

Urban Innovation and Change:
The dynamic nexus of Transport, Environment and Health

Proposal for Joint Strategic Seminar (THE PEP-ITF-TR)
Monday, 14 April 2014, 17.30-19.00, La Defense, CNIT

Background and concept

1. The Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment under THE PEP¹, to be organized back-to-back and in cooperation with the Transport Research Arena (TRA) and the International Transport Forum (ITF) is a most timely opportunity to discuss the main issues facing the Pan-European region with respect to how policy decisions related to urban transport and mobility are intertwined with health and the environment effects, of both positive and negative nature, and what the role that research and innovation can be in this context. A Joint Strategic Seminar among the three organizations is proposed, to strengthen the bridges between the scientific, research and innovation communities on the one hand, and strategies, measures and programmes of urban policymakers and planners on the other hand.
2. Participants in the Seminar will discuss the challenges and opportunities of applying scientific and evidence-based research and policy instruments to meet the transport and mobility needs of large urban agglomerations and to embrace the notion of urban liveability as well as of green and healthy patterns of work and livelihood.
3. The Joint Seminar will highlight synergies across the nexus of transport, environment and health, reflecting a dynamic convergence of research, innovation, science and technology in support of green and healthy mobility for all.

Environmental, demographic and economic change calls for new mobility needs

4. Changes in urban transport and mobility over the coming years must take account of environmental and demographic change, such as aging populations, urban youth and south-north and east-west migration into cities, and economic change – a restructuring and transformation of the global economy toward less energy-intensive, less carbon-dependent activity, toward sustainable and healthy mobility and growth, in line with the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN’s Rio+ 20 programme “The Future we Want”.
5. The new understanding of how transport and urban development policies can create or destroy health and shape the quality of life creates new demands for political

¹ THE Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP), administered jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Environment and Transport Divisions in Geneva and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Euro) in Copenhagen.

accountability of different sectors and actors. Not only are transport and urban planners expected to uphold their traditional responsibilities towards the provision of shelter, services and infrastructure for living, working, studying, accessing services, goods and amenities; they are increasingly held accountable also for their “environmental performance”, and for how their decisions and actions impinge on health. This presents new challenges and opportunities, as the introduction of the health dimension as an integral attribute against which the performance of the transport and urban development sectors can be assessed. This is unprecedented and can tip the balance of the costs and benefits of many sectoral policies and investments. For example, there is a growing understanding of the global dimension of non-communicable diseases. These have become the leading cause of death and disease, globally, and have important determinants not only in individual behaviours and choices, but also in the environment and in the policies that different sectors adopt.

Health-promoting urban transport policies gain traction

6. In this context urban and transport policies that are health promoting can gain traction, particularly when they result in perceived improvement in quality of life. Similarly, attention to the mobility needs of people with limitations, e.g. due to ageing, chronic conditions, or the result of injuries, not only may satisfy the demands of an important and growing number of citizens, but may also result in better accessibility and societal benefits for all. This in turn may unlock new opportunities for economic development, for example through the creation of new types and or higher numbers of jobs in areas that need to be developed to satisfy the demand for green and healthy mobility.

7. Therefore, new science and technologies for sustainable and healthy mobility will inspire and support the development of new strategies and policies at both national and local level. In addition, increasing knowledge of the links between transport, environment and health will provide new insights and uncover new opportunities for policy options that maximise societal benefits and the value of public resources investments into healthy and sustainable transport. On the other hand, the challenges faced by policy makers in addressing persistent and emerging challenges will find new answers through research and innovation,

8. Research and development must work hand-in-hand with policymakers, civil society and the international community to shape “The Cities we want” making those places where people want to live, work and thrive. Active mobility and green and healthy lifestyles are part and parcel of this sustainable mobility agenda.

ITF-THE PEP-TRA: Strategic Partners in the nexus of innovation and change

9. The International Transport Forum (ITF), an intergovernmental organisation within the OECD acts as a platform to advance transport policy and practice, with a view to ensuring transport’s contribution to economic growth, environmental protection, social inclusion and the preservation of human life and well-being. The theme for the 2014 ITF is: “**Transport for a changing world: Understanding Trends – Shaping**

Responses”.

10. The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) run jointly by the United Nation Economic Commission for Europe and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) brings together the three sectors on an equal footing and pools capacities and skills from Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and North America with an integrated policy approach to sustainable urban mobility and green and health-friendly transport. The slogan for the 2014 High-level Meeting of THE PEP is: **“City in motion: People first!”**

11. The Transport Research Arena (TRA) aims to bring together European stakeholders from all areas of transport and transport-related activities over a broad spectrum of research and innovation. The scope of the forthcoming TRA encompasses all modes of surface transport: road, rail, waterborne, urban transport, as well as co-modality. The TRA 2014 slogan is: **“Transport Solutions: from Research to Deployment. Innovate Mobility, Mobilize Innovation!”**

Entry points in research / innovation and policy

12. Some possible entry points and discussion topics within the nexus of research/innovation/policy and programmes which reflect global economic and mega-trends could include:

- **Mobile Futures:** active mobility such as walking and cycling, use of inland (urban) waterways for people and cargo, multimodal hubs, accessibility for vulnerable groups, e.g. elderly, poor, children, and people with reduced mobility. How do we share space? How can urban mobility enhance “community”? And what are the innovative technologies to facilitate this?
- **Neo-Urbanism:** more compact and dense cities, focused on urban spatial planning and the links between housing, zoning, transport and energy efficiency. Neo-Urbanism is linked to the dream of youth: how do they want to live in the cities of the future?
- **Seamless Journey:** policies and measures that support a seamless journey between active mobility and public transport which is safe, clean, accessible, affordable and attractive for all.

Proposed format for strategic seminar

13. It is proposed that the Joint Strategic Seminar feature two key note speakers and three additional panellists who will take part in a moderated discussion. Key notes will present their statements within 15 minutes, followed by brief statements (7-10 minutes) of the panellists. A draft programme and suggested speakers is proposed below.

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Draft Programme for Joint Strategic Seminar

**Monday 14 April, 2014, 17.30-19.00
Venue: La Defense, CNIT, Paris**

17.30-17.40 Opening of the Seminar by key note speaker:
Mr. José Viegas (Portugal), Secretary-General of International Transport Forum (ITF)(Confirmed)

17.40-17.50 Second key note speaker:
Ms. Khatuna Gogaladze (Georgia), Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (Confirmed)

Four additional panellists will comprise the Seminar, presenting brief (10 minutes) statements.

17.50-18.00 Panellist 1 **Dr. Srdan Matic, Coordinator, Environment and Health WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen (Confirmed)**

18.00-18.10 Panellist 2 (Proposed) **Mr. Fred London, Architect, John Thompson and Partners, London**

18.10-18.20 Panellist 3 (Proposed) **Counsellor of the city of London for transport health and environment (Polis)**

18.20-18.30 Panellist 4 (Proposed) **Mayor or representative of a large French city**

18.30-19.00 The brief statements will be followed by a moderated discussion, prepared questions, discussion from the floor and some conclusions and recommendations for both scientists and policymakers.

19.00 Close of Meeting, followed by Reception.
