

Mobility in ageing cities

13 October 2015

14.00h -17.00h

VLEVA

Kortenberglaan 71, 1000 Brussels

Meeting report

Chaired by Paul Mathieson, Southend

14.00h	Welcome, participants introductions and introduction of meeting objectives <i>Julia Wadoux, AGE Platform Europe</i> <i>Ivo Cré, Polis</i>
14.10h	Feedback about the morning session Participants are asked to reflect upon the morning session, and discuss key-lessons learned. <i>All participants</i>
14.30h	Best practices, worst experiences Participants are asked to present best practices, key-solutions and effective policies from their city or country to keep older people moving. But also unresolved issues can be presented. <i>All participants</i>
15.45h	Coffee break
16.00h	EU policy summary <i>For the ageing society: Julia Wadoux, AGE Platform Europe</i> <i>For urban transport: Nicholas Hauw, Polis</i>
16.30h	Conclusions, next steps <i>With a short highlight of future EU project opportunities</i> <i>Ivo Cré, POLIS</i>

About these minutes

The minutes provide in bullet style the main outcomes of a three hours meeting that provided room for an open and frank dialogue about problems, best practice and solutions.

Introduction and meeting objectives

Paul Mathieson of Southend introduces the meeting's objectives:

- Get to know each other! (and each other's experiences).
- Make best use of the inputs of the open days morning session about ageing society and mobility.
- Start a process of cooperation between Polis and AGE-Platform
- Translate local, regional and national practices to the European level
- Build a European agenda on ageing and travel/mobility in Europe

The participants introduce themselves:

Sinclair	David	UK	ILC-UK
Paoletti	Dario	IT	Atdal Over 40
Larsson	Tore	SE	Royal Institute of Technology
De Rooter	Joke	NL	OWN
Rasmussen	Bozena	DK/Faroe Islands	NOPO
Sluyts	Nathalie	BE	Vlaamse Ouderenraad
<i>Mathieson</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>UK</i>	<i>Southend</i>
<i>Rayner</i>	<i>Peter</i>		<i>Universal access</i>
Baert	Veerle	BE	VVSG
Broster	Patricia	UK	Life Story Network - Liverpool
Dunne	Tommy	UK	Life Story Network - Liverpool
Dunne	Joyce	UK	Life Story Network - Liverpool
<i>Arents</i>	<i>Paul</i>	Belgium	<i>Vlaamse Vervoermaatscxhappij De Lijn</i>
<i>Goss</i>	<i>Sue</i>	United Kingdom	<i>Southend on Sea Borough Council</i>
<i>Sempels</i>	<i>Eric</i>	Belgium	Flanders Region

<i>Jochems</i>	<i>Ruth</i>	Netherlands	Noord-Brabant
<i>Staps</i>	<i>Erik</i>	Netherlands	Noord-Brabant
<i>Cré</i>	<i>Ivo</i>	Belgium	Polis
<i>Hauw</i>	<i>Nicolas</i>	Belgium	Polis
<i>Wadoux</i>	<i>Julia</i>	Belgium	Age-Platform

Summary of Open Days workshop

Ivo Cré presents the main findings of the Open Days workshop:

- Older people face mental and physical challenges
- Taking action to keep older people mobile has positive impacts on safety and quality of life. It saves costs!
 - All speakers referred to tailored solutions. This tailoring can relate to personal characteristics (identifying different target groups) as well as to geography of actions (city centre requires different type of activity than periphery).
 - Public authorities step into this process in different roles: mobility planners, public transport competent authority, health care / care provider and last but not least: director of local policies.
- The speakers focused on physical activity and did not address social aspects of being active!
- With regards to health, one of the speakers highlighted the over-estimation of personal activity levels.
- Specific target groups were addressed:
 - Driving instructors as target group: how to retrain drivers, how to increase the use of adapted cars.
 - Doctors

Conclusions – What went wrong?

The group discusses negative experiences. These are the main issues listed:

- Incoherent implementation of EU legislation (TSI PRM)
- Lack of integration

- Un-coordinated investments/disinvestments (e.g. bus stop / bus lines)
- Keeping foot paths and bicycle paths clean.
- Spatial planning
- Budget:
 - Lack of visible return on investment
 - Budget siloisation
 - Annual budgets – no long term perspectives
- General traffic behaviour is poor, lack of courtesy.
- Electric buses are too silent for the visually impaired. (on board as well as on-street)

Conclusions – what went well?

Throughout the discussions, positive elements and best practices were mentioned.

- Blue assist / Yellow wallet
- Legible London
- Slovenian taxi service – meeting spots
- Dutch practice of responsible local authorities enables to see checks and balances
- Pedibus / walking bus: inter-generational activity
- Dutch 10.000 steps campaign
- Merseytravel: community transport
- Travel training (DB)
- Police training for dealing with dementia, infosheets and information to bus drivers (Flemish region)

Conclusions – what would work?

The participants raise a number of solutions:

- Solutions should enabling (behind the)door- to – (behind the)door transport
 - By provision of local mobility solutions
 - And foster local traffic calming measures (such as shared space)
- Public Transport should improve:

- The stability of bus network should be better: frequent and reliable services
- Mobility centers such as developed in the NL and DK offer different service level / price in function of the needs and capacities of the end user
- Staff should be well trained and available.
- Buddy systems (De Lijn) can help to create an trustworthy environment.
- Availability of PT can enable decreased car dependency. In this regard, it is worth mentioning practices where older people donate their car to community systems, and get PT or community trips in return.
- Policy and service integration should improve
 - Working with the health sector is of premium importance.
 - More accommodating measures for carers (PT)
 - WHO physical activity guidelines can be applied.

EU policy and project overview

Nicolas Hauw presents EU policy issues that affect mobility and ageing (presentation available).

Ivo Cré presents EU project opportunities that relate to the meeting's topic. The participants highlight the following elements for future project development:

- Balancing digital and analogue information
- Mobility as a Service, based on local mobility solutions
- Mobility centers (regional dispatching and procurement centres for mobility)

Next steps

The meeting organisers received positive feedback about this meeting, and a similar event in 2016 could be envisaged.

Minutes: Ivo Cré, Polis