

Safe pavements with cycle paths toward the city centre

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- Safer walking and cycling
- Design for non-motorised transport
- Promoting active modes 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 poor state of the pavements (or footpaths) and cycling lanes in Ruse's Druzhiba district generates a high risk of road accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists, as these often result in people opting for using roads when they head towards the city centre. Currently, the footpaths on both sides of the main roads, connecting Druzhiba with the central areas of the city, are either incomplete or are in a very bad state of disrepair, and are unsafe for walking or cycling.

How does it work?

In this measure, the Municipality of Ruse and the non-governmental organisation (NGO) CSDCS (Club "Sustainable Development of Civil Society"), carry out research of good practice and innovative solutions on designs of safe pavements (which are to be shared with cyclists) in Druzhiba connecting it to the city centre. Following their construction (and securing them with appropriate facilities) they will be promoted to the public. Pavements will be constructed along parts of the main roads only, as this is a pilot case.

Information about the measure and its promotion to various stakeholders and the general public is being undertaken via the Information, Training and Awareness Raising measure Ruse is implementing in parallel to this one. More specifically, this will be done via three training seminars organised by CSDCS - for professionals working in transport (in February 2018), for Druzhiba residents (in May 2018), and locally-based NGOs (in September);

Design of the safe pavements and cycling paths was contracted out by Ruse during 2018. Construction of the pavements will follow the design phase.

Expected results

This measure aims to achieve the following:

- Decrease the number of road accidents involving pedestrians by 10%, in the long run.
- Increase the share of walking by 10% and cycling in the modal split by 15%, by making walking and cycling a safer and more desirable way of travelling in the district in focus and the city in the medium term.
- Create a safe infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists in the short term.
- Decrease the use of private cars and taxi services.
- Improve air quality in the district and in the city.

Business model

The measure is funded by CIVITAS ECCENTRIC and has a total planned budget of 127,032 euro.

As mentioned already, parts of the areas in need of safer pavements will be built in this measure. Following the demonstration, monitoring and evaluation phases, the measure will be upscaled to the remainder of the area. In fact, Ruse is ready to upscale the measure to the whole city and constructing such pavements in other neighbourhoods, if those constructed via CIVITAS ECCENTRIC turn out to be a success, and the community requires more solutions like this one.

Ruse has collected feedback from people living in Druzhiba during meetings and through the Mayor's social media channels. The information received was taken into consideration when choosing the sections of the main roads where the new pavements and cycling lanes would be built - close to focal points of pedestrian and cyclist traffic.

Both design and construction of the new pavements are expected to be ready in three to four months (total).



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Contact details

Nikola Kibritev

City of Ruse

Email: nikola.kibritev@gmail.com

Websites: <https://ruse-bg.eu/setlang/en/> and <http://civitas.eu/eccentric/ruse>

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