In a rapidly changing world, mobility is key to sustainable development. Increasing economic, ecological and social aspirations of citizens worldwide, changing consumption and production patterns, and limited natural resources are driving innovation in the transport sector. Transport services and infrastructure are no longer seen as simple means of moving people and goods from A to B – but mobility and logistics are increasingly perceived as key agents of change.

A wide range of intractable problems such as polluting emissions, noise, traffic accidents, resource depletion, and inaccessibility of amenities are directly linked to the current transport regimes. Developing countries and emerging economies are often more affected by these negative impacts than developed countries. In many developing countries, high transport costs and inaccessibility are hampering economic development and trade, air pollution related health problems are increasing, and around 1.3 million people die each year in road traffic accidents – the vast majority of them in developing countries. This negative trend will continue if sustainable transport solutions are not systematically pursued in a comprehensive manner.

Increasing challenges – comprehensive solutions

Sustainable mobility solutions can transform cities into places for healthy living, research and innovation, and efficient production. Green logistics helps improving the efficiency of production and trade whereby reducing the negative footprint of transport. Many mobility problems faced by developing countries and emerging economies today are strongly linked to global challenges such as climate change, eroding natural resources, demographic changes and migration. Reconciling socio-economic development with the protection of our livelihood is the greatest challenge in the 21st century. But there is good news: smart solutions exist. The international exchange of ideas in the field of sustainable mobility and logistics offers a unique opportunity to help solve one of the greatest challenges of our generation. Germany is a world leader in sustainable, innovative and efficient mobility solutions. By gathering German knowledge and expertise, the GPSM makes a valuable contribution to the international dialogue on smart transportation and to sustainable development worldwide.
Germany has a long history of successful changes and transformations in the transport sector – including

- the establishment of comprehensive funding schemes
- the re-emergence of walking and cycling as safe and viable modes of transit
- the reorganization of the public transport sector
- the continuous development of progressive regulations
- the development of efficient propulsion systems
- the integration of different modes of transport, including multimodality in logistics

Academia, businesses, civil society and associations have gathered invaluable experiences and skills in framing these transformations.

The German experience is worth of study. Due to the scarcity of energy resources, the high density of people and enterprises, as well as the compactness of the country, Germany opted early on for energy-efficient, integrated and smart solutions in the transport sector.

“SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY - MADE IN GERMANY” STANDS FOR SUSTAINABLE, PROVEN, RESOURCE EFFICIENT, INNOVATIVE, TRUSTWORTHY AND FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR ALL DOMAINS OF MOBILITY AND LOGISTICS SERVICES.

Sustainable Mobility – Made in Germany
Road fatalities decreased from 19,000 in 1970 to 3,250 in 2013 – Vision Zero is reality in many small and large German cities
Focus Areas

The GPSM covers the entire gamut of sustainable mobility and green logistics. The following focus areas facilitate access to information, knowledge and expertise:
The transport sector’s foremost challenge lies in maintaining appropriate infrastructures and services, while also minimizing its negative impacts. A sustainable balance between the needs of societies, businesses and the environment is best achieved through comprehensive institutional planning and sound policies. This covers national regulations and plans (e.g. emission standards for vehicles, national infrastructure plans, among others), regional initiatives (such as regional planning approaches) and local approaches (such as low emissions zones and parking policies).

Cities play a major role in fostering sustainable mobility solutions. German cities are deploying a broad range of tools and measures to tackle air pollution, to improve access to services and to enhance safety. This includes the continual improvement of public transport, the promotion of walking and cycling, and new concepts for city logistics. City administrations, public transport operators, and planning and design offices possess a rich and diversified body of knowledge reflecting not only their success stories but also lessons learned from setbacks.

A high level of flexibility is the hallmark of the German mobility system. Smart mobility – such as carsharing and bikesharing – is a promising new element in the mobility landscape, offering flexible and attractive alternatives to the personal automobile. Shared mobility allows for a more efficient use of vehicles, and can reduce the cost of private car ownership. The number of car sharing operators – both with station-based as well as free-floating concepts – is quickly expanding in many major cities. Smart mobility Germany includes the widespread use of clean and innovative technologies. Electric propulsion in public transport, car and bike sharing systems as well as in public and private vehicle fleets is increasingly contributing to clean air in our cities. Once renewable sources are used, the transport sector can make its contribution to climate protection.
Moving a vast number of daily commuters between their homes and work places requires reliable public transport systems. In Germany, an average of 30 million passengers use public transport per day, and the numbers are growing. In the period from 2004 to 2013 the total number of passengers increased by 9.6% – almost 1 billion – to the current number of 10.9 billion yearly public transport riders. This is particularly impressive, considering the fact that the German population declined from 82.5 to 80.5 million during this same period. Our integrated networks of long-distance and regional trains, as well as trams and busses are backbones of mobility in our cities. A well-established system of institutions, regulations and funding provide a reliable structure for one of the world’s best public transport systems.

Germany managed to stop and reverse the trend of increasing accident figures – in fact the number of road traffic deaths has been cut from more than 19,000 in 1970 to 3,338 in 2013. 100 cities in Germany with a population of more than 50,000 have achieved zero traffic fatalities in at least one of the past four years – in fact, four cities have had no traffic fatalities since 2009. Four larger cities with a population over 200,000 have achieved “vision zero” in one of the recent years. A broad range of public and private actors is actively joining forces to educate drivers, to review and audit existing and new infrastructure in respect to safety, while also improving emergency response systems.

Cycling enjoys great prominence in German cities. In our top-league cities such as Münster, almost every second trip is done by bike. Large cities like Frankfurt and Berlin have doubled or tripled their cycling shares in the past 15 years. The bicycle has become a symbol of a healthy and modern lifestyle, and is a crucial part of any urban transport strategy. We put substantial efforts in providing both high-quality infrastructure and in developing modern concepts to improve the cycling experience. Bike sharing, central bike parking and service centres, and electric propulsion systems have become very popular in recent years. Today more than 1.5 million e-bikes and pedelecs are roaming German roads.
According to the World Bank LPI Index, Germany ranks No. 1 globally in terms of logistics. Multimodality, i.e., the provision of reliable transport options by road, rail, air, and waterways as well as appropriate interconnectivity between these systems is a key factor for success. Further, German freight service provider’s perfected warehousing, lean procedures and a high degree of IT-integration are contributing to a high level of efficiency in terms of operations, energy consumption, and environmental impact.

Well-developed transport infrastructure is the basis for the interconnectedness of cities and regions. Passenger transport and logistics operators are able to realize high operational efficiency because of Germany’s well-maintained roads, railways, airports, and waterways. Infrastructure development is embedded in integrated planning frameworks and mobility strategies, which are suited to realize the sustainability potential of all transport modes. The design and construction of infrastructure is guided by up-to-date norms, which undergo constant revision based on extensive research and consultation between partners.

The transport sector still possesses enormous potential to increase its energy efficiency, to improve safety, and to reduce the environmental and social impact. Academia and research institutes, as well as the private sector, are actively working to advance technologies and to maintain the position as a leading provider of transport technologies. For example, the Federal Government is actively promoting the electric forms of transportation as a clean mobility solution. Intelligent Transport Systems are facilitating the flow of passengers and goods in cities and help to reduce emissions.
The logistic sector employs 600,000 people directly, public transport hires 400,000 – Many more jobs largely depend on the transport sector.
Already 1 million e-Bikes on German roads – goal for 2020: 1 million e-cars
The German Partnership for Sustainable Mobility (GPSM) is serving as a guide for sustainable mobility and green logistics solutions from Germany. As a platform for exchanging knowledge, expertise and experiences, GPSM supports the transformation towards sustainability in developing and emerging countries. It serves as a network of information from academia, businesses, civil society and associations.

The GPSM supports the implementation of sustainable mobility and green logistics solutions in a comprehensive manner. In cooperation with various stakeholders from economic scientific and societal backgrounds, the broad range of possible concepts, measures and technologies in the transport sector can be explored and prepared for implementation.

The GPSM is a reliable and inspiring network that offers access to expert knowledge, as well as networking formats. The GPSM is comprised of many reputable stakeholders in Germany.

The GPSM is part of Germany’s aspiration to be a trailblazer in progressive climate policy, and in follow up to the Rio+20 process, to lead other international forums on sustainable development as well as in European integration.

Integrity and respect are core parts of our partnership values and mission. The transferability of concepts and ideas hinges upon respecting local and regional diversity, skillsets and experiences, as well as acknowledging their unique constraints.
WHAT WE OFFER

→ „Sustainable Mobility – Made in Germany“
→ Mobility and logistics knowledge, concepts, expertise, and products made in Germany
→ Information tailored for planners and decision-makers worldwide
→ Access to notable experts in Germany
→ Information on financing options
→ Networking and professional connections

WHO IS INITIATING THE PARTNERSHIP?

The German Partnership for Sustainable Mobility is an initiative by the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

More about us on: www.german-sustainable-mobility.de
Friends of the German Partnership for Sustainable Mobility

Why become a friend? Be part of a fruitful network of German expertise and innovations and connect with international stakeholders on sustainable mobility!

Do you want to receive updates on the GPSM?

Contact us via contact@german-sustainable-mobility.de
Public Transport trips increased by 10% from 2004 to 2013 (10.9 bn trips per year despite a decline in population)
According to the World Bank LPI Index, Germany ranks No.1 globally in terms of logistics.

Franz Marré (BMZ) and Falk Heinen (BMUB) introduced the GPSM’s objectives, challenges and its future direction in the beginning of the session. Rehana Moosajee gave the keynote speech; as a former mayoral committee member for transport in Johannesburg, South Africa, she focused on experiences and challenges from emerging countries and the role of international cooperation in sustainable mobility.

The need for sustainable mobility solutions in developing and emerging countries is obvious. International support cannot be haphazardly deployed; for partnerships to succeed, a cooperative platform with comprehensive concepts and tools is essential.

Oliver Lah (Wuppertal Institute) and Sebastian Schlebusch (nextbike) explored a broad range of promising planning strategies and technologies in the transport sector. Mr. Michael Gruber (KfW) shared his experience working in transport in a multilateral development bank. In the following panel discussion led by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gerd-Axel Ahrens (TU Dresden), the panelists responded to questions from the audience on further steps of the partnership as well as on how to join it.

The first roundtable on “GPSM meets finance” The key topic of GPSM’s second event during ITF 2014 was international financing for development in the transport sector. Representing several multilateral banks, Ko Sakamoto (Asian Development Bank), Dr. Ahmed Al Qabany (Islamic Development Bank) and Michael Gruber (KfW) gave insights on the structure and operations of their organizations with a focus on the transport sector. Cornie Huijzenaga (Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport: SLoCaT) facilitated the roundtable, providing a broader context to the discussion on sustainable transport financing.
IMPRINT

German Partnership for Sustainable Mobility (GPSM)

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Supported by

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety