

Project Fact Sheet

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Title: Children's streets in Ile-de-France : Application in Bois-le-Roi

<p>Overview:</p>	<p>OVERVIEW OF implementations in Ile-de-France (Paris Region)</p> <p>During BAMBINI project, ARENE and three Cities - Bois-le-Roi, Suresnes, Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse – implemented home zones and children's streets. At a regional level, the main goal was to develop home zones (change in uses and culture) and children's streets in Ile-de-France (change in appearance and rules), whilst testing activities and materials to build a toolkit enabling a wide dissemination of BAMBINI know-how (online toolkit available on the BAMBINI website).</p> <p>>> Some key figures on Children's streets during BAMBINI :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 Cities engaged in 10 children's streets. - 4 children's streets implemented, 5 implemented in September 2012 (1 in 2013). - 46 educational and play activities including 37 on active modes and mobility behaviours/choices - App. 280 children (more than the half of all of them) learnt or improved their skills in active modes (bike, tricycle, scooter, roller). - 430 children and 230 adults mainly parents participated, in addition of 83 volunteer persons from inhabitants, local associations, staff and educators from crèches, kindergarten, leisure-time centre, City, ARENE ... All in all 743 persons of all ages participated all the events!
<p>Background and objectives</p>	<p>In France, children's habits drastically changed over the last decades :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - less active travel (less than the half of children and youth are using an active mode to go to school – source : AFSSA) - more sedentary activities, (the 3-17 years old spend in average 3 hours per day in front of a screen and only half of the youth (15-17 years old) reach a sufficient level of physical activity to lead to health benefits– source : AFSSA) - more sweet and fatty food (about 20 millions of French suffers of overweight or obesity¹, obesity arrives earlier in the life²).

¹ About 20 millions of French are on overweight or obesity, 29.2% of French population suffers of overweight and 12.4% of obesity.
Source : Laboratoire Roche, Inserm and Hôtel-Dieu hospital (Paris), Survey ObÉpi (for "épidémiologie de l'obésité"), 2006

	<p>BAMBINI propose to increase the presence and values given to active modes at early age in order to change mobility culture, which is currently car-dominated, towards more energy-efficiency. At local level, children's streets were implemented in Bois-le-Roi order to encourage children and their parents to use active modes as energy-efficient solution for their daily travels within the area, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - giving them place and time to discover, learn and practice active modes early in their life, - promoting energy-efficient modes (walk, walking bus, cycling, public transport), - giving values to active modes (space, time, civil cooperation, fun, etc) - supporting a project of home zone regarding the dialogue with inhabitants and the up-taking of the right behaviours and uses in home zones.
<p>Implementation:</p>	<p>FOCUS ON the City of Bois-le-Roi : From a children's street to the street for children</p> <p>City: Bois-le-Roi, Seine-et-Marne (77), 5500 inhabitants</p> <p>Local context : Residential area welcoming 277 inhabitants (52 families) and gathering 3 equipments for children under 6 (crèche, kindergarden/preschool, leisure-time centre).</p> <p>Target Groups: children (especially under 6), parents, inhabitants of all ages, local associations. About 309 children under 12 move everyday in this area, 51 pupils with a daily walking bus.</p> <p>Short description: 2 children's streets were implemented in the same street on the 15th of June 2011 and on the 5th of October 2011. The street was closed temporarily to all motorized traffic (public decision by the mayor). The street was dedicated to playing or educational activities for kids with a focus on active modes. Activities were organised either by ARENE and Vivacités, by the City, by inhabitants, educators or local associations.</p> <p>Participative process :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Face to face meetings with key actors to identify obstacles and motivations (directors of preschool, parents association, etc); - Suggestion and decision made at the end of a walking audit done with inhabitants on the home zone project; - Communication with posters, letters to citizens (sent by City) and to parents (given by educators/teachers) - Face to face meetings, emailing, phoning with volunteers till the date. <p>Tested activities for children under 6 : 26 educational and play activities have been implemented mainly highlighting active modes, mobility behaviours, energy-</p>

² Younger generations have a higher weight indice than their elder at the same age(of 5 to 10%). Source : Laboratoire Roche, Inserm and Hôtel-Dieu hospital (Paris), Survey ObÉpi (for "épidémiologie de l'obésité"), 2006

efficient transport and quality of life, such as : “Allô doctor bike ?” (Bike repair workshop), training on active modes (bike, rollers, scooter, tricycle), bambini wooden toys and colouring-in postcards, spinner challenge, a pantomime, drawing on the streets, Photograph game, quiz game on mobility, agility game, donkey tour on rollers , etc....

Results : About 250 children and 135 parents participated in the 2 events. On average per event, 25 persons were involved each time in the organisation. The big majority of the children (91%) enjoyed the children’s street a lot. The participants in general regarded the Children’s streets as a relevant way to promote active modes as energy efficient modes; 4 out of 5 respondents stated that it encouraged them to walk and cycle more with their children for short trips.

Conclusions

Outcomes and benefits :

Organizing children’s streets had positive effects on :

- **The up-taking of new street uses:** The city and parents want to organise children’s street several times per year now.
- **The evolution of public policy** : The City Council integrate it as part of a global plan of actions to encourage the use of active and energy-efficient modes by children and parents (home zone and other traffic calming measures, children’s street, education and awareness).
- **The quality of the participative process:** It offers a convivial and direct way to inform inhabitants and to discuss the advantages of roads transformations. It enables the City representatives to meet the inhabitants in their street or neighbourhood (in addition to public meetings and walking audit).
- **Teach early about active modes:** Nearly 200 children under 6 years have been introduced to or improved their skills with regard to active modes. Children’s streets presented parents and educators with the opportunity to teach or raise awareness about sustainable mobility, notably on active modes.

Lessons learnt :

- It can be quickly implemented if neighbours are motivated and know each other well (between 2-4 weeks in this case). But choose carefully the date (avoid market days for instance) and keep at least two weeks informing them.
- Children are key actors in evaluation, don’t forget them! As we used child-friendly materials, they answered gladly to the evaluation. Moreover, they took answering the questions seriously. It was much more difficult to get adults fill in the questionnaire, when they have a nice time with their child or neighbours! We afterwards used more informal tools to get a response: a stand where they were able to talk about the event, a paper to write their comments on the day, a poll box with smiley’s to measure their satisfaction and willingness to repeat it.
- Exactly plan the concrete organisation! Go on site to see how it can be organised. Make a map with location of each activity. Separate active play from

	<p>quieter play to make sure the events goes smoothly and surely. Make a resting corner (seats, water, food, shadow, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledge the event afterwards! Thanks to evaluation results and photographs, a poster and a flyer was designed to give a feed back to all inhabitants. A short movie was also shot for a yearly event organised by Municipality. - Children’s street is a relevant activity to dialogue with inhabitants about a home zone project. During children’s street, ARENE and representatives of the City (local councillors, Head of Police and Head of road department) had a BAMBNI stand to raise awareness with an exhibition (Bambini posters), to inform and dialogue with inhabitants about the current project of home zone (materials such as a sky view map made by inhabitant). - A Children’s street is more than a just a closed street ! Citizens take a fresh look at their streets, at their uses and at soft modes. It creates emotional links to active modes, modifies usual traffic rules, provides new abilities, creates arts, ...it changes our mobility culture.
<p>Photos Copyright : ARENE, C. Petit-Tesson, C.Meunier</p>	<p>City of Suresnes (right) : pictures of a roller training and 1st citizen group meeting</p>  <p>Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse (Left): pictures of installation of a test of future home zone and activities for kids.</p>  <p>Bois-le-Roi(down and right) : map, road sign made by children (above) and pictures of children’s streets (training, Dr Bike, fun barometer, exhibition of drawings, dialogue on home zone)</p> 
<p>References</p>	<p>Report from AFSSA on Food and physical activity of French population – 2007 BAMBINI Online toolkit (in French) : http://bambini.areneidf.org</p>
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