



CAR FREE CITIES NETWORK

- WORKING TOWARDS URBAN SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY - EUROPE WIDE!

The idea of a network of cities meeting to discuss traffic problems was first mooted by the European Commissioner for the Environment in June 1992. Two years later in Amsterdam on 24-25 May 1994, Car Free Cities was launched, as the result of collaboration between the Urban Environment Unit of DG XI and Eurocities, in the framework of the 5th Environmental Action Programme "Towards Sustainability".

In Amsterdam, Mayors of 35 cities signed a Car Free Cities Charter, setting out the key aims of the network:

- to encourage the reduced use of the private car and
- to promote environmentally-friendly modes of both passenger and commercial transport in urban areas.

In order to achieve these goals, members commit themselves to exchanging ideas and experiences, developing transnational projects, exploring and implementing good practice in technology and management.

The network now has some 60



members from throughout the European Union, from Iceland, Poland and the Czech Republic and Israel. Member cities participate in the activities of the network's working groups, which explore the following themes:

- Cycling and walking
- Commercial traffic
- Public transport
- Commuting
- Practical alternatives to the car
- Less polluting urban vehicles

The working groups are not only a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences, but they are also the starting point for joint actions or studies. Examples include a study into different types of light rail systems by the

Public transport working group, a comparative guide to parking policy by the Commuting working group and a brochure explaining how car sharing works, produced by the group looking at Practical alternatives to the car. Future activities will include focusing on city bike schemes, hybrid buses and examining mobility management schemes in practice.

Car Free Cities welcomes any European city who is striving towards a reduction in the use of private cars and is planning or in the process of implementing policies to foster sustainable mobility for their citizens.

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BALTIC SEA CULTURE CENTRE

The Baltic Sea Culture Centre in Gdańsk develops cultural cooperation between Gdańsk and Pomerania region and the Baltic Sea countries. In the year 1997 in which the City of Gdańsk celebrates its 1000 anniversary the Centre prepares the following festivals and exhibitions.

The International Festival of Monumental Mural Painting

12 artists from Lithuania, Estonia, USA, Mexico and Poland - winners of the international contest for a design of a monumental wall painting - were invited to realise their projects in

Zaspa, one of the modern district of Gdańsk. The paintings will be finished by the end of September, 97.

Pomeranian Family - a Photographic Exhibition

It is a presentation of about 1300 photos from Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. We wanted to show families and their histories in the cultural, social and historical context, from the end of 19th century up to nowadays, when political situation so often forced them to move their homes from one place to another. The photos show the life in small villages and big agglomerations

- life of peasants, craftsmen, workers, intellectuals. We present family celebrations, religious feasts and ceremonies, as well as every day work. We hope that presented pictures will help to create the living stories - sagas and family trees. The exhibition is presented in former Manege till the end



of September '97.

21st Northern People Folklore Festival

During this year Festival (4th - 10th August, 97) we are going to present 25 groups from Lithuania, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Poland. Two years ago we decided to make the Festival's formula more open. Inspired by the Kashubian music we invited Jarek Ćemietana, a very known guitarist and jazzman to cooperation. That concert was a big success. It was a very interesting experience not only for the public but for the musicians as well. We are going to hear that concert again this year 5th August in Gdańsk and 6th August in Hel. During the Festival Wojtek Waglewski from Voo-Voo will lead workshops for the participants of the Festival. The closing concert Voo-Voo „About the North” will be performed on 8th August in Gdańsk.



25 groups participated in the Northern People Folklore Festival.

WOMEN AND MEN IN DIALOGUE

At the beginning of August 1997 the city of Valmiera in Latvia hosted a wide ranging Baltic-Nordic conference on gender equality. The four day conference attracted 1000 women and men including Ms. Hjördis Höglund who represented the Union of the Baltic Cities. The aim of the conference was to draw the attention of society, the government and the Saeima (parliament) to the question of equal gender rights as one of the prerequisites for social development and also to promote a dialogue between the sexes. The conference was a forum for discussion also on issues relating to education, family, health, legislation, media, politics, violence and working life.



WOMEN AND MEN IN DIALOGUE
BALTI-C-NORDIC CONFERENCE
VALMIERA, LATVIA 7-10 AUGUST 1997

UNION FOR EDUCATION

The regional office of the Union for Education in the New Lander in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is working in the following fields:

Culture and arts & crafts - Integration of artists and craftsmen / women in other areas of the society.

Vocational education and training - Promotion of the implementation of nature and environmental education in the vocational education and training. It has started in pre-schools with the vocational training for teachers and social pedagogues.

Work with children and youngsters outside school - Support in finding / searching for the right occupation. In this reference we are interested in the education and employment market in Europe.

Tourism - Cultural tourism with creativity vacation. The interest is in "still not found" fields of activity and in rural tourism, the so-called green tourism and health tourism.

Furthermore, it initiates trans-regional and international arrangements, workshops and conferences like a German-Scandinavian Workshop Week under the topic "Life- Learning- Work in dialogue with art" or a German-Austrian-Scandinavian Workshop which brings together pre-school teachers and representatives from the institution which educate teachers.

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