



CIVITAS Forum Annual Conference

Brest, France
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CiViTAS
Cleaner and better transport in cities



Speaker Contributions to the CIVITAS Forum Conference

Abstract submission



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CIVITAS Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> CIVITAS Plus II <input type="checkbox"/> CIVITAS Plus <input type="checkbox"/> CIVITAS II <input type="checkbox"/> CIVITAS I <input type="checkbox"/> CIVITAS Forum Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-CIVITAS personality
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PART II. Your Contribution



Technical session Round table Pecha Kucha

Presentation title:

The implementation of innovative sustainable transport policies towards the regeneration of urban and rural settlements in Greece. The case of Bike-rails.

Abstract:

The rail network in Greece, connecting the main cities of Patras, Athens, Larissa and Thessaloniki, is being radically modernized regarding its alignment and speed. The development of this - new, high speed- network has resulted in a number of abandoned railroads, as up-to-date technical characteristics required. Due to the modernization, a number of urban and rural settlements is either being completely disconnected from the rail network, or encounters difficulties as new stations are placed in long distances from the key centralities. The above results in a multifaceted degradation of the life of these places, making them even more dependent on private cars. Instead of replacing the abandoned railroad with another road infrastructure -as usually seen-, the potential of preserving it and utilizing it in favour of sustainable alternative development should be examined.

The purpose of this study is to identify and evaluate potential railroad segments to be re-used as leisure corridors through the development of a bike-rail system. This system could use either conventional bikes with attachments (a front wheel guide and an outrigger to the opposite rail) or draisines, and is considered an innovative means of transportation, recreation and sports, originally used by railroad companies for track checking and emergency.

The methodology followed consists of four (4) consecutive steps. In the first step, all the abandoned railroads are being recorded and the suitability criteria are being set (minimum length of sections, connectivity with existing street and rail network, geometrical characteristics of rails, travel demand, socio-economic profile of the settlements, public's vision etc.). In the second step, there is the identification of the respective segments, while in the third, these are being evaluated for any potential implementation. Lastly, during the fourth step, the final selection of railroad segments is being completed.

The proposed bike rail system aims at regenerating the nearby settlements by providing a feasible alternative for recreation, urban development and an original attraction itself. The re-use of rail network is also expected to revive degraded areas of high environmental value.



<p>Innovative approach:</p>	<p>This project provides a novel, feasible and low-cost alternative to abandoned railroads while promoting both the regeneration of urban / rural settlements and the promotion of bicycle tourism, which clearly lacks from Greece.</p>
<p>Broader context of your city's mobility strategy:</p>	<p>The national strategy for urban mobility in Greece, although remained for ages car-dependent, seems now to take a rather slow shift to sustainable means of transport. Due to the recent economic recession, this shift is oriented to low-cost development and an ambitious promotion of the cycling culture is evident.</p>
<p>As per the integrated approach of CIVITAS, please describe the "winning combination" of mobility measures and how they reinforced one another:</p>	<p>This project's key vision enables the utilization of alternative ways of promoting sustainable mobility, highlights the potential of left-over spaces and introduces techniques of low-cost interventions. So far, it is highly attractive to local authorities and has raised the interest of the public.</p>
<p>4-6 Keywords</p>	<p>railbiking, draizines, urban regeneration, recreational facilities</p>
<p>CIVITAS thematic category addressed (only one)</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Clean fuels and vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> Collective passenger transport <input type="checkbox"/> Demand management strategies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobility management <input type="checkbox"/> Car-independent lifestyles <input type="checkbox"/> Safety and security <input type="checkbox"/> Urban freight logistics <input type="checkbox"/> Transport telematics </p>