CIVITAS is an ideal platform for the exchange of ideas and experience between politicians and technical experts. Currently more than 200 cities across 31 countries regularly exchange knowledge, solutions and results within the CIVITAS Forum Network.

By signing a non-binding voluntary agreement known as the CIVITAS Declaration, any European city can join this community and benefit from the accumulated knowledge and experience of other participants. Study tours and targeted trainings ensure the possibility for face-to-face exchange.

As part of the network, cities are eligible to participate in the competition for the prestigious CIVITAS Awards, held annually at the Forum Network Conference. Hosted each year by a different city, the conference brings together key actors from Europe and beyond for dialogue with European institutions and other cities.

Political representatives of CIVITAS Forum cities serve on the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee, a group of politicians that represent the CIVITAS Forum Network. They actively engage with the European Union in a bid to inform future transport policy and research initiatives.

CIVITAS also facilitates movement at local level through the CIVINET national networks. Local authorities and other organisations interested in sustainable urban mobility can benefit from collaborating in their own language.

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Ten Years Moving Sustainably
CIVITAS cities take an participatory and policy support, public involvement, and applying integrated strategies. CIVITAS cities use winning combinations of activities to solve local challenges. With the mix of innovative approaches and technological applications, CIVITAS contributes to the objectives of the ambitious targets set out in Europe 2020 – the EUs strategy for the coming decade to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. With this mix of innovative approaches and technological applications, CIVITAS contributes to the achievement of the ambitious targets set out in Europe 2020 – the EUs strategy for the coming decade to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Now in its tenth year, CIVITAS – Cleaner and better transport in cities has supported cities all over Europe introducing ambitious transport measures and policies towards sustainable urban mobility. Co-funded by the European Union, 64 cities participate in the Initiative to test and evaluate clean urban transport solutions in real conditions. Building on a mix of innovation, CIVITAS cities use winning combinations of activities to solve local challenges. With the mix of innovative approaches and technological applications, CIVITAS contributes to the objectives of the ambitious targets set out in Europe 2020 – the EU’s strategy for the coming decade to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

An integrated approach through eight building blocks

CIVITAS cities take an integrated and participatory approach that addresses all modes and aspects of transport in cities. Each city implements a set of mobility solutions to address their particular local priorities and issues. The activities are classified in eight categories and form an integrated part of a city’s long-term mobility planning.

> Safety and security must be ensured for urban travellers, especially cyclists, pedestrians, and the most vulnerable groups. CIVITAS cities look into new ways of protecting urban travellers.

> Car-independent lifestyles can be fostered through modern information technology, and access to convenient alternatives to the private car. CIVITAS cities strive to maximise its potential.

> Urban freight logistics should be managed to minimise the negative impacts on pedestrians’ lives. CIVITAS cities encourage the use of cleaner freight vehicles and innovative goods distribution systems.

> Transport telematics offer opportunities to help passengers make informed choices and make urban transport faster and more efficient.

> Mobility management helps create a new mobility culture through activities such as marketing, communication, education and information campaigns.

> Collective passenger transport must offer an accessible service that is a fast, comfortable, safe and convenient alternative to the private car. CIVITAS cities strive to make it attractive.

> Clean fuels and vehicles help reduce local air pollution, particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions, cut noise, and ensure accessibility of public transport through its smart travel card, which accounts for more than 12,000 weekly journeys. Eco-safe dining courses for bus drivers ensures better driving and better performance of vehicles.

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Perugia has introduced online systems for some public services, including those involving registration in person, thus reducing travel needs. Impressive results were recorded with almost 7,000 trips and 1,400 litres of fuel saved per year. Acceptance of public transport has dramatically increased following the Metro-Metro service launched in 2008. The public transport share is up by three million users. The public transport share is up by three million users.

The Basque city launched an extensive campaign to win the support of stakeholders and the broader public for the development of its Sustainable Mobility and Public Space Plan. Public transport use has increased over 61 percent, while the number of accidents decreased more than 10 percent in 2011 thanks to the reorganisation of the bus network.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Utrecht leads the way in innovation. It has rolled out a handy integrated contactless card, and has tested financial rewards for avoiding rush hours. Much of its freight distribution is sustainable, thanks to electric trucks, and to the weighbridge: a solar-powered electric vehicle saving 30 tonnes of CO2 per year.

Perugia, Italy

The City of Aalborg went electric, installing a network of charging points for e-vehicles. It also improved the accessibility of public transport through its smart travel card, which accounts for more than 12,000 weekly journeys. Eco-safe dining courses for bus drivers ensure better driving and better performance of vehicles.

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Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Utrecht, the Netherlands

CIVITAS – Ten years moving sustainably

CIVITAS – City highlights

Aalborg, Denmark

Utrecht, the Netherlands

Perugia, Italy

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Attractive to the needs of its citizens, Ljubljana has made accessibility to its city centre a priority. People with reduced mobility can now more easily travel around thanks to buses fitted with audio and video stop announcements, Braille signs at bus stops and a tactile map of the city centre.

Ghent made unique efforts to encourage travel by bicycle, by developing a student-friendly bike rental scheme with an IT-based system to recover stolen bikes, GPS bike route planners, and by installing 27 ‘bicycle bays’ (covered mini-garages) for safe parking in high-density neighbourhoods. Its ‘Cycling street’, giving priority to cyclists over cars, registered a 58 percent increase in the number of cyclists.

Stonel, the Netherlands

Perugia, Italy

Ghent, Belgium

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Ljubljana, Slovenia

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