Call for Exchange Cities

Is your city concerned about urban congestion? Do you want to improve your planning and modelling practices and learn how to implement walking and cycling measures to reduce congestion?

The EU FLOW project is currently accepting applications for Exchange Cities to learn and exchange on improving local planning and modelling practices to maximise the congestion reducing potential of walking and cycling measures.

FLOW's goal is to put walking and cycling on an equal footing with motorised modes as a solution to urban congestion. To do this, FLOW has brought together experts in the field of traffic modelling (PTV Group) with leading walking and cycling experts (Walk21 and the European Cyclists' Federation) to develop a user-friendly methodology to assess the ability of walking and cycling measures to reduce congestion. FLOW is supported by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme.

Exchange City activities include:

- three workshops tailored to their needs and knowledge gaps offering exchange and mutual learning on multi-modal modelling of walking and cycling in urban areas and including input from PTV, Walk21 and the European Cyclists' Federation.
- applying (with support of FLOW partners) the FLOW methodology, modelling tools and impact assessment in their own context.
- support in commissioning modelling activities and data collection (e.g. stated preference surveys and new sources of data).
- organising a local stakeholder meeting to present and discuss the congestion reduction potential of walking and cycling measures in their city.
- developing (with support of FLOW partners) a roadmap for using walking and cycling measures to reduce urban congestion.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 635998

FLOW offers:

- a budget of **€5,000**, through a subcontracting agreement.
- travel reimbursement for Exchange Cities to three 1.5-day project workshops between spring 2016 and spring 2018 (first workshop in Lisbon in April 2016)
- travel reimbursement for Exchange Cities to visit a FLOW Partner City OR for a FLOW expert to visit the Exchange City for focused one-on-one exchange and support.

What we ask of you:

- Commit to active participation and sharing of experiences by signing a subcontract
- Attendance at three FLOW workshops
- Timely completion of an online questionnaire prior to each workshop (to structure the workshop and provide a starting point for discussion)
- Preparation before each workshop (i.e. reading briefing documents, preparing a short presentation if requested)
- Organise a local stakeholder meeting to look at the congestion reduction potential of walking and cycling measures in your city

Who is eligible:

- Any local or regional public authority responsible for urban transport issues, i.e. municipalities, regions, public transport authority or public agencies
- Applicants with a minimum experience of traffic modelling practices and software
- Applicants from the EU28, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, FYROM, Turkey, Switzerland, Norway, Israel, Albania or Moldova

FLOW will support nine cities interested in pairing up with FLOW Partner Cities (Budapest, Dublin, Gdynia, Lisbon, Munich, and Sofia) on integrating walking and cycling as equal modes into their planning processes and transport models. Matching will be based on the Exchange Cities' interest and experience in the walking and cycling measures being looked at in FLOW.

All activities will take place in English.

Please complete the application form here: http://h2020-flow.eu/learning-exchange/apply/
by 15 January 2016.
Successful applicants will be notified by 29 January 2016.
For more information about the FLOW project, please visit www.h2020-flow.eu

Please note: Parallel to this call for nine Exchange Cities, FLOW is also calling for a group of 25-30 Follower Cities, requiring a lower level of commitment and participation.

About the FLOW project

Why FLOW?

Despite the acknowledged benefits of walking and cycling in terms of health, travel-time reliability and cost effectiveness, the effects of walking and cycling measures on urban road congestion are still not clearly understood.

FLOW sees a need for:

- a methodological link between (currently poorly connected) walking and cycling and urban road congestion.
- a paradigm shift wherein non-motorised transport, often seen from a transport policy perspective simply as a nice "extra", is placed on an equal footing with motorised modes.
- improving the understanding of walking and cycling measures that have the potential to reduce urban congestion.

FLOW MISSION:
The mission of the FLOW project is to place non-motorised transport on an equal footing with motorised modes with regard to urban road congestion. It will achieve this by developing a methodology and tools to assess the ability of walking and cycling measures to reduce congestion in European cities.

FLOW OBJECTIVES:

- Define the role of walking and cycling in congestion reduction
- Develop and apply tools for assessing the congestion reducing potential of various walking and cycling measures;
- Increase awareness of the congestion reduction potential of walking and cycling;
- Actively support take-up of congestion reducing walking and cycling measures by public administrations;
- Foster the market for new walking and cycling products and services for congestion reduction;
- Communicate congestion reduction facts of walking and cycling.

MODELLING
There is a long history of modelling motorised transport. Such models are widely accepted for what-if analyses of large-scale infrastructure projects as well as local operational traffic optimisation. Walking and cycling, however, have often played a very minor role in these models. With FLOW, we want to improve the methodologies and accuracy of modelling walking and cycling and raise awareness of the benefits of such integrated, fully multimodal micro- and macroscopic models.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Policy makers and investors want to know about the outputs and outcomes of (envisaged or implemented) policies and measures. Transport policies and measures often have to undergo ex ante impact assessments to prove value for money to receive funding. Impact assessment covers the estimation, analysis and evaluation of all kinds of interventions. Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) and multi-criteria analysis (MCA) are common methods to assess a variety of impacts (economic, social and environmental). FLOW is developing key performance indicators to assess the impact of walking and cycling measures on congestion and a set of outcome indicators to assess wider socio-economic costs and benefits.