

### THE PEP



## Cycling can create at least 76 600 jobs and save 10 000 lives every year in major European cities

Over 76 600 people would be employed in green and healthy transport every year and 10 000 lives would be saved if major European cities reached the cycling modal share of Copenhagen. This is the conclusion of a new publication released today by UNECE and the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

For the first time, *Unlocking new opportunities* estimates that investing in "green and healthy transport" not only has positive health and environmental effects but is also economically profitable.

The new findings are released on the occasion of the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, organized by UNECE and the WHO Regional Office for Europe and hosted by France. On 14–16 April 2014, European ministries of transport, health and the environment gathering in Paris will examine how innovative transport policies can create employment opportunities, along with healthier and greener societies.

"An efficient transport system is vital for the functioning of modern economies. However, transport can greatly damage environment and health. That is why we call for a bold Paris Declaration, urging government investments in green and healthy transport," says Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe. "The pay-offs from these investments are enormous and include new jobs and healthier people from more physical activity, fewer road traffic injuries, less noise and better air quality."

"Transport, health and environment form a dynamic nexus of vitality and mobility in our cities, presenting a formidable challenge for sustainability, but also great opportunities for a better quality of life," says Eva Molnar, Director, UNECE Transport Division, speaking on behalf of Michael Møller, Acting Executive Secretary of UNECE. "The Fourth High-level Meeting calls on Member States, civil society and local and regional authorities to support the future vision of THE PEP [the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme]: 'Green and healthy mobility and transport for sustainable livelihoods for all'." □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/welcome.html>.

### Energy



## Liquefied Natural Gas will be key to decarbonize the economy and improve energy security

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has the potential to turn the natural gas market into a truly global one, thus allowing natural gas to play a full role in transforming the energy system to underpin a sustainable future. In addition, in view of the uncertainties caused by recent geopolitical developments in Europe and the Mediterranean basin, LNG can improve regional and global energy security. These objectives can only be met if governments implement enabling policies that are clear, transparent and stable over the long-term.

These are the main findings of the study on the current status and perspectives for LNG, completed by a team of international experts working under the auspices of UNECE, and presented on 14 April at a press conference.

The study finds that:

- LNG represents 10% of global natural gas demand (estimated in 2012 at 3,300 bcm) and 32% of global gas trade, and is growing faster than overall gas demand.
- Because of the flexibility it offers in the delivery of gas, offering the possibility to divert flows or re-export as market conditions change, LNG is a key feature in

the globalization of the gas market, especially if a global LNG pricing pattern emerges.

- LNG gives buyers many options to secure gas supply without necessarily having to commit to long term/high volume gas contracts with a specific producer.
- Spot/short-term transactions represent 30% of total LNG trade today and prospects are that the LNG market will enjoy a fair degree of liquidity by 2020.
- The current LNG price at Henry Hub (Louisiana) is less than half the price at European hubs and less than one-fourth the average price paid in Asian markets. LNG transport costs alone do not justify such differences.
- Since access to gas is not constrained by pipeline capacity availability or gas transit disputes, LNG can improve the security and diversification of supply.
- Given the size and cost of its infrastructure, LNG is ideal for small, isolated markets or markets that require negotiating leverage with a supplier.
- LNG has underpinned strong growth in gas-fired power generation in countries that changed their nuclear policies following the Fukushima accident. □

The study is available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=34146>.

## Espoo Convention

### Belarus and Ukraine successfully completed the first pilot project on post-project analysis under the UNECE Espoo Convention

On Tuesday 15 April, the results of the first pilot project on post-project analysis under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) will be presented and discussed in a subregional conference in Minsk. UNECE, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has assisted the two countries to monitor and analyse the transboundary environmental impacts of exploitation of the "Khotislavskoye" chalky deposits in Belarus, located just 250 metres from the Belarusian-Ukrainian border.

One of the main achievements of the pilot project was the establishment of a bilateral working group for the environmental monitoring of the Khotislavskoye quarry. The countries also agreed to continue the exchange of monitoring data from the same sampling area on an annual basis, and to make this information available to the public on the websites of the Ministries of Environment of the two countries.

During the pilot project recommendations were made for both countries for further improvement of the transboundary EIA procedures, focusing on the post-project analysis. The project also provided for an addendum on post-project analysis to the bilateral agreement being negotiated between Belarus and Ukraine for the implementation of the Espoo Convention.

In the subregional conference, Belarus and Ukraine will share their experience on application of the post-project analysis with other countries in the subregion, such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lithuania, and the Republic of Moldova, and with neighbouring countries, such as Poland. In addition, the outcomes of the project will be reported to the Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention, to be held in Geneva, from 2 to 5 June 2014. As the implementation of post-project analysis of transboundary EIAs is not yet widespread in the UNECE region, the project outcomes will be beneficial to all the Parties under the Convention.

The project has been implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and is implemented jointly by UNECE, UNDP and UNEP. It is financed through the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC).

The project has also contributed to implementing a large regional project of the European Commission "Towards Greener economies in the Eastern Partnership" (EaP GREEN), implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNECE, UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). □

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/eia>  
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