

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels—April 22, 2011

The PRESTO project: Pedalling in the right direction!

"If it looks wrong, it is wrong. If it looks right, it might be right ... but check," quipped Michael Aherne, during a PRESTO workshop session on designing roundabouts and junctions hosted by Venice. Mr. Aherne's presentation from Ireland's National Transport Authority, was one of many since PRESTO's inception in May 2009.



Photo: Trainers Alex Sully and Michael Aherne during the bike site visit in Mestre, Italy.

PRESTO, with an aim *"to promote cycling for everyone as a daily mode of transport"*, has been highly active on the training and dissemination front. Over the almost two years since PRESTO has commenced, an impressive **14 workshops** have been held. These workshops were part of the four on-site training events that were hosted by the *"starter"*¹ of **Tczew** (Poland) and **Zagreb** (Croatia), and the *"climber cities"* of **Venice** (Italy) and **Grenoble** (France).

The project trumpets to have trained up **140 people** on topics that range from **how to create cycling infrastructure in cities to implementing targeted promotion campaigns**. Those acquiring these new skills are drawn from the PRESTO cities' mobility and traffic departments, transit authorities, communication bureaus and also the relevant consortium partners. The training has also caught the attention of the private sector, with a number of dealers taking part in workshops focusing on the technical aspects of pedelecs and relevant EU legislation.

PRESTO also held a strong presence at the recent **Velo-city 2011 conference**, (22-25 March), networking with over 200 professionals active in the cycling world, in what many regard as the premier international conference on cycle planning and policy. Prepared and designed by *'PRESTO experts'*, the project unveiled its much awaited E-learning courses, the first set of three during a Velo-city sub-plenary session on the March 23. Over **100 participants** at the session had a glimpse of what was to come; tailored online courses which deal with implementing a **"Bike to work" campaign**, creating **cycle-friendly junctions and roundabouts**, and the **pedelecs regulation and market information**. The first set of courses is scheduled to commence in May

¹ Within the project's terminology, *'Starter'* cities refer to those which have a low modal share for cycling yet have potential for development, and *'Climber'* cities are those which have a higher and increasing modal share for cycling.



EUROPEAN CYCLISTS' FEDERATION

THE VOICE OF EUROPEAN CYCLISTS FOR OVER 25 YEARS

European Cyclists' Federation ASBL

Rue Franklin 28

B-1000 Brussels

tel. +32 2 880 92 74

fax +32 2 880 92 75

office@ecf.com

www.ecf.com

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Note to the editor

The PRESTO project aims to offer a set of tools for technicians to create cycle friendly urban environments, to implement sound cycling plans and to spark targeted promotion campaigns. The project runs from May 2009 until January 2011 and involves **12 European partners**, including **five cities** which will benefit from on-site training sessions: **Bremen** (Germany), **Grenoble** (France), **Tczew** (Poland), **Venice** (Italy) and **Zagreb** (Croatia). The European Cyclists' Federation (**ECF**) is a partner in the PRESTO project, which is supported by the Intelligent Energy – Europe Programme. More information is available at: www.PRESTO-cycling.eu . All training material can be found on the project website at: <http://www.PRESTO-cycling.eu/en/training-material>

For more information and publication of photographs please contact:

Florinda Boschetti

Presto Project Manager

Phone: +32 2 880 92 79

Email: f.boschetti@ecf.com

Mission Statement of ECF:

Founded in 1983, the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) is the umbrella federation of 60 bicycle user and related associations from Europe and beyond. On behalf of our members, we are pledged to ensure that bicycle use achieves its fullest potential so as to bring about sustainable mobility and public well-being.