



What is the CIVITAS Initiative?

The word CIVITAS was coined by joining three key components of modern European society: **C**ity, **V**itality and **S**ustainability. CIVITAS forms a network of over 320 cities dedicated to cleaner, better transport in Europe and beyond. Since it began in 2002, the CIVITAS Initiative has made spectacular progress in bringing greener and more efficient urban transport to towns and cities.

Funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, it supports the innovative policies and technologies needed for green, inclusive, connected and safe mobility and utilises a user-centred approach. CIVITAS now finds itself in its fifth phase: CIVITAS 2020.

The projects grouped under the CIVITAS 2020 umbrella (see below) work together to raise awareness on sustainable urban transport and ensure the transferability of tested mobility and transport solutions. In the process, they improve the efficiency of urban transport systems, whilst reducing the negative impacts of the transport sector and combating emissions and pollution.

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 and 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 currently [members](#) of the CIVITAS Forum Network. All have 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 across ten 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 mobility behaviour and implement innovative technologies on a wider scale by:
 - Exchanging good practices, prompted by cities thinking '*how did you do it?*', which in turn triggers the desire to implement such good practice elsewhere;
 - Convincing politicians who pave the way for paradigm shifts in urban transport of the immense value of sustainable mobility;
 - Testing daring new 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, they must provide effective transport systems which fulfil the needs of people and businesses. In many cities, however, it is difficult to meet the varied needs of mobility 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. A recent [EU-funded study](#) revealed the scale of transport's negative impact on the environment, health, air quality and climate.

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.

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 throughout Europe. The activities in the demonstration cities seek to create 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: these encompass 10 categories that have been identified as the building blocks for an integrated urban transport strategy. Examples include car-independent lifestyles, integrated planning, clean fuels and vehicles, and collective passenger transport.

CIVITAS 2020

Demonstration & research projects

It is currently supporting three "living lab" projects where a range of sustainable mobility solutions are being implemented and 14 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.



Over the more than 15 years since it began, the CIVITAS Initiative has supported the implementation of close to 900 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 "Citizen and Stakeholder Engagement" Award for a city that has successfully engaged with citizens and/or relevant stakeholders (e.g. NGOs or the private sector) to tackle a local urban mobility challenge;
- 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 "Transformation" 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

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-style 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 320 cities. The network is committed to the introduction of ambitious sustainable urban transport policies.

Cities in the CIVITAS Forum Network benefit from the shared expertise of others. 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 and inspire change.

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.

More information and contacting CIVITAS

There are various ways to engage with the CIVITAS Initiative and find out more about its pioneering cities, projects, and work:

- The CIVITAS website, www.civitas.eu, acts as the information exchange platform for the whole CIVITAS community. Discover more about the results of close to 900 measures and over 15 years of CIVITAS Initiative outcomes, as well as the latest news and events.
- The CIVITAS MOVE newsletter compiles the most exciting developments from across CIVITAS projects and is released four times a year. Read [previous editions](#) and [subscribe](#).
- CIVITAS is active on social media and always looks forward to interacting on sustainable urban mobility topics! Get involved on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact: media@civitas.eu