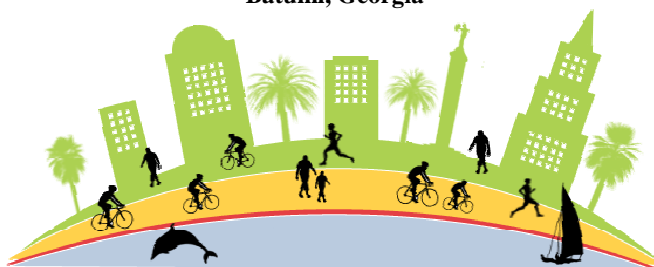


WORKSHOP ON SAFE AND HEALTHY WALKING AND CYCLING IN URBAN AREAS

30 September – 1 October 2010

Batumi, Georgia



Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)

in cooperation with the

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia and the city of Batumi

INFORMATION NOTE

I. Objectives

1. The major objectives of the Workshop on safe and healthy walking and cycling in urban areas are: (a) take stock of and share experiences in progress and challenges ahead in promoting walking and cycling in urban areas; (b) build capacity in the subject; (c) encourage policymakers across the three sectors to develop targeted strategies and concrete measures that support pedestrian and cycle-friendly cities and (d) prepare an initial proposal on introducing walking and cycling in Batumi. Thus, through concrete examples, the workshop will illustrate the different components of effective strategies, including legal, institutional, technical and financing aspects, and the ways these are implemented.
2. Environment, transport and health sectors as well as other related sectors will be represented. Government officials, national and local authorities, representatives of private sectors, academia, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international experts will come together to inform and learn from each other. Participants will have the opportunity to present successful experiences and discuss root causes of deficiencies.

II. Background

3. The workshop is organized under the auspices of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), what was established in 2002 by the Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe). THE PEP aims to support healthier and more environmentally friendly transport in the Pan-European region through the implementation of integrated and concrete policy actions involving the transport, health and environmental sectors on an equal footing.
4. At the Third High-level Meeting held in January 2009 in Amsterdam, ministers and other high-level officials from ministries of transport, health and environment of UNECE and WHO/Europe Member States renewed their political commitment to sustainable and healthy transport in the region and adopted the Amsterdam Declaration “Making THE Link: Transport

Choices for our Health, Environment and Prosperity”¹, also clearly defining mechanisms to support its implementation on the ground.

5. Following the workshop on safe and healthy walking and cycling in urban areas held in Pruhonice (Czech Republic)², this event is the second region-wide meeting of the THE PEP staffete (relay race), one of the main mechanisms adopted by the Third High level Meeting.

6. Participants of the Pruhonice workshop recognized that walking and cycling is an integral part of transport and urban development planning and policy, on par with public transport and car traffic that contributes to individual fitness and public health, reduction of traffic accidents, noise and air pollution, less greenhouse gas emissions and congestion and to increased attractiveness of city centers; They also agreed to pass the baton of THE PEP relay race to another host country to share best practice for cycling and pedestrian-friendly cities focusing on specific regional needs and challenges.

7. The workshop is organised under THE PEP serviced by the joint UNECE - WHO/Europe secretariat. The Government of Georgia in collaboration with the city of Batumi hosts and leads this activity. Practical support to the organisation of the event is provided by the Environmental Information and Sustainable Development Centre “Rio”.

III. Provisional programme

8. Using an interactive format of debates and roundtable discussions, participants will work together to identify challenges and needs and to promote innovative policies for planning, financing, infrastructure development and regulations to support walking and cycling as increasingly viable and attractive modes of urban mobility. Each delegation is expected to prepare a short statement on agenda items. The Workshop will consist of the following sessions:

- *Session 1: Setting the scene*
- *Session 2: Laying the ground: policy, legislation, institutions to support planning and infrastructure*
- *Session 3: Role of Industry and private sector*
- *Session 4 Role of civil society, media and schools*
- *Session 5: How much does it cost? Where should the money come from?*
- *Session 6: Make it happen on the ground!*
- *Session 7: Summing up and looking forward*
- *Session 8: Closing statements*

9. Furthermore, several side events are planned as follows: A promotional awareness-raising cycling and walking Rally along the city center, an Excursion to discover Batumi walking and cycling potential and existing infrastructure, and launch of the first Walking school Bus in Batumi.

¹ See: <http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/thepep.publications.htm>

² See more information on http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/workplan/urban/pruhonice-prague_docs.htm

10. A provisional programme for the workshop can be found in a separate document and is available at: http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/workplan/urban/batumi_docs.htm

IV. Background documentation and workshop outputs

11. The background material for the workshop will be made available on the website: http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/workplan/urban/batumi_docs.htm

Participants are welcomed to make available at the workshop other relevant material.

12. The following outputs of the workshop that will be finalised after the event are:

- (a) A summary with main conclusions and points for action:
- (b) A checklist of technical requirements for walking and cycling infrastructure in an urban area
- (c) An initial proposal on introducing walking and cycling in Batumi

V. Practical information

1. Working hours, languages of the meeting

13. The Workshop will start at 9.30 a.m. on 30 September 2010 and end at 6.00 pm on 1 October 2010. The Workshop will be conducted in English and Russian; simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

14. Lunch, dinner and refreshments during short breaks at the morning and afternoon sessions will be provided free of charge for participants.

2. Meeting venue

15. The workshop will take place at the Conference Hall “Bethlemi” of the Hotel Intourist Palace (Batumi, Georgia, 11 Ninoshvili Street, Tel.: +995 222 7 55 25/1 61 80 E-Mail: info@intouristpalace.com).

3. Registration

16. The Workshop is open to experts from national and local authorities, practitioners, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders from all UNECE and WHO/Europe member countries as well as for experts from international organizations.

17. Each participant **should complete a registration form** (see annex and webpage: http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/workplan/urban/batumi_docs.htm) and **return it to the secretariat (e-mail: oksana.rott@unece.org) as soon as possible, but not later than 1 July 2010**

4. Financial assistance

18. Limited funds are available from THE PEP Trust Fund to assist experts whose work has a direct relevance to the activity from the following countries with economies in transition in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro,

Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

19. Financial support is available for one representative from each of the Ministries of Transport, Health and Environment per country. Priority will be given to: (a) those delegations that are represented by the three sectors and (b) delegates from countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. **Requests for financial support should be included in the official letters of nomination and sent to the secretariat together with the registration forms of nominees (e-mail: oksana.rott@unece.org) as soon as possible, but not later than 1 July 2010.** Procedure of financial support will be communicated directly to the eligible participants.

5. Travel to Batumi

20. By air you will enter Georgia through Tbilisi international airport or Batumi international airport. Check with your travel agent, or contact reservations@carlsonwagonlit.com.ge to find out which connection best fits your needs. Depending on your departure place, it might also be advantageous to travel to Tbilisi by train or by bus. Please check with your travel agent.

Local transport to the hotel

21. Host country is planning to provide a shuttle service for participants from airports to hotels and from hotels to the workshop venue. More detailed information regarding the shuttle service will be sent to participants by e-mail at a later stage.

22. Participants wishing to explore Batumi transport system and walking zones may instead take public transport or walk. For detailed information about Batumi and its map, see <http://www.tourismadjara.ge/en/> and http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d5/Map_of_batumi.jpg

23. Taxi service is also available, call +995 77 419797. Normal taxi fare within the city is up to 10 GEL – about 5 Euro, and from hotels to the workshop venue is about 4 GEL - less than 2 Euro.

6. Accommodation

24. The organizers will make block hotel bookings. More detailed information regarding this will be sent to participants at a later stage.

25. All participants shall settle their bills directly with the management of the hotel, including any additional charges (laundry, room service, bar bills, telephone calls etc.). All major credit cards are accepted. Foreign currency exchange offices are available in Batumi.

7. Visas

26. Please check with your travel agent if visa is required for your travel to the meeting. If so, kindly apply for visa as soon as possible. Citizens of EU member states do not need visas for entering Georgia. Visas can be issued at the airport upon arrival for the citizens of non-EU countries, provided they have an invitation letter at hand. The organisers will provide invitation letters and ensure the permission for issuing visa given by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Please indicate this requirement in your Registration Form and contact Ms Inga Nikagosian (e-mail: inga.nikagosian@riocentre.org / phone +995 77 293979) for further questions.

8. Currency and money

27. In Georgia the currency is Georgian Lari (GEL). Up-to-date exchange rates are available at <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> If needed you can buy local currency at exchange desks in the airport, railway station, and at automatic teller machines (with a credit card) and at exchange offices.

9. Insurance

28. Please make sure that you have adequate individual health, accident and travel risk insurance cover, they will not be covered by the organisers.

10. Further information and contacts

29. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us:

For registration and financial support:

Ms. Oksana Rott, Joint UNECE – WHO/Europe secretariat

Tel: + 41-22-9172 447

E-mail : oksana.rott@unece.org

For questions related to the programme:

Ms. Brinda Wachs, Joint UNECE – WHO/Europe secretariat

Tel: + 41-22-9172 452

E-mail: brinda.wachs@unece.org

For local logistics, accomodation, visa, shipment of material and other practical questions:

Environmental Information and Sustainable Development Centre “Rio”

Ms. Inga Nikagosian

Tel.: + 995-77-293979

E-mail: inga.nikagosian@riocentre.org

30. Up-to-date information, the registration form and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course:

http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/workplan/urban/batumi_docs.htm