

“On the move in times of change”

Background

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all communities and fields. The effects on mobility patterns and habits have been diverse and, at times, unpredictable. What's more, both the situation and its consequences are changing swiftly.

Many local governments have responded to these challenges skilfully, showcasing resilience and the ability to keep people and things moving. Sustainable urban mobility is often central to their response.

At the same time, COVID-19 has had an undeniable effect on the functioning of existing mobility systems and people's ability to move freely, with the impacts on other sectors sometimes - and occasionally unexpectedly - feeding into this.

The CIVITAS Initiative invites representatives of towns or cities working on current or recent CIVITAS projects to contribute first-hand, personal accounts on the challenges they have experienced and opportunities they perceive to have arisen due to the coronavirus pandemic.

These will help raise awareness of the (perhaps unexpected) impacts of the pandemic on sustainable mobility and give local site managers the chance to give wider audience insights into their local situation.

Format and topic ideas

Articles should be personal in tone and nature, a maximum of 350-400 words long, and should explain **how you and your town/city are responding** to the coronavirus pandemic. Tell us the story of your experience and focus on how the pandemic has influenced your town or city, including in unforeseen ways.

The article should not be too technical, and you may write in the first-person (e.g. “I work in city X, and I have noticed Y”) should you wish. When writing, consider responding to some of the following questions:

- How has COVID-19 been particularly challenging for mobility in your site or city?
- How has the impact of COVID-19 on other fields – such as tourism, the hospitality industry, etc. – impacted local mobility?
- Have you noticed a change in attitudes towards sustainable mobility among the local population or politicians? If so, how have things changed?
- What has the impact been on local public transportation? Are you doing anything new to support it? If so, what?
- Have (temporary) changes been made to the urban environment and street space, for instance bicycle lanes or car-free zones? If so, what?

- Do you find yourself working with new or unexpected partners in light of COVID-19? If so, who are they and what are you doing?

Daily realities are changing rapidly and differently across Europe. For example, at some point, the conversation may shift towards how the general public can be reassured to use public transport and travel longer-distances without fearing for their health.

Your article should therefore respond to the specific moment in which it is written. In this way, the series as a whole will provide a snapshot and retrospective of how challenges and responses are flexible across geographies and moments in time.

Please also **include a single, high-resolution image** to accompany your article that illustrates its content. You should also provide all copyright information for this image.

When and where your content will appear

The CIVITAS Initiative aims to publish one article **every two weeks**, although this may increase if there is high demand. These will be published in one, consolidated location on the CIVITAS website, promoted on CIVITAS social media (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn), featured on partner websites, and may inform articles to external media.

Your input may also (with your consent) be used at **future events**, such as the [European Urban Resilience Forum](#) (27-28 May 2020) and [9th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns](#) (30 September – 2 October 2020).

Finally, you are also invited to record a **brief video reflection** to accompany your article should you wish. This should not exceed two minutes and will be shared on social media.

Getting involved

If you would like to participate, please indicate your interest to the dissemination manager and coordinator of the CIVITAS project you work on, with **Adrienne Kotler, ICLEI Europe** – adrienne.kotler@iclei.org – **in copy**. If you worked on a recently concluded CIVITAS project, then please feel free to contact Adrienne directly.

Please indicate **when you would like your article to be published**. The CIVITAS communication team will work to post articles approximately every two weeks. Once your article is written, please send it to Adrienne Kotler. She will then proofread the piece, send any changes to you for a final review, and publish and promote the final article.

Questions and support

Please email Adrienne if you have additional questions about this article series. She can provide information, clarification, and additional prompts to support you.