

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda
Implementing the Paris Declaration:
THE PEP relay race

Implementation of the Declaration of THE PEP relay race workshop in Kaunas “Improvement of sustainable mobility for better health and environment. Move to improve”

Prepared by the Kaunas City Municipality¹

I. Background

1. On 24–25 September 2014 Kaunas hosted THE PEP Relay Race Workshop “Improvement of Sustainable Urban Mobility for Better Health and Environment. Move to Improve“ which has brought new experience and inspiration to Lithuania. Over 200 specialists of health, environment protection and transport development sectors from all the local and national government institutions in Lithuania attended the event.
2. The preparation for the workshop and enthusiastic discussions during the event has improved a better vertical and horizontal cross-institutional and cross-sectorial cooperation and understanding among the policy makers, international organisations, NGOs, academic researchers and local authorities. It has also expanded a variety of topics on which the specialists of the three sectors share information and apply joint efforts looking for the best solutions.

II. Progress made since the workshop

3. Beside the great value of sharing the knowledge from the latest research and best practices of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) and sustainable urban development, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Lithuania has prepared and approved the guidelines of SUMP and Lithuanian local authority institutions have already started preparing applications for SUMP in their cities.
4. The Kaunas City Municipal Administration has also started preparing the sustainable urban mobility plan which will integrate the following thematic parts:
 - a. Encouragement to use public transport;
 - b. Integration of non-motorised transport means;
 - c. Modal split;
 - d. Traffic safety and security;
 - e. Improvement of traffic organisation and mobility management;
 - f. City logistics;
 - g. Universal design of transport system and integration of people with special needs;

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- h. Promotion of alternative fuel and transport with less pollution for environment; and
 - i. Evaluation of city needs for Intellectual Transport Systems.
5. There will also be developed City Mobility Variations (until 2030) which will:
- a. Evaluate long-term perspective of transport system (until 2030) on the basis of analysis of the SUMP thematic parts;
 - b. Resuming the strategy of implementation the goals of the EU White Book of Mobility and best foreign practices of SUMPs;
 - c. Planned possibilities of more effective use of city spaces and present infrastructure;
 - d. Planned goal indicators (goals to be achieved) and efficiency indicators (quality and availability of transport services and infrastructure, use of IT, use of land and territory planning, traffic safety and security, energy, environment, social inclusion and gender equality, economic development, health care).
6. Following the declaration of THE PEP Relay Race Workshop in Kaunas, in 2014 and 2015 the City Municipality has built 6.1 km of cycling paths, 373 m of cycling ramps on stairs, and 10 new bicycle stands in public places. The organisation of a bike rental system has also been started. An agreement concerning the construction of another cycling path along Užnemunė Street has been signed. The budget of this will be provided by the Kaunas City Municipality. At the moment the construction works have already been started. This new path will join the cycling paths of Kaunas City and Region into one network. In promoting cycling as a daily mean of transport, Kaunas City Municipality has taken part in the European Cycling Challenge contest for the third time and published an updated map of the Kaunas cycling paths and routes (5000 copies).
7. Moreover, the workshop helped to promote physical activity and raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable mobility among youth and local communities so that cycling is becoming more and more popular both as leisure activity and daily means of sustainable transport. The current modal split shows that cycling in Kaunas in 2015 reaches 7%, which is twice as much than in 2010. Until today, Kaunas City has developed 65 km of cycling infrastructure. In addition, this year Kaunas won the nomination of “the Cycling City of Lithuania” in the contest of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Lithuania.
8. In addition, it is worth mentioning that since 10 November 2014 until 15 January 2015 Kaunas City employed 66 new social health care specialists to work at preschool educational institutions. On 14 October 2015 there have been working 62 social health care specialists in 91 preschool educational institutions. The workshop has significantly contributed to raise youth and community awareness concerning the benefits of sustainable mobility for human health. The Kaunas City Municipality in association with the Kaunas City Municipal Public Health Bureau has organized 60 public events for the promotion of physical activity since October 2014. Educational institutions in Kaunas have organized 126 events promoting physical activity for youth during the same period.
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