city as pioneer in certain thematic categories;

2017 Winner: Bologna, Italy

"Bella Mossa" rewards positive behaviours of citizens by giving discounts and prizes every time they complete a sustainable trip i.e. use environmental friendly transport modes or even walking, acquiring healthy habits. Sustainable trips are tracked through the BetterPoints platform, which includes a tracking GPS-based app. The scheme is a good example of public-private partnership with 50 shops (small to very large) distributing discounts/prizes.

Runner-up: Joinville, Brazil

The Brazilian city's Urban Mobility Plan launched in 2015 where a new public parking scheme should be implemented with a third part company and all the revenue which will be paid to the city must be invested on Urban Mobility measures where 70% must be allocated on the Sustainable Mobility Fund (FMS) (to be enacted) and 30% to the transit department to be use on road signalisation and oversight.

CIVITAS 'Transformations' Award for significant transformation and progress towards a liveable and smarter city through an integrated set of mobility measures.

2017 Winner: Murcia, Spain

Murcia's winning entry focused on implementing a whole range of creative measures as part of its 'Action Plan for the bicycle 2017-2019'. These include: 20km of cycle lanes across the city under the "Murcia Cycle lane project"; launch of a public Bike sharing system, called [MUyBICI](#) with 60 stations providing 600 bikes; launch of the "Moon bike" initiative where cycling tours are organised on full moon evenings and launch of "Cycling workshops in parks" to improve citizens cycling skills and teach them how to cycle safely in Murcia. At the same time a max speed of 30Km/h in 100km of streets in the centre of Murcia has been implemented, Electric Vehicle charging stations have been installed and 50 car parks places created reserved for electric vehicles only. These measures have been met positively by citizens with 8500 users of the MUyBICland and 82.200 moves per month.

Runner-up: Irun, Spain

In the heart of Irun the Plaza de San Juan has undergone major renovation works, following citizens' participation process, to create a new greener, more citizen friendly square. This includes a 2500m² public library and two levels of underground parking. The square is connected via a pedestrianised pathway into the old town. At the same time, the decision to make the whole of Irun a "Ciudad 30" has helped to improve habitability, safety and levels of pollution.

The aim of the CIVITAS Awards is to showcase efforts by cities that turn policy into reality – that is, progressive actions and tangible implementations of sustainable energy policies. Ultimately it is hoped that the CIVITAS programme and CIVITAS Awards will stimulate more and more cities across Europe to adopt similar sustainable urban transport policies.

Winners of the Award receive a trophy and certificate, and most importantly, recognition and visibility of their programme.

This year marks the 14th edition of the CIVITAS Awards. They were first given in 2004, and each year the Awards programme has more competitive and attracted more entries in each of the three award categories.

The CIVITAS initiative helps cities to achieve a more sustainable, clean and energy efficient urban transport system by implementing and evaluating an ambitious integrated mix of technology and policy based measures.

The CIVITAS Forum Conference is an annual opportunity for the exchange of dialogue and views between city- and EU-level politicians and urban mobility experts. The 2017 conference was the 15th edition of the Conference. Previous meetings have been held in cities across Europe including Gdynia, Nantes, Rotterdam and Ljubljana.

The CIVITAS Forum Network currently includes 275 European cities that have formally committed to clean and sustainable urban transport.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Award Ceremony photos available upon request.



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About the CIVITAS Initiative

CIVITAS is a network of over 275 cities dedicated to cleaner, better transport in Europe and beyond. The Forum is its annual flagship event, with Torres Vedras marking the 15th time it has taken place. The first was held in Graz, Austria, in 2003.

Having started in 2002, CIVITAS is currently supporting 3 "living labs" projects where a range of sustainable mobility solutions are being implemented and 17 research projects under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 funding programme.

Find out more here: civitas.eu

About the CIVITAS Forum conference

CIVITAS Forum is the yearly conference of the CIVITAS initiative which supports EU cities since 2002 in implementing sustainable urban mobility measures, to the benefit of their citizens and for producing re-applicable learnings which other cities can use.