

PRESS RELEASE

Monday 30 September, Freiburg and Graz

New tech meets old classics at Europe's landmark urban mobility event

Europe's leading sustainable mobility conference, the CIVITAS Forum, kicks off this Wednesday in Graz, Austria, with new mobility technologies featuring alongside classic solutions in a 'Back to the Future' moment.

Five hundred conference-goers will hear first-hand how a combination of newer, low-emission transport technologies and more traditional cycling, pedestrian, and public transport infrastructure is changing the face of cities across Europe. In other words: back to the future for safer, more inclusive and more sustainable mobility.

"It is exciting to see how cities across Europe are reclaiming public space and putting people first in urban planning", says Matthew Baldwin, EU Road Safety Coordinator and Deputy-Director General for Mobility and Transport, Directorate General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission.

"Here in Graz, it is so evident how their clear emphasis on public transport, active mobility and ensuring the right infrastructure for walking and biking provides the right basis for advanced technological solutions, like Graz's intermodal travel hubs, like Mobility as a Service solutions. The CIVITAS Forum is really providing us with a tantalising glimpse of the future of the clean, green and healthy cities that we want to live in."

Innovators and influencers from across the continent will join city officials and mobility experts for three days of intense discussion and exchange. They will also be joined by Siegfried Nagl, Mayor of Graz, and Dejan Crnek, Deputy Mayor of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The Forum will host the CIVITAS Awards for Europe's most innovative sustainable mobility policies and measures and see the launch of Europe's key planning guidelines for sustainable urban mobility: the EU SUMP Guidelines.

The 2-4 October gathering includes a series of site visits for mobility enthusiasts. Graz's smart city development area is featured, along with a visit to the historical centre – an area that has changed markedly since planners in the 1980s opted to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport in the district's narrow streets.

"To be able to welcome the leading lights from Europe's mobility community is an honour", remarks Siegfried Nagl, Mayor of Graz. "The city's involvement in EU-funded mobility projects – and particularly those linked to CIVITAS - has been instrumental in Graz becoming a forerunner in clean, smart and user-driven mobility."

Mayor Nagl added: "Through the conference, we want to inspire other cities and meet partners who can galvanise us with their own courageous and bold ideas."

To see the full agenda and for more information, visit: civitas.eu/forum2019

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Press pack

To download the press pack, [click here](#) (it is a zipped file).

Notes to Editor

About the CIVITAS Initiative

CIVITAS is a network of over 320 cities dedicated to cleaner, better transport in Europe and beyond. Having started in 2002, CIVITAS is now in its fifth phase.

It is currently supporting three "Living Lab" projects where a range of sustainable mobility solutions are being implemented and 13 research projects under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 funding programme. Find out more here: civitas.eu

About the CIVITAS Forum Conference

The CIVITAS Forum is the annual flagship event of the CIVITAS Initiative. Each year it demonstrates Europe's leading sustainable mobility solutions and brings its clean transport community together to exchange on the most urgent topics in the field. This year's event in Graz is the Forum's 17th edition and sees it return to where it first took place in 2003.

Find out more about previous events: civitas.eu/forum-all