



# NEWSLETTER #04



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December 2018

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## Positive feedback from Reggio Emilia study visit!

Last 10th and 11th October, a delegation of all city partners was hosted by the Municipality of Reggio Emilia for a study visit to exchange local good practices on reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by home-school mobility.



More than 20 participants from Brasov, Girona, Gdansk, Utrecht and Gävle could learn about the main projects coordinated by the Municipality of Reggio on the topic, also through

visits to some local schools during the entry and exit hours of the students. They also had the chance to experience **BiciBus** and **PediBus**, two measures designed to allow students to go to school by bike or on foot in complete safety. A real train of bicycles, made up of students and adults, has been organised in Reggio Emilia schools for over 16 years, through an established and safe route, gathering pupils along the way.

Other activities were also presented to the delegation, such as **PrimiPassi**. This measure is designed specifically to make children in pre-school age and their families come into contact with eco-sustainable modes of transport and good practices related to the use of urban public space around schools, such as urban tattoos co-created together with children. Another measure that was presented on-site is the creation of **temporary car free zones** in front of primary and secondary schools. One of the main problems in Italy concerns the school surrounding areas that are not always considered safe because of the huge number of cars used to bring children to school. The European colleagues found the role of School Mobility Manager very interesting.

Discover more about the Study visits on our website:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/schoolchance/news/news-article/4603/positive-feedback-from-reggio-emilia-study-visit/>

## Learning continues with Thematic Training on Infrastructure



From 27th to 29th of November, partners gathered in Utrecht for the fourth **Project Management Meeting** and the **Thematic Training on Infrastructure**. The Training represented an important chance for partners to learn more about Utrecht's expertise in planning infrastructures according to schools and children's needs and to debate about this important topic.

Mr. Nick van Apeldoorn from Breda University (Tilburg) ran the first session "Infrastructure taking into account children's needs" focusing on children as key element for the analysis, implementation, evaluation and transfer of infrastructures. He presented the first result of Metamorphosis project (<http://www.metamorphosis-project.eu/>) that share the same vision of School Chance project. Members of the different delegations were also involved in a working session to practice the good practices transferability and proposing solutions to challenges raised.

Another presentation focused on Utrecht Safety Label: Mr. Fabian Mol, from the Municipality of Utrecht technical staff, presented an overview of this good practice, which is based on the assumption that "Road safety is a shared responsibility". Mr. Johan Shutte, architect of the Municipality of Utrecht presented an innovative infrastructure solution for cyclists planned to connect Utrecht and Leidsche Rijn on top of a school, showing some technical detail adopted in this interesting project. Moreover, Mr. Hans Paquay, technical staff of the Municipality of Utrecht, presented a session on "Merwedekanaalzone – Design of a new neighbourhood, by taking into consideration children appropriate infrastructure", explaining the principles used to design this car free and child friendly new neighbourhood.

More info about meeting here: [www.interregeurope.eu/schoolchance/news/news-article/3414/school-chance-project-management-group-meeting-3/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/schoolchance/news/news-article/3414/school-chance-project-management-group-meeting-3/)

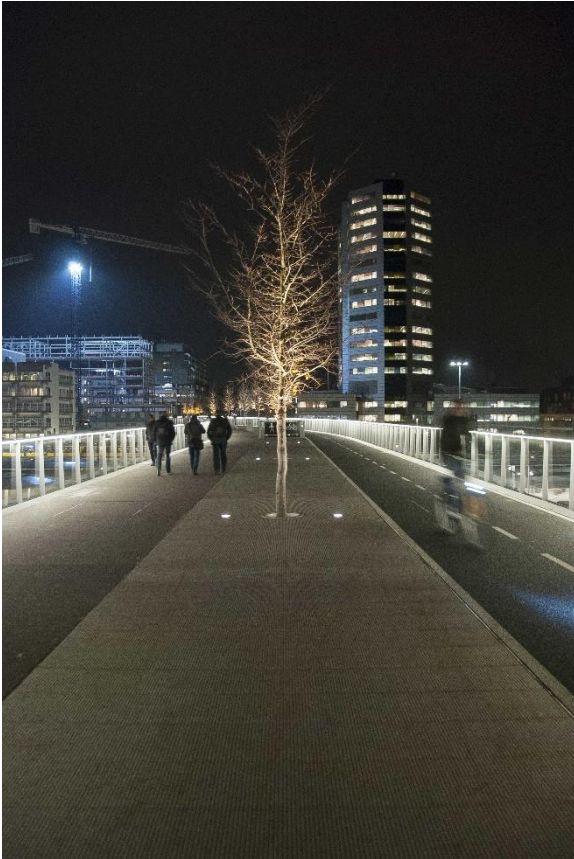
## Focus on School Chance partners: the city of Utrecht!



Utrecht is the beating heart of the Netherlands. With a medieval city center small enough to explore on foot. Large enough to enjoy world class festivals, modern architecture, trendy shops and interesting museums.

Since Roman times it is at the crossroads of just about everything, a hub for new meaningful ideas and talent. With a population that is the youngest of any Dutch city. Utrecht provides a vibrant, creative, inspirational environment for leading innovations. The city is developing from a medium-sized provincial city into a regional capital of European importance. Utrecht is the fastest growing city and the most healthy city of The Netherlands. On top of that, Utrecht is [one of the most happy cities in the world](#) according to the United Nations.

## Utrecht in numbers



In the short video '[This is Utrecht](#)' the city of Utrecht is presented in numbers and facts.

### Healthy urban living – the Utrecht health approach

Utrecht is the fastest growing city of the Netherlands. The city is building a healthy future for both our city and its inhabitants. Therefore public health is the first point in all fields of policy. Residents and other stakeholders in the city are urged to take the initiative, to seek to forge partnership and thereby do their part in making Utrecht a healthier place to live.

Read Utrecht's [Public Health Policy 2015-2018](#): building a healthy future- an invitation to the city. See also the [Public Health Monitor Utrecht](#) for a comprehensive view of health and determinants of health in Utrecht.

## Mobility

Utrecht has different train stations with connections with all of the big cities in the Netherlands. The central train station is the heart of the city. Travelling in the city is easy with our buses and trams. And even more easy is travelling by bicycle. Each day approximately 90,000 bikers travel to their work or school by bicycle.

## Bike

Utrecht is a bustling, bicycle-friendly city. Every day, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., over 125,000 cyclists ride to their work, school, university, public transport, shops or home through the city centre.

The municipality wants to make cycling even more attractive for these and other cyclists. Consequently, the bicycle is given precedence in the mobility policy of the municipality of Utrecht. We want to be the most bike-friendly city in the world. We want to keep our growing city liveable, accessible and economically strong, and we are convinced that the bicycle can and should play a major role in this.

## Facts and figures 2018

- Bicycle parking places near Utrecht Central Station: 12.000 today; 33.000 in 2020
- 12 manned and monitored bicycle parkings and 5 Pop Up Parkings
- 60% goes to the city centre by bicycle
- 33.000 cyclists along the busiest bicycle route in the city centre every day

- 43% of all journeys shorter than 7.5km is by bicycle
- 245km bicycle path; 90km bicycle strip; 18 km bicycle street in Utrecht

### **Public Transport**

The train is an easy method of travelling to other Dutch towns and cities or to other countries like Belgium, France or Germany. The central station of Utrecht is the biggest train station in The Netherlands and provides good connections to Amsterdam and Schiphol Airport (30 minutes), Rotterdam and The Hague (45 minutes). The terminus of the central station is also connected to the bus, tram and taxi services of Utrecht. The tram connection is between Central Station and the cities Nieuwegein/IJsselstein. At the moment Utrecht is building a new tram line, the Uithoflijn. The tram between Central Station and Utrecht Science Park (location of University) is ready in December 2019.

### **Car**

1 January 2015, the municipality of Utrecht introduced an environmental zone (low emissions zone) for diesel passenger cars and vans. Diesel cars manufactured before 2001 are no longer allowed inside the environmental zone. The introduction of the environmental zone contributes to good air quality for residents and visitors of the city. The municipality of Utrecht has four P+R facilities located conveniently on the outskirts of the city near the A2, A12 and A28 motorways, where you can park your car easily and economically. From here, it is only minutes by bus, tram or public rental bike to the city centre. Because of the importance of a good environment the city Utrecht has a growing network of public charging stations for the electric cars.

### **Utrecht and School Chance**

The city of Utrecht did already many projects to stimulate children and parents to walk and cycle from and to school. Within School Chance Utrecht focusses on those target groups who do not frequently walk or cycle to school. The city of Utrecht has seen and can learn from a lot of good practices in other European Cities that participate in this project.

The goal of Utrecht is to create a good mix of measures in order to reduce the total amount of car trips to and from schools. This will be created in good partnership with elementary schools, the cyclists union, parents and the Province of Utrecht.

## News from partners

On 21th November, the Policy learning Platform (PLP) brought together 16 projects on sustainable mobility financed by Interreg Europe Programme. The programme is financing 18 projects that have identified 131 Good Practices! The Municipality of Girona took part representing School Chance project. It was an excellent opportunity to understand the services that the platform provides in order to capitalise all project achievements. It is worthwhile to highlight the Policy brief on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) that has recently been issued.

Discover more about the Thematic workshop in Manchester on our website:

[www.interregeurope.eu/schoolchance/news/news-article/4602/thematic-workshop-in-manchester/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/schoolchance/news/news-article/4602/thematic-workshop-in-manchester/)



## Projects and International Events

- Thematic Training on Participation, 5 March 2019, Brasov (Romania)
- Project Management Meeting #5, 6 March 2019, Brasov
- Velo-City 2019, 25-28 June, Dublin (Ireland)
- Sustainable Energy Week, 17-21 June 2019, EU-wide
- Civitas Forum Conference, 2-4 October 2019, Graz (Austria)

## CONTACTS & PARTNERS

For further information, please contact the project coordinator at the Municipality of Girona:  
**Ms. Maria Mercedes Teixidor**  
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### Project partners

- Municipality of Girona (ES) – Lead partner
- 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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