

## **Active Travel Network at University of Graz!**

The Active Travel Network deals with transport problems caused by solo car use in small and medium cities strengthening walking and cycling. It is an answer to the economic crises and the steadily increasing oil prices incl. the dependency of fossil energy. Focused on the awareness raise for decision makers, stakeholders, citizens and the increase of non motorized transport for short trips also students from University of Graz are a target group.

This is the reason why already in former lectures (e.g. in winter term 2010 at University of Novi Sad and in summer term 2011 at University of Maribor) but especially in winter term 2011 the Urbact-project Active Travel Network is content of a course at the Institute of Geography and Regional Science at University of Graz. The course is called Environment and Regional Development and includes project approaches such as mobility, traffic, noise, air pollution and health. Beside the university lecturer (Wolfgang Fischer) also external experts (e.g. Robert Pressl from Austrian Mobility Research, AMOR) are introducing the project Active Travel Network to app. 80 students, studying the track Environmental System Sciences and Geography.

After an introduction into approach, content and goal of the project the partner landscape the description of the individual traffic situation will follow. The cities are preparing so called Local Action Plan in order to optimize the implementation processes. In that interactive lecture some valuable discussions concerning the challenges of the project partner cities and their specific implementations can be expected.

However, there are very good practice examples from the partner cities. That makes the lecture not only international but also interesting because of the sometimes very different approaches, concepts, strategies and measures. The added value for the students is the discussion from the project management till the influences on implementation processes and the expected results.

In summer term 2010 some practical work in regard to the Active Travel Network project will continue that insight to a very practical project. All they will learn about it will be a contribution to the students' personal awareness.

