



Press Release - June 2009

### NICHES+: PROMOTING INNOVATION IN URBAN TRANSPORT THROUGH CHAMPION CITIES

**Artois-Gohelle, Burgos, Cork, Daventry, Skopje, Trondheim and Worcestershire selected as implementers and promoters of innovative and sustainable transport solutions**

NICHES+ is an EU-funded project which aims to mainstream innovative urban transport solutions focusing on accessibility, infrastructure and interchanges, traffic management centers and automated and space efficient transport systems. Through the involvement of Champion Cities, NICHES+ wants to demonstrate how urban transport innovation can move from theory to practice. By hosting national take-up seminars, the cities will also play an important role in disseminating and promoting the project outcomes.

Twenty-five local and regional authorities responded to a call for candidate cities, which was launched in the second half of 2008. Taking into account quality of applications, mix of concepts, level of commitment, geographical spread and urban scale, the NICHES+ jury selected **Artois-Gohelle** (France) and **Burgos** (Spain) for innovative concepts to enhance accessibility, **Worcestershire** (UK) and **Skopje** (Macedonia) for efficient planning and use of infrastructure and interchanges, **Trondheim** (Norway) and **Cork** (Ireland) for urban traffic management centres and **Daventry** (UK) for automated and space efficient transport systems.

After having contributed to the selection and transferability of innovative transport concepts, the identification of user needs and stakeholder analysis, the Champion Cities will now start developing implementation scenarios through a continuous dialogue with dedicated experts and practitioners, working group meetings, interviews and site-visits. By April 2011, each of the seven champion Cities will have integrated innovative urban transport solutions into their local transport policy.

Interested stakeholders are invited to visit [www.nichestransport.org](http://www.nichestransport.org), where the results and outputs of the project can be consulted. The website is also linked to [www.osmose-os.org](http://www.osmose-os.org), an open source for urban transport professionals providing information on innovative urban transport solutions.



### **Notes to editors**

*NICHES+ is a European research project funded under the FP7 programme, aiming to mainstream innovative urban transport concepts. The project consortium - which incorporates the universities of Newcastle and Southampton, consultant companies Rupperecht Consult and Transman and city networks POLIS (Coordinator) and EUROCITIES -selected 12 innovative urban transport concepts in four thematic areas: enhancing accessibility, efficient planning and use of infrastructure and interchange, urban traffic management centres and automated and space efficient transport. For each of the themes, a Working Group of experts has been set up to facilitate networking activities and provide expertise.*

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