SOLUTIONS

Sharing Opportunities for Low carbon Urban TransportatIOn

PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

Grant Agreement number: 604714
Project acronym: SOLUTIONS
Project title: Sharing Opportunities for Low carbon Urban TransportatIOn
Funding Scheme: Coordination and support action FP7-SST-RTD
Date of latest version of Annex I against which the assessment will be made: 2013-07-29
Period covered: from 2013-05-01 to 2014-10-31
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Short description

Transport is a key enabler of economic activity and social connectedness. While providing essential services to society and economy, transport is also an important part of the economy and it is at the core of a number of major sustainability challenges, in particular climate change, air quality, safety, energy security and efficiency in the use of resources (EC 2011: Transport White Paper). The overall mission of this project is to support the uptake of innovative sustainable urban mobility solutions in Europe and other regions in the world, in particular in Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean. The project facilitates dialogue and networking opportunities and promotes innovative platforms for knowledge exchange between European cities and cities across the world. Guidance and tailored advice are provided to city officials through regional analyses and implementation examples.

SOLUTIONS focuses on urban mobility solutions in six different fields: i) public transport, ii) transport infrastructure, iii) city logistics, iv) integrated planning / SUMP, v) network and mobility management and vi) clean vehicles. Key actions include the assessment of the transferability and the potential for uptake of urban mobility solutions in the target regions. Cities from Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean are involved in the project’s activities as leading, take-up or training cities.

While SOLUTIONS will build strongly on previous and on-going projects and initiatives, as is the nature of a coordinating action, it also aims to provide added value that goes beyond summarising and facilitating knowledge sharing and research and technology transfer. SOLUTIONS aims to bridge the “implementation gap” between the potential of innovative sustainable mobility and transport solutions and the actual level of up-take and quality of the deployment mechanisms.

Progress

The project has identified potential solutions to common urban transport challenges in the six thematic clusters. The solutions were derived from practical experiences from Europe and other countries. A project workshop was held to prioritise the solutions according to their relevance and transferability potential. In total, about 60 solutions were selected. They offer transport professionals a catalogue of urban mobility measures, which are successfully implemented in cities around the world. The selected solutions were further explained in knowledge sharing kits and training kits for each thematic cluster. These documents are used for the wider dissemination and capacity building activities in the SOLUTIONS project.

An open call for interest was launched to select leading cities, take-up cities and training cities that will participate in the project. Bremen, Budapest, Barcelona, Curitiba and Hangzhou were selected as leading cities. Belo-Horizonte, Cochin, Leon, Guiyang and Kocaeli showed strong interest in implementing innovative urban mobility solutions and are participating in the project as take-up cities. In addition, nine cities were selected to benefit from project activities as training cities. At a city-engagement event in Barcelona in April 2014, five city pairs of leading and take-up cities were formed based on specific interests of the take-up cities and compatibilities between cities. These pairs work together on urban transport issues in the take-up city and on the solutions identified by the project. Local take-up coaches and thematic experts in five take-up teams support the cities. First mutual site visits
between take-up and leading Cities took place within the reporting period. Guiding documents have been prepared to facilitate a sound development of the feasibility studies, which the take-up teams will prepare.

In the Mediterranean local stakeholder workshops were organised to prioritise those urban mobility solutions that best meet the needs in cities located in the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

Knowledge sharing and training activities, which address the SOLUTIONS take-up cities and training cities as well as other interested cities, were conducted in Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean. The activities were well perceived and cities showed strong interest in the presented solutions. E-learning courses are currently prepared and offer additional capacity building opportunities.

The SOLUTIONS project put a lot of emphasis on fostering exchange with the international urban mobility community especially in Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean. A Euro-Mediterranean Urban Mobility research network was established. The SOLUTIONS project was present and organised side events at major urban transport events throughout the world. Communication channels have been established and are continuously updated with information on the project activities.

**Expected final results**

SOLUTIONS aims to foster the deployment of innovative and green urban transport solutions across the world to address global challenges and to contribute to sustainable urban mobility, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation. The project’s overall objective is to make a substantial contribution to the uptake of innovative and green urban mobility solutions across the world by facilitating dialogue and exchange, promoting successful policy, providing guidance and tailored advice to city officials, and fostering future cooperation on research, development and innovation. The project aims at bridging the implementation gap between research, policy and practice. Thereby, SOLUTIONS will enhance the actual level of up-take and the quality of mechanisms for putting system into practice.

The project intends to transfer sustainable transport solutions implemented successfully in Europe and elsewhere to other regions of the world focusing on Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean. Capacity building and training events for city officials in the target regions will enhance the knowledge and understanding of sustainable transport solutions. Research cooperation with stakeholders in the field of urban transport from the Mediterranean partner countries will be established in an Euro-Mediterranean Urban Mobility Network.

At the end of the project it is expected, that the four take-up cities in Asia and Latin America will have a validated transport solutions for their city. This solution is developed in a feasibility study and targeted projects and policy recommendation will be provided to support its implementation. It is expected that the solutions will lead to significant benefits in terms of emission reduction, energy savings and an optimised performance of the urban transport system.
Key results of the project include:

i) a stocktake report on sustainable urban mobility solutions from Europe, Asia and Latin America,

ii) feasibility studies of cities in China, India, Mexico and Brazil,

iii) guidelines on the uptake of innovative sustainable urban mobility solutions and technologies across the project regions and

iv) recommendations for the European Commission on future research and cooperation opportunities.

The knowledge and experiences regarding urban mobility needs and opportunities gained during the project will be disseminated worldwide. Targeted publications and guidelines will be published and presented to different stakeholders in the field of urban mobility.