

City of Riga December 2007

Local freight network

Context

Riga is the capital city of Latvia and at the same time also the biggest urban agglomeration with 728 000 inhabitants. Riga Historical Centre is a unique area with buildings and streets dating back to the 13th century. The ancient city planning can no longer cope with increased traffic – the narrow streets are not built for the private and cargo transportation.

Objectives

A network of representatives of local freight suppliers and related structures has been established in Riga. Its purpose is to facilitate a dialogue and mutual understanding with respect to freight organisation in the city among retailers, suppliers and state and municipal authorities. Mutual information exchange would allow more precise identification of the needs of the parties concerned and assistance in reaching balance between public and private interests.

Description of the action

The first meeting took place in June 2006. This meeting focussed on freight delivery and waste removal issues and problems in Old Riga. Participants advised to change the allowed delivery time in Old Riga during the high season moving it to late night hours and to develop an optimum traffic organisation scheme. At the next meeting in October 2006, participants discussed the particular proposals concerning the drop-off sites within the historical centre of Riga. This discussion focussed not only on the drop-off sites and their number, but also on the anticipated efficiency of their use in the future.

On March 30, 2007 a Local event was held in Riga – a seminar on the traffic problems in Riga and their solutions. Members of the Local freight network of the START project participated in the seminar along with other field experts – all together more than 50 participants.

A consultative work group has been formed to facilitate a broader discussion on the proposals elaborated within the project (drop-off sites, creation of a logistics centre to organise freight deliveries within the historical centre of Riga, etc.).

In October 2007 a meeting has been held with the Executive Council of the Latvian Traders Association (15 representatives) on limiting freight transportation and proposals on drop-off sites.

Further planning and expected results

For successful implementation of proposals in the future, the key preconditions identified are the following: a strict implementation control mechanism, support from freight suppliers and recipients and communication of incentives to the public.



Local partners

Riga City Council
 Latvian Traders Association
 Riga City Inspection for Heritage Protection
 Rīgas satiksme
 Chief Police Department of Riga
 Road Traffic Safety Directorate

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