



Press release
For immediate release

Sustainable urban mobility plans for poly-centric regions

Poly-SUMP launches a participatory process to discuss a vision and actions plans for the future of regional mobility

Ancona, 15 March 2013 – For the first time, polycentric regions are in the spotlight of the European Union transport agenda.

In the first of a series of workshops, which took place in Ancona, Italy, on 7-9 March 2013, the Poly-SUMP project was launched in great style. Funded by Intelligent Energy- Europe, it aims to develop a sustainable mobility planning methodology in polycentric regions – areas where services and goods, and therefore transport needs, are scattered in different towns.

Representatives from eight countries in Europe identified a common profile for poly-centric regions: high use of private cars, high costs for public transport services inside the region, the need for innovation in mobility services, and scarce coordination of mobility services at the different levels.

With the goal to develop action plans to build a shared vision on scenarios for 2043, participants discussed the past, present and future of mobility and came up with a list of 13 major actions, including: implementing better real time services at the scale of the region; improving cross border services in trans-national regions; establishing a strategy for smart polycentric regions to keep their competitive advantage despite rising energy costs and falling public budgets; lowering the costs of green infrastructures to encourage a transport shift towards more sustainable transport modes; and improving governance by managing the mobility strategy at regional level, with high involvement of stakeholders and population.

The workshop also offered the possibility to develop concrete recommendations and suggestions with the goal of producing a European Action Plan to steer the European mobility agenda in polycentric areas in the framework of the EU transport and energy roadmaps to 2020 and beyond (2030 and 2050). Unanimously, it was agreed that poly-centric mobility should receive greater attention and higher priority in the European agenda, through awareness raising activities and education.

In the coming months and years, Poly-SUMP will continue its work by organising local future workshops in six regions, with a vision to deliver guidelines for the development of mobility plans for all regions in Europe, “with and for the citizens”, as Mr Sergio Strali, Transport Director of Marche Region, Italy, coordinator of the project, stressed in his opening speech.

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www.poly-sump.eu



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Background info:

Poly-SUMP, Polycentric Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, is a three years funded project of Intelligent Energy- Europe started in April 2012. It aims to support the development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans in poly-centric regions in which commuting and travel needs are outside the borders of a single city.

The six participating regions in Europe, Regione Marche (Italy), Alentejo Central (Portugal), Central Macedonia (Greece), Central Slovenia (Slovenia), Rhine Alp Region (Austria) and Parkstad Limburg (the Netherlands), test concrete planning processes towards the adoption of mobility plans, and check the transferability of the approach to six other regions in Europe.

More information:

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