

Helmut Koch

KOMOBILE, Gmunden, Austria



Speaker Qualification

Helmut Koch is partner in a traffic planning bureau in Austria. He has been working for more than 20 years in the field of traffic planning and optimizing public transport, especially in rural areas. He worked on regional concepts that are successfully implemented in the counties of Salzburg, Upper Austria and Steiermark and he was the planner of the model of the first community bus in Austria, the GmoaBus Poettsching. The service was implemented ten years ago and is still running with high success. Similar services were implemented in other communities in the east of Austria. The so called "GmoaBus" is one of the most successful on-demand-service in Austria.

Community Buses in Eastern Austria demonstrate high demand for non-car mobility in smaller communities

Abstract

Elderly and young people are dependent on transport by friends and relatives when they are not able to or don't want to use a car. On the other hand there is a high amount of vehicle kilometers for service trips. It costs a lot of time and money to provide these transports, carried out mainly by women.

Established as a result of a pilot project on women's mobility, a community bus service was established in the small community of Poettsching, Austria with 2.700 inhabitants. More than 40.000 people use this on-demand-service every year. This is a number that seemed to be impossible before. 15 trips per inhabitant and year is a value that compares well with citybus-services in smaller towns. In the meantime a couple of communities have introduced similar services.

The "GmoaBus"-service is very cost-efficient compared with normal scheduled bus service. In spite of very cheap tickets, the service reaches a cost recovery of up to 30% of the operating costs.

One important point of the success is the on-demand-service without fixed schedule with a very short reservation time. Normally the bus appears 10 minutes after the call. You only have to know the phone number and you have a reliable access to public transport. This is a big difference to normal scheduled services.

The GmoaBus-services are part of the regional public transport system and have a feeder function to rail stations.