



What is the CIVITAS Initiative?

The word CIVITAS was coined by joining three key components of a modern European society, namely **C**ity, **V**itality and **S**ustainability. CIVITAS is a network of over 320 cities dedicated to cleaner, better transport in Europe and beyond. More than 15 years since its inception in 2002, the CIVITAS Initiative has made spectacular progress in testing and **extending** cleaner and better transport to towns and cities across Europe.

Funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, it supports innovative policies and technologies required for achieving cleaner and better urban transport based on a user-centred approach. CIVITAS is now in its fifth phase, CIVITAS 2020.

The projects (see below) grouped under the CIVITAS 2020 umbrella work together to raise awareness on sustainable urban transport and ensure the transferability of tested mobility and transport solutions, aiming to improve the efficiency of urban transport in Europe and beyond, while reducing the negative impacts of the transport sector and combating harmful emissions.

Calls for EU-funded projects under the CIVITAS 2020 stream of Horizon 2020 are published every year.

Key elements of CIVITAS

- CIVITAS projects are based on partnerships and enable cities to have peer-to-peer exchanges of best practice knowledge regarding how to implement sustainable urban mobility measures.
- Altogether, 85 demonstration or Living Lab cities have benefitted from EU funding of EUR 200 million, leveraging a total investment estimated at EUR 370 million to facilitate the implementation of cleaner urban transport projects.
- CIVITAS involvement gives cities the chance to gain public support for their work. It helps European municipalities to develop the knowledge base needed for informed policymaking. Political commitment to CIVITAS's objectives is key to success.
- Over 320 cities are members of the CIVITAS Forum Network, having all signed a declaration committing themselves to ambitious sustainable urban mobility policies.

Objectives

The objectives of the CIVITAS Initiative are:

- To promote and implement sustainable, clean and (energy-) efficient urban transport measures.
- To implement integrated packages of technology and policy measures in the field of energy and transport in eight categories of measures.
- To build up critical mass and markets for innovation.
- To overcome barriers for implementing innovative and ambitious measures and policies through experimental testing and targeted research.
- To change transport behaviour and implement innovative technologies on a wider scale by:
 - Exchanging good practices by triggering 'how did you do it' questions and stimulating good examples to be implemented elsewhere.
 - Convincing politicians who pave the way for paradigm shifts in urban transport (triggering the 'how did you dare' questions).
 - Testing new innovative measures in so-called 'living laboratories' to tackle the problems cities are facing.

Mission

More than 75% of Europe's population lives in cities and more than 80% of the EU's GDP is generated there. For urban areas to function properly and offer a high standard of living to their citizens, these areas must provide effective transport systems which meet the needs of people and businesses. In many cities, however, it has become very difficult to meet the different mobility demands of users. At the same time, cities are struggling to reduce the negative impacts of mobility and transport, such as poor air quality, congestion, and traffic accidents.

In 2000, the European Commission recognised the need for action and launched the CIVITAS Initiative, designed as a programme 'of cities for cities'. CIVITAS promotes and implements sustainable, clean and (energy-) efficient urban mobility. In order to achieve their objectives, the CIVITAS demonstration cities test a coherent set of measures that are specifically selected to match both local circumstances and the European dimension. These measures promise to generate knowledge that is transferable, and thus of benefit to cities all across Europe. The activities in the demonstration cities aim to provide a better quality of life for all citizens.

CIVITAS cities implement integrated packages of technology and policy measures in the field of energy and transport within eight categories that have been identified as the building blocks for an integrated urban transport strategy. Examples include less car-intensive lifestyles, integrated planning, clean fuels and vehicles, and collective passenger transport.

CIVITAS 2020

Demonstration & research projects

It is currently supporting 3 "living labs" projects where a range of sustainable mobility solutions are being implemented and 13 research projects under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 funding programme.

- **ECCENTRIC:** Madrid (Spain), Munich (Germany), Ruse (Bulgaria), Stockholm (Sweden), Turku (Finland)
- **PORTIS:** Antwerp (Belgium), Aberdeen (UK), Trieste (Italy), Constanta (Romania), Klaipeda (Lithuania), Follower city: Ningbo (China)
- **DESTINATIONS:** Madeira (Portugal), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain), Limassol (Cyprus), Valletta (Malta), Elba (Italy), Rethymno (Greece), Cross-fertilisation cities: Beijing, Shenzhen (China)

www.civitas.eu/projects

www.civitas.eu/projects/research

CIVITAS Measures

A CIVITAS measure is one single intervention in any of the CIVITAS demonstration cities. A measure can for example involve equipping a bus fleet with biodiesel buses or introducing a bicycle policy audit.



More than 10 years after its birth, the CIVITAS Initiative has supported the implementation of more than 700 measures/solutions. Within the current phase, around 60 measures are being implemented that fall under ten different topics or 'thematic areas':

The CIVITAS Initiative also encourages the transfer of know-how and lessons learned related to the measures among its member cities and beyond, aiming to support cities to learn from one another and contribute to the take-up and exploitation of CIVITAS results.

CIVITAS member cities and stakeholders can look up a city's achievement in a particular field, compare the situation 'before' and 'after' the implementation of a measure, the benefits (both quantitative and qualitative) as well as the challenges and lessons learned for each measure implemented.

<http://www.civitas.eu/mobility-solutions>

CIVITAS Awards

The CIVITAS Awards are an opportunity to highlight the most ambitious, innovative and successful efforts in the field of sustainable urban mobility. Forum member cities can apply for Awards in four categories:

- The "Bold Measure" Award for a daring and innovative approach that has not been widely implemented yet and positions the city as pioneer in certain thematic categories;
- The "Take-Up" Award for innovative sustainable urban mobility measures that have been successfully transferred from one city to another;
- The "CIVITAS Legacy" Award for a city that has successfully translated their inspiring and committed involvement in CIVITAS into long-term implementation of innovative measures with a high impact;
- The "Transformations" Award for significant transformation and progress towards a liveable and smarter city through an integrated set of mobility measures.

These are awarded every year on the second night of the CIVITAS Forum.

www.civitas.eu/awards

CIVITAS WORKING GROUPS

Thematic Groups

In line with the CIVITAS motto 'learning from one another – supporting one another', urban mobility practitioners and policymakers can be part of the largest European community of practice on sustainable urban mobility.

Thematic Groups reflect the CIVITAS thematic categories, as they are described above. This is an open community made up of different groups of peers, organised in Thematic Groups which are committed to sharing their experience and knowledge of urban mobility solutions, learning more about the CIVITAS approach and contributing to developing mobility policies and innovative measures in other local contexts.

Membership is free and open to all city representatives and urban mobility practitioners, but not open to commercial initiatives that are not connected to local CIVITAS partnerships.

www.civitas.eu/thematic-groups

CIVITAS PAC – Political Advisory Committee

The Political Advisory Committee (PAC) consists of a group of high-level elected city politicians who provide policy input through discussions during the committee's meetings. The outcome of the work of the PAC takes the form of short, policy-styled notes (PAC statements) which contribute to the strategic direction of the CIVITAS Initiative.

PAC statements are published and disseminated among stakeholders across Europe. This includes policy makers at the European, national and local level, as well as industry, transport operators and other stakeholders. Close contact with the European Community provides an excellent opportunity to claim specific transport related interests into the European Agenda.

www.civitas.eu/pac

CIVITAS Forum Network

The CIVITAS Forum Network is a community that currently incorporates over 300 cities. The network is committed to the introduction of ambitious sustainable urban transport policies.

Cities which are members of the CIVITAS Forum Network benefit from the shared expertise of others in the field of clean and sustainable urban transport. Through workshops and training events, member cities have the opportunity to inspire and promote active exchange of know-how, ideas and experience in order to instigate change in the field of transport.

Membership is free but the applying city must provide a commitment signed by the relevant city councillor, mayor, or vice mayor.

www.civitas.eu/cities

National/Regional Networks (CIVINET)

A CIVINET is a group of cities who promote the CIVITAS approach at local level, overcoming language and contextual barriers. Members exchange information in their own language, working together to engage with the European Union and national governments on transport policy issues, legislation, regulations, and funding. Each CIVINET works independently to share learning and exchange experiences. Current CIVITAS National/Regional Networks are:

- CIVINET UK & Ireland
- CIVINET España y Portugal
- CIVINET Francophone
- CIVINET Italia
- CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia
- CIVINET Czech and Slovak Republics
- CIVINET Romania
- CIVINET Polska
- CIVINET Nederland Vlaanderen
- CIVINET Deutscher Sprachraum
- Magyar CIVINET
- CIVINET Finland
- CIVINET EL-GR (Greece-Cyprus)

www.civitas.eu/civinet

CIVITAS Forum Conference

Once a year, the CIVITAS Forum Conference brings together representatives from CIVITAS member cities, including both political and technical experts. The Conference includes plenary, technical sessions and workshops that ensure ample opportunity for interaction and discussion among participants.

Each CIVITAS Forum Conference takes place in a different city and includes site visits that offer opportunities for real transfer of expertise. The event attracts hundreds of stakeholders, reveals the latest trends, showcases best practice, and through the CIVITAS Awards recognises European cities that are turning sustainable urban mobility policy into a transformative reality.

CIVITAS Website

The CIVITAS website, www.civitas.eu, acts as the information exchange platform for the whole CIVITAS community. It provides direct access to measure results and information regarding CIVITAS related events, initiatives and project activities, as well as results from the participating cities and contact information to get in touch with the right people.

The site integrates a powerful searchable knowledge database providing access to the results of more than 700 measures and over 15 years of CIVITAS initiative outcomes. The platform offers also dedicated thematic sections where CIVITAS stakeholders can share related information and exchange experiences (<http://www.civitas.eu/thematic-groups-all>).

Lastly, it is worth noting that individual demonstration projects also have their own section on the CIVITAS website.

For more information, visit: www.civitas.eu or email media@civitas.eu