

PARFUM for better air quality in Europe ? That's LIFE !

When hearing the word PARFUM, you will think of some good smell. In our urban areas we have not yet reached such a good smell so far – especially when it comes to pollution caused by heavy-duty vehicles.

The LIFE-funded PARFUM project (Particulates, Freight and Heavy Duty Vehicles in Urban Environments) is going to demonstrate ways on how to reach some better smell for our city centres by reducing transport related emissions.

As all European Cities, also the project partner cities of Bremen, Rotterdam-Rijnmond and Padova suffer from transport related emissions. All three regions are characterised through intensive business activities based on trade and logistics. Along with the European policy objectives, it is necessary to drastically reduce the emissions but at the same time to keep a good basis for the economic growth.

The particulates-problem (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) has achieved meanwhile a good level of awareness, but the upcoming challenge of Nitrodioxide reduction (NO_2) has not yet reached a sufficient awareness. It is important to know that large Diesel engines are even more responsible for high local NO_2 -emission levels than it is already the case with particulates. Vehicles with large Diesel engines – like buses, delivery vans and trucks – contribute disproportionately high to local emissions. In typical urban streets, although representing less than 10% of the fleet these vehicles cause about half of the local NO_2 emissions!

On the other hand, those vehicles are necessary to maintain good accessibility for passengers and goods which is essential for liveable city centres. Here, the PARFUM project has its starting point to work in public-private partnership to implement innovative solutions.

Integrated solutions of air quality management are required which include

- good transport organisation, e.g. through improved logistics concepts for goods and attractive Public Transport for passengers

- market instruments to support the use of clean vehicles
- good monitoring
- modelling for low environmental impacts

The Bremen Ministry for Construction, Environment and Transport is the coordinator of the PARFUM project, which has started in October 2006 and will run until March 2009. Padova implements several measures to make Public Transport more clean – starting from clean buses to the implementation of an innovative tram concept. Bremen's focus is on freight delivery and clean vehicles. Rotterdam-Rijnmond concentrates on monitoring.

In Bremen, there is some joint action with the local gas provider swb and the logistics operator DHL / Deutsche Post to pioneer in the field of clean delivery. New CNG-powered delivery vehicles fulfil the most ambitious emission standard EEV (Enhanced Environmental Vehicle) – almost no particulates from the exhaust pipe and NO_2 emissions reduced by about 78% to Euro IV standard. The City of Bremen is going to implement an "Environmental Loading Point" adjacent to the pedestrian area to ease delivery when there is no entry for delivery cars. This innovative "E-Loading Point" will be exclusively accessible for Euro V / EEV delivery vehicles – which gives a strong market-based incentive to operate clean delivery trucks in the City of Bremen.

The PARFUM measures of all project partners are calculated with €2,188,079. The LIFE programme supports the PARFUM project with €971,182.

Further information is available under:
www.parfum-life.eu

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The PARFUM project team at the kick-off-meeting



Trucks and buses - often "heavy smokers"



Clean delivery vehicles - fulfilling EEV emission standard



PARFUM innovation: Eco-Loading Zone planned in Bremen



The PARFUM project is cofinanced under the LIFE programme of the European Union