



NEWSLETTER #05



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Brasov hosts the fourth Thematic Training on Participation

Last March 5th, School Chance partners were involved in the fourth project's thematic training about "Participation" in Brasov, Romania.

Two cases of successful, participatory, methodologies to certificate mobility friendly schools were presented to partners, to inspire them for the definition of School Chance Certification Methodology.

The certification system developed by the Municipality of Venice "[La mia scuola va in classe A](#)" within the European project "PUMAS", for instance, combines several actions with a strong participatory approach. The project has a multi-fold approach, mixing together mobility and educational activities that are used to collect indicators needed to certificate schools in terms of sustainable mobility. This model identifies different classes according to mobility habits and attitude of the entire school community, in a similar way as the certification system used for buildings that identifies different classes to attest their level of energy efficiency.

The City of Utrecht has also an interesting model of certification named "[Road Safety Label](#)", which was first introduced in 2008 and has reached important results.

The Road Safety Label shows that a school has made an effort to achieve traffic education and road safety around the school. Schools with the Road Safety Label have experienced more road safety, more parental commitment and more road safe behaviour of the parents, children and school-personnel.

To determine whether a school is qualified for the Label, a list of criteria is being used. Schools need to embrace several key elements, such as: traffic safety education, the participation of parents and commitment to the establishment of a safe environment. A Road Safety Label-consultant indicates which criteria need the school's attention for improvement. The school appoints a road safety coordinator who is in charge of the project, and - if necessary- supports the implementation. If the school fulfils all criteria, it will be awarded the Road Safety Label.



Other examples of activities realised in schools using a participatory approach were presented during the training by the advisory partner, FGM-AMOR Austrian Mobility Research.

“Analysis of the school environment”, is a project where children critically examine the environment around schools (sidewalks, crossings, cycle paths), finding child-friendly solutions that will be proposed to the school, parents and decision makers.

Another effective project is “Real life Scotland Yard”, a game where students play in teams as detectives and learn how to use public transport, especially timetables and maps, also through a mobile app.

The project “**Mobility lotto for teachers**” aims at actively engaging teachers in eco-friendly mobility and at strengthening their role as models for students.

The initiative “**Apple Lemon**” sees students cooperating with the local police by doing measurements with radar-guns and by remunerating car drivers who respect the speed limits. This highly emotional cooperation between students and police raises drivers’ awareness on driving behaviour around schools.

The last project presented, “**Reconsideration of public space then and now**”, shows students collaborating with elder persons and making video-interviews to check differences on how the public space was organised in the past compared to the present.

Participation is crucial in the definition of sustainable school-mobility policies: by involving all relevant actors – students, teachers, parents, schools and municipality staff, local police – it is possible to find shared and innovative solutions to create a safer and more pleasant environment around schools.

Focus on School Chance partners: the Municipality of Gävle

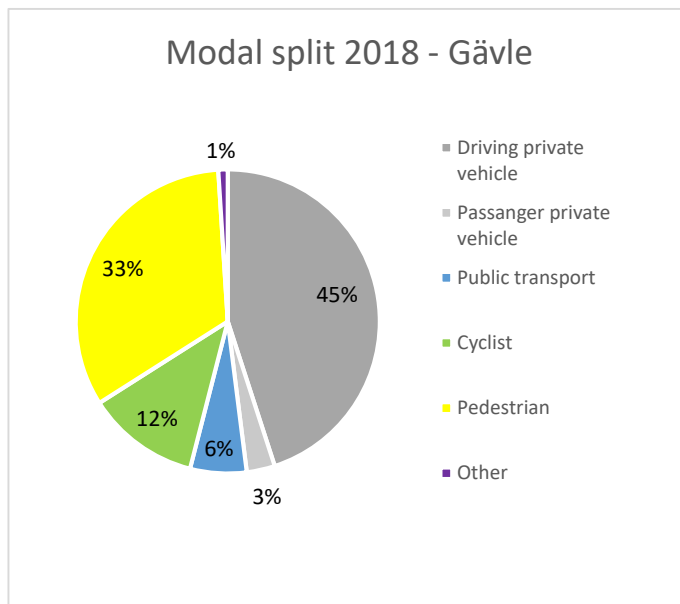


Gävle is a municipality 170 km northeast from Stockholm in the coastline of the Baltic Sea.

The municipality's population is approximately 100,000 people from which around 80% resides in Gävle city. The predicted population increase the next 11 years is 20%. Still the people who work with strategic planning say that Gävle has gone from being a big town to being a small city and that is a good description.

Gävle was announced Sweden's 3rd "greenest" municipality in 2019, partly due to the clean energy usage, high number of electric car charging stations, the high percentage of organic food in public schools and institutions and the municipalities strategic work to meet the national and international goals, like Agenda 2030. Despite

all this the municipality faces difficult challenges in mobility, mainly in reducing the private vehicles usage.



In 2018 Gävle municipality used an app to record travels over one week instead of the traditional survey, and the result was clear. The people of Gävle walks a lot more than they think, although some of the walks might be in connection to driving or traveling by bus. Unfortunately, when subtracting the increase in walking due to method of measure the modal split is about the same as in 2012 when the last survey was made.

Thanks to School Chance project, Gavle municipality will improve the cooperation between the different institutions dealing with school mobility. As a matter of fact, currently there is no policy or strategy about school travel and the purpose of the participation in School Chance is to upgrade the existing policy documents that lack analysis of sustainable school mobility.



The work before joining the School Chance initiative was very much conducted separately within each organization, lacking involvement between different stakeholders. The local action plan can be the platform from which each organization would see more clearly its role and responsibility in realizing a safe traffic environment around schools and in increasing the number of sustainable

school travels. The action plan can ensure that the right measures are conducted in the right time, with necessary competence involved. This is especially important since one of the most important lesson learned from School Chance is that no action is as efficient alone as it is paired with other actions. Thus stakeholders, policymakers and staff need to work together if we want to achieve change.



Methodology for certification of mobility-friendly schools

In the coming months the partners of the European Project School Chance will define the good practices they will implement in Phase 2 to achieve an autonomous, sustainable, safe and active school mobility. Another important output of the exchange learning process is the creation of a certification methodology for mobility-friendly schools. The advisory partner Austrian Mobility Research (FGM-AMOR) has developed a common certification scheme to award sustainable mobility-friendly school, according to the modal split of students and the engagement with sustainable mobility activities. This methodology is called Mobility-friendly School Certification (MFS).

MFS certification has a multiple approach combining mobility and educational activities.

The focus is on:

- Increasing the share of sustainable modes of transport (walking, cycling, Public Transport) to school
- Creating a visible, attractive and safe school surrounding Improving safety
- Reducing the share of students being driven to school by car.

Primary and secondary schools are the main target of this certification. The methodology implies the involvement of local stakeholders: each school has to set up a “task force” in charge of the definition of the goals to be achieved with the certification and of selecting the measures that will help to achieve those goals.

The certification is based on the good practices of Reggio Emilia and the experiences of the Utrecht (Road Safety Label) and the Venice model (“La mia scuola va in classe A”). MFS methodology is structured into three categories:

- School activities to promote active and sustainable mobility
- Sustainable and safe mobility school’s policy
- Theoretical education regarding mobility

The certification includes different levels in order to avoid starter schools from being distracted and give a possibility to reach a higher level in a second try and therefore keep the activities ongoing.

During the following months, each partner will adapt the general methodology to its own necessities. You’ll find out more details in the next newsletter!

News from partners

Utrecht Transfer Workshop

On Thursday January 31st a mixed group of stakeholders was very enthusiastic about two Good Practices from Italy. Presentations were given about Road Safety, the Utrecht Road Safety Label in Utrecht and the 2 Good Practices. A fruitful discussion followed about the Mobility Manager and shutting down the school surroundings for half an hour.

Mobility manager

The stakeholders think the mobility managers can guide and help schools, parents and children in their search for a better school mobility: how to make it safer and healthier! The local stakeholders were enthusiastic about the plans, especially in combination with an online platform. On this platform all regional measures and projects about school mobility are put together: this can be a helpful guide.



Shutting down school surroundings for half an hour

The stakeholders think this measure can be very effective, as long as the school surroundings are suitable. Worth to try, so that's what we do in Utrecht... Furthermore, the Utrecht delegation of School Chance was very happy because of the given advice about how to reach teachers as an ambassador, and on how to create support among parents and children.

Gdansk pilot project on school safety

On 25 February 2019, in Primary School 12 in Gdansk Ujeścisko the directors of ten Gdańsk schools met with the Mayor of Gdansk Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, deputy mayor of Gdańsk Piotr Grzelak and members of the team taking part in the project of certification safety around schools in Gdansk.

"We have started a pilot project, to which ten Gdansk schools have been selected. The project is mainly aimed at improving the safety of pupils coming to schools on foot and by bicycle. The project was announced in autumn last year and is in line with the strategic documents of the City of Gdańsk" - says Aleksandra Dulkiewicz.

Schools that were selected as pilot schools are located in different city districts, they differ in the size and conditions of infrastructure.

[Read more on our website](#)

Transfer Workshops in Brasov with Reggio Emilia and Utrecht

On March 6th and 7th, Brasov Metropolitan Agency organised two transfer workshops in which two good practices of the [Municipality of Reggio Emilia](#) and of the [City of Utrecht](#) were presented to the local stakeholders and discussed in terms of transferability and implementation. These good practices were the most “successful” ones in terms of interest within School Chance partners, being the most selected for the project’s transfer workshops.

Find out more about Reggio Emilia’s “**School Mobility Managers network**”, Utrecht’s “**School zones / Road Safety Label**” and the transfer workshop on [our website!](#)

Workshop with schools in Gävle

On Tuesday the 12th of February, Gävle municipality arranged a workshop led by staff from the School Chance project. At the workshop were representatives of several parts of the municipality, both the schools, the educational department, the municipal property company of Gävle, the mobility office and the staff from the Region of Gävleborg.



The workshop was the first of two and the topic was good practices. Several good practices from other partners in the School Chance project were discussed and the teachers and principals got to express what they believe would help in calming traffic around their school and get their children to travel autonomously to and from school.

The topic of the next workshop with schools is the local action plan for sustainable school mobility and will take place on May 14th.



Projects and International Events

- 6th European Conference on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, 17-18 June, Groningen (The Netherlands)
- Velo-City 2019, 25-28 June, Dublin (Ireland)
- Sustainable Energy Week, 17-21 June 2019, EU-wide
- European Mobility Week, 16-22 September 2019, EU-wide
- Civitas Forum Conference, 2-4 October 2019, Graz (Austria)
- Project Management Meeting #6, 7-9 October 2019, Gävle (Sweden)
- Smart City Expo World Congress, 19-21 November 2019, Barcelona (Spain)

CONTACTS & PARTNERS

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Project partners

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Municipality of Reggio Emilia (IT)

Austrian Mobility Research FGM-AMOR, Graz (AT)

Regional Government of Catalunya (ES)

City of Utrecht (NL)

Municipality of Gävle (SE)

City of Gdansk (PL)

Brasov Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development (RO)



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