

Wooden cages as micro hubs in Paris

The City of Paris in cooperation with Sogaris a logistics provider is testing a new innovative urban logistics solution that fits perfectly into the ASAP concept. Urban logistics requires infrastructure and transport vehicles. By using car parking spaces as locations for micro hubs the deliveries to and within the city centre can be achieved by cargo bikes that are environmentally friendly and space saving.

The wooden cages that can be accessed via digicode by the operator have been designed as experimental responses to the major challenges faced by urban logistics operators: scarcity of space, access and parking difficulties, consideration of climate issues, social exemplarity, the need to share spaces and hybrid uses.

The micro-hubs can accommodate small goods delivery boxes, optimised for operation by cargo bike, installed on parking spaces on the road. These hubs, located as close as possible to the consumers, avoid the need for delivery personnel to make numerous round trips from distant warehouses. These modules can be installed and dismantled in less than 24 hours, and do not require any connection to networks or infrastructure. They can therefore be moved easily according to the needs of operators and users, without impacting on the road.

Two micro-hubs are being tested for a period of one year in Paris (Arts et Métiers and Bastille) in order to study their impact on traffic and polluting emissions generated by deliveries.

This experiment is part of the field of tactical logistics. This concept refers to a new approach to urban logistics. It promotes soft delivery solutions in the heart of the city and the possibility of rapidly deploying a network of sites as part of the process of reclaiming public space in Paris. It was developed in the wake of the idea of tactical urbanism, coined in the 2000s in San Francisco to define citizen, participatory and often ephemeral initiatives for the development of public space. Parking spaces transformed into micro-gardens, forecourts redeveloped into agoras, bicycle paths materialised by frescoes on the ground or shared vegetable gardens, are all ideas and achievements sharing the same objective: to make the city more convivial and welcoming, while encouraging a questioning of its uses. The micro-hub project corresponds perfectly to this state of mind and aims at the same objectives.

The pilot has been initiated and carried out by Sogaris with the help of:

The City of Paris, which is providing the sites on its roads

The Île-de-France Region, for its financial and technical support

The Mayor of Paris Centre, who supports and accompanies the experiment

Moonarchitectures, which has come up with an elegant and functional design for these micro-hubs.

Ecolotrans and Olvo, two cyclo-logistics operators who will operate these modules during the experiment

You can read the original article [here](#).