

PROMPT

New means to PROMote Pedestrian Traffic in cities

PROMPT is a joint European research effort funded by the European Commission under the Key Action “The City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage” of its Fifth Framework Programme “Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development”. The project includes six participating countries: Finland, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, Belgium and France. The duration of the project is 36 months from the beginning of March 2000 to the end of February 2003.

Expected results

PROMPT aims primarily at improving city living conditions and the quality of cities for pedestrians by identifying best practices as well as developing new tools and generic solutions specifically with this in mind and by disseminating them effectively for various end-users. This is expected to increase walking in cities, which in turn will, among other things:

- promote other non-motorized transport modes and the use of public transport instead of private car,

- abate harmful impacts of transport on the environment,
- improve the accessibility of public spaces,
- improve the health of citizens,
- improve their equality and
- decrease costs of road investments, building repair, pollution abatement, accidents, health care, etc.

What we do

Through several selected case studies in all the six participating countries, we study the conditions for pedestrians according to *safety*, *accessibility*, *comfort*, *attractiveness* and *intermodality* (walking linked with other modes of transportation). Further, we also study the strategies and experiences of *implementation* of various measures to promote walking. However, it is crucial to consider how these issues work together. Thus, we will finally have an integrated approach for finding good comprehensive solutions.

The basis for our analyses is the *individual's own decision making* on mobility. Our analyses cover different user groups, different climatic conditions, different city structures as well as cultural differences in behaviour. *The most vulnerable users*

and the most troublesome situations are taken as yardsticks for our analyses. Consequently, we focus on schoolchildren, elderly people, disabled people and persons carrying burdens. The selected cases have implicitly a climatic and cultural variety. Our aim is to focus more on suburbs than on city centres. We consider cases at the *street level* as well as at the *urban level*.

Each country conducts data collection and analyses of their own cases according to the previously mentioned study themes. We base our analyses on a commonly agreed methodological framework. Our methods vary from rigorous models to subjective assessments, depending on the theme. Each theme has a leader, whose responsibility it is to define the common methods and evaluation criteria to be applied for that particular theme. However, all criteria are discussed before their application within our project group in order to get a consensus on them. Finally, each leader provides a thematic synthesis of all the cases according to their own specific theme. Our ultimate task is to assess the results concurrently in order to discover holistic and multidisciplinary tools and solutions applicable for various local and general European planning situations.



National participation and dissemination

In order to boost communication between ourselves and the actual end-users, a *national end-user group* is established in each country with participants representing governmental and municipal authorities, planners, architects, researchers and NGO's. The aim is that these groups will further establish an international group via the Internet. The case cities participate in PROMPT by providing necessary materials for our analyses. We are also arranging *workshops* for exchanging information. First, a national workshop is held in each country to gather knowledge about actual "grass roots" problems and ideas. At the end of the project we are going to organize an international workshop for disseminating the achieved results.

Participants

The project group is a multidisciplinary one, which involves architects, civil engineers, sociologists, psychologists and landscape architects. It consists of the following participating organizations:



Finland:

VTT Communities and Infrastructure, Transport and Urb. Planning
Project co-ordination

Italy:

Università degli Studi Roma Tre,
Department of Architectural Science and Design

Switzerland:

IBV W. Hüsler AG, Zürich, Engineering Office for Traffic Planning

Norway:

SINTEF Civil and Environmental Engineering, Transportation Studies

Belgium:

Université de Liège, Research Centre of Architecture and Urbanism

France:

CERTU, Centre for Studies on Urban Planning, Transport, Utilities and Public Constructions

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The aim of this EU-funded project is to promote non-motorized transport in cities with particular focus on *pedestrian* traffic. The project seeks to identify, discover and disseminate innovative new tools and solutions for problem identification, problem solving and implementation of measures in order to promote walking in cities.

