



## DO YOUR INHABITANTS KNOW YOUR SISTER CITIES?

**In Gdynia the answer is - yes. The city has decided that the best way to promote its partnership ties is through direct contacts between inhabitants of the twin cities.**

The project Inhabitants' Exchange begun in 1995 by a three days visit of inhabitants from the sister city Kiel. During the stay the Germans visited the Tri-City (Gdynia, Sopot, Gdańsk) and the surroundings. A get-together party with music, dance and contests was also arranged. The stay in Gdynia arouse response among Kiels citizens and in May 1996 inhabitants from Gdynia visited Kiel. The group of 60 persons stayed at German families, participated in the very attractive tourist and entertainment programme as well as in an informal party for all the participants. This visit was co-financed by the European Commission Twinning Programme.



*Citizens of Kiel visiting their sister city of Gdynia*

In September 1997 the next visit of Kiel's inhabitants took place. The most important of all were the close

relationships between people which were established during that visit or continued from the former years.

## A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY IN KALININGRAD

**Since the start of the transition of the Eastern European countries to market economies, traffic related environmental problems have increased enormously and become a serious challenge in the Kaliningrad area.**

Kaliningrad as one of the most important links in the Baltic Sea Area for commercial activities between Western Europe and Russia is particularly affected by this development. Therefore, ECAT-Kaliningrad elaborated in cooperation with the City of Kaliningrad the project proposal "Sustainable traffic development in Kaliningrad City, Russia", which was accepted by the *Life* 97 programme. The general aim of this project is to assist Kaliningrad City in reducing traffic related environmental impacts and to support Kaliningrad's development towards a sustainable city. This will be done by:

- elaborating and implementing an integrated urban traffic concept

- establishing technical and environmental control of vehicles
- raising the public awareness for traffic related environmental effects

The **integrated urban traffic concept** for Kaliningrad City will be elaborated and implemented in close cooperation with the local authorities and the Zentrum fuer innovative Verkehrslösungen GmbH until August 1999 in five successive phases. In the first phase, necessary information and data will be gathered and analysed. Based on these examinations, an integrated urban traffic concept will be elaborated. In the following phase, the implementation will be prepared including a financing concept and the definition of priority measures. After evaluation and adoption of the concept by the responsible authorities and legislative bodies, the implementation of the concept will be started in the last phase.

For improving the **environmental and technical control of vehicles** in Kaliningrad, both investments for necessary technical infrastructure and

development of human resources are required. The training of experts according to western technical, operational and quality standards shall take place within the project. This is necessary in order to start the operation of the inspection station.

In order to **raise the public awareness**, an information campaign including various events and actions about traffic related pollution, the impacts of the pollutants on environment and health and about sustainable ways of transport will be organised during the following years.

By implementing this project, Kaliningrad will continue its development ~~towards a sustainable city and contribute~~ to a sustainable development in the Baltic Sea region as a whole.

Further information:

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