





# LOW CARBON



### LOW CARBON LOGISTICS

#### **PROJECT INFORMATION**

By implementing low carbon logistics solutions in small and medium-sized cities in the South Baltic region, the project aims to contribute to the efficiency and ecological sustainability of the transport sector as an important cause for GHG emissions. Green policy instruments play a key role in the implementation and establishment of sustainable and long-term environmentally friendly logistics solutions.





### WHAT ARE **GREEN POLICY INSTRUMENTS?**

Green policy instruments are interventions made by the government or public authorities with the intention to improve the state of the environment. Since no single policy instrument can provide solutions to all environmental problems, the spectrum of policies is broad – ranging from traditional regulatory approaches, market-based instruments, and planning instruments to voluntary approaches. With traditional regulatory approaches, or so-called demand-and-control measures, legislation directly regulates an industry or activity by manda-

ting which technology to use or what performance to achieve. While market-based instruments or incentives use economic variables to balance, reduce or eliminate negative environmental externalities, planning instruments primarily include measures designed to increase the attractiveness of alternatives. Voluntary approaches comprise information and awareness raising campaigns as well as the use of labels. A combination of different instruments has proven to be most efficient.

Traditional	Regulatory
Approach	

**Standards** 

Bans

#### Market-based Instruments

**Taxes** 

**Fees or Charges** 

**Environmentally Motivated Subsidies** 

**Tradable Permits** 

**Incentives** 

#### **Planning Instruments**

**Demonstration** and **Pilot Projects** 

Support for Research and Development

#### **Voluntary Agreements**

Labels

**Awareness Raisina** 

### **GREEN POLICY INSTRUMENTS**

#### IN SWEDEN, LITHUANIA, POLAND AND GERMANY

#### **Traditional Regulatory** Approach

#### **Market-based Instruments**

#### **Standards**

Fines for the manufacturing, storage, transport and distribution of fuels that do not comply with quality requirements =

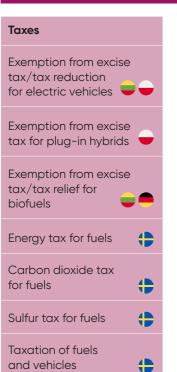
Guaranteeing a minimum share of biofuels in the total quantity of market fuels and an increased accessibility of alternative fuels

Environmental zones requiring a certain Euro class and/or type of fuel 

Limited delivery times for non-electric vehicles

#### Bans

Driving ban for Diesel vehicles

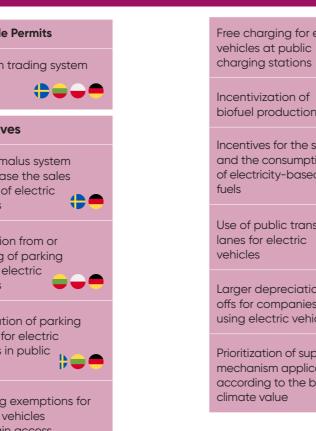


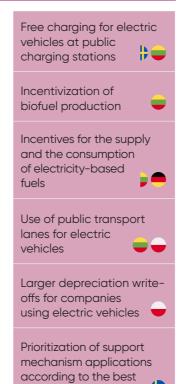
Environment

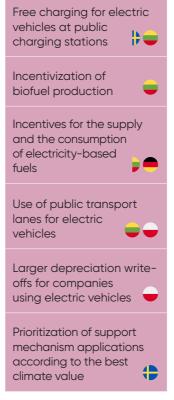
pollution taxes











#### **Planning Instruments**

#### Demonstration and **Pilot Projects**

Cargo bike testing with pilot businesses

#### Support for Research and Development

Scientific evaluation and assessment of consumer acceptance, vehicle deployment and environmental impacts of cargo bikes

#### **Voluntary Agreements**

#### Labels

Fair transport label

#### **Awareness Raising**

Registry of greenhouse aas emissions

Eco-driving guide (for drivers using heavy vehicles)

Awareness rasing for the professional use of cargo

European Climate Initiative (deepening transboundary dialogue, exchange of experience and knowledge, capacity building, establishment of networks)







## WHAT MAKES A GREEN POLICY **INSTRUMENT EFFECTIVE?**

To ensure the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of an environmental policy instrument, both eco-efficiency and cost-effectiveness need to be balanced. Also, the legitimacy or acceptance of the instrument needs to be considered. Here, not only the legislative background needs to be considered but also whether the instrument is likely to reach public acceptance. Therefore, it is fruitful to either analyze the public need first and then make targeted policy decisions or to combine a regulatory or a market-based instrument with voluntary approaches. For an effective strategy, it is essential to combine market-based instruments with direct public intervention.

The aim is always to achieve the translation from regulation to implementation and finally acceptance. Although international competitiveness is an important criterion, especially instruments that focus on regional development are highly needed and can help significantly to minimize the growing urban-rural disparities.

Generally, green policy instruments as part of environmental policies should be integrated in other policies to encourage sustainability and environmental consideration in all sectors.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR **GREEN POLICY INSTRUMENTS**

- Acknowledging the importance of traditional regulatory approaches such as driving bans, environmental zoning and limited delivery times. (Lithuania, Poland)
- By focusing on affirmative taxes for green technologies in form of tax reductions or exemptions rather than taxing traditional vehicles and fuels, these instruments can be considered to incentivize sustainable behaviour instead of being restrictive. (Lithuania and Sweden)
- Planning instruments, especially integrated planning where transport, logistics, urban design, human ecology and environmental planning need to work hand in hand. (all countries)
- Voluntary agreements, especially awareness raising campaigns, are crucial for public acceptance and sustainable learning. Therefore, they need to be in the focus of policy-making. (Poland, Lithuania, Sweden)



#### **IMPRINT**

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