

Best Practice template

1. General information	
Title of the practice	Delivery through e-cargo bikes
Does this practice come from an Interreg Europe Project	No

Specific objective	Replace LML vehicles by a combination of boats and e-bikes	
Main institution involved	Urban Logistic Solutions, Voies navigables de France and Eurométropole de Strasbourg.	
Location of the practice	Country	France
	NUTS 1	FRF
	NUTS 2	FRF1
	NUTS 3	FRF11

2. Detailed description	
Detailed information on the practice	<p>The company Urban Logistic Solutions (ULS), accompanied by Voies navigables de France (VNF), has started the operation of an innovative delivery service for the city centre of Strasbourg combining transport by barge and electric cargo bikes. This follows its nomination as winner of the call for projects launched by the Strasbourg Eurometropolis and VNF in autumn 2019. The aim was to create a river shuttle carrying goods daily from the outskirts of Strasbourg to its city centre with the completion of the last few metres by low-polluting modes. It was part of the objective mentioned in the local plan of intercommunal planning to develop the modal shift for urban logistics.</p> <p>The logistic solution proposed by ULS includes a delivery by barge on the canals of Strasbourg between the quay of the Bassin des Remparts located rue de Dunkerque within the harbour zone Nord and the platform of the «Fischerstaden» located Quai des pêcheurs, in the immediate vicinity of the Grande Île. It was inaugurated in May 2018 and was used until then for occasional flows of building materials. It is 48 m long and 8.25 m wide.</p> <p>The last hundreds of metres are covered by electrically assisted bicycles equipped with trailers.</p> <p>Up to 122 tonnes of goods can be delivered to the city centre in a single daily shuttle from the barge. This would not be possible without the use of cargo bikes that allow to deliver all day while the low-emission zone has set up since September 2018 on the Grande Île limits the possible delivery range to 06:00 – 11:30 maximum (for electric vehicles or CNG).</p> <p>In the other direction, the solution of the ULS company also allows to evacuate up to 48 tons of recoverable waste produced in the city centre, in the first place, by shops, bars and restaurants: recyclable paper and cardboard, but also empty bottles and other containers for returnable beverages.</p> <p>An ingenious system allows bike drivers to grab the crates directly on their trailer, without the help of a forklift. The coupling can transport up to 180 kg or 1.3 m3 of goods, without</p>

	<p>polluting emissions and – almost – without effort, thanks to the electric assistance. On the way back, the delivery agents complete their tours by collecting used packaging.</p> <p>But to be sustainable, river transport must also be economical compared to conventional logistic solutions. To do this, the same sequencing methods and continuous improvement processes as those in force in the industry are applied. The timed service offered is like a train schedule. The contents of the load and the route of the deliveryman are thus specified by a software developed directly by the company.</p> <p>Combined, river transport and cycling allow a fine service of the densest areas severely limiting the nuisance and traffic congestion for the inhabitants.</p>
Resources needed	<p>Name: URBAN LOGISTIC SOLUTIONS</p> <p>Siren code: 878622489</p> <p>Legal form: Simplified joint-stock company with a single member</p> <p>Capital: 50,500.00 €</p> <p>The start-up has already launched a recruitment campaign of 25 employees, in addition to the 12 that count ULS currently.</p>
Timescale (start/end date)	July 2020 – ongoing
Evidence of success (results achieved)	<p><i>While ULS already distributes 6700 addresses in Strasbourg in 6 months, the start-up aims to expand in a dozen cities in France but also in England and Belgium.</i></p> <p>The seven electrically assisted cargo bikes carry a 180 kg load and cover the entire city centre of Strasbourg. If ten bicycles are in circulation, 18 tons of goods are transportable every hour! "We can carry everything from the 4-gram envelope to the 1 m3 package. The waterway makes the last delivery miles reliable and offers safe and environmentally friendly logistics. This has become unavoidable with the ban on diesel vehicles coming to the city centres," explains ULS founder Thomas Castan.</p> <p>The construction, at the end of the year, of a new positive energy warehouse should allow ULS to accelerate the pace. A new route is planned to serve the commercial area north of Strasbourg, which is currently expanding. The building will have to ensure both an efficient organization of deliveries, using artificial intelligence, and the use of soft transport modes, with a facade reserved for loading bicycles and boats.</p>
Potential for learning or transfer	<p>This concept developed by ULS will be duplicated in Lyon in the coming months, before its extension to Bordeaux, Nantes or Paris. Thus, a first transfer of a best practice between two regions NUTS 2 of the Alpine Space can be noted: Lyon is in the Rhône department (NUTS 2 – FRK26).</p> <p>The European territory and so the Alpine Space territory is full of rivers; integrating rivers in the supply chain and logistics is easy, flexible, greener, economical, and especially replicable.</p>
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