



Political Committee of the Network

CIVINET SLOVENIA - CROATIA – SOUTH EAST EUROPE

POLITICAL STATEMENT FOR 2018

Considering the activities of the CIVINET Network *Slovenia-Croatia-South East Europe* in the period from the Assembly held in Maribor in 2017 until the meeting held in Kruševac in 2018, the Political Committee points out the satisfaction with the implementation of all planned activities. Furthermore, being aware of the financial constrains that we are challenged in our work; the Committee commends the Secretariat for providing additional funds through successful EU funded projects. It also commends members of the Network who, by co-organization of some events, helped to achieve program goals and thus maintain reputation and stability of the Network.

With special satisfaction, the Political Committee welcomes more than 25 new members who joined the Network over the past period, mostly from Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. The Committee invites them, as well as all other members, to take a proactive approach in the work of Network. Gathering over 140 stakeholders, the Political Committee expresses satisfaction with the fact that *CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia-South East Europe Network* remains the largest among the EU networks, but also wants to emphasize the fact that it is aware of continuously growing demands related to the organization of work, program activities and the expectations and requirements of Network members, as well as the financial needs. Taking all this into consideration, the Political Committee gives full support to the initiative launched by the Network together with other European networks at the end of 2017, with the aim of ensuring continuous funding from the European Commission.



In accordance with thematic areas of CIVITAS 2020 initiative, the Political Committee emphasizes the need to continue to work on the promotion of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) as a starting point for planning activities and implementing concrete actions for cleaner and better traffic and the quality of the environment generally, in accordance with the needs and possibilities of specific urban environment.

Although it possible to raise awareness through activities organized during European Mobility Week, European Sustainable Development Week, etc., there is an inevitable requirement to establish a systematic approach to transport and integrative planning considering the size and needs of each urban environment.

While the above-mentioned theme remains in the focus of interest, the Committee emphasizes the necessity for putting emphasis also on other important topics such as strengthening cycling in cities and introducing public bicycle systems, increasing the use of gas, hybrid and electric vehicles, as well as strengthening the role of railway in the public transportation. Other important topics are related to efficient delivery solutions, especially in urban centers, the expansion of pedestrian zones in cities, the use of IT technology in managing and organizing traffic, transport and raising the security of public space and areas. Above mentioned and other topics are part of the various projects implemented under CIVITAS 2020, and examples of good practice can be very inspirational for members of our Network.

As in years before, The Political Committee emphasizes the importance of achieving the UN Global Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, taking into consideration that traffic and mobility, quality of life and the environment are included in several goals. In order to achieve the goals, the cities and other relevant stakeholders, i.e. members of our Network, are also responsible.

The Political Committee emphasizes the satisfaction with the quality and promptness of information to its constantly growing membership through the Network web pages maintained by the Secretariat of the Network, as well as the communication openness towards members. In this regard, the Political Committee invites members to take benefit of the offered forms of communication, all in order to design better programs according to the needs of members or specific communities. This can further raise the visibility and presence of Network within the scope of its activities.

Kruševac, 23 February 2018

