

**Position paper of the Urban
Transports Community on the
EU Public Consultation on
Sustainable and Smart Mobility
Strategy**

**By the Urban Transports Community
21st September 2020**



Who is the Urban Transports Community

The Urban Transports Community (UTC) is an Interreg MED Programme initiative launched in November 2016 and renewed in October 2019 until June 2022. The Community is promoting sustainable urban mobility planning in the Euro-Mediterranean region as an effective tool to reduce carbon emissions and improve the quality of life of the population and the environment. UTC includes 120 partners, with 1 horizontal project and 7 modular projects, namely, Camp-sUmp, EnerNETmob, LOCATIONS, MOBILITAS, MOTIVATE, REMEDIQ and SUPPORT.

Our stance on the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy

The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced during her State of the Union speech, plans to reach a cut of 55% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, in the scope of the EU Green Deal, making it the most ambitious climate initiative in the world.

The Public Consultation is an effort to steer the sector towards the sustainable and digital transitions, building a resilient and crisis-proof transport system for generations to come and delivering on the ambition set out in **the European Green Deal and Europe Fit for the Digital Age Communications**. As a community of projects promoting sustainable urban mobility in the Mediterranean, **we believe that having a say in this public consultation is in line with our goals to further promote the replication and transferability potential of our solutions while contributing to the foundations of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy.**

For this ambitious goal to be achieved, transport and, particularly, urban mobility play an essential role, with the sector needing to step up its game to cut emissions. For the Strategy for a Sustainable and Smart Mobility to be successful in achieving the ambitious targets of the EU Green Deal, **urban mobility needs** to be at its core. Too often has urban mobility been relegated to a secondary position in the policy priorities promoting a more inclusive, green package for mobility. Cities and regions are the main representatives of urban mobility and essential hubs for economic, social and technological breakthroughs.

Therefore, it is the Urban Transport Community position that the following principles should be accounted for in the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy:

- Sustainable and Smart Mobility should focus around a series of interconnected principles, such as **innovation, equity, efficiency, affordability and inclusiveness.**

- **Place urban mobility front and central:** Urban mobility is not subsidiary to other sectors, but central for other sectors to achieve goals. Different sectors cannot be taken separately, but rather interconnectedness is essential for efficient action.
- The importance of resilience:
 - COVID-19 came to show that mobility systems and public transport need to be sufficiently resilient to deal with all sorts of challenges, both relatively expectable and unpredictable. Urban mobility needs to be resilient and ready for the future, able to withstand any unexpected shocks of different natures (social, economic, environmental), moving away from a planning logic to an implementation rationale, covering all types of transversal mobility aspects: in governance/regulations, energy, digital, active travelling, etc.
 - Fostering the **trust and use of the Public Transport** system should be a priority in EU policy.
- **Account for seasonality/tourism across the Mediterranean:** How can Public Transport planned to meet the demand of tourism can work following a potential foreseeable logic of on and off tourism due to COVID? We need to ensure Public Transport offer and frequency, even when there is less demand, to a) allow for the resilience of the existing structures and b) not to create/enhance inequality in mobility in certain areas of the MED. In this sense, addressing Demand management is essential. It is the UTC’s experience that the link between tourism and transport is one worth looking at, with transport being central for many other sectors. Authorities must be helped to reach energy goals and carbon neutrality, and mobility should be addressed with this in mind.
- Readiness for future innovation in view of infrastructure(s) (digital, energy and physical), planning tools and regulatory frameworks: investment in infrastructure is particularly welcome as an essential factor to contribute for readiness and the quick uptake of innovative and groundbreaking solutions. There is a need to support local and regional authorities for the implementation of infrastructure and small-scale investments activities alongside the purchase of equipment for sustainable mobility initiatives (i.e. e-mobility solutions).
- An encompassing bet on **more sustainable transport modes and regulations** is paramount to reach the climate targets, including the promotion of active travel modes (walking and cycling), create interregional networks of electromobility and increase number of charging points, enhance low-emission zones, create mobility hubs, bet on zero-emission vehicles in logistics, among others.

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- **Importance of territorial and cross-border cooperation (including EU neighbouring countries):** The Urban Transport Community, with over 120 partners from across the region, is a living proof of the added-value of cooperation with the ability to bring together different stakeholders and creating synergies between players from different European countries and fields of action. The numerous good practices captured by [the Handbook on Sustainable Mobility in the Med Area](#) produced by the community is evidence and source of inspiration.
 - **There is no one size fits all solution:** Thus, the increased importance of different **EU Funding Programmes and Cohesion Policy for the MED:** Funding schemes that address issues specific to given EU regions are essential in addressing micro-level challenges (specific examples are the matter of Insularity and hinterland connections between ports and cities). Further, several regions in the MED area are convergence regions and sufficient funding should be allocated to them so that regional development levels do not continue to lag behind more developed European counterparts.

We are currently living in the age of GUBU with “*bizarre happenings, an unprecedented situation, a grotesque situation, an almost unbelievable mischance*”. The Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy needs to be specific, but also flexible enough to account for shocks that we cannot even start to predict.

It is the UTC’s position that enhanced territorial cooperation on sustainable mobility where urban areas must play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable development at the regional level and are essential to reach the target of the EU Green Deal

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OUR COMMUNITY

The Urban Transports Community is an Interreg MED initiative co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) launched in November 2016 for a three-year period and renewed in October 2019 until June 2022. It gathers seven territorial cooperation projects and almost 120 organisations (public authorities, private companies, universities, NGOs and international organisations) active in twelve European-Mediterranean coastal areas that join forces to promote sustainable urban mobility planning as a tool to reduce carbon emissions and improving the quality of life of the population and the environment.

The Urban Transports Community is featured by a project lead by [MedCities](#) (Barcelona, Spain), in partnership with [UNIMED Mediterranean Universities Union](#) (Rome, Italy), [Area Science Park](#) (Trieste, Italy), [CODATU](#) (Lyon, France), [CIVINET CY-EL](#) (Cyprus-Greece), [POLIS, Cities and Regions for transport innovation](#) (Brussels, Belgium), and [Durrës Municipality](#) (Durrës, Albania).

CAMP-SUMP

CAMPus sustainable University mobility plans in MED areas

Description: CAMP-sUmp aims to improve sustainable urban mobility planning instruments by proposing innovative mobility strategies for University students in MED region. The project’s main results are the definition of a common strategy in Mediterranean northern sea basin region, that integrates students flow in urban mobility planning with the support of ICT instrument model and the reduction of negative externalities on urban areas and campuses caused by student flows.

Partnership: “Magna Graecia” Foundation Catanzaro University (IT), National Technical University of Athens (GR), University of Malta (MT), University of Valencia (ES), University of Split - Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy (HR), University of Cyprus (CY), Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna (IT)

- Website: <https://camp-sump.interreg-med.eu/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CAMP-sUmp-Project-179478285874001/?ref=bookmarks>
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/CAMP_sUmp
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCesV3Gr7q87q49UnZ2XihRg>



ENERNETMOB

Mediterranean Interregional Electromobility Networks for intermodal and interurban low carbon transport systems

Description: EnerNETMob aims to test and improve parallel “Sustainable Electromobility Plans” according to common standards & low carbon policies. The partners will develop an “Interregional Electromobility Network” crossing cities of the MED area and beyond for promoting sharing mobility and land-sea intermodality using electric transport systems. The pilot actions will allow longer trips, test how to overcome medium-trip limitations and may coordinate future investments on electric transport in MED area.

Partnership: Region of Peloponnese, Region of Peloponnese (GR), Authority for Transport in Malta (MT), RAM- Rete Autostrade Mediterranee Spa (IT), Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works (CY), Albanian Institute of Transport (AL), Region of Thessaly (EL), County of Primorje and Gorski Kotar (HR), Regional Development Agency of Northern Primorska Ltd. Nova Gorica (SL), University of Palermo (IT), Energy and Environment Agency of Arrábida (PT), Energy and Environment Agency of Arrábida (PT), Dynamic Vision P.C (GR), Port of Bar Holding company (MNE), International Centre for Numerical Methods in Engineering (ES), Capenergies (FR), Austrian Mobility Research- AMOR (AT)

- Website: <https://enernetmob.interreg-med.eu/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Enernetmob-187601625384639/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EnerNETMob>
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCENMpOjwTvkMG-9yiKPinQ>

LOCATIONS

Low Carbon Transport in Cruise Destination Cities

Description: Cruise tourism provides a major boost to local economies in the Mediterranean. However, cruise ships generate a steady stream of vehicles which tends to clog the viability of port cities, with repercussions on the environment and mobility. LOCATIONS designs mobility solutions for cruise-related passengers and freight flows in a way to preserve natural and cultural resources in destination cities, and to protect their attractiveness over time. The project gathers 20 realities, representing Albania, Croatia, Italy, Portugal and Spain with the



active involvement of 7 European port cities: Durres, Zadar, Rijeka, Trieste, Ravenna, Malaga and Lisbon.

Partnership: AREA Science Park, (IT), Malagaport (ES), Lisboa E-Nova - Lisbon’s Energy and Environment Agency (PT), Municipality of Ravenna (IT), Research Centre for Energy Resources and Consumption (ES), Regional Energy Agency Kvarner (HR), Port of Rijeka Authority (HR), Durres Port Authority (AL), City of Zadar (HR), Albanian Institute of Transport (AL), Trieste Port Authority (IT), Lisbon City Council Lisboa (PT)

- Website: <https://locations.interreg-med.eu/>

MOBILITAS

MOBility for nearLy-zero CO2 in medITerranean tourism destinATIons

Description: MOBILITAS involves 10 regions in 7 MED countries that experience intense tourism flows with great pressure on transport infrastructure and mobility and negative effects in terms of air pollution, CO2 emission, noise, health, road safety, and loss of cities’ attractiveness. To tackle this situation, MOBILITAS elaborates different scenarios to give policy makers and stakeholders a better understanding of the effects of different choices for improving the environmental quality of destinations.

Partnership: Regional development centre (SL), City of Dubrovnik (HR), Municipality of Misano Adriatico (IT), Paragon Europe - Malta (MT), Zadar County Development Agency - ZADRA NOVA (HR), IUAV University of Venice (IT), Pano Platres Community Council (CY), ENERGIES 2050 (FR), Municipality of Piraeus (GR), Rimini StrategicPlan Agency (IT)

- Website: <https://mobilitas.interreg-med.eu/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/InterregMED/>

MOTIVATE

Promoting citizens’ active involvement in the development of Sustainable Travel Plans in Med Cities with Seasonal Demand

Description: MOTIVATE promotes a new model of SUMP development, based on the exploitation of social media and crowd-sourcing apps. The project intends to help decision makers gain a strong understanding of the main mobility problems that residents and tourists

face and the most accepted and sustainable interventions. The project uses cost effective ways of data collection and analysis for the development, updating and monitoring of SUMP, making it much more target and efficient. The testing will be implemented in six pilot cities: Almada (PT), Dubrovnik (HR), Ioannina (GR), Larnaca (CY), Rhodes (GR) and Sienna (IT).

Partnership: Câmara Municipal de Almada (PT), Centre for Research and Technology Hellas/Hellenic Institute of Transport (GR), MemEx (IT), Rhodes Municipality (GR), Aegean Energy & environmental Agency (GR), Tiemme (IT), LarnakaMunicipality (CY), Municipality of Ioannina (GR)

- Website: <https://motivate.interreg-med.eu/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MotivateInterregMED/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MotivateMED>
- Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNcIYJvU0uislgn6jp4ppUA/featured?disable_polymer=1

REMEDIO

REgenerating mixed-use MED urban communities congested by traffic through Innovative low carbon mobility sOlutions

Description: REMEDIO aims at strengthening the capacity of cities to use low carbon transport systems and include them in their mobility plans by testing existing mobility solutions, through an assessment tool and participatory governance schemes. It addresses the challenge of the high-density areas surrounding the city centres suffering from traffic jams, and proposes to transform them into “horizontal condominiums”. The project also implements concrete actions to relieve traffic congestion in five MED cities: Loures (PT), Thessaloniki (GR), Treviso (IT), Seville (ES) and Split (HR).

Partnership: ARPA Veneto - Regional Agency for Environment Protection in Veneto Region (IT), Municipality of Treviso (IT), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (GR), Instituto Superior TécnicoPortugal (PT), University of Seville (ES), Metropolitan Development Agency of Thessaloniki S.A.(GR), City of Split (HR), Municipality of Loures (PT)

- Website: <https://remedio.interreg-med.eu/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/remediomed/>

SUMPORT

Sustainable Urban Mobility in MED PORT cities

Description: SUMPORT aims to increase the planning capacities on sustainable mobility of port cities through training activities and exchange of experience. Participating port cities will draft or update their own Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans. Port cities will also implement and simulate pilot actions to test various types of measures concerning sustainable mobility with an important impact on citizens’ everyday life. The main focus will be put on strengthening capacities through trainings for MED port city officials and on creating or updating SUMP for MED ports. Pilot actions and small scale investments for sustainable mobility will be implemented in 6 MED port cities.

Partnership: Central European Initiative (IT), City of Durres (AL), City of Kotor (ME), Valencia port Foundation and the Foundation of theValentian Community (ES), Municipality of Koper (SI), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Region of Epirus-Regional Unit of Thesprotia (GR), City of Limassol (CY)

- Website: <https://sumport.interreg-med.eu/>
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