EU's CIVITAS 2020 initiative is supporting three sets of 'Living Labs'

Submitted by Patrick Troy on 24 Aug 2020

Body:

The aim of the CIVITAS Initiative, which is supported by the EU's Horizon 2020 fund, is to help cities develop and test measures for sustainable urban mobility, potentially addressing all aspects of city transport. The projects that are supported aim to show that sustainable mobility is possible by providing a high level of mobility for all residents and businesses, while at the same time creating high quality urban spaces and protecting the environment.

The living labs are taking place within three projects: ECCENTRIC, PORTIS and DESTINATIONS.

ECCENTRIC focuses on urban freight logistics and sustainable mobility in suburban districts. The project has created five living labs in Turku (Finland), the Swedish capital Stockholm, Munich in southern Germany, the Bulgarian city of Ruse and the Spanish capital, Madrid. In these cities, the
Respective living labs are demonstrating the potential and replicability of innovative policies, integrated and inclusive urban planning approaches and emerging technologies. These include testing clean vehicles and fuels, as well as supporting the development of the necessary regulations in close partnership with the private sector.

The PORTIS project is focusing on testing sustainable urban mobility solutions in cities with ports, including Klaipėda (Lithuania), the Scottish city of Aberdeen, Antwerp in Belgium, the Italian port of Trieste and Constanța in Romania. In these cities, the mobility measures being demonstrated aim to support the multifunctional role of cities and their ports, as gateways to inland areas. The project aims to show that sustainable mobility can increase the functional and social unity between port areas and city centres, while simultaneously benefiting the economy and attracting people to modern urban environments.

Finally, DESTINATIONS is testing balanced strategies to address the challenges of sustainable mobility in centres of tourism. The living labs are taking place on the Italian island of Elba, Madeira (Portugal), the Maltese capital Valletta, Rethymno on the Greek island of Crete, Limassol in Cyprus and on Spanish Gran Canaria. These living labs will offer intelligent sustainable transport solutions for tourists and residents through cooperation with major stakeholders. The project aims to reduce the costs and improve the integration of transport services, while improving accessibility and reducing energy consumption and emissions.

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