Dear Reader,
Welcome to our sixth and final NOVELOG Newsletter,

We are pleased to present in our final issue, our latest achievements and also to highlight some upcoming Urban Freight events that I am sure you do not want to miss!

Over the past three years, NOVELOG partners cooperated strongly with a community of related parties involved in multi-stakeholder platforms in twelve cities around Europe. Together, they invested time and efforts and gained insights into urban freight transport problems analysis and cooperative solutions development. They are now able to provide guidance to European metropolitan cities on how to implement effective and sustainable city logistics policies and measures.

The knowledge gained through this process allowed us to identify specific policy, planning and regulation actions that could help cities achieve higher level of efficiency in their urban freight transportation systems. Furthermore, in parallel to the development and implementation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, the NOVELOG project emphasizes the need for concrete guidelines on the distribution of goods inside the urban environment. Therefore, one of the final NOVELOG outcomes is a detailed City’s Guide on how to develop and implement a Sustainable Urban Logistics Plan.

As you already know, we consider collaboration quite fundamental! So, I am happy to present in the following pages, the main outcomes of our successful joint CIVITAS Urban Freight Conference with three other European Projects (CITY-LAB, SUCCESS, U-TURN) which was held in Brussels in April. You will also read about the insights gained during the session on “Urban freight” organized in the framework of the SUMP Conference which was held in Cyprus. Last but not least, stay tuned as the cooperation between the EU and the US will continue after the completion of the project.

You can find all this and more in this newsletter. Before closing the editorial of this final NOVELOG newsletter, I would like to thank all NOVELOG partners and to thank you all for having supported our activities, contributed to our work or simply followed our project over the last three years!

Enjoy your reading!

Georgia Ayfandopoulou
NOVELOG Coordinator

“Over the past three years, NOVELOG partners cooperated strongly with a community of related parties involved in multi-stakeholder platforms in twelve cities around Europe.”
Successful CIVITAS Urban Freight Conference for NOVELOG & the freight projects

On 23rd and 24th April 2018, NOVELOG and the three other CIVITAS urban freight projects - CITYLAB, SUCCESS and U-Turn - organised jointly their final conference in Brussels; the four projects coming to an end before summer 2018. Almost 200 people attended the conference during which they exchanged with partners of the four projects and other freight experts on the achievements of the projects, the tools and guidance produced over the last three years as well as the current and future challenges and solutions for urban logistics.

Coordinators of the four projects opened the conference on 23rd April by presenting to the audience their respective projects and their results. The opening session was directly followed by an EU-US exchange session, during which representatives of the European Commission and the Dutch Knowledge Distribution Centers for Logistics presented the latest developments in urban freight in Europe. Their presentations were completed by speeches from their American counterparts, namely representatives of the US Department of Transport, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and the City of Seattle (See page 4 for more information). Speakers also mentioned their cooperation process and the opportunities for further collaboration. The last session of the first day consisted of a keynote speech on planning for urban freight by Ian Wainwright and a panel discussion on the same topic, during which representatives of cities (Rotterdam and Copenhagen) operators and consultants (SEUR-PDP and Optilium Consulting) exchanged their thoughts. The first day concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Ms. Georgia Ayfantopoulou, NOVELOG coordinator and Ms. Karen Vancluysen, Polis Secretary General and CIVITAS Satellite coordinator, guaranteeing further promotion and use of NOVELOG tools after the project’s end.

On the second day, after the initial poster session, conference participants got the opportunity to learn more from partners of the four projects in a series of parallel sessions which covered a wide range of urban logistics-related topics, including stakeholder cooperation; the improvement of knowledge of urban freight; policy, regulations and planning; and the business cases of innovative approaches. The rich presentations and fruitful discussions allowed the participants to better understand the activities implemented in the projects and the results achieved. Among the speakers, we can highlight the participation of several NOVELOG partners, including CERTH, coordinator of the project, Panteia, ITL, ERTICO, the universities of Thessaly, Venice (IUAV) and Rome, and the cities and regions of Graz, Mechelen and Emilia-Romagna. The last plenary session was the opportunity for the projects coordinators and key experts, including the network of cities and regions Polis, the ALICE platform, the University of New-York and the European Commission to discuss the future of urban logistics, the main challenges ahead of us and the possible solutions, currently emerging. To conclude the event, ITL, on the behalf of all projects drew the main conclusions of the two days of discussions and presented recommendations which can be summarised as follows:

1) Urban logistics must be clearly integrated in sustainable urban mobility planning (e.g. SULP)
2) Stakeholder engagement solutions like freight quality partnerships or living labs must be further promoted and implemented
3) Regulatory frameworks for logistics spaces are to be further developed
4) Economic investment in critical areas are needed.

All presentations and relevant documents can be found on NOVELOG website at: http://bit.ly/NovelogConference
NOVELOG documents are available. Use them!

During the three years of the project, the NOVELOG partners worked towards the creation of tools, guidance and other documents in order to allow a wide use of the solutions identified by the consortium. While the final conference (read more about the conference, on page 2) was an opportunity to unveil and distribute some of the key documents, all urban logistics practitioners are invited to make use of the documents, now available online.

A series of four tools have been developed by the NOVELOG project. They are designed for a direct use by urban logistics practitioners. The tools are:

- **The Understanding the Cities Tool (UCT)** aims to facilitate the cooperation, consensus building and common understanding among city stakeholders that is necessary to ensure long term solutions to urban logistics problems.

- **The NOVELOG Evaluation Tool** formulates a multi-criteria multi-stakeholder decision making process, which facilitates the establishment and combination of objectives, performance criteria and indicators, and relevant weights to reveal stakeholders’ preferences.

- **The NOVELOG Toolkit** is a tool aimed at helping cities identify measures implemented in other similar cities and facilitating the selection of the most suitable measure or combination of measures for implementation. The Toolkit helps the cities focus on the specific measures that would provide the greatest benefit to the city or to specific impact areas that are a city’s priority.

- **The Guidance Tool** aims to develop a common framework to support the cities incorporate UFT solutions in their SUMP, enabling collaborative schemes among private and public-sector stakeholders, who participate in the decision-making and operation of UFT policies and measures in the city.

Beyond these four tools, some of the most important and useful documents and guidelines include:

- **NOVELOG SULP Guidelines.** NOVELOG partners strongly believe that planning for sustainable urban freight is essential to allow the long-term development of the logistics sector without increasing the negative impacts of freight traffic (e.g. pollution, congestion, safety issues, etc.). Therefore, NOVELOG has developed a guidance for Sustainable Urban Logistics Planning (SULP) for local authorities.

- **Cities and regions factsheets** of two pages have been drafted to clearly describe the NOVELOG activities tested in the partner cities and regions, highlighting their relevance in specific urban contexts, their implementation, their results and the potential challenges. Factsheets are conceived as operational inspirational material for local authorities.

- **Conference posters.** presented during the CIVITAS Urban Freight Conference all focus on specific activities implemented in the NOVELOG cities and regions and allow a rapid comprehension of the main related results and challenges.
Urban freight beyond Europe: the cooperation EU-US

The CIVITAS Urban Freight Conference (read more about the conference on page 2) was the occasion for the public to learn more about the latest developments in the field, in the United States.

Ms. Tamiko Burnell (US Department of Transportation), Mr Bill Eisele (Texas A&M Transportation Institute) and Mr Christopher Eaves (City of Seattle) presented their activities at different levels: federal, state-level and local; thus, providing a clear picture of the main challenges faced in Northern America and the type of solutions implemented. These are generally very similar to those identified in Europe too.

Therefore, cooperation between European public authorities, research organisations and freight operators can prove to be extremely fruitful. It is in this context that the EU-US cooperation framework has been launched in 2015, when the four CIVITAS urban freight projects - CITYLAB, NOVELOG, SUCCESS, and U-TURN - have been involved in the EU-US Urban Freight Research and Development Twinning Initiative. The Initiative aims to increase knowledge and awareness on the problems and solutions for urban freight and logistics on both sides of the Atlantic.

In September 2016, US delegates visited NOVELOG pilot sites in the UK (London) and Belgium (Mechelen), whilst CIVITAS UF project representatives take part in an annual Urban Freight Roundtable in Washington, DC. In May 2017, a joint webinar on Practices of Public-Private Sector Collaboration in Freight Planning has also taken place, featuring the NOVELOG case study London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

A session was held at the CIVITAS Forum 2017 as part of the Initiative. The CIVITAS UF project coordinators and a representative from the US Department of Transportation looked at strategies for engaging and supporting industry and local authorities in urban freight strategy development. They also examined new areas for potential future international cooperation.

Looking to the future, a peer-exchange visit is expected to see the CIVITAS projects travel to Baltimore, USA in September 2018.
NOVELOG travels to Cyprus

The 5th SUMP conference took place in Nicosia (Cyprus) on 14-15 May 2018. NOVELOG partners were present at the conference to discuss the place of urban freight in Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans. On the 16th May, the last consortium meeting and Quality Assurance Panel meeting took also place in the Cypriot capital city.

At the 5th SUMP conference, urban freight got particular attention, with the organisation of a dedicated parallel session “Planning for urban freight and logistics”. The session was chaired by Ms. Georgia Ayfantopoulou (CERTH), coordinator of NOVELOG. The NOVELOG partner, Peter König (BIM Consulting, Graz) as well as Madeleine Kelly (DG MOVE), Wulf-Holger Arndt (German Institute of Urban Affairs) and Nicole Mavrovounioti (Stratagem Energy) made presentations on the theme of sustainable urban logistics planning.

The discussions focused on the formal inclusion of urban freight in SUMPs (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans) and/or the development of separated SULPs (Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans). This discussion took place as the SUMP guidelines are going through a revision process. The updated version of these guidelines will make specific references to urban freight, following - among other things - the conclusion of the session and more generally the content produced by urban logistics projects, including NOVELOG.

On the subsequent day, the NOVELOG partners met for a last time to discuss the last activities to be carried out and the steps to take to allow a good uptake of NOVELOG results by external stakeholders, after the end of the project. The consortium also received the precious advice of Mr. Panos Prevedouro (University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA), Ms. Jenni Eckhardt (VTT, Finland), Mr. Ingmar Andreasson (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden) and Mr. Prem Chhetri (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia) who followed the project from the beginning and provided their support during a series of Quality Assurance Panel meetings.
Upcoming events

- **Green Cities – Green Logistics for greener cities**
  13-14 September 2018, Szczecin, Poland
  http://conference.lcl-project.eu/

- **CIVITAS Forum 2018**
  19-21 September 2018, Umeå, Sweden
  http://civitas.eu/forum2018

- **Autonomy and the Urban Mobility Summit**
  25-26 October 2018, Paris, France
  https://www.autonomy.paris/

- **Annual Polis Conference**
  22-23 November 2018, Manchester, UK
  https://www.polisnetwork.eu/events2/2018Conference

- **7th International Conference on Advanced Logistics and Transport**
  9-12 December 2018, Montreal, Canada
  http://icalt.org/2018/

- **Transport Research Board, TRB Annual Meeting**
  13-17 January, 2019, Washington, USA
  http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting
The ASSURED project

ASSURED aims at developing and testing high-power solutions for full-size, urban, heavy-duty applications. The fundamental aim is that each of these solutions will be able to charge various types of vehicles, and are designed to supply energy for a whole fleet of buses.

Using innovative charging management strategies will contribute to reducing noise and air pollution, as well as the total cost of ownership and operational costs. Another element which will be improved is the grid stability to ensure a secure energy supply, essential for future uses when a larger number of vehicles will rely on the charging infrastructure.

To achieve this, ASSURED will test six public transport buses, two garbage trucks, one delivery truck, and one light commercial delivery vehicle with automatic fast charging. The charging solutions tested by ASSURED will include different types of pantographs, plug-in and wireless charging.

The goal is to charge different vehicles using the same infrastructure, testing the interoperability of the charging solutions applied. If successful, this will help reduce costs and support the standardisation of the elements of the infrastructure.

More information: https://assured-project.eu/

The Vital Nodes project

Vital Nodes aims to enable efficient, sustainable freight delivery across the TEN-T urban nodes (urban areas), by bringing together existing European, national and regional networks.

As a result of increasing freight traffic, these urban nodes need to cope with challenges such as congestion, poor air quality, noise and road safety risks. The objective of the initiatives is to improve European interconnection, while developing sustainable mobility within cities.

Vital Nodes delivers evidence-based recommendations for effective and sustainable integration of the nodes into the TEN-T network corridors. It addresses specifically the multi and intermodal connection between long-distance and last-mile freight logistics. It will also support the deployment of innovations in the urban nodes, while establishing a long-lasting European expert network.

The Vital Nodes project is funded by the Horizon 2020 Programme, and will run for 24 months.

More information: https://vitalnodes.eu/
NOVELOG consortium

The NOVELOG consortium comprises a variety of experts in the field of urban freight transport, ensuring the knowledge of the academic sector, the experience of cities, the expertise of consultants and the multiplier effect of European networks.

For further information

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