

Press release  
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## ICLEI members on top at CIVITAS Awards 2010

*Malmö, Sweden September 29 2010* - ICLEI member cities Bologna Italy, and Vitoria-Gasteiz Spain, have been honoured at an EU awards ceremony for their pioneering work to promote clean and better urban transport. The 2010 CIVITAS Awards recognise exemplary efforts by a European city to implement sustainable and energy efficient transport policies.

Both cities have excelled in this field and were presented with their awards at the annual CIVITAS Forum Conference, in Malmö Sweden. The city of Bologna came out on top in the Technical Innovation category. Scientists working for the city and the University of Bologna have designed an intelligent transport system (ITS) that integrates traffic monitoring and rule enforcement. The system fulfils two purposes, helping municipal staff to monitor traffic flows and providing the local population with information about permits and access in the city. Jury member Christian Resebo, development secretary and analyst for the City of Malmö, said, “Bologna describes an integrated use of ITS and a way to use technology to facilitate modal shift while providing a service to travellers.”

Spanish city Vitoria-Gasteiz came top in the Public Participation category, which rewards cities for consulting transport users and groups during the planning, implementation or evaluation of initiatives. The Basque city’s authorities have made an extraordinary effort to involve citizens and other stakeholders in the development of a Sustainable Mobility and Public Space Plan, mobilising dozens of volunteers to brief the population about the changes. This resulted in a strong sense of ownership for the Plan among the local population, which helped overcome challenges such as conflicts of interest and adjustment to the changes. When speaking about the city’s participatory approach Christian Resebo said, “I sense that Vitoria-Gasteiz is truly committed to listening to the people, not just using their participation as a means of justifying decisions already taken.”

In the third category Italian city Genova was crowned CIVITAS City of the Year, which recognises the CIVITAS network member which has been most active, responsible and progressive in developing sustainable mobility measures. Among a number of bold measures introduced, the city authorities in Genova bought over 100 clean vehicles for public transport, introduced a car-sharing scheme, restricted vehicle access to the historic centre and piloted a goods distribution pricing scheme based on mobility credits.

The CIVITAS Forum Conference is an annual gathering for the exchange of views between politicians and urban transport experts. The 2010 event is the eight edition of the conference and concludes today following three days of debate, discussion and exchange. Previous meetings have been held in Bologna, Kaunas, Burgos, Nantes, Rotterdam, Graz and Krakow.

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## **Background:**

**ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability** is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations. ICLEI currently has 1,100 members worldwide and 200 in Europe. Founded in 1990, ICLEI provides technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level.

ICLEI is a partner in **CIVITAS** (City-VITALity-Sustainability), an EU initiative designed to support cleaner and better transport in cities. Launched in 2002, it facilitates the sharing of best practice and receives European Commission funding for collaborative transnational projects.

Each city that entered the awards is a member of the **CIVITAS Forum Network**, a community of over 180 cities that have committed to introduce ambitious urban transport policies. Twenty-four cities entered the competition this year, making it the most hotly contested CIVITAS Awards series to date.

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