

NEWSLETTER #08



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September 2022

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RESOLVE one-year extension!

The main objective of RESOLVE project is to reduce carbon emissions created by retail-related traffic in city centres, while also supporting jobs and growth in the local retail economy. RESOLVE also focused on re-zooming city priorities on their attractiveness by making them a healthy place to be for citizens.

The RESOLVE project got a one-year extension in the framework of the INTERREG call for proposals of additional activities linked to the COVID-19 recovery.

The extension represented a crucial opportunity for project partners to bring interregional learning one-step further, by exchanging solutions on how to keep reducing carbon emissions created by retail-related traffic in city centers even in the post-pandemic context.

The one-year extension is now in its second phase, in which the partners focused on supporting key decision-makers to understand the implication and opportunities of the “new reality” born after covid in the field of local retail economy, sustainable urban mobility and promotion of city centers’ attractiveness.

During semester 12 (March – September 2022) partners have continued to exchange information, experiences and good practices on the topics of the RESOLVE project, particularly during the RESOLVE Masterclass that was organized in Reggio Emilia on 21st and 22nd of June 2022. During this period, the partners finalised their Learning Plans and Policy Improvements.

The following pages will be dedicated to the results and policy improvements that the partners have reached during the RESOLVE project.

RESOLVE Masterclass in Reggio Emilia

The Resolve Masterclass took place on 21st and 22nd of June in Reggio Emilia (Italy). The Masterclass addressed some of the hot topics tackled by the RESOLVE project during these years of work, with a particular attention on how to decrease traffic in the city and support sustainable mobility as well as how to make urban centres more attractive, lively and attentive to people’s need.



The Masterclass was the occasion for 25 representatives from 8 different European cities to discuss and exchange on the themes of urban regeneration and redevelopment of public spaces, coordinated by the expertise of the Erasmus Centre for Urban, Port and Transport Economics of Rotterdam and the “Humankind” Agency for Urban Change of Rotterdam.

The Main focus of the Masterclass was how to create attractive and people-centred public spaces through the use of tactical urbanism approach, not only by sharing innovative practices implemented by various European and international cities, but also by studying possible urban regeneration interventions in two squares in the city of Reggio Emilia: Piazza del Popol Giost in the historic center; and Piazza Pablo Neruda, in the Rosta Nuova district.



The squares were presented by the Urban Planners of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia and were analysed by the representatives of all partner cities with a particular attention to spaces' liveability, services' multifunctionality and concrete possibilities for citizens' usability.

After an analysis of the critical issues encountered, the participants shared with the Municipality of Reggio Emilia possible proposals for improvement and redefinition of the public spaces.

Partners' contributions

During the RESOLVE project, all the partner have developed their own Learning Plans and achieved several results and policy improvements for their city. In the next session, it is possible to read some contributions from the project's partners about the results achieved by RESOLVE project in their cities.

City of Roermond (NL)

At the beginning of RESOLVE extension, Roermond intended to reach three main goals:

- healthy and vital city (center) for multiple manners'
- increase of 'active mobility' among visitors and inhabitants
- improved governance with our stakeholders



Meanwhile the scope has been widened not only considering retail mobility but developing Roermond to a 'healthy, liveable & future-proof' city combining physical aspects for being a healthy city (prevention) with health(care) in the city. Key-topics are: increase of green innercity-space; offering safe, comfortable and attractive cycling and walking routes, to encourage active mobility; more focus on children and younger people to invite them to visit the city center to do some playing/sports; offering healthy choices in retail; improving the access to healthcare with a link to retail; improved governance, especially with young people and social stakeholders.

The meetings, inspirational sessions and good practices during the last year of RESOLVE have led to an increased awareness that a healthy city is a future proof city. Health(care) has also been put on the agenda of policymakers / politics of the

more physical departments and on the agenda of 'commercial' stakeholders.

This increased awareness has resulted in a new approach for our Masterplan Innercity, which will be starting in 2023. In anticipation of this Masterplan, we will be participating in a 'health' month (March 2023), organised by our Citymanagement, in which several activities will be organised and temporary amendments to our public space will take place (for example a temporary playground or walking forest).

In September 2022 several colleagues, representing both social and physical background, visited Rotterdam to learn about 'tactical urbanism' and re-designing public space.

Municipality of Reggio Emilia (IT)

The RESOLVE learning plan of Reggio Emilia was focused on 4 main points:

- New pedestrian areas requested by local retailers
- Low carbon deliveries (EVs and cargo-bikes)
- Reduction of on-street parking to improve liveability of public spaces
- New rules to access to the city center – definition of a new Low Emission Zone (LEZ)



The pedestrian areas and the reduction of on street parking have been addressed with the project partners' during the Masterclass held in Reggio Emilia in June, while the other points have been discussed during an exchange of experience session among the partners, particularly with the Maribor Municipality and the Transport of Greater Manchester. During the last months, the Deputy Mayor for Sustainable Mobility met 3 times with the representatives of shopkeepers to discuss

possible solutions to reduce carbon emissions in the most dense retail area, the city center.

In May, a national event about sustainable mobility was held in Reggio Emilia with more than 300 participants. The main theme was the car-free city and the sustainable urban logistics. The event was the occasion for sharing several experience from Italian and European cities.

Interesting results have been achieved during this extension of RESOLVE project: first, the pilot pedestrian areas requested by shopkeepers during the first COVID-19 wave were implemented; then, the Municipality got a funded project on the re-design of a square that was used as a parking lot, where, during the RESOLVE project, the Municipality experiences alternatives uses with the tactical urbanism approach. Another project, financed with national funds, has already started and aims to develop a sustainable cycle logistic scheme for the city center of Reggio Emilia.

Transport for Greater Manchester (UK)

The learning plan is centred around developing “Streets for All Strategy”. The purpose of the Street for All Strategy is to set out Greater Manchester’s progressive approach to making the streets easier for all to get around by putting people first as we shape and manage the transport network. The vision is to ensure that streets are welcoming, green and safe places for all our people, enabling more travel by walking, cycling and public transport whilst creating thriving places that support local communities and businesses.

In this semester TfGM has focused on the ‘Street Design’ Aspect of the Learning plan. In particular, the Active Neighbourhoods programme as presented at the Reggio Emilia Workshop. The project team have run a comprehensive community engagement process, co-designing



ambitious active travel designs with residents and developing business cases in five neighbourhoods across Greater Manchester, most of which are now looking to be taken forward as trials by the local authority in the next six months.

In the additional year of the RESOLVE project, the main policy improvement that was achieved was the publication of the Streets for all Strategy. Alongside this initiative, various programmes have been realized, with the aim of achieving standards in design of interventions that are aligned to the Street for All Strategy.

Some of the projects are:

- Active Neighbourhoods programme
- Quality Bus Transit programme: a number of Strategic Outline Business Cases have been developed for new sustainable travel infrastructure along 5 corridors in Greater Manchester.
- The Streets for All Design Guide has been developed and published

Maribor Municipality (SI)

Maribor Municipality adopted in 2021 the Municipal Environmental Protection Programme for 2021-2030 with areas of environmental protection. Programme goals are also air quality improvement, carbon reduction, sustainable mobility, mitigation of climate change.

The Municipality of Maribor has elaborated The Ordinance on forests with a special purpose, as part of the measures of the Environmental Protection Programme and accordingly to the Learning Plan of the RESOLVE project, to increase air quality improvement in the city and its surroundings as well as contribute to the social and ecological function of urban forests since they have an impact on climate change mitigation.



On March 2022 Maribor City Council adopted the “Ordinance on forests with a special purpose” which determines the areas of forest with a special purpose. Maribor Municipality is going to systematically manage its own forests and maintain forests by introducing new contents.

On May 2022, the stakeholders discussed in a meeting about

guidelines for forest management, which will be prepared to define the regime and restrictions of city forests in Maribor as well as the possibility to purchase new forest for public use.

Maribor experts visited on June 2022 the city forest in Ljubljana, where representatives of the city and Slovenia Forest Service presented some good practices of maintaining the city forest “Golovec” in Ljubljana.

In August, Maribor Municipality prepared an exhibition at a quarter with neighbourhood close to the city forest about the importance of biodiversity, cooling effect in the city land climate change mitigation.

Kronoberg County Administration Board (SE)

Kronoberg's Learning Plan intended to improve policy instrument called Action program for environmental objectives in Kronoberg county. The policy is a list of actions needed for active work to achieve the environmental goals at regional and local level. It is based on regional environmental objectives adapted to the region. The improvement will happen addressing the following topics: Develop Post-corona strategy for Public transport, improve city centre accessibility and study freight transport in the city.

The RESOLVE project helped in analysing and developing the above-mentioned topic, focusing on different aspects and gaining experience from other partners.

Post-corona strategy is a plan about how to regain the travellers after the pandemic. The strategy has been made and implemented for public transport during 2022. Experience about how other project partners did was collected mostly during peer reviews in the beginning of the project so that organisation could work internally with the document.



City centre accessibilities is a vision on how to make the city centre more attractive for people in order to increase the presence in the city. This vision is always ongoing. The Masterclass in Reggio Emilia, with the practical example and the work done, showed good examples about how to increase the attractiveness of public spaces.

Inspiration about freight transport in the city was collected during the Master class in Reggio Emilia. Both partners from Maribor and Manchester shared their good experiences from the field. Some of the practices are already implemented in the city and some are currently under discussion.

Almada City Council (PT)

Almada City Council's Learning Plan consisted of 2 items:

- How to convince people to come back to Public Transport in a post-COVID world
- How to balance the “silent voice” of the public space users vs the “noise” of the other stakeholders (shopkeepers, elected politicians etc.)

During the RESOLVE project, different actions have been taken regarding such issues. The Metropolitan Area of Lisbon has implemented a new framework of road public transport in the municipalities belonging to its area of influence (Almada included), with the aim of improving the levels of service and quality of this means of transport, namely by:

- fleet renewal, more environmental sustainable vehicles – reduction of energy consumption, emissions and noise;
- efficiency – compliance with services and schedules, controlled by automatic technological systems;
- better image and information – adoption of a single image, uniformity of content, schedules, diagrams, public information systems, etc.;
- social responsibility – adaptation and conditions for passengers with reduced mobility;
- better quality of service and greater focus on the customer;



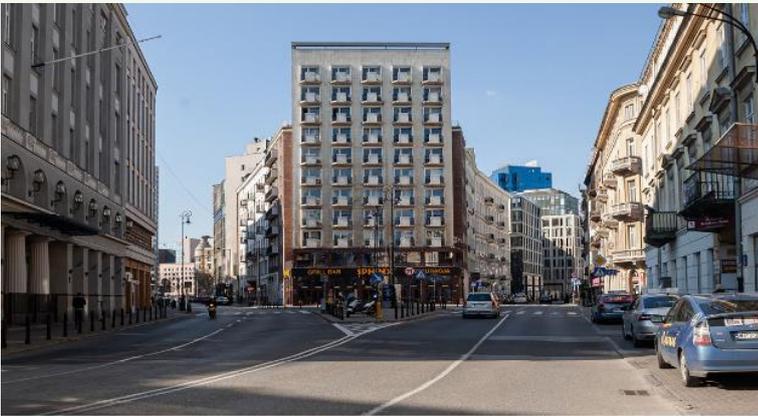
The first important step for this improvement was the implementation of an intermodal pass, in 2019, with a significantly reduced price, which includes all regular passenger transport services, all modes of transport, all operators and the entire territory of the metropolitan area.

With these measures, the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon, wishes to attract more users to public transport and reduce the high rates of individual transport that still exists. This new service started in Almada last July and will have its major test now, in September, with the opening of the school period.

Another improvement in Almada is the update of the parking regulation, which will include regulations for pedestrian streets and support for the implementation of restricted car access neighbourhoods, dedicated to residents and active modes. This year's Almada Mobility Week tried a One Day restricted car access zone, in the Old City Centre, allowing only cars from residents to enter. The experience was such a success that the Mayor asked for a study to analyse the possibility of definitively implementing this solution.

City of Warsaw (PL)

On 29th September 2022, the internal workshop for professionals from the City of Warsaw took place. The meeting was about urban logistics and traffic restrictions on Krucza Street after its transformation.



Rebuilt of the Krucza Street is a part of the most important program in the Polish capital, so-called the New Center of Warsaw (NCW). The goal is to make the city center more liveable and accessible for active modes of transport. The NCW program includes many changes that City of Warsaw plans and also already have started to implement in Śródmieście district. Some areas are at the designing stage, but some are already completed, e.g. The “Five Corners Square” was recently rebuilt and reopened. Such a big transformation requires rethinking the traffic in the entire area, including delivery traffic. It was decided to limit the access on Five Corner Square to the specific morning hour, just before morning peak. Only vehicles with special permission are allowed to enter the area during the whole day.

Currently, the City of Warsaw works on the designing of the Krucza Street which is the extension of the Square. Also here, the great changes are planned. The 30-40 m wide street, with four or even five lanes, is going to be a truly city centre street with a wide pedestrian passage among greenery and traffic-calmed road.

The workshop was attended by about 20 experts, representing different units of the City Hall. The structure of the City of Warsaw administration is very complex, so it was crucial to gather the internal stakeholders group together. During the workshop experts discussed about various solutions for organizing deliveries and talked about the challenges to be faced. As a major output, the declaration of further meetings was made. The stakeholders pointed out the importance of such meeting and experience exchange.

Moravian-Silesian Region (CZ)

Within the local partnership of the RESOLVE project, the Moravian-Silesian Region cooperates with the statutory cities of Ostrava and Opava closely. Policy instrument addressed within the RESOLVE is Integrated Regional Operational Programme 2 (IROP2).

Both cities have prepared strategies and detail studies, which help to improve their city strategies and help the managing authority to understand more how to target supported activities of IROP2. That is why they identified their Learning Needs, such as good practices on the field of analysis of impacts of COVID-19 on city centres, countermeasures / mitigation measures of impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on city centres, parking policy within the urban area, Implementation of parking houses in housing estates (connection to the expansion of electromobility and charging stations).



As source of information for prepared strategies and detail studies they used the register of good practices, especially good practice Delivery in pedestrian zone offered by Maribor and GP Tactical urbanism approach offered by Reggio Emilia. The partners had the opportunity to become more familiar with this good practice during the Masterclass organized by the Italian partner in Reggio Emilia in June of this year. On this study trip, participants saw a number of charging stations that were

implemented as both fast charging and resident charging stations. This solution was implemented in the concept of static transport.

The Moravian Silesian Region defined proposals for improving IROP2 in the area of active mobility, pedestrians and cyclists and making public space more attractive, especially in the case of urban mobility and mobility over shorter distances. Furthermore, proposals will be defined to support separate charging stations for passenger vehicles in cities with the aim of accelerating the introduction of zero-emission passenger and delivery vehicles. In relation to parking, it will be recommended to change the setting of conditions for the realization of P+R terminals.

Partners & Contacts

Project partners

- City of Roermond (NL) – *Lead partner*
- Erasmus Centre for Urban, Port and Transport Economics (Erasmus UPT) (NL)
- Municipality of Reggio Emilia (IT)
- Transport for Greater Manchester (UK)
- Maribor Municipality (SI)
- Kronoberg County Administration Board (SE)
- Almada City Council (PT)
- City of Warsaw (PL)
- Moravian-Silesian Region (CZ)



For further information, please contact the project coordinator at the Municipality of Roermond

Mr Paul Hamaekers

paulhamaekers@roermond.nl

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