

Equipment and Operational Aspects (WP6)

Conclusion of 2nd Working Group Meeting Zagreb / Croatia

This 2nd working group meeting was dedicated to the general topic: “*Upgrading of fleets and maintenance strategies*”. The focus of this meeting was on busses, “clean” busses and innovative technologies. This was to find out, discuss and evaluate the needs and problems of small and medium sized cities in comparison with the today’s state of the art in the field of technical solutions and possibilities of road based public transport (PT).

After the initial discussion on the outcomes of the questionnaire filled out by the experts beforehand the meeting, all in all five expert-presentations were held, each followed by in-depth discussions, covering the entire field of modern, innovative and clean solutions in the field of PT. The meeting has led to a broad overview of what is needed and what is possible.

“Clean” Busses

When focussing on “clean” busses, the pros and cons of trolley busses were highlighted and discussed right at the beginning of the expert session. In the course of the meeting a presentation about the latest hybrid technology for busses showed the advantages of the enormous potential of this technical approach. Francois Badin from INRETS gave the group a good overview about the different forms of the hybrid technology, diesel supported by electrical engine, electrical engine supported by diesel engine, diesel just for supporting batteries, traction via supported diesel by ordinary gearbox, traction via electrical engine (e.g. hub motors) et cetera (parallel/series hybrid). The documented fuel savings were quite impressive especially in combination with energy recovery and energy storage.

Due to the fact, that the success of a hybrid bus system depends on some defined parameters, a table or a checklist of parameters could be compiled on the basis of best practises for establishing a strategy.

High Quality Bus Network

The following presentation about the Quality Bus Network (QBN) of Dublin of Cairan de Burca gave the experts a detailed overview about the potentials of a modern high quality bus network. Cairan highlighted the main targets which were defined beforehand and presented the facts and figures the city of Dublin has experienced so far.

This topic was supported by the presentation of Zdenek Jarolin, who gave a broad overview about the situation in PT sector of Brno with its tram, bus and trolley bus systems and the control and information system (GPS based) in place.

Accessibility

The presentation of Philippe Gonnard as well as the one of Francois Rambaud showed the state of the art in the field of accessibility to PT systems on different examples for busses and tram systems.

The example of Grenoble showed that a townwide good accessibility for disabled or handicapped people to the PT is possible and state of the art. Main facts and figures were given and compared with the experts experiences.

At the end of the meeting, the expert group identified the following topics for the next expert working meeting: ticketing, intermodality, small cities, design / implementation processes, telematics (passenger and operator information), alternative/flexible services, second hand rolling stock, decrease of energy consumption (existing, and new vehicles), technology and driver.