

Transport & social inclusion European Initiatives

Polis - European Cities and Regions networking for new transport solutions

Ivo Cré, project manager

This Project has received funding from the European Commission within the frame of the Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion 2002-2006





What is Polis?



European network led by cities and regions

- 65 members: local & regional authorities, mobility agencies, public transport authorities
- Network of research centres
- Founded in 1989
- President : Tisséo Toulouse
- Based in Brussels

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- Defining the link between transport and social exclusion
- Finding solutions
- What is the EU doing to support socially inclusive transport systems?
- Competitive Tendering
- EU projects
- Future Perspectives



Defining transport & social exclusion

Common or “classical” perception of groups
that are socially excluded from transport

- Mobility of persons with reduced ability (elderly, disabled, etc)
- Transport provision to isolated areas (rural communities, etc)



Defining transport & social exclusion

Broadening the scope:

- Accessibility of jobs: *two out of five jobseekers find transport is a barrier to getting a job (UK)*
- Accessibility of training and education: *50% of all 16-18 year old students find their transport costs hard to meet (UK)*
- Accessibility of food retailers (UK)
- Car ownership and drivers licences: *most cars are property of men, number of drivers licences is higher for men in each age group (B)*



Defining transport & social exclusion

- Isolation versus participation to society: *1 out of 3 of the aged makes almost no trips (B)*
- Health dimension: *Each year, 1.4 million people miss, turn down or choose not to seek medical help because of transport problems (UK)*
- Road safety dimension: *Children from the poorest families are five times more likely to die in a road accident than children from better off families (UK)*

Defining transport & social exclusion

Complex issue

- Combination of factors can increase risk
- Objective needs versus induced needs (“travel horizons”)
- Scale of problem far greater than expected
- “Not just about getting from A to B but taking people out of isolation and into opportunity”



Finding solutions



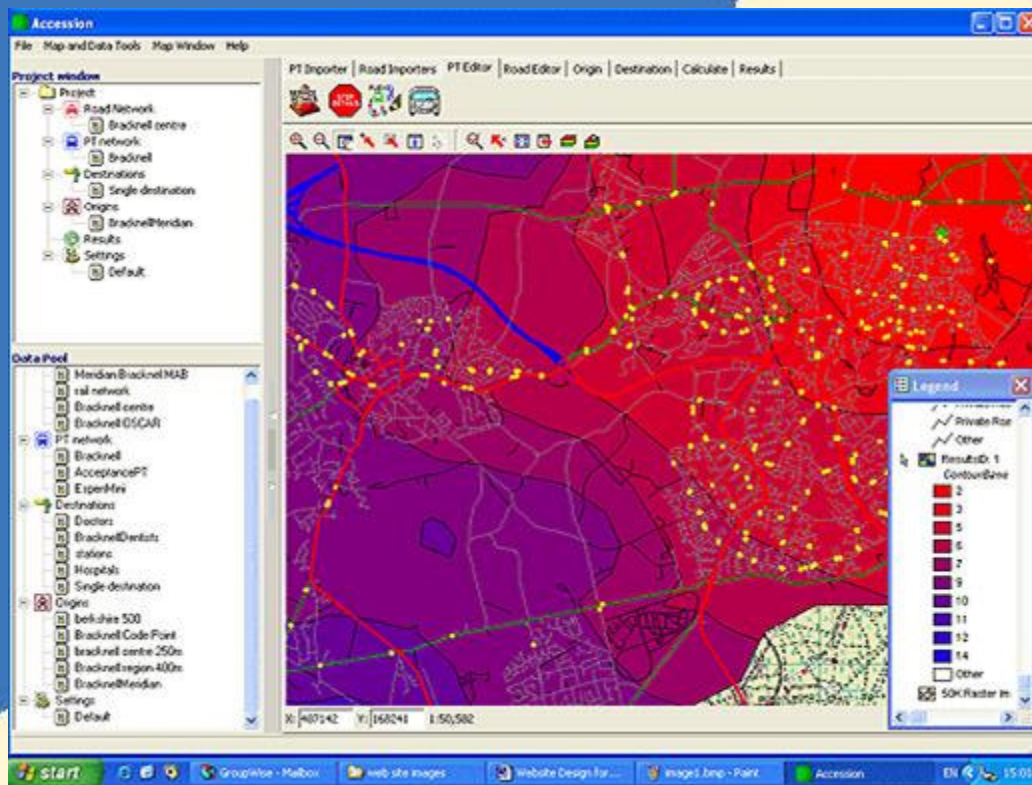
Don't stick to classical definition!

Policy and planning: mainstreaming accessibility into policy,

- E.g., 2nd round of UK Local Transport Plans (2006-2011) includes priorities: air quality, road safety, **accessibility**, congestion
- Partnership of key local agencies
- Bottom-up approach

Technology: vehicle design, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), etc

- Accessibility modelling software: ACCESSION
- Personalised travel information



<http://www.accessiongis.com/>

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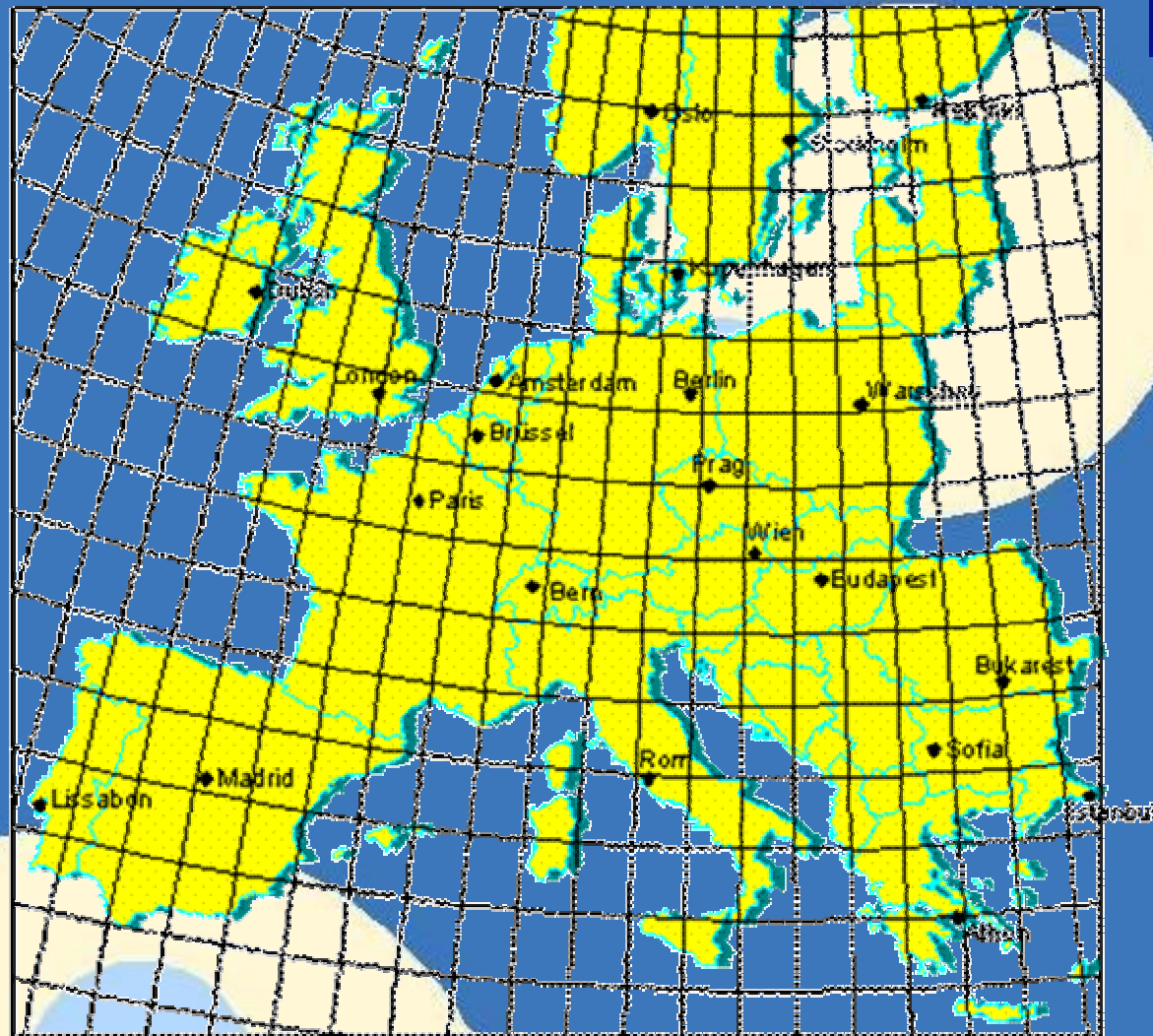


What is the EU doing for socially inclusive transport?

- The EU has invested a lot to “shrink” Europe (e.g. rail accessibility).
- How does it deliver on local accessibility?

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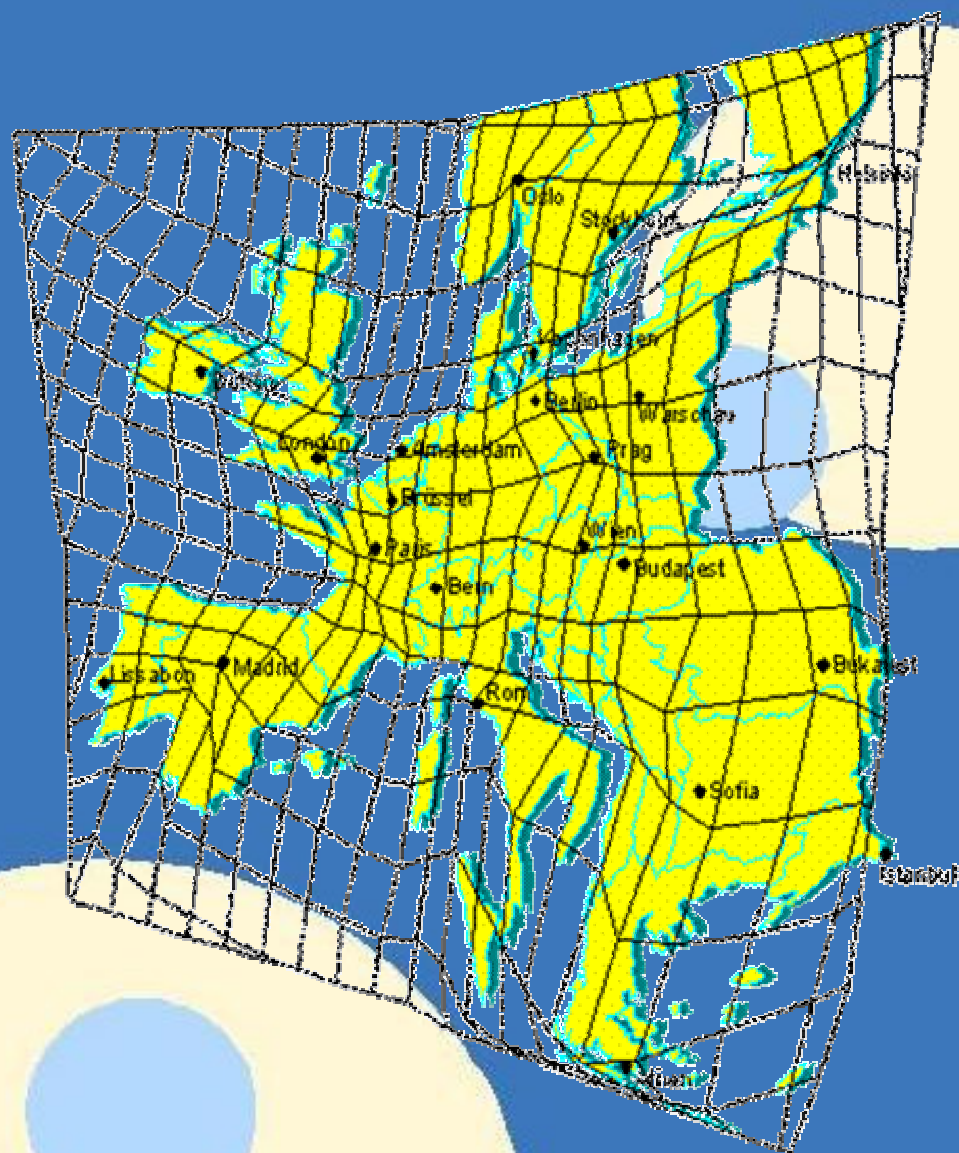


500 km
5 h

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European Commission

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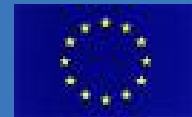
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What is the EU doing for socially inclusive transport?

- Commitment of Member States to National Action Plans to combat social exclusion
 - Revitalised process
 - Transport part of some of the NAP
 - Local actions in National Plans?
- Common Transport Policy
 - Placing users at the heart of the transport system
 - Urban transport in all its aspects promised as priority for the 2006 review



What is the EU doing for socially inclusive transport?

- Focus on passenger rights:
 - from air to public transport
 - financial security and accessibility are on the agenda
- Initiate and fund European platforms of socially disadvantaged groups
 - E.g., European Disability Forum (EDF), European Network of Independent living (ENIL), Platform of European Social NGOs



What is the EU doing for socially inclusive transport?

- Planning: EU guidance on sustainable urban transport plans, including issues such as equity, social impacts and gender
 - As part of the Thematic Strategy for the Urban Environment
 - Expected this summer
 - Accompanied by research project **PILOT** and **Liveable Cities**
 - www.pilot-transport.org



What is the EU doing for socially inclusive transport?

- Infrastructure and rolling stock investments
 - Commitment not to fund inaccessible infrastructure
- Public Transport as a service of general interest – draft regulation
 - Ensure PT as part of the European social model
 - Prevent negative impacts of deregulated markets



Competitive Tendering and social inclusion

- Proposal for a regulation on passenger transport services (proposed July 2005)
- Aim: to provide a framework for local authorities to organise and finance their public transport services
- Requires contracts for bus and suburban rail services to be awarded through competitive tendering, with several exceptions, notably concerning services provided in-house
- Competent authorities decide themselves what services of general interest are, e.g. also local cross border public transport can be funded.



Competitive Tendering and social inclusion

- Siptram** project: looked at environmental & social standards in competitive tendering process
- Conclusions of a brief survey of public transport operations
 - Lowest standards in deregulated market
 - Average standards in closed markets
 - Highest standards in controlled competition markets
 - www.increase-public-transport.net



- Subsidiarity principles applies to transport, ie, EU cannot legislate on local transport matters
- Over the last years, the EU has addressed the transport and inclusion issue through a variety of projects.
- “Demonstration” rather than legislation
 - Pilot, demonstration & validation projects
 - Structural funds (Objectives 1 & 2, Interreg, DG Employment/Social Affairs budget lines, etc)
 - Demonstration has worked well in other transport areas, e.g. CIVITAS (clean urban transport)



EU projects



MATISSE

- **DG Employment/Social Affairs preparatory action to combat social exclusion**
- **Main objective: Demonstrate impact of transport policies on social exclusion**
- **Main output: guidance for transport planners & report containing**
 - **Description of transport problems facing excluded persons & neighbourhoods**
 - **Recommendations for greater cohesion between policy areas at European and national levels and the formation of partnerships of social & transport agencies at all levels of government**
- **<http://www.matisse-eu.com/>**

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EU projects



UNIACCESS – Design of universal accessibility systems for public transport

- 6FP-funded Coordinated Action
- Objective: to produce a universal design of accessibility systems for public transport
- current public transport does not meet needs of all less abled users (elderly, disabled (lightly – severely) pregnant women, shoppers, etc) or adapted vehicles (low floor buses, buses with ramps) are rarely used.
- Partners: End user groups (ENIL, AGE, COCEMFE), FIAT, RATP (Paris public transport authority), Polis, Siemens, among others
- 9 November: final conference in Brussels
- <http://w3.euve.org/uniaccess/index.asp>

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EU projects



ASK-IT (Ambient intelligence System of Agents for knowledge -based and integrated services for mobility impaired users)

- eInclusion project: 4 years, end Sept 2008
- Development of handheld devices to provide real time public transport, leisure information to support the less-abled
- Multi-sectoral partnership: Siemens, Nokia, FIAT, Alcatel, CERTH/HIT, Polis, among others
- Demonstrations of technology in European cities: Genoa, Madrid, The Hague, Newcastle, Helsinki, Bucharest, Thessaloniki, Nuerenberg
- www.ask-it.org

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EU projects



Flexible transport services - **Connect**

- 6FP-funded Coordinated Action
- Expert network on Flexible Transport Services (FTS)
- FTS: Demand Responsive Transport, shared taxis, carpooling, carsharing, etc
- To pull together all knowledge on FTS in a single knowledge portal - <http://projectapps.vtt.fi/Connect/>

Flexible transport services - **Sunrise**

- New Interreg III C (south) project
- Objective: to introduce DRT services at 6 sites (urban & rural) in order to support economic development and social cohesion
- www.interreg3csunrise.org

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EU projects



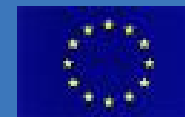
- **Virgil**, Verifying and strengthening rural access to transport services
- **ARTS**, Actions on the integration of Rural Transport Services
- www.rural-transport.net
- **SAMPLUS**: demonstration and evaluation of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services using telematics technologies.

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Future Perspectives



Policy:

- Can we expect an increased role for transport in the National Action Plans?
- What with social impacts of an increased number of (urban) pricing policies?
- Social impacts assessment of proposed and implemented legislation, also in the field of transport.

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Future Perspectives



Research and demonstrations

- What kind of accessibility are we promoting?
(e.g. cost of drivers license, free moped rental for jobseekers, ...)
Are we patronising when we want to insert sustainability and cost-effectiveness into the discussion?
- Exchange of experiences about the role of public transport, innovative mobility services and transport infrastructure in employment and training of low skilled labourers.
- Third party payments



Contact us



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