

PRESS RELEASE

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Promoting electric public transport – TROLLEY Launch Event in Gdynia on 1 July 2010

On July 1, 2010, Wojciech Szczurek, the Lord Mayor of the City of Gdynia, will welcome high level politicians to the launch event of the TROLLEY project, which is co-funded by the European programme Central Europe that encourages transnational cooperation among the countries of Central Europe. For more information about the Central Europe Programme see www.central2013.eu.

TROLLEY promotes trolleybuses as the cleanest and most economical transport mode for sustainable cities and regions in Central Europe. Based on the rich experience of the 9 TROLLEY partners from 6 Central European countries [Salzburg (AT), Eberswalde and Leipzig (DE), Gdynia and Gdansk (PL), Szeged (HU), Brno (CZ) and Parma (IT)], the project seeks to unlock the vast potential of trolleybuses to transform transport systems from "fossil mobility" towards "electromobility". This partnership covers 25 % of all trolleybuses as well as 30 % of all trolleybus lines that are currently operating in the whole Central Europe area!

Mr. Schuchmann from the TROLLEY project's Lead Partner Salzburg AG, Austria, said: "We are aware of the large unexploited potential of trolleybuses in Central and Eastern Europe as a promising urban transport mode of the future and are convinced that advanced electric vehicles are the most efficient alternative to vehicles powered by combustion engines in our cities. We believe that clean and sustainable electric mobility is a realistic alternative to oil-fuelled mobility."

The project started on 1 February 2010 and will run until January 2013. It is the largest project in the second call of the European Commission's INTERREG Central Europe programme with a budget of €4,2 Mio, whereof €3,2 are a contribution of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

In Gdynia's City Hall, Lord Mayor Szczurek will welcome a number of high-profile individuals including the European Commission's head of the Unit "Clean Transport & Urban Transport", Ms. Magda Kopczynska. Key note speeches will be followed by a panel discussion on Innovations and Perspectives of Trolleybuses in Central Europe with all TROLLEY partners. The final festive act of the Launch Event will be the official signing of the "Joint Trolleybus Declaration" by the TROLLEY partners to demonstrate the awareness of the potential of electric public transport in European cities and commitment to support the TROLLEY Project.

In the morning of 1 July, the participants of the launch event will have the chance to gather firsthand insights concerning the trolleybus potential by joining a site visit to Gdynia's Trolleybus Depot (PKT) and a technical site visit with the topic „Conversion of Regular Diesel Buses to Trolleybuses in Gdynia“, where Gdynia has wide expertise.



This project is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the ERDF



The host of the TROLLEY project's Launch Event, Lord Mayor Szczurek, said: "Talking about a modern city, it is necessary to develop public transport of the highest quality and thus promote environmentally friendly technologies. In Gdynia, the modern trolley system, being consistently developed with the support of EU funds, is such a solution. Our participation in the TROLLEY project gives us an opportunity to exchange knowledge with partners of the trolley "premier league".

The Launch Event will be the kick-off for the TROLLEY partners to promote electric public transport in their cities and regions by optimising energy use, by increasing public transport efficiency and by reshaping the image of trolleybuses throughout Europe.

There will be a press conference between 1 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. on 1 July in Gdynia's City Hall. For further information please contact Mr. Johann Kogler (Phone: +43-662-4480-6163, Email: johann.kogler@salzburg-ag.at) or Mrs. Wanda Strzyzewska (Phone: +48-586-688-876, Email: w.strzyzewska@gdynia.pl).

Informations: Project flyer