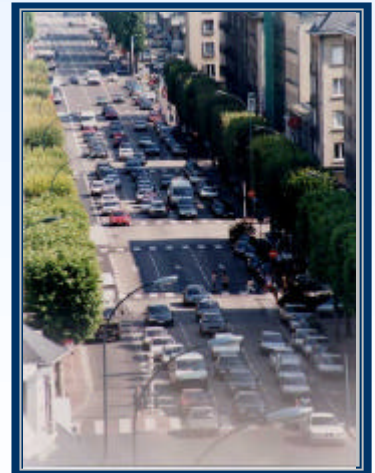


Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative

Introduction to the Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative

The Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative sets out to foster best practice in urban transport and is funded by the European Commission. The Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative's first year will involve 35-40 representatives with a role in urban transport at local or regional level to take part in the study.

The project will focus upon developing practical and workable indicators in order to enable each participant to assess the strengths and weaknesses of its transport system, to compare its mobility policy with that of others and decide what can be improved and how.



This initiative will help participants draw practical conclusions about how to achieve more sustainable urban transport systems in European cities. Urban Transport Benchmarking will be closely linked to the CIVITAS project, in which 14 pilot cities and 5 associated cities are implementing integrated actions to combat congestion and pollution.

The project also aims to build on the work of previous transport benchmarking projects, rather than rediscover their key findings. To prevent this a review of previous benchmarking initiatives has been undertaken which will inform the current project's approach.

Project Outcomes

The 3 main outcomes of the project will be:

- Enabling participants to learn from one another.
- Identifying and using performance indicators.
- Identifying best practices.



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What is Benchmarking?

Benchmarking is a practical tool which involves three main stages; comparing performance, understanding differences and identifying best practices. Once the process is completed it provides organisations with the information required to identify changes which will lead to future performance improvements.

Urban Transport Benchmarking

When used in an urban transport context the benchmarking concept provides local and regional actors with a means of sharing knowledge and experiences in order to provide each of them with the knowledge to improve their urban transport systems. An important feature of urban transport benchmarking is that it will enable participants to understand how they can make better policy decisions in order to improve the transport systems they have inherited.



Working Groups

At the end of the project it is hoped that each of the working groups will be able to produce clear findings which draw upon comparisons between the urban transport experiences of the participants in each of the groups. A range of best practices should be identified and disseminated among the project's stakeholders and other interested parties in order that many municipalities and regional transport actors may benefit from the project, even if they were not directly involved.

How to Benchmark Urban Transport Systems

In order to facilitate the process of comparing urban transport systems a range of indicators will be devised. These indicators will provide background data about each of the participating cities/regions and enable comparisons to be made. The participants will be helped by the project management team in order that practical lessons can be drawn from experience on the project.

Each participant also signs up for a themed working group for which another set of data is collected based around a narrower group of indicators. This approach is the same as in the Citizen's Network projects, but will be refined in order to be more useful.



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What the Project Involves

The Urban Transport Benchmarking project is being managed by Transport & Travel Research Ltd (TTR) with support from the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). Participation in the project's first year will involve the following commitment:

1. Conference Attendance

The project formally kicks off on the 6th November 2003 when a launch conference is being held at the Maison des Associations Internationales in Brussels. A range of speakers will introduce the project to potential stakeholders and inform them about the benchmarking exercise and its practicalities. The five working groups will decide upon their themes and indicators for which they will each collect data.

Each working group will be aided by a consultant from the project management team and an expert in the respective field. They will be on hand to guide the groups during break out sessions at the launch conference.



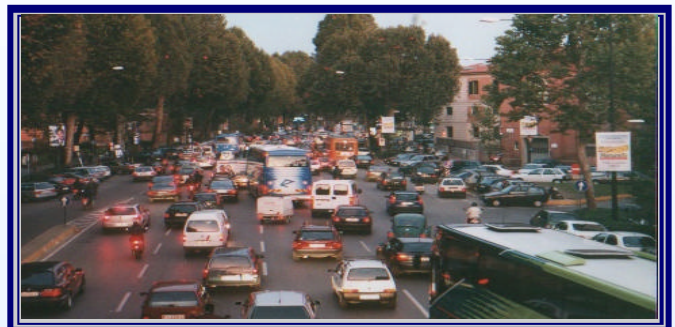
2. Data Collection & Analysis

Each participant is required to collect and/or provide data for the common indicators as well as for their working group's thematic indicators. In order to participate in the project the stakeholders must agree to freely share information and to the publication of the project's findings in the public domain.

The data will be analysed in conjunction with participants to identify best practice and examine reasons for differences between cities. By sharing best practices the cities in each working group will learn from one another's urban transport experiences.

3. Site Visits

Each working group will arrange three site visits in order to learn about different urban transport best practices in varying circumstances. Each stakeholder must be prepared to host a site visit, although this will not necessarily be for the city's own working group. Site visits will form an important part of the exchange of best practices.



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4. Dissemination and Publication of Results

Interim and final reports will be disseminated to the public through the website, which is available at: www.transportbenchmarks.org. These reports will represent the findings of the Urban Transport Benchmarking Project and their content will be provided largely by the data from each of the cities. The collation and analysis of these data will be undertaken by consultants of the project management team and this will enable the identification of cities' best practices.

A final conference will also round off the project's first year by presenting the five working groups' key findings in Autumn 2004.



Participating in the project

The initiative addresses all transport modes and is open to all relevant local or regional stakeholders, including public and private sector organisations and associations of users from the EU and accession countries. Organisations interested in participating in the project or attending the conference should contact Jo Baker at Transport and Travel Research by email at: benchmarking@ttr-ltd.co.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)1543 416416.

The launch conference takes place on 6th November 2003 at the Maison des Associations Internationales, Brussels (rue Washington 40). This will provide further information on the initiative and enable participants to form the project's thematic working groups.

E-mail: benchmarking@ttr-ltd.com

Web: www.transportbenchmarks.org



Si vous souhaitez obtenir la brochure en français, veuillez contacter le bureau d'assistance technique par e-mail: benchmarking@ttr-ltd.com



Um die Broschüre auf deutsch zu erhalten, wenden Sie sich bitte per email an das Projekt Management Team unter benchmarking@ttr-ltd.com

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