



WHAT IS BESTUFS?

BESTUFS (BEST Urban Freight Solutions) is a thematic network (TN) addressing all aspects of urban freight transport. The aim of BESTUFS is establishing and maintaining an open European network between urban freight transport experts, user groups/associations, ongoing projects, interested cities, the relevant European Commission Directorates and representatives of national transport administrations in order to identify, describe and disseminate best practices, success criteria and bottlenecks with respect to the movement of goods in urban areas. This Thematic Network is operated with and funded by the European Commission in the 5th Framework Programme under the Key Action "Competitive and Sustainable Growth". The BESTUFS project started in 2000 with a duration of 4 years.

FIRST BESTUFS WORKSHOP

This first BESTUFS workshop took place in Brussels the 16 & 17 May 2000, having as topic the "Identification of thematic network priority themes". Bringing the different views of actors in urban freight transport together and providing different solutions for urban freight transport was the headline for presentations within the first BESTUFS workshop. A brief summary is given in the following.

Administrative View

The first session "Scenarios and experiences of administrations while balancing commercial and citizens interests" highlighted at first the administrative view on urban freight transport.

Mr. Simon Hayes (Barcelona Tecnologia S.A., Spain) presented an approach of a vital urban freight transport management in Barcelona. He carried out the innovative approach of managing the kerbside activity (parking and loading/unloading) and the enforcement of parking offences based on advanced camera image processing. More information about projects in Barcelona can be found at www.eltis.org.

In the following Mr. Bryan Stead (former at Norfolk County Council, United Kingdom) stressed the view of UK local authorities on urban freight transport by proving different scenario solution approaches. A future solution approach for urban freight transport planners should his opinion be based on a combination of priority routing with privileged access, guaranteed pre-booked delivery slot and use of electronic tagging control.

Mrs. Cristina Sozzi (City of Florence, Italy) gave an example dealing with the policy of the Municipality of Florence. In order to reorganise the traffic flow into the historical city centre a co-operative agreement between the Municipality of Florence and transport companies operating in the city area has been applied.



Link to previous and ongoing projects and initiatives

A link to the previous project COST 321 (the final COST 321 report published under ISBN 92-828-4572-9) was presented by Mr. Willi Dietrich (City of Zurich, Switzerland). Stressing the methods and measures applied as well as the conclusions and findings derived the COST 321 action will be a fundamental basis of the activities within the BESTUFS project.

Further research studies concerning the theme of the BESTUFS project were presented by Dr. Julian Allen (University of Westminster, UK). He highlighted the major findings on four recent research projects on urban freight. Comprehensive information can be found at www.westminster.ac.uk/transport/projects/u-d-summ.htm.





Mrs. Laetitia Dabanc (GART, France) presented the French initiative on urban freight transport planning (Plan de déplacement urbain, PDU) and provided results out of this national research program which is existing since 1993.

Industrial View

The second session "Expectations and experiences of companies with offering or supporting urban goods transport" focussed on the industrial expectations and requirements on urban freight transport policy.

Mr. Peter Sonnabend (Deutsche Post, Germany) addressed problems as a lack of usable road and parking spaces. While Mr. Bart Lammers of the Dutch shippers' interest group EVO presented the findings of an exhaustive inventory of all access regulations of Dutch cities. For example, in the Netherlands every city has its own regulations and time windows leading to major problems in transport planning. These regulations can be found at www.psd-online.nl.

Mr. Marco Monticelli (ICECO, Italy) presented results of the study "Long term Forecasts for Urban Freight Transport in Europe" dealing with the expected urban freight transport in French, Italian, German and UK cities.

Mr. Johan Arnts (Centraal Boekhuis, The Netherlands) closed the session giving a presentation on the influence of urban freight planning on logistic planning. In particular the impact on E-commerce and the direct delivery to customers within 24 hours was described.

NEXT ACTIVITIES

Out of the various themes possible to be considered in the BESTUFS project, priority themes have been selected by the participants of the first BESTUFS workshop. The following two themes:

Statistical data, data acquisition and data analysis regarding urban freight transport.

City access, parking regulations and access, access time restrictions and enforcement support

Are currently the focus within the BESTUFS project.

2nd BESTUFS Workshop

The headline of the 2nd BESTUFS workshop is on the theme "City access, parking regulations and access, access time restrictions and enforcement support". Various experts providing different views on this issue are invited to present their experience and findings at the workshop that takes place on 27th September 2000 in Brussels.

City Questionnaire

A city questionnaire has been produced by the project partner Rapp and distributed to major cities in Europe. The questionnaire will identify major activities, problems and requirements of the cities on urban freight transport. Furthermore, major impact on the further thematic focus to be considered in the BESTUFS project is expected from the city questionnaires results.

BESTUFS Conference Announcement

The BESTUFS conference "BEST URBAN FREIGHT SOLUTIONS I" is planned for 29 & 30 March 2001 in Barcelona, Spain.

To receive a copy of the invitation, please e-mail Mr. Siân Evans.

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BESTUFS CONTACT DETAILS

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