



CIVITAS Study Guide

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Abstract

CIVITAS MUSE, the current CIVITAS Coordination and Support Action (2023–2027), provides professional capacity building for (future) urban mobility professionals. The learning trajectories, CIVITAS Summer Schools, city replication and deployment offers as well as possibilities for educational institutes and students are designed to result in lasting knowledge and skills. All activities including planned dates are and will be available under the CIVITAS Learning Centre (civitas.eu/learning-centre).

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Executive Summary

A critical aspect of the European transition to sustainable urban mobility is the human capital within the urban mobility sector. Continuous development of knowledge and skills is essential for urban mobility professionals – in both the present and the foreseeable future.

Enhanced capacities will enable professionals to work more effectively and have more impact with their urban mobility projects. CIVITAS MUSE – the Initiative’s current Coordination and Support Action (2023–2027) – provides professional capacity building for (future) urban mobility professionals. These capacity building efforts revolve around the following key objectives:

- (1) *Gaining a Deeper Understanding*: CIVITAS MUSE aims to provide valuable insights into the knowledge and skills that urban mobility professionals and students need to acquire.
- (2) *Strengthening Knowledge Clusters*: The programme focuses on enhancing the knowledge and skills of urban planning authorities through interactive and hybrid learning journeys.
- (3) *Enhancing Urban Mobility Education*: CIVITAS MUSE is committed to improving the educational opportunities related to urban mobility.
- (4) *Engaging Youth Participation*: CIVITAS MUSE aims to increase the involvement of young individuals, including students and young professionals, in the CIVITAS Initiative.

This Study Guide presents the rationale for learning and the capacity building activities foreseen during the CIVITAS MUSE project from 2024 to 2027. These activities will include:

- Six so-called learning trajectories focused on urban mobility related knowledge topics, such as behavioural change or city logistics.
- Three CIVITAS Summer Courses focused on urban mobility related soft skills, such as public participation and co-creation.
- Mobility Powered by Youth will organise and facilitate fresh perspectives of students and young professionals through project involvement, internships, and contributions to CIVITAS events.
- The CIVITAS Replication and Deployment Programme will engage twelve Challenge cities and twenty-four Champion cities in various take-up and transfer activities, such as twinning sessions, co-creation workshops, and site visits.

Each activity has specific characteristics, which are summarised in Table 1. In general, the activities:

- Are targeted at (future) urban mobility professionals
- Reserve seats for students
- Are free of charge
- Offer (limited) scholarships (for travel reimbursement)
- Provide a certification of completion when selected criteria are met

Table 1: Characteristics of CIVITAS MUSE's capacity building activities

	Learning trajectory	CIVITAS Summer Course	Replication and Deployment Programme	Education and future professionals
Target audience	(Future) urban mobility professionals	(Future) urban mobility professionals	City officials	Educational staff, students, young professionals
Learning objective	Knowledge development	Soft skills development	Skills and knowledge development	Skills and knowledge development
Scope determined by	Project themes in combination with labour market knowledge themes	Labour market skills themes	Needs of the cities involved	Depending on the activity and educational institute involved
Delivery method	Synchronous and asynchronous online	Synchronous in-person	Synchronous in-person	Depending on the activity.
Duration	Four online sessions, 2.5 hrs each; One in-person session, 3 hrs each	3.5 consecutive days	Two cycles of approximately twenty-four months each	Depending on the activity
Personal attention	High	High	Average-high	Average-high
Networking / learning from each other	Average	High	Very high	Average-high

1 Introduction

Urban mobility in Europe is undergoing a significant transformation due to increasing urbanisation and a growing emphasis on sustainability. The European Commission, through its CIVITAS Initiative, is committed to fostering innovative solutions to enhance urban transportation and promote a greener, more efficient, and inclusive future for the continent.

A critical aspect of this transformation is the human capital within the urban mobility sector. Continuous development of knowledge and skills is essential for urban mobility professionals – in both the present and the foreseeable future.

CIVITAS MUSE – the Initiative’s Coordination and Support Action for 2023–2027 – provides professional capacity building opportunities for (future) urban mobility professionals. These learning trajectories, CIVITAS Summer Courses, the CIVITAS Replication and Deployment Programme, and targeted engagement of educational institutes and future and young professionals are designed to cultivate lasting knowledge and skills.

Enhanced capacities will enable professionals to work more effectively and have more impact with their urban mobility projects. By participating in CIVITAS MUSE’s capacity building activities, cities demonstrate that they are committed to both their staff’s professional development and their own pursuit of sustainable urban mobility.

1.1 CIVITAS MUSE capacity building objectives

Capacity building efforts are an important element of CIVITAS MUSE. These revolve around the following key objectives:

- (1) *Gaining a Deeper Understanding:* CIVITAS MUSE aims to provide valuable insights into the knowledge and skills that urban mobility professionals and students need to acquire. This knowledge will enable them to effectively address the urban challenges that lie ahead in the near future.
- (2) *Strengthening Knowledge Clusters:* The programme focuses on enhancing the knowledge and skills of urban planning authorities through interactive and hybrid learning journeys. This includes the development of soft skills relevant to mobility planning, such as lobbying, cooperation, and innovation.
- (3) *Enhancing Urban Mobility Education:* CIVITAS MUSE is committed to improving the educational opportunities related to urban mobility. This includes the expansion of CIVITAS Educational Network that was originally initiated in the CIVITAS ELEVATE project, the previous CIVITAS Coordination and Support Action.
- (4) *Engaging Youth Participation:* CIVITAS MUSE aims to increase the involvement of future and young professionals, in the CIVITAS initiative. Building on the success of the Mobility Powered by Youth programme initiated in CIVITAS ELEVATE, CIVITAS MUSE will further develop and expand this programme.

1.2 About this Study Guide

This Study Guide presents the rationale for learning and the activities that are foreseen during the CIVITAS MUSE project from 2024 to 2027. As the time span covers multiple years and the approach entails cooperation across diverse stakeholders and bodies of work, this guide is described in broad terms and limited to general descriptions as well as broad topics, timelines, and headlines of the programmes. More detailed information about individual activities will be published on the CIVITAS website when available and relevant to the Community.

The remainder of this guide addresses the following topics:

- Chapter 2 provides insights into the approach to learning.
- Chapter 3 presents the learning trajectories.
- Chapter 4 elaborates on the CIVITAS Summer Courses.
- Chapter 5 describes the CIVITAS Replication and Deployment Programme.
- Chapter 6 covers the possibilities for educational institutes and future professionals.

CIVITAS is designed to foster cooperation with and between cities, educational institutes, projects, and other urban mobility stakeholders. Each chapter will highlight the possibilities for such cooperation.

2 Learning approach

2.1 Experiential Learning Cycle

CIVITAS capacity building activities are situated within an applied domain of urban mobility planning. The learning activities should align with the (future) workplace situation. Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle (

Figure 2) is used as a basis.¹ Kolb's learning cycle is a model that describes the process of experiential learning, emphasising how individuals acquire knowledge through concrete experiences, reflective observation, abstract conceptualisation, and active experimentation.

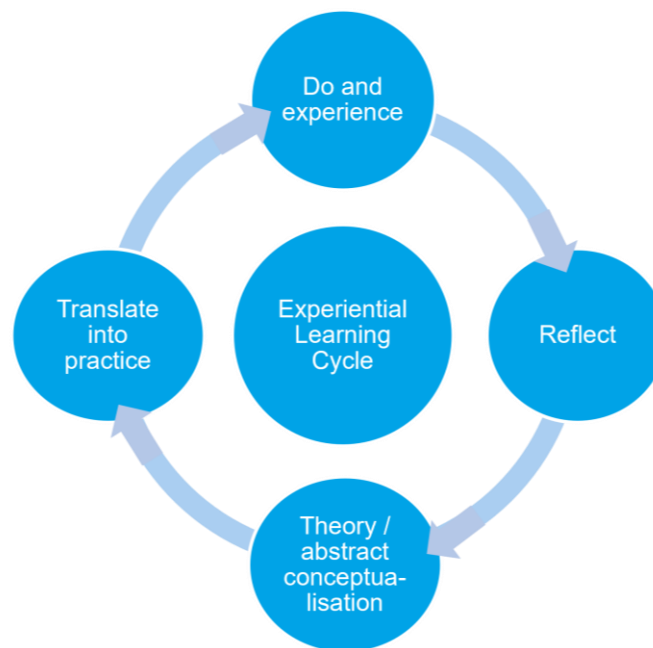


Figure 2: Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle

The cycle consists of the following elements:

- (1) *Do and experience*: This is the initial stage where learners encounter a new experience or situation. It could be anything from a real-life event to a simulation or an activity.
- (2) *Reflect*: After the experience, learners reflect on what happened and consider the outcomes. They analyse their feelings, thoughts, and reactions to the experience.
- (3) *Theory*: In this stage, learners try to make sense of their observations (conceptualisation) by forming generalisations, theories, or principles. They create concepts to understand the experience better and link it to existing knowledge.
- (4) *Translate into practice*: This stage involves applying the concepts and theories to practice. Learners engage in new experiences or experiments to test their understanding.

¹ Based on Simply Psychology. Kolb's Learning Styles and Experiential Learning Cycle (2023). Available at: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/learning-kolb.html> (Accessed on 29 November 2023)

Kolb's learning cycle suggests that learning is a continuous process in which individuals move through these stages, gaining insights and improving their understanding with each cycle. It emphasises the importance of combining different learning styles of learners and actively engaging in the learning process to maximise learning outcomes.

2.2 Learning activities

Between 2024 and 2027, CIVITAS will organise the following activities that contribute to capacity building of professionals and future professionals:

- *Six learning trajectories* will focus on urban mobility related knowledge topics, such as behavioural change and city logistics. A trajectory consists of three online and one in-person training session. In between, participants will be offered curated self-learning materials (e.g. video materials, available e-courses, practical assignments).
- *CIVITAS Summer Courses* will focus on urban mobility related soft skills. Examples of such soft skills include public participation and co-creation. A CIVITAS Summer Course is an in-person, four-day learning event in which participants will follow an actionable programme consisting of lectures, field work, and a case study based on a concrete urban mobility challenge of the host city.
- *Mobility Powered by Youth* recognises that students and young professionals are the future urban mobility labour force and have an integral role to play in the sustainable urban mobility conversation. MUSE will gather fresh perspectives from youth through project involvement, internships, and contributions to CIVITAS events.
- *The CIVITAS Replication and Deployment Programme* will engage twelve Challenge cities and twenty-four Champion cities in take-up and transfer activities including twinning sessions, co-creation workshops, and site visits. Each Challenge city will develop a Deployment Plan that addresses the challenge they originally identified.

2.3 Scope

The scope of MUSE's capacity building activities is determined by the objectives of the CIVITAS projects that MUSE supports and the outcomes of the CIVITAS European Urban Mobility Labour Market Research conducted from June to September 2023.² The objectives of this study were to identify the needs of urban mobility professionals for knowledge and skills. Where possible, capacity building activities will also be informed by the needs and challenges identified by the cities participating in the CIVITAS Replication and Deployment Programme.

Table 2 provides an overview of the inputs that will be considered when preparing capacity building activities. Each activity has specific characteristics, which are summarised in Table 3. These efforts will strive to deliver a programme of activities that are exhaustive and mutually exclusive in terms of project, knowledge, and skills themes.

² Available on civitas.eu (2023) at: www.civitas.eu/news/results-of-the-civitas-european-urban-mobility-labour-market-research-now-out

Table 2: Scope of CIVITAS capacity building activities

Relevant CIVITAS themes and related projects ³		Labour market research outcomes ⁴	
Thematic Clusters	CIVITAS Projects	Knowledge themes	Skills themes
Governance and Integrated Planning	MOVE21, SCALE-UP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Behavioural change – Active mobility modes (focusing on walking and cycling) – Demand and urban space management – Digitalisation, data, ICT, Mobility as a Service, digital twins – Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) – Integrated & inclusive planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effective communication and cooperation with stakeholders / stakeholder management – Public participation and co-creation – Scenario building
Urban Freight and Logistics	DISCO, DECARBOMILE, GREEN-LOG, SENATOR, ULaaDS, UNCHAIN, URBANE		
New Mobility Services	GEMINI, SUM		
Public Transport	SPINE, UPPER		
Urban Public Space Design	AMIGOS, ELABORATOR, REALLOCATE		

³ Situation per December 2023.

⁴ As there are six learning trajectories foreseen focussing on knowledge themes and three CIVITAS Summer Courses focussing on skills themes, the number of items presented are aligned.

Table 3: Characteristics of CIVITAS capacity building activities

	Learning trajectory	Summer course	Replication and Deployment programme	Education and future professionals
Target audience	(Future) urban mobility professionals	(Future) urban mobility professionals	City officials	Educational staff, students, young professionals
Learning objective	Knowledge development	Soft skills development	Skills and knowledge development	Organisational, skills and knowledge development
Scope determined by	Project themes in combination with labour market knowledge themes	Labour market skills themes	Needs of the cities involved	Case by case, depending on the activity and educational institute involved
Delivery method	Synchronous and asynchronous online	Synchronous in-person	Synchronous in-person	Depending on the activity
Duration	Four online sessions, 2.5 hrs each; One in-person session, 3 hrs each;	3.5 consecutive days	Two cycles of approximately twenty-four months each	Depending on the activity
Personal attention	High	High	Average-high	Average-high
Networking / learning from each other	Average	High	Very high	Average-high

3 Learning trajectories

3.1 Overview

The objective of a learning trajectory is to enhance the knowledge about a certain topic. In addition to the knowledge transfer as such, the trajectory supports participants to start applying the knowledge in their day-to-day work, aligned with the workplace situation.

A CIVITAS learning trajectory is a short course with a focus on a specific sustainable urban mobility related knowledge topic. Examples include public transport or city logistics. Within such a topic, a specific perspective could be applied, such as behaviour change.

A trajectory consists of three online and one in-person training sessions delivered in English. Six to eight weeks after the trajectory is concluded, a review session is organised to reflect on important aspects of the trajectory. In between the sessions, participants will be offered curated self-learning materials (e.g. video materials, available e-courses, practical assignments).

3.2 Topics

A total of six trajectories is foreseen between 2024 and 2027. Each trajectory will focus on a specific topic that is based on both the CIVITAS project thematic clusters and the outcomes of the EU Urban Mobility Labour Market Research (see Table 4) and, where possible, on the learning needs of the CIVITAS Challenge cities participating in the Replication and Deployment Programme.

Table 4 provides a preliminary selection of topics based on both the thematic scope of the projects and the knowledge theme identified in the EU urban mobility labour market research.⁵ For each trajectory, the topic will be further specified in cooperation with the CIVITAS MUSE thematic cluster leader and the projects represented in the respective cluster. The learning trajectories' programmes will also be supported and co-developed by selected CIVITAS MUSE consortium partners and by the CIVITAS Educational Network where applicable.

⁵ A total of six learning trajectories is foreseen. The table presents five topics. The topic of the sixth trajectory will be decided during the course of the programme.

Table 4: Suggested pairing of project thematic clusters and knowledge themes

Relevant CIVITAS themes (and related projects)	EU urban mobility labour market research knowledge themes
Governance and integrated planning (MOVE21, SCALE-UP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) – Integrated & inclusive planning
Urban Freight and Logistics (DISCO, DECARBOMILE, GREEN-LOG, SENATOR, ULaaDS, UNCHAIN, URBANE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Demand & urban space management – Digitalisation, data, ICT, Mobility as a Service, digital twins
New Mobility Services (GEMINI, SUM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Digitalisation, data, ICT, Mobility as a Service, digital twins
Public Transport Cluster (SPINE, UPPER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Behavioural change
Urban Public Space Design (AMIGOS, ELABORATOR, REALLOCATE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Active mobility modes (focusing on walking and cycling) – Road safety & security

3.3 Typical trajectory set-up

The typical programme of a learning trajectory consists of three online sessions followed by an in-person session that is organised in conjunction with a typical international urban mobility event, such as the CIVITAS Forum or Urban Mobility Days conferences. Six to eight weeks after the conclusion of the trajectory, a reflection session is organised. Figure 3 presents the set-up of a trajectory.

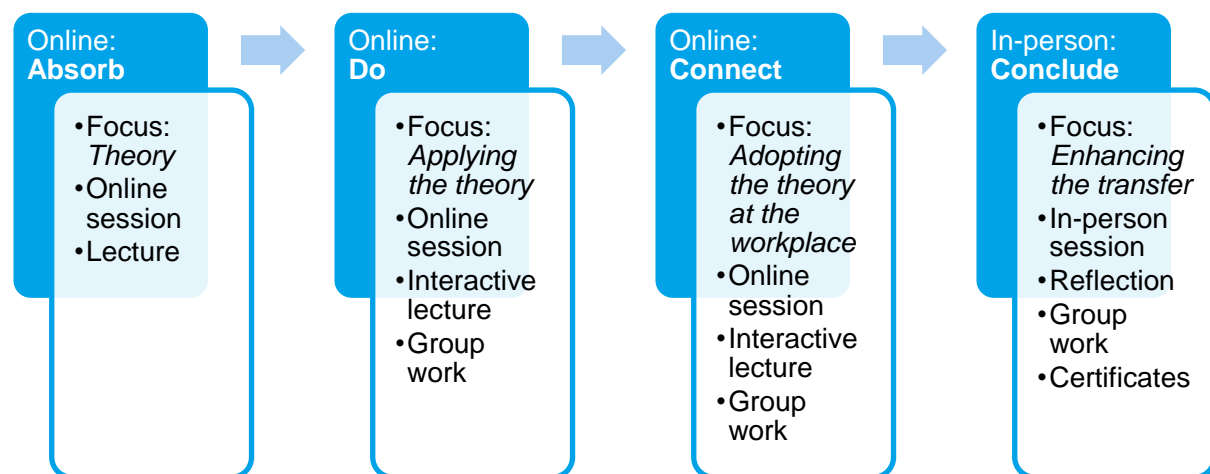


Figure 3: Typical setup of a learning trajectory

Each session has a dedicated focus based on the concept of “Absorb, Do, Connect”.⁶ The concept builds upon Kolb’s learning cycle and believes that learning is not just about absorbing content but is equally about *doing* and *connecting* and applying the content to life outside of the (online) classroom.

- (1) *Online session 1: **Absorb***: In the ‘Absorb’ phase, participants are introduced to new information about the topic at hand by means of an expert lecture. This is followed by interactive discussion elements to further deepen the understanding of the concept. This initial stage aims to provide a foundational understanding of the concept or topic at hand. They are used to inform and inspire.
- (2) *Online session 2: **Do***: Following the absorption of knowledge, the ‘Do’ session encourages active engagement and application of the new information. During the second online session, ‘Do’ activities are foreseen, such as group work in online breakout rooms where participants engage in a practical exercise to internalise the concept. An external expert is invited to guide and coach the process.
- (3) *Online session 3: **Connect***: Finally, the ‘Connect’ session emphasises the integration of knowledge into a broader context. Participants reflect on the material, make connections between different concepts, and apply their learning to their real-world workplace environment. Again, by means of group work in breakout sessions, the ‘Connect’ working format supports the connection of new knowledge to past and current workplace experience and serves as a bridge for learning.
- (4) *In-person session: **Conclude***: During an in-person training session, the main elements of the previous sessions are summarised and reflected upon. Through interactive (group) working formats, participants are engaged and the transfer of knowledge is maximised.

3.4 Timeline

The lead time of a trajectory is about 4-8 weeks, with approximately 1-2 weeks between the sessions. The reflection session after the conclusion of the trajectory is foreseen 6-8 weeks after the final session. CIVITAS MUSE plans to deliver one or two trajectories per year – six in total – between 2024-2027. The first learning trajectory is planned for 2024. The following will most likely take place from 2025 onwards. The exact dates will be announced via the CIVITAS website and communication channels.

3.5 How to participate

The trajectories are designed for (future) urban mobility professionals. Any urban mobility professional can join. There is a limited number of spots available and reserved for students. Dates, programme information, and information about how to register will be published in due time on the CIVITAS website and communication channels.

⁶ University of Wisconsin-Madison (2021). *EPD - Teaching & Learning - Theories & Principles - Absorb-Do-Connect*. Available at: <https://kb.wisc.edu/engr/epd/page.php?id=100116> (Accessed on 29 November 2023)

To facilitate attendance to the in-person session, CIVITAS will offer a limited scholarship to reimburse travel costs. The details of the reimbursement might vary per trajectory and will be communicated in the trajectory information in due time. Elements considered in awarding the reimbursement will include:

- Maximum number of participants, where selection could be applied on criteria (such as motivation and CV), participation in earlier CIVITAS capacity building activities, and diversity (number of students, organisation, and country).
- Criteria for attendance and active participation that could be translated to percent attendance and compliance to provided self-learnings and assignments.
- Attendance to both the online and in-person sessions.
- Submit final assignment and reimbursement form.

3.6 Certification

Upon successful completion the trajectory, participants receive a CIVITAS Learning Centre Certificate that acknowledges the completion of the trajectory by the participant. The conditions for successful completion are:

- (1) 100 percent attendance to all sessions
- (2) 75 percent completion of the offered self-learning materials.

4 CIVITAS Summer Courses

4.1 Overview

A CIVITAS Summer Course is a free of charge, in-person, 3.5-day interactive training event, delivered in English, hosted by a member of the CIVITAS City Network. These events are unique experiences in which participants learn, are challenged, and meet peers from across Europe and beyond.

During CIVITAS Summer Courses, participants learn from renowned experts who cover integrated mobility approaches to various themes and topics, such as smart mobility, active transport modes, mobility planning, meaningful stakeholder participation, and more. They work in groups and apply what they have learnt to a mobility challenge presented by the host city. During the final session of the event, groups present their solutions to this local challenge.

4.2 Topics

Each CIVITAS Summer Course will focus on one of the following soft skills:

- Effective communication and cooperation with stakeholders / stakeholder management
- Public participation and co-creation
- Scenario building

These topics will be connected to the specific urban mobility challenge of the host city. In this way, the basis for an attractive, actionable programme is created. Urban mobility topics will be connected with skills and vice versa.

4.3 Timeline

CIVITAS MUSE plans to organise three CIVITAS Summer Courses between 2024 and 2026. Typically, a CIVITAS Summer Course will be organised in June, early July or late August/early September. A suitable date will be chosen together with the host city. Information, dates, and programme details will be published in due time on the CIVITAS website and communication channels.

A typical timeline for registration (indicative):

- 10-14 weeks before: registration opens
- 8-10 weeks before: registration closes and selection of participants
- 6-8 weeks before: final confirmation of participants and scholarship contracts
- 3-4 weeks before: detailed programme available
- 1 week before: final practical information available
- 2 weeks after: scholarship participants submit their reports
- 6 weeks after: scholarship reimbursements paid

4.4 How to participate

CIVITAS Summer Courses are aimed at (future) urban mobility professionals, including those working at city administrations, knowledge and research institutes, and relevant non-profit organisations and companies. They aim to build professional knowledge and skills and support cities in achieving their urban sustainability and climate goals. In addition, and in recognition of the vital role of future professionals in sustainable mobility, the summer courses reserve a limited number of registrations for students.

The exact selection eligibility criteria are forthcoming and will be published on the respective event page of the CIVITAS website. The criteria will be based on the following:

- Those who have completed the registration form (including the provision of a proper CV and motivation)
- A maximum of one participant per employer/organisation
- A maximum of two participants from one country
- A maximum of five students
- Participation in earlier CIVITAS Summer Courses (in case of event over-registration)

4.5 Certification

Upon successful completion of the course and active contribution to the final assignment – to be presented at the final day of the CIVITAS Summer Course – participants receive a CIVITAS Learning Centre Certificate to recognise their participation.

4.6 Host a CIVITAS Summer Course

Might your city be interested in hosting a unique event for (future) mobility professionals? CIVITAS is looking for member cities⁷ that are interested to host a summer course. Benefits of hosting include:

- 20+ participants will work on a concrete local mobility challenge as a case study and provide interesting and fresh views on the matter at hand. Hosts of previous editions have found this very valuable.
- A limited number of staff members of the respective host city gets to participate in the CIVITAS Summer Course directly.
- Online media coverage of the city across Europe, through CIVITAS communication channels reaching out to thousands of stakeholders.
- Broaden your network through the participants and their network partners.
- Participants will get to know and create lasting memories of your city through an engaging visit and on-the-ground learning experiences.

⁷ Cities that are members of the CIVITAS City Network. Not yet a member? Contact the CIVITAS Secretariat (secretariat@civitas.eu) for help with becoming a member.

To be considered, candidate host cities must be:

- Be accessible by public transport
- Be a member of the CIVITAS Network of Cities
- Be able to provide a suitable location for sessions, site visits, etc.
- Present a concrete local mobility challenge for the participants to work on and provide background and guidance about it.

If your city is interested in hosting a CIVITAS Summer Course, please contact the CIVITAS Secretariat (secretariat@civitas.eu) and Uli Lerche (u.lerche@dtvconsultants.nl) to receive additional details and discuss next steps.

5 Replication and Deployment Programme

5.1 Overview

The Replication and Deployment Programme (henceforth “the RDP”) is a core asset CIVITAS offers to the urban mobility community over the coming years, supporting urban mobility professionals and cities and enhancing their capacities in the transfer and take-up of mobility solutions. Whereas the learning trajectories and Summer Courses deliver their learning concepts through a trainer and/or external experts, the RDP is based on the concept of ‘peer-learning,’ wherein programme participants learn from each other. In the RDP, cities learn from other cities how they have implemented a solution and overcome difficulties to do so.

The RDP engages thirty-six cities in total over its duration. It is implemented in two cycles, each of which engage eighteen cities: twelve Champion cities and six Challenge cities. The first cycle runs between October 2023 (when the call for applications launched at the Urban Mobility Days conference) and August 2025 (when the first set of deployment plans will be published). The second cycle will run between February 2025 (when the second call for applications will open) and February 2027 (ending with the release of the second set of deployment plans). Together, the cities involved in the programme will work on addressing specific challenges in sustainable urban mobility identified by the Challenge cities. Replication will then focus on organisational issues, operational schemes, enabling technologies, business models, collaboration, stakeholder engagement, supporting public policies, and institutional frameworks. At the end of the RDP, each of the twelve Challenge cities will have developed a Deployment Plan outlining in detail the roadmap to solving their challenge.

5.2 Activities

Six Challenge cities and twelve Champion cities will be selected for each cycle of the RDP. The six Challenge cities are matched in three twinning pairs based on complementarity of their respective challenges. Each Challenge city will also be matched with two Champion cities, who will share their best practices, expertise, and advice to help address their challenge.



Figure 4: RDP Champion and Challenge city matching and twinning scheme

Through this twinning and matching, each twin pair of Challenge cities will benefit from (i) the expertise of four Champion cities in total and (ii) will be able to discuss and brainstorm their strategies and Deployment Plan with their twin Challenge city. The take-up and transfer activities comprise so-called twinning sessions, co-creation workshops, and study visits.

Deployment Plans are produced by each Challenge city participating in the RDP. Such plan provides a detailed outline of the deployment of solutions for their identified challenge, drawing insights from the knowledge and experience attained during the take-up and transfer activities.

5.3 Timeline

Table 5 below identifies anticipated timeframes for the replication activities in each cycle. Exact timing may be adjusted to accommodate the needs and schedule of the participating cities and external experts.

Table 5: RDP activities timeline per RDP cycle

	Calls for applications	Selection and matching	Twinning sessions and challenge briefs	Co-creation workshop and study visits	Deployment plans
First cycle	October 2023 to January 2024	December 2023 to February 2024	February to March 2024	April 2024 to June 2025	April 2025 to August 2025
Second cycle	February to April 2025	April to June 2025	July to October 2025	November 2025 to September 2026	September 2026 to February 2027

5.4 How to participate

The RDP is primarily aimed at urban mobility professionals working for a city administration. They can participate on behalf of their city, either as a Challenge city or as a Champion city.

Challenge cities are cities facing one or more specific challenges in achieving sustainable urban mobility. To ensure that the knowledge produced by other European projects and initiatives is shared with a wider audience, the selection criteria will give priority to cities not among the 112 selected to participate in the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.

Champion cities are expected to be more advanced in the implementation of sustainable urban mobility solutions. These cities can – but do not need to be – participants of the Cities Mission, they have been awarded in some way for their work on sustainable urban mobility (e.g. CIVITAS Award, EUROPEANMOBILITYWEEK Award, SUMP Award), or they have been active in one or more CIVITAS EU-funded projects.

Further details about the programme and how to apply are available during open calls on the CIVITAS website or by contacting Arianna Americo (arianna.americo@eurocities.eu).

6 Education and future professionals

6.1 Overview

Future and young professionals (i.e., students at knowledge and research institutes) have an integral role to play in the sustainable urban mobility conversation. Their fresh perspectives are a valuable source of insight for decision-makers responsible for shaping mobility at the local, regional, and international levels.

CIVITAS MUSE aims to further strengthen the involvement of educational institutes and their students in the CIVITAS Initiative. Through this involvement, capacity building opportunities arise for the educational institutes (their organisational development), their students (adding and enhancing their learning possibilities at their institutes), and professional organisations (by bringing in fresh perspectives to their domains, for example through internships and student projects).

CIVITAS involves future professionals in two ways:

- (1) through the CIVITAS Educational Network, which enables cooperation between educational institutes active in the field of urban mobility;
- (2) through reserved seats for students in the learning trajectories and summer courses and activities and events, known as Mobility Powered by Youth (henceforth MPY). These events often aim to connect future and young professionals with mobility decision-makers so their ideas and perspectives can be heard on a larger stage.

6.2 CIVITAS Educational Network

The CIVITAS Educational Network facilitates cross-European cooperation between educational institutes active in the field of urban mobility. It does this by utilising a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to (non-) urban mobility education. The creation of this network was inspired by the results of a survey conducted by CIVITAS in 2021, which indicated the value of such a network for facilitating greater structural cooperation among universities. Launched in late 2021, the network is coordinated by its steering group, and all other network members are involved in co-shaping its direction.

The mission of the CIVITAS Educational Network is to educate future professionals so that they are prepared to implement the sustainable mobility transition by:

- Facilitating cooperation between institutes
- Exchanging knowledge and experiences
- Tackling existing gaps between education and employability
- Fostering synergies and mutual understanding relating to urban mobility and related issues

The network strives to engage various stakeholders who could benefit from the collaboration as shown in Figure 5:

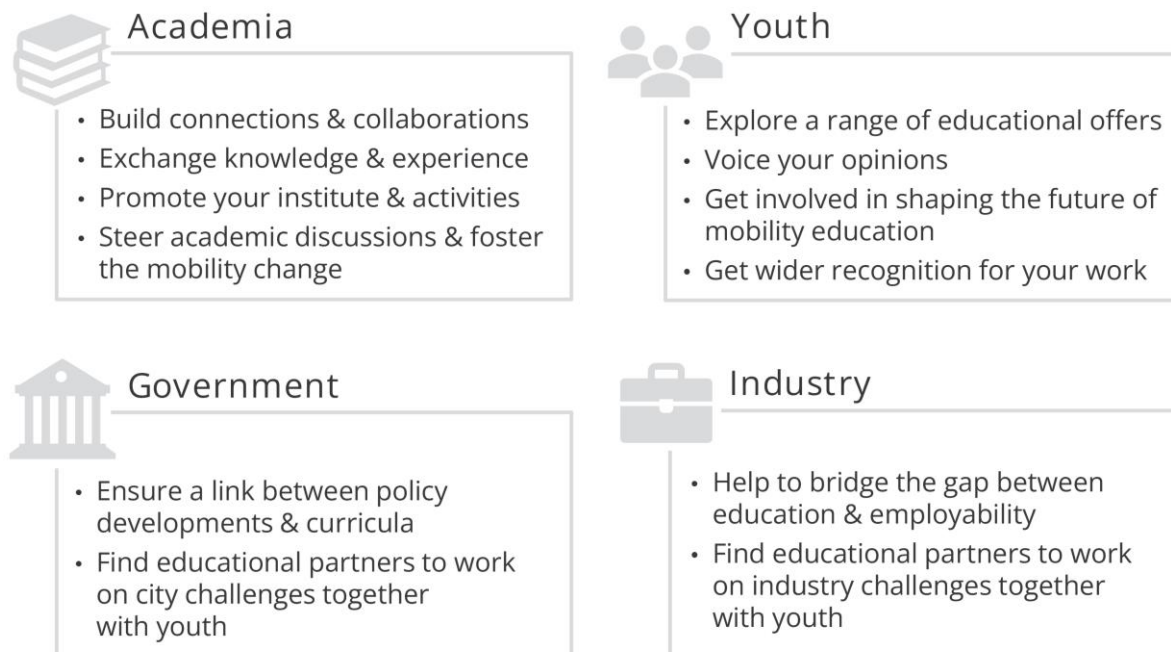


Figure 5: Stakeholder benefits from the CIVITAS Educational Network

6.3 How to participate

Educational institutes interested in joining the CIVITAS Educational Network and future professionals interested in participating in one or more activities should refer to the CIVITAS website (<https://civitas.eu/youth>) for more information, or contact:

- Dr Nina Nesterova (nesterova.n@buas.nl)
- Ekaterina Uzunova (uzunova.e@buas.nl)

Further details about educational offerings in the field of urban mobility are available in the CIVITAS Catalogue on Education in Urban Mobility: <https://civitas.eu/education-catalogue>