

Providing secure pedestrian crossings

Autumn 2018



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- Safer pedestrian crossings and streets
- Improved accessibility of public transport
- Walking as a safe mode of transport

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 690699.

Location: Ruse, Bulgaria

Organisations involved: [Municipality of Ruse](#)
[Club "Sustainable Development of Civil Society"](#)

What is the solution?

The existing pedestrian crossings in the peripheral district of Druzhba, in Ruse, are not secure enough and present a high risk for accidents, leading to injuries and fatalities. Most people with disabilities avoid walking on streets, in general, or around the city due to the lack of basic infrastructure. Druzhba is Ruse's 'living lab' (or demonstration/pilot area) in CIVITAS ECCENTRIC, and one of the entrances to the city centre with high volumes of traffic.

This measure analyses the crosswalks in the peripheral neighbourhood and secures them with LEDs, raised paths, etc. Additionally, cameras for video surveillance will be installed at junctions in the district.

How does it work?

The following activities have been implemented during the measure's research and planning phase:

- Planning and research activities on innovative solutions for securing pedestrian crossings.
- Meetings with experts in the field.
- Analysis of the crossings available in the district and research into best practice for improved designs with safety and security in mind.
- Identifying the best locations for implementation of the new pedestrian crossings – close to focal points of pedestrian traffic – shopping areas, schools, main roads and streets leading to the city centre.
- Dissemination of the measure idea in order to appraise citizens' reaction.
- Development of technical specifications.

Ruse Municipality has performed a contract selection procedure (launched in April 2018) and has signed a contract for designing secure pedestrian crossings. After the design is ready, Ruse Municipality contract the necessary construction works.

Expected results

The longer terms aim of this measure is to reduce the number of road accidents involving pedestrians and to make walking a safer and more desirable way of travelling in the district and the city. The shorter-term goal is to build safe infrastructure for pedestrians, including people with disabilities.

Expected impacts are an:

- Increase in the share of walking in the modal split in Druzhba - currently at 44%.
- A decrease in the number of accidents.
- Increase in the use of public transport by people with disabilities living in the district.



THE CIVITAS INITIATIVE
IS CO-FINANCED BY THE
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Business model

The measure is funded through CIVITAS ECCENTRIC. The planned total budget for the measure is €123,000, including €71,000 for design and construction of the crossings, and €16,000 for equipment costs.

Ruse Municipality will construct at least two innovative, secure, pedestrian crossings as pilots in Druzhba. Ruse plans to construct additional crossings, like those piloted, in the next years, should the demonstration and monitoring phase of the pilots show that these are well-accepted by residents of the district. In fact, Ruse is ready to upscale the measure to the whole city and construct such innovative secure pedestrian crossings in other neighbourhoods, if those constructed via CIVITAS ECCENTRIC turn out to be a success, and the community requires more solutions like this.

Ruse has collected feedback from people living in the district during meetings and through the Mayor's social media channels. The information received was taken into consideration when choosing the exact spots for positioning the new crosswalks.

Both the design and the construction of the new crosswalks are expected to be completed in four months (in total).

Contact details

Nikolay Simeonov

City of Ruse

Email: n.g.simeonov@gmail.com

Websites: <https://ruse-bg.eu/setlang/en/>

Living lab area in Ruse: <http://civitas.eu/eccentric/ruse>