



REPORT STUDY TRIP BARCELONA

SMARTCITY
EXPO WORLD CONGRESS



18 - 20 NOVEMBER 2019



Study trip to Singapore for Connekt members

At the request of various members, Connekt organized a study trip to Barcelona. During this study trip we visited the Smart City Expo World Congress. Various company visits were also on the agenda. We look back on an interesting and inspiring journey. We summarize the most important findings in this study trip report.

Day 1

The delegation started the studytrip by visiting Scoot. The on-demand scooter business Bird has recently agreed to acquire Scoot. The delegation was welcomed by both Scoot and Bird since they are collaborating in Barcelona.

Both companies are very active in working with local city governments since they are aware of the fact that every city has different challenges and therefore, acquires different solutions.

The challenge they are facing in working with city governments is the long term approach, usually 5 year planning. While Bird was founded only 2 years ago and created a movement and interest in the e-scooter industry that is growing day by day.

The physical industry is lagging behind. The group had an interesting discussion about the bike lanes that should be transformed into micromobility lanes.





The battle for space is a day to day discussion in most cities the two companies are active in. This is the reason why they are collaborating with commercial parking lots and cities to transform the car parking spaces into micromobility parking lots. With offering free rides and discounts when parking at certain official parking spots (designated in collaboration with city governments), Bird and Scoot are stimulating costumers to park the right way. Although they are still facing issues with the GPS accuracy. Cities want to reduce the number of scooters on the road, which makes it difficult for Bird to be reliable. Otherwise all operators will operate in the center.

To create the right image toward residents of cities, they started to allow only people with a local drivers license to use the scooters of Scoot. But they believe that in the end it should be available for everyone.

According to Bird, the Mobility as a Service market should be more mature.

In the afternoon the Connekt delegation met with the city of Barcelona. During this meeting the city shortly presented their open source sensor network (sentilo) for public experimentation. They are currently facing a lot of difficulties with the data integration, because they are not getting all the public transport data from the operators that depend on other governmental layers. Currently there is no written regulation on the implementation of shared micromobility solutions, which means that companies are allowed to operate in Barcelona. The city shared their new plan for shared micromobility solutions that will be implemented from the 1st of January 2020.

Connekt organized a networking diner with 5 micromobility startups to hear more about their current operations and the effects of new legislation on the operations.

Day 2

The delegation visited the 22@network at their office in the innovation district where they have been working on a unique plan. With more than 150 associates, 22@network is responsible for the consolidation of the 22@District as a dynamic, transformative area and an advanced technological space. The area used to be the biggest industrial area of Spain. With the Olympic games (1992), the city opened the diagonal street that converted the area into a district of a new economy.

The land in the district is privately owned so the city only needed to invest in infrastructure in order to keep the area productive with mixed users (housing/companies/green). The new special plan for this area was the first plan where mobility became part of just primary needs. Within the district, they have placed superblocks. The superblocks redistribute public areas between vehicles and people by the specialisation of streets. This new city mobility structure limits the number of streets for through traffic and frees up the remaining streets for other functions. The delegation had a tour at the superblock implemented in the innovation district. This was the first superblock in the city of Barcelona. The delegation was surprised that micromobility solutions were not part of the plan during the implementation of the superblocks.



After being on the streets of Barcelona, it was time to go to the Smart City Expo. The delegation spent the entire afternoon at the expo. We visited, amongst others, the booth of PTV where they shared their vision and solutions for modelling and simulation based on AI for urban mobility and city planning. Deloitte showed us their City Mobility Index, a comprehensive review that assesses major cities on key aspects of mobility and readiness for future mobility solutions.

Day 3

On Wednesday morning the delegation travelled to the recently opened new 3D Printing and Digital Manufacturing Center of Excellence of HP. Here we got a tour on the printing developments and got some insights into specific user cases of 3d printed solutions in the Automotive and mobility industry.

After the impressive demonstration at HP, we went back to the city to meet Paack, a cutting-edge last-mile delivery company specialised in algorithms for instant, same day and next day scheduled deliveries. Paack is working with companies like Zara and Amazon. They are currently operating in Spain, Portugal, France, the UK and the US with deliveries within 2 hours time slots. They work together with a local network of transport providers that operate from Paack's warehouse in the city of Barcelona. They shared their thoughts on implementing geofencing for communication to consumers. We also spoke about Paack's ambition to work more sustainably. 30% of their current transport is green.

The delegation spent the last couple of hours in Barcelona at the Smart City Expo, before flying back to the Netherlands.