

# Policy Integration Between Transport, Health and Environment Sectors

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## *Environmental and Health Effects of Transport*

Modern transport enhances personal mobility and supports economic and social development, but also generates negative impacts on our communities and cities.

The rapid growth of road transport has effected health and environment through congestion, road traffic crashes, air pollution and noise, especially in urban areas.

The Transport, Health and Environment Pan European Programme (THE PEP) was set up to address the key challenges to achieve more sustainable transport patterns and a closer integration of environmental and health concerns into transport policies.

## ***THE PEP***

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Activities in these key areas are coordinated and implemented by THE PEP Steering Committee, composed of UNECE and WHO/Europe Member State representatives from the transport, environment and health sectors, in close cooperation with relevant international and non-governmental organizations.

THE PEP supported the Tbilisi workshop in 2006 which was the third workshop on sustainable urban transport that was organized in the framework of THE PEP (First in Nicosia in 2003 and second in Moscow in 2004 jointly with ECMT);

## ***Workshop Objectives***

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- Increase awareness of the health and environment hazards of the current urban travel patterns in Georgia and other South Caucasian countries, Armenia and Azerbaijan;
- Exchange good practice and strengthen the capacity of the national and local administrations to improve collaboration between relevant sectors and tiers of government;
- Promote more sustainable modes of urban transport, notably public transport; and assess the environmental and health impacts of urban transport;
- Issue recommendations for consideration by the national and local governments in the South Caucasus subregion.

### *Stimulus to cross-sectoral collaboration*

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- The workshop brought together 70 representatives of the transport, environment and health sectors and land-use planners from the national and municipal governments of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as from other UNECE and WHO/Europe member countries.
- Also ECMT, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus and a number of local NGOs were represented.
- It gave the unique opportunity to meet representatives from other sectors, countries and international organizations for exchanging expertise and experience.

### *Stimulus to cross-sectoral collaboration*

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- Background reports had been prepared highlighting major challenges and proposing concrete actions for improving the situation.
- The workshop provided an overview of transport developments in the main cities of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and their consequences for the health and environment of the urban population.
- 800 people questionnaire survey was commissioned to a Georgian NGO to shed light on Tbilisi citizens' awareness, preferences and perceptions regarding urban travel. The outcomes of the survey were presented on the workshop.

## *Overview of challenges*

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The key barriers to sustainable urban transport highlighted at the workshop are legal, administrative and economic.

They include the following:

- Insufficient cooperation and policy coordination among relevant sectors;
- Lack of law-enforcement tools;
- Inefficient monitoring and assessment of pollution and other transport-related environment and health effects;

## *Overview of challenges*

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- ✓ Poor technical condition and old age of vehicles; insufficient vehicle emission control system; absence of fuel quality control system; absence of compulsory and efficient inspection of vehicles; bad driving behaviour/skills;
- ✓ Weak public transport system;
- ✓ Inefficient traffic management;
- ✓ Low public awareness of the health problems relating to urban transport;
- ✓ Lack of a comprehensive and forward-looking transport-demand management plan.

## *Main Obstacles of Sustainable and Healthy Transport Development*

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- Lack of integration among three sectors – Transport, Environment and Health;
- No vehicle emission control system;
- No fuel quality control system;
- Insufficient traffic management system and still weak sustainable public transport sector;
- Lack of reliable data on transport-related air pollution;
- Lack of information on health of exposed population;
- Insufficient Legislation and lack of enforcement tools;
- Low public awareness on the problem.

## *Recommendations of Tbilisi workshop*

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### *Improvement of policy integration and cross-sectoral cooperation*

- Creation of a permanent high-level inter-agency coordination body;
- Improvement of information collection and exchange, integrated monitoring and assessment.

## Recommendations of Tbilisi workshop

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### *Promoting more sustainable transport modes and sustainable travel behaviour*

- Development and implementation of a comprehensive urban transport strategy/policy framework outlining the various measures to be taken at the local level;
- Increasing and improving the attractiveness of the more sustainable transport options –public transport;
- Enacting market and pricing reforms to manage private car use and reduce environmental and health externalities of transport.

## Thank you for your attention!

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