







Charging scheme in city centre (AREA C) in Milan: communication strategies

Mexico City – January 19, 2017









1 AREA C – Referendum

Starting from June 2010, "*Milano si Muove*", a civic Association which included besides politicians, members of the civil society and academics, gathered signatures for five local **referenda** demanding **environmental improvements in Milan** including (but not limited to) the **upgrading of Ecopass** to a fully-fledged congestion charge.



25,000 signatures (considerably more than the 15,000 required by law) were gathered by November 2010.













2 AREA C – Political commitment

Strong leadership of the Major Pisapia was fundamental to **communicate**, **raise awareness** and **support** the congestion charge measure by public meetings held with citizens, stakeholders and city users.















3 AREA C – Peculiarity

Milan is the only city in the world which experienced 2 type of road pricing measures, pollution charge and congestion charge

From the Ecopass scheme (pollution charge) introduced since 2008, the scheme was upgraded to a congestion charge in 2012, following the results of a bottom-up referendum, asking a plan of action to enhance public transport and alternative mobility, the extension the road charge to all vehicles (except those with zero emission) and the progressive widening of the area subjected to the pricing. The referendum was approved by 79.1 % of voters, in stark contrast with the experience of other cities, where voters have turned down charging schemes (e.g. Edinburgh, Manchester) or been barely decisive (in Stockholm, only 51% of voters were in favour of introducing a congestion charge scheme). London congestion charge has been introduced in 2003 without referendum.



For this reasons Area C can be considered an innovative project both for the experiences gained and the methodology (bottomup approach).















4 AREA C – Informative message

The integrated communication campaign of "Area C" lasted from December 19th, 2011 to March 5th, 2012.

The campaign envisaged two types of messages:

a priority message with informative purpose on the new entry rules, tariffs and the details on payment methods, also on the various exceptions conceived for the different categories, such as residents, public transport, medical staff, disabled people, etc and additional

useful information















5 AREA C – Emotional communication

and

with а support message emotional trait, targeted at future benefits generated by the project. Three slogans (using the linguistic expedient of the pun) have been developed: the first one gives emphasis to the expected change, the other two focus on issues related to traffic reduction and the shorter amount of time needed to cover a specific distance.















6 AREA C – Communication campaign

The campaign was implemented through a wide range of tools, which took into consideration the *green spirit* that serves as an inspiration for the project (**recycled paper**, etc):

✓ press office

✓ local and national radio stations

✓ television (spot advertisements and newscast)
✓ outdoor advertisement options (advertisement hoardings and posters)

✓ dynamic advertisement options (buses and trams), both inside and outside the vehicle

















7 AREA C – Communication campaign

✓ multimedia tools (screens and video projected in town)

 ✓ internet (web portal, newsletter, crossmarketing banners) in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Filipino
 ✓ local and national press, paper and online press (also in English)

 ✓ below the line promotion (brochures and fliers nearby passageways and places with considerable flow of people and vehicles)

✓ guerrilla marketing

✓ bike marketing for leafleting and billposting, bike chosen as greenest symbol in line with the message conveyed















8 AREA C – Broad Communication

The campaign flanked the following initiatives carried out by the Mayor and the Commissioners:

✓ letter to the residents endowed with the regulation of the measure
 ✓ meetings with the stakeholders

✓ public meetings in all areas of the municipality

Specifically, to inform users about current news from Area C, more than **2.100.000 postcards** have been circulating in Milan and its hinterland. **Videos** were broadcast on TV in Milan and Lombardy, in airports and subway stations, and a **radio message** circulated on the national and local stations. Moreover, the Mayor of Milan has also sent a **letter to all 700.000 Milanese families.**















THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION

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