



EuroPEdestrians

preliminary project idea

1. For whom – the target

- If you are a group of activists lobbying for better walking conditions in your city/country and you'd like to meet similar walkability fans from Europe and learn from each other.
- If your organization is involved in pedestrian rights advocacy or walking is popular as a means of transportation in your city. You feel you could share your achievements with the people from the other countries not so advanced in walking habits and public space walkability.
- If your organization is interested in environmental and human friendly city, but you have just begun your involvement in walkability so you are looking for hints and inspirations.
- **Important:** if your organization is involved in some kind of adult education activities. Not necessarily teaching, but for example **social awareness rising campaigns, courses, traffic education** etc. Your organization statute include such goals.

In that case this project is for you. You can benefit and the other can benefit from you.

2. For what – the purpose

The project might have the following purposes:

Sharing experiences and exchanging knowledge about social activities for better walking conditions in the EU cities, especially concerning public participation in decision making, social campaigns, road design and urban planning process.

Identifying problems and obstacles inhibiting walking development and discussing how to solve and bypass them.

Collecting and publishing all relevant **best practices** concerning education, legislation, infrastructure, promotion and civil society involvement.

Discovering new ideas of international cooperation between organizations and institutions dealing with walkability and sustainable mobility.

Comparing the walking conditions in different EU countries in terms of safety, legislation, social awareness, infrastructure, demand, policy, culture.

Collecting the most important and urgent needs (top ten?) of European city pedestrians and **start to cooperate** towards fulfilling them at the city, country and European levels.

3. How – the means

The project aims given above are to be achieved by the following means:

- 2 or 3 years participation of 4 – 10 NGOs or institutions, each from different EU country.
- 6 – 12 **meetings**, about 5 days long, each hosted by different participant in it's city.

The program of each meeting will include:

- presentations;
- discussions;
- walking tours guided by the host, aimed at showing examples of good walking facilities and problematic places as well;
- some free time for individual sightseeing (roads, public transport, urban space, pedestrian zones, architecture, street furniture, cycling, and so on);
- optionally meeting with municipal officers, road authorities or local media.

During the kick-off meeting every participant is expected to

- introduce itself;
- describe briefly it's main advantages, problems it encounters and it's plans for the future;

After each meeting a brief report will be prepared including

- agenda;
- list of persons;
- basic points discussed;
- conclusions, comments;
- list of places visited during walking tours and useful observations made there;
- meeting evaluation.

Participants are expected to contribute in preparing that report (for example by taking notes). It will document the project progress as well.

At the end of the project a final summary report will be written including topics mentioned before and also ideas for the future cooperation.

Participants will be encouraged to publish and update information about the project on their Internet pages and to disseminate the project results.

Participants will communicate by means of devoted mailing list, in English.

4. What can you do – your contribution

For now it is only a general, preliminary sketch. We are looking forward for your suggestions how to extend and improve the idea. Including the name, EuroPEdestrians is not fixed and may be replaced by more self-explaining or more attracting name.

Project idea refinement and application

The final application should contain a motivation:

- why we want to work together,
- what benefits we expect,
- why walking is important in modern cities, why pedestrianization should be supported,
- what problems and topics we want to address,
- what European added value can we produce by mean of our partnership.

Learning aspects and dissemination project results should be stressed. The application should fit into current EU priorities as much as possible. Obviously the more it fits, the more chance for approval.

Grundtvig partnership projects are **process** oriented, not **product** oriented. The basic purpose is to visit each other and exchange the knowledge. However, it would make our project better and more valuable (also for us) if it had produced visible results. It might be a report, guideline or graphic pictogram promoting pedestrianization. Feel free to propose what our project could produce.

Every organization is kindly asked to prepare 2-3 presentations devoted to the topics it feels particularly familiar with or has experts in. In particular the following issues can be presented and discussed:

- pedestrian zones, car free zones
- shared space, mixed traffic areas – tramways, bikes and pedestrians
- pedestrian safety improvement by traffic calming
- pedestrian safety in road code (legislation)
- vulnerable road users protection
- public transport accessibility
- accessible and inaccessible tram and bus stops, railway stations, airports
- mobility handicapped people facilities
- inter-modal transport hubs/nodes, principles of good design,
- cooperation with municipality, police, road authorities, politicians
- pedestrian and cyclist – friends or enemies?
- walking promotion by social campaigns
- graphic elements in walking promotion – logo, sticker, poster, banner
- video movies and podcasts as a means of walking promotion
- safe way to school, parents involvement
- drivers education
- children education
- pedestrian advocacy by NGOs
- technical and engineering safety measures
- road traffic psychology, the rules of human behavior on the road
- best practices of pedestrian friendly road design
- walking from the health point of view
- public space assessment, how to measure walkability
- various surveys on walking and their results
- institutional support of walking – walking officer in city hall? pedestrian ombudsman?
- city walkability plans and strategies

Hosting meetings

The core of this project are meetings. We need most participants who will agree to host the others and to help them to some extent. The hosting organization would be responsible for:

- suggesting accommodation, if possible not expensive, for the participants,
- finding place where 15-20 persons can meet and discuss (guest will pay for it if needed),
- providing laptop and projector for presentations (if the room is not equipped with),
- involve local designers, municipal officers, scientists, residents (optional – if possible),
- showing around interesting places – examples of walking conditions,
- printing participation certificates for all the guests (required by some NAs)