

Moving closer to age friendly green mobility ...

The case of Riga, Latvia: The Mobility Lab- co-designed age-friendly public spaces and innovative technological solutions in urban mobility

Before the GreenSAM project:

Before the GreenSAM project seniors of the Riga city have never been involved in the urban mobility planning process, neither educated for the green mobility issues. Also, the needs of seniors have not been identified by the municipality so far. There are more than 168,300 of seniors in Riga city making 26% of the city residents and their number is growing. Due to pandemics, non-appropriate urban infrastructure and insufficient digital skills of senior residents, seniors often are “left behind” the technologies and participatory planning process.

What was done?

1. Mobility Lab concept elaborated, onsite and online Mobility Lab sessions held, surveys on the mobility needs of seniors and potential technologies undertaken, digital training for seniors provided.
2. Guidelines and concepts for urban planners and decision-makers elaborated with the aim to improve the silver age green mobility. Guidelines on the urban public spaces planning adopted by the public authorities for use to design sustainable urban mobility infrastructure.
3. Mobility management experiments for the senior-friendly street design in the Riga city centre held (ongoing).
4. Evaluation of the above measures performed.

Results?

- 8 Mobility Lab events, 242 participants.
- Guidelines and recommendations for the adaptation of public space to the needs of senior mobility.
- Conceptual design of the blockchain-based Mobility as a Service (MaaS) platform to support the development of a senior-friendly public transport and mobility system.
- Re-development of public transportation stops and streets in the Riga city.
- New computer class established for the silver age city residents to improve their digital skills.
- 70% of the municipal employees who took part at the Mobility Lab events improved their knowledge on the needs of senior residents as well as on potential solutions to improve the green mobility offer for silver agers.
- 90% of the interviewed seniors admitted that their knowledge on the green mobility has increased.



Re-development of the Bruninieku street (2021)

Read more: [Link to the success video](#) **Mobility Lab tool:** https://greensam.eu/toolbox/Mobility_Lab.pdf

Recommendations to city planners?

- Mobility Lab tool is one of the most effective instruments for the co-creation process and involvement of the silver agers.
- Ask seniors about their mobility needs and patterns. Also, involve seniors in developing the ideas for mobility solutions and infrastructure!
- Develop senior-friendly thinking and planning in your municipality. Keep in mind the barriers for seniors!
- Senior participation should be considered in all stages of the planning process (design, implementation, and evaluation).
- Find the most active seniors' associations – a lobby for senior-friendly planning.
- Seniors want to see improvements in a real life, not just to talk about it.
- Test in the real urban environment the newly developed mobility concepts and solutions before they are integrated into the urban planning framework.

