The Cat with the App

Cristina Pou examines Catalonia's two new multimodal initiatives

The quality of our modern transport and mobility systems is constantly improving and our citizens are more demanding regarding the information provided and the new technologies. In this sense, the possibility to know how to get from point A to point B with the combination of different modes of transport (public transport+bicycle, e-scooter+public transport, etc), as well as to know the time before the next bus, or the delays and disruptions within the network in real time with alternative options, are the key issues affecting our citizens.

The Government of Catalonia has launched the first multi-modal journey planner in Spain called 'Mou-te' which is available through the website www.gencat.cat/mou-te and smartphone gencat.mobi/moute. 'Mou-te' integrates all the public and private transport modes within Catalonia (underground, urban buses, tram, regional and suburban trains, commuter buses, buses on demand, long-distance and high-speed trains) with 180 operators (public and private), more than 15,000 stops and 1230 lines. The main challenges of this project have been the several information sources with different quality of data, frequency of updates and the complexity of this huge system. Just to have an idea of the complexity, for example, the total urban buses of Barcelona (TMB) includes approximately 110 lines and for Mou-te it's more than 1230 lines. We could agree that there is no similar tool at this level, neither from any other public administration nor the private sector. Existing Apps and websites in the private sector are more focused on providing information within cities like Barcelona and the surrounding areas.
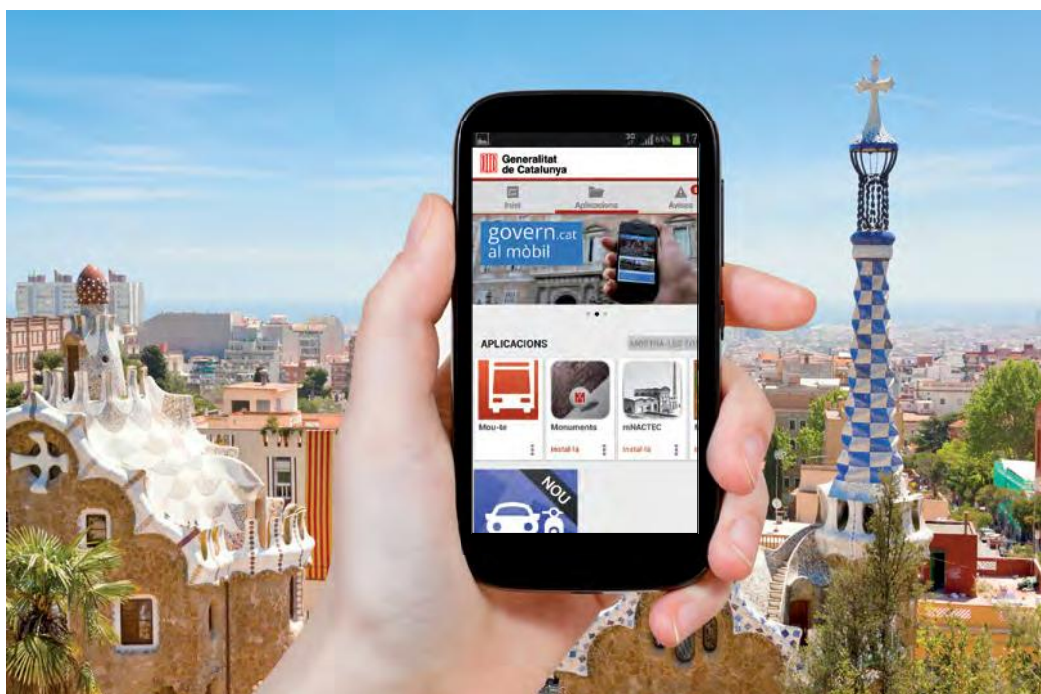
MODAL SHIFT

'Mou-te' has been recently improved in order to respond to our citizens' demands and it is currently providing a multimodal journey planner combining private cars with public transport. This has been greatly approved by our citizens as there are some areas with low-density population or with a low supply of public transport where they are now informed about the possibility of taking their car to the nearest train or bus station (with the specific route to follow) and take public transport.

Our next challenges are focused on introducing more modes of transport like bicycle or e-scooters, providing real-time information and taking into account our citizens' preferences.

In this manner, Polis and the Government of Catalonia, in collaboration with 12 more partners

Within the MY WAY project there are three living labs where the new App will be tested: Catalonia, Berlin and Trikala: densely populated cities with a large mix of transport modes and a smaller urban area with fewer transport options
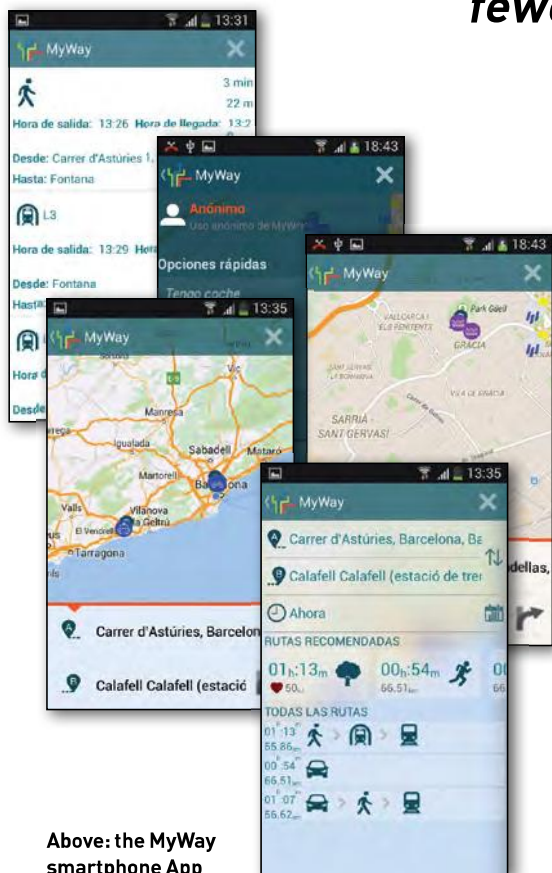
Above: the MyWay
smartphone App
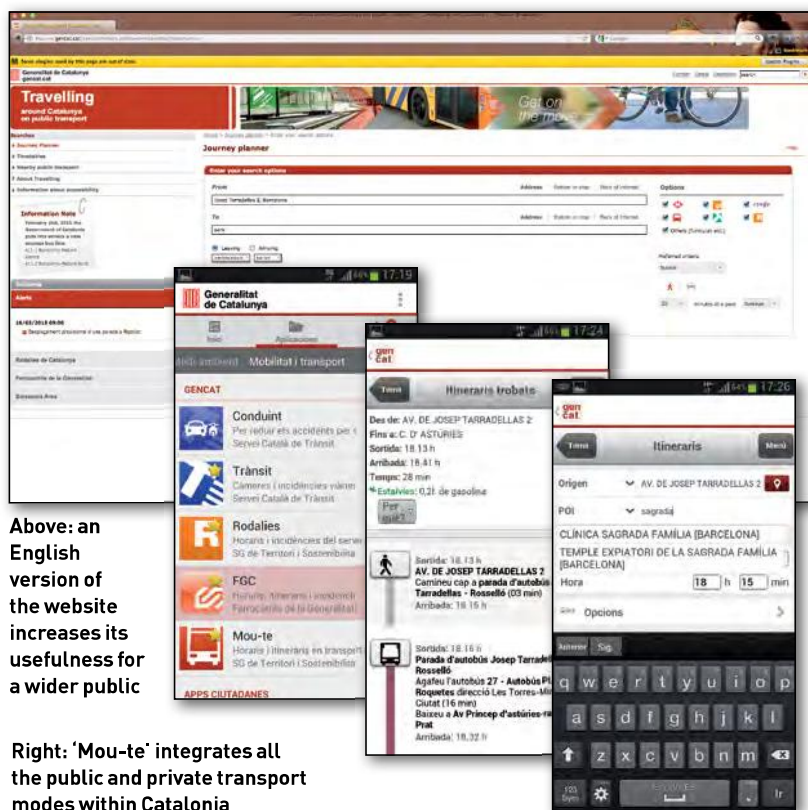
Above: an English version of the website increases its usefulness for a wider public

Right: 'Mou-te' integrates all the public and private transport modes within Catalonia

from ICT solutions and service providers, research organization and local authorities, are members of the European project called 'MY WAY'.

The main goal is to enhance personal mobility through smart services. It is a part-funded project under FP7-ICT Smart Cities Call with a total budget of €5m and with a €3.6m funding from the EU. The main innovative aspects of this project are to provide a fully multimodal journey planner integrating the public and private modes into a single trip, a user centric (user profile) vision of the application adapting and learning from the user experience, and the possibility to provide real time updates, delays, incidents, re-planning the trip and the booking of some services (for example, e-scooters).

Within the MY WAY project there are three living labs where the new App will be tested: Catalonia, Berlin and Trikala (Greece), a good combination of large and densely populated cities with an excellent mix of transport modes, to a smaller urban area with fewer transport options.

The Phase 1 version of the App is already available in Android and iOS and it is being tested by real users of the three living labs at the time of going to press. This first version already includes the combination of public transport, private car, bicycle, on foot and motorbikes, as well as providing a first version of the user profile. Ⓒ

FYI
Cristina Pou Fonollà is Head of Road Transport for the Government of Catalonia
cristina.pou@gencat.cat
www.gencat.cat