



THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
for Central and Eastern Europe

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## **NEWSRELEASE ~ NEWSRELEASE ~ NEWSRELEASE**

### **URBAN TRANSPORT INTEREST GROUPS WANTED!**

- Public and private sector organisations, as well as user associations from across Europe are being invited to take part in a major new urban transport benchmarking project.
- The project sets out to foster best practice in urban transport and to use this experience to draw practical conclusions about how to achieve more sustainable urban transport systems in European cities.
- The project is being funded by the European Commission and will build on the previous Citizens Network benchmarking project.
- It will help local and regional actors to identify and develop best practice standards, to understand the reasons behind differences in performance and to improve their own performance and processes by adapting the lessons learnt to local circumstances.
- The consortium is led by Transport & Travel Research Ltd (TTR) and includes the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).
- The project team will agree a set of common performance indicators for urban passenger and freight transport. These will be used as part of a comparative analysis exercise across the participating organisations. The project will also establish 5 working groups to address specific themes, each of which will undertake 3 site visits a year to identify and study best practice.

- The project covers the Accession Countries and the European Union member states. It will have close links with the CIVITAS project, in which 14 pilot cities and 5 associated cities are implementing integrated actions to combat congestion and pollution.
- The EC Urban Transport Benchmarking Project team is looking to recruit 35-40 participants with a role in urban transport at local or regional level to take part in the exercise.
- The launch conference will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2003 at the Maison des Associations Internationales, Brussels (rue Washington 40). This will provide further information on the initiative and enable participant cities to discuss the themes they wish to research.
- Organisations with a role in urban transport at local or city level interested in participating in the project or attending the conference should contact Jo Baker on +44 (0) 1543 416416 or [jo.baker@ttr-ltd.com](mailto:jo.baker@ttr-ltd.com).

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### **Notes for Editors**

- 1) For further information, please contact **Jo Baker** at TTR on **tel: +44 (0) 1543 416416**.
- 2) **Transport & Travel Research Ltd (TTR)** is a UK based transport consultancy company established for 12 years. TTR has been involved in many EC programmes and projects, often as Project Manager or Evaluation Manager, and is currently involved in a number of relevant EC projects such as the CUPID Thematic Network on road pricing and VIVALDI (a CIVITAS project). TTR undertakes research into all aspects of local transport policy, especially innovative measures such as air quality management, mobility management, road pricing.
- 3) **International Union of Public Transport (UITP)** is the world-wide association of urban and regional passenger transport operators, their authorities and suppliers. It provides information, research and analysis on all aspects of Public Transport including infrastructure, rolling stock, organisation and management.

UITP has worked with cities around the world on the benchmarking of passenger transport services through the Millennium Cities Database, currently followed by the Mobility in Cities Database project. It also co-ordinates the VOYAGER Thematic Network which hosts the ELTIS website containing best practice case studies in local transport across Europe.

- 4) **Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)** is a non-advocacy, not-for-profit organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The Center fulfills its mission through encouraging cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments and businesses, supporting the free exchange of information and promoting public participation in environmental decision-making. The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary.