

PRESS RELEASE

3iBS PROJECT IDENTIFIES FIVE-POINT PLAN TO IMPROVE BUS SYSTEMS IN EUROPEAN CITIES

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The bus sector has released a five-point action plan to improve Europe's bus systems as the three-year 3iBS research project came to an end yesterday at the closing event in Brussels.

Coordinated by UITP (the International Association of Public Transport), co-funded by the European Union and including major bus domain players, the intelligent, innovative, integrated Bus Systems (3iBS) project set out to create a new generation of buses. The bus accounts for 30 billion journeys per year in the EU, which is around half of all EU public transport journeys.

In the action plan, the 3iBS partners call on the European Institutions to include public transport in all European CO² reduction strategies and require cities to set targets to **boost public transport's market share** by 2025. As air, car or rail related issues are predominant, there needs to be a Europe-wide campaign to **re-dignify the bus** as a clean and cost-efficient tool for European cities' and regions' growing mobility needs.

The sector calls for financial mechanisms to accelerate **fleet modernisation**, an instant way of reducing CO² emissions as almost 50% of buses in Europe are Euro III or older. In total, 80% of fleets are still running with diesel engines that are becoming cleaner and cleaner whilst propulsion technologies are increasingly diversified: the project also calls for additional resources for the further testing and uptake of **alternatively fuelled buses** and infrastructure.

Finally, the 3iBS partners suggest a genuine long-term strategy to **boost research** into bus systems. As such, the European bus industry will be able to maintain its international leadership while continuously working to make the bus a more attractive mode of transport.

“The improvement of the public transport offer requires an excellent bus service to



trigger a modal shift towards public transport and combined mobility modes," said **Umberto Guida**, EU Projects Director at UITP. "EU-funded projects and EIB financial tools are needed to further support our cities in improving their bus systems".

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For more information, please visit: www.3ibs.eu

Note to Editors

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) is a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. We have 1,300 member companies giving access to 14,000 contacts from 92 countries. Our members are public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, research institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. Visit our website www.uitp.org. Follow us on Twitter: [@UITPpressoffice](https://twitter.com/UITPpressoffice)

Contact: Andrew Canning, Press & Media Manager, +32 2 663 66 39, andrew.canning@uitp.org

Coordinated by UITP and co-funded by the European Union in the frame of the 7th Framework Programme for Research, the **intelligent, innovative, integrated Bus Systems project** (3iBS) aims at developing a new generation of buses adapted to the specificities of the European cities, more attractive for passengers and more efficient and economic to operate. To reach this goal, 3iBS is committed to stimulate coordinated research and exploit bus-system innovations, support deployment and implementation of key solutions, promote exchanges of knowledge and best practices on an international scale. This initiative, started in October 2012 and ran until March 2015, is co-funded by the European Commission DG Research with a budget of €3.36m (€2.97m co-funded). Website: www.3ibs.eu. Twitter: [@3iBSproject](https://twitter.com/3iBSproject)

