

Quarterly Network Report

Beyond the Urban January to March 2024
summed up



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1. Review of the Activation Stage

Getting ready for action

REVIEW OF THE ACTIVATION STAGE

The Activation Stage commenced in Malmö with the Urbact University '23 and extended through an intensive period of site visits. It concluded after the 1st Transnational Meeting in Vic, Osona, where the Lead Expert and Lead Partner presented the drafts of the Baseline Study and Roadmap, which were finalized and submitted by the end of December '23.

During the ACTIVATION STAGE, one of the main objectives at a network level was to understand the situation of each partner, their needs, and the knowledge and experiences they can contribute to the network.

This information was gathered during the LE and LP site-visits between September 6th and November 10th. The main conclusions are summarized, along with the key ideas of the network, in the Baseline Study presented at the end of December 2023. This information served as the basis to agree upon a Network Roadmap based on partners' interests and needs.



At the local level, partners have begun to assess their territories, getting to know the different stakeholders who can contribute to improving urban-rural sustainable mobility in their environments. In this task, the LE helped in identifying stakeholders who could be added to better represent the issue and society.

Many partners held their first ULG meetings during 2023, and some started to identify common challenges to address with them.

Watch the summary video here:

<https://youtu.be/KVfXk7FZ5TU?feature=shared>

1st ULG Meetings

Although the first meeting of the Urbact Local Groups was initially planned to take place before the end of 2023, the proximity of the TNM and the festivities and commitments of the territories and institutions during December led some partners to postpone them until January 2024.

Territories with 1st ULG meetings during 2023:

- Machico, Portugal (14/09/2023)
- Bucharest-Ilfov, Romania (09/10/2023)
- Kocani, North Macedonia (01/11/2023)
- Bram, France (03/11/2023)
- Hradec Králové, Czechia (07/11/2023)
- Szabolcs 05, Hungary (09/11/2023)

Partners having their 1st ULG meetings on January 24th:

- Tartu, Estonia (23/01/2024)
- Treviso, Italy (29/01/2024)
- Osona, Spain (30/01/2024)

Santa Maria da Feira was facing a very complicated situation during the implementation of its new bus network and service, encountering many daily challenges and focusing on incident and problem management. Planning a successful 1st ULG meeting was the central focus of the partner during the first quarter of 2024. It definitely took place on 2nd May 2024.

Baseline Study and Communication Plan

Baseline Study and Roadmap

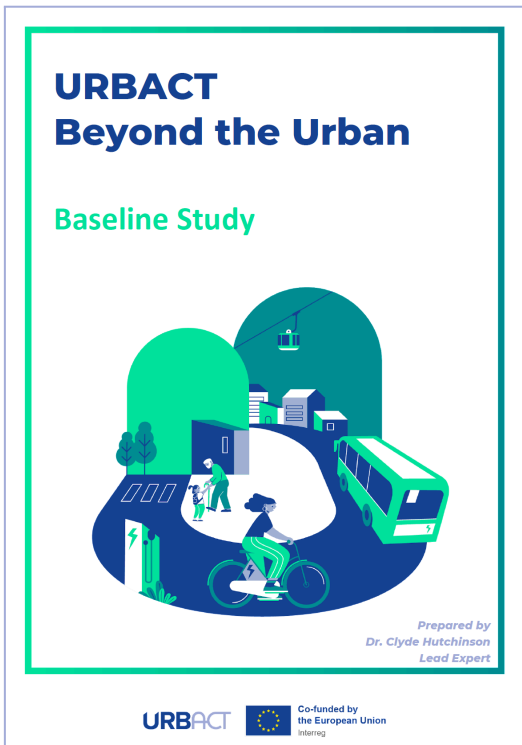
The Baseline Study and Roadmap were configured and tailored in accordance with the material and knowledge collected by the LE and LP during site visits to each partner, which included meetings with stakeholders and the locally composed technical-political teams.

BtU Communication Plan

Before the end of 2023, we finished the redaction and implementation of the communication plan and the creation of a LinkedIn and X profiles.

Some relevant material for the network was posted and a video introducing the network and the 1st TNM was produced.

Beyond the Urban in the URBACT webpage section was launched.



1st TNM “Ready for Action” in Vic, Spain

Around thirty people participated in the three-day meeting, including members of the 10 projects of the network and those responsible for the URBACT program. The attendees have worked together on aspects of the project, such as the baseline study, the roadmap and communication, among others, they have met with some of the local authorities and visited the city focussing on urban development and equipment strategy. On the last day, they visited the headquarters of the Metropolitan Transport Authority, located in Hospitalet de Llobregat.

Irina Rotaru, project manager of the URBACT Secretariat, highlighted the political support and the great involvement of agents that the project has generated in Osona.

Organizing the 1st TNM in Vic was a challenge for the Lead Partner that had no previous experience in URBACT. It included preliminary meetings for responsible coordination, management of meals, accommodation, and participant

transportation, preparation of necessary



materials for its development (posters, stationery, budgets, attendance sheets etc.).

Two site-visits were organized. The one in Vic was centered in the city's origin and urban development, as well as the strategic equipment along the river to “connect” the

two sites of the city that build people apart. The second site-visit was to CEGIM (Mobility information and management center of the metropolitan area of Barcelona) in Barcelona.

Watch the video here:

<https://youtu.be/1ON-taSA284>

2. Where do the partners stand at this point?

A review of our partners' achievements, threats and challenges



BEYOND THE URBAN PARTNERS POINT

On March 13th, the 1st Beyond the Urban Network Coordination Meeting took place, marking a significant milestone following the conclusion of the Activation Stage. A pivotal aspect of this online gathering was the comprehensive review of each partner's standpoint and their journey achievements, threats encountered since our last onsite meeting at the end of November '23, as well as challenges facing the future.

Beyond the Urban coordination online meeting

The network convened to schedule its coordination meetings during the transnational meetings or immediately after webinars, when possible, to streamline schedules and ensure member participation. This allowed the partners to block out a complete morning to dedicate to the network.

In this first network-level follow-up meeting held on March 13th, we shared

the progress made in every IAP, as well as the challenges and difficulties our partners encountered. Following this network morning, we distributed an evaluation survey that combined reflections from the webinar and evaluations directed to all attendees, along with a second part focused on the coordination meeting exclusively for our Beyond the Urban partners.

Significant achievements

Here is a summed up of our partners answers when they were asked about their biggest achievements so far.

Our partners in **Santa Maria da Feira** were engaged in a new regional Bus Network and Service. After decades of insufficient planning and infrastructure investment, the municipality's significant achievement has been the installation of bus stops, shelters, and informative signs tailored to users' needs, especially concerning accessibility. The municipality has coordinated the planning of these facilities to enhance passenger experience with a consistent appearance and information across the municipality.

Bram's most significant achievement to date is the establishment of a network that laid the foundation for an intermunicipal mobility policy. This network has facilitated collaboration among municipalities, fostering the development of comprehensive strategies to address mobility challenges across the region. Following the URBACT team's visit to Bram in November 2023, we succeeded in federating a core group of local players working on the theme of mobility. These players also interacted with each other (for example, Brice ACENSIO, vice-president of the Communauté de Communes (CCPLM) in charge of mobility, and Charles

DASSONVILLE from Génération Vélo). The exchanges in November gave real impetus to the launch of an intercommunal mobility policy, which has just been established in the last few days. In addition, the “Bram à vélo” project was presented as a local example at a regional seminar held in Narbonne last March. Finally, the ULG working group has been extended to include the local association ECO BRAM AND CO, which works in particular on the theme of mobility. The working group was joined by the association's president, Caroline REY.

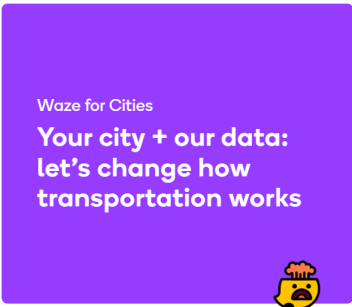
The second ULG meeting in **Machico** was decisive, as good news regarding the collection of data that will be provided to them was received. Additionally, the municipality established better connections with entities that weren't present in the first stage of the project.

Furthermore, a reconsideration of the approach to stakeholders was undertaken, aiming for a more personalized engagement. To achieve this, contacts were initiated in a more individualized manner, ensuring the representation of the interests of regional and local identities, as well as private companies in the tourism and transport sectors, fostering collaboration effectively.

Thanks to contacts with stakeholders, Machico will have access to more and better data, enabling data-driven decision-making in the near future.

Treviso's most significant achievement thus far is the activation of the Urbact Local Group, which was launched with a highly participatory meeting. It is crucial for both the ULG members and their internal staff to fully embrace the project as their own. This deep sense of ownership is vital for driving meaningful progress and fostering a collaborative atmosphere within the community.

With both the Femact-cities and Beyond the Urban networks being represented in **Szabolcs 05**, Lead Experts and Lead Partners from both networks were connected to establish a discussion about the possibility of a future webinar presentation. This webinar would focus on the shared thematic focus on gender and mobility, aiming to explore its various dimensions and implications.



With the approval of the **Hradec Králové** City Council, a cooperation with WAZE company on the Waze for Cities program has started. Settings and data processing are currently being resolved, including representation on the city's public portal focused on transport. They hope to go a step further in mobility data management.

The formation of their Urbact Local Group has presented a notable achievement specially for partners composed of diverse municipalities, like counties or regions, but also for municipalities. These partners have required extra effort to carefully consider the adequate representation of the varied stakeholders within the region, ensuring the recognition and accommodation of differing perspectives, interests, and needs in each partner territory.

Bucharest-Ilfov's biggest achievement so far is...

Having successfully formed an Urbact Local Group (ULG) that mirrors the diverse array of municipalities across their project area, spanning the entirety of the Bucharest - Ilfov region. This accomplishment holds importance as it unites stakeholders from different spheres, such as rural and urban municipalities, civil society, academic institutions, and businesses.

After the inaugural introductory meeting of the ULG, they distributed a questionnaire to all participants, seeking insights into the primary challenges and opportunities within the region.

Osona's biggest achievement so far is...

Having successfully established an Urbact Local Group (ULG) that represents the diversity within their project area, encompassing the entire county of Osona and Lluçanès. This achievement is significant as it brings together stakeholders from various backgrounds, including rural and urban municipalities, industrial and agricultural sectors, civil society, universities, and the private sector. Following an initial introductory 1st ULG meeting, an Information Session was held specifically targeted at elected members from the 50 municipalities to expand the ULG's membership.

Osona ULG comprises:

- 16 municipalities
- 2 supra-municipality org.
- 5 NGOs & civil associations
- 2 large enterprises
- Osona Enterprise Council
- 2 universities
- 2 trade unions
- Regional Develop. Agency



Kocani's biggest achievement so far is...

Successfully establishing a Urbact Local Group (ULG) that represents the diverse range of stakeholders within the project area. This achievement is significant as it brings together stakeholders from various backgrounds, including rural and urban areas, representatives from various sectors within the municipal administration, civil society, schools, youth and political figures. Presently, the ULG comprises:

Kocani Municipality ULG:

- Municipal admin. from 4 sectors
- 6 NGOs and civil associations
- 1 public company
- 2 universities
- 2 youth organizations
- 2 urban communities
- 1 regional agency
- City Counsel

Tartu's biggest achievement so far is...

Successfully establishing a Urbact Local Group (ULG) of Tartu municipality whose member diversity includes people who are involved in the organization of public transport in Tartu County, Tartu City and Tartu Municipality. There is also a representative from the State Transport Agency, which is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads. There are representatives of Tartu municipal council and municipal government, as well as local residents.



Short- and Mid-Term Focus Areas

Data baselines direct many partners' focus

The team in **Machico** is also currently focused on completing the questionnaires for the "Local Mobility Survey," having already met with local entities for this purpose. Once they have gathered this data, their plan is to initiate a participatory diagnosis of the state of public and private transport in the Municipality of Machico and identify specific challenges in rural areas.

Osona's primary objective for the next two months is to begin the participative diagnosis of the state of public transport in Osona and to identify specific challenges in rural areas. Additionally, they are placing a special emphasis on gathering all available data concerning mobility and public transport in the region. This data will support the qualitative diagnosis made with the ULG with quantitative analysis, helping to identify trends and address existing gaps more effectively.

In this stage of the project, the primary aim in **Bucharest-Ilfov** is to launch a participatory assessment of the state of public transport in the region, identifying specific challenges within the area. They are also giving priority to gathering all available data concerning mobility and public transit in the region to enhance qualitative assessment through quantitative analysis by identifying trends and addressing current shortcomings more effectively.

Szabolcs 05's primary focus in the coming quarter is to organize the 3rd Urbact Local Group meeting, where they will convene all stakeholders to concentrate on data management and utilization. The aim is to identify data gaps and explore the potential for data-driven decision-making.

In Czechia, our partners in **Hradec Králové** have the goal to launch the ITS public portal incl. Open data portal. The ITS public portal will display the main traffic information provided by the ITS (parking capacity, information on traffic delay closures using WAZE, etc.) incl. information about the environment such as the Air Quality Index. On the open data portal, it will be possible to use all data in a machine-readable format for your own needs.

In **Kocani** they are planning a participative diagnosis of the state of mobility as a whole and to identify specific challenges in urban and rural areas, also connecting the urban with rural environments. The biggest challenge they are facing is not having enough data gathered in the past regarding mobility within the territory. That's why they are focussed on analyzing from which information they have they can extract mobility data, even if these documents were not primarily produced for the purpose of mobility analysis.

Data collection is a mid-term focus in **Tartu** Municipality, given the wealth of data collected by various institutions available for assessing mobility and drawing conclusions. The first step is to identify these data sources, negotiate agreements for their use, and assess whether additional data collection (surveys, observations, censuses, etc.) is necessary.

School mobility, a focus for our partners

Santa Maria da Feira is prioritizing school surroundings by collaborating with the General Councils of each school grouping. Nine sessions addressing all members of the educational community are planned focusing on mobility from school areas to urban centers. These sessions aim to address disparities between urban and depopulated areas, discussing mobility principles, flows, and transport modes. Each session will conclude with a brief questionnaire on potential improvements to the school perimeter's mobility. This participatory approach fosters community engagement in enhancing local mobility infrastructure.

Also in **Machico**, they are in the process of scheduling meetings with each of the schools, following a more personalized approach. Their goal is to engage the school community, which has shown varying levels of interest in participating in the project.

In **Hradec Králové** they are finalizing school mobility plans, including traffic measures to enhance safety. This measure is complemented by installing new parking shelters for bicycles and scooters. The aim is to integrate School Mobility Plans into the schools' long-term development plans. This way, mobility could become an obvious part of school life and educational process. The City is ready to start School Mobility Plans for 4 elementary schools. School children, parents and teachers themselves were actively involved in the processing process. The goal is to change mobility habits, to motivate them to change their means of transport, or to educate pupils in the field of mobility education.

Complementary to the overall participatory diagnosis and data collection, **Kocani** is conducting a specialized online analysis focusing on student mobility within the municipality. The goal is to understand their journeys from home to school, identify challenges faced by students and parents, and gather insights on desired changes.

Getting the teams organization to the next level

In **Treviso**, our partners are finalizing the appointment of an ULG expert who will take charge of the Urbact Local Group in the coming months with one or more meetings that will be essential for deciding the work in the upcoming months.

Our partners in **Bram** are striving to win regional and national project calls on sustainable mobility, particularly focusing on bike mobility, for both the municipality and intercommunality. Their dedication underscores their commitment to promoting environmentally friendly transportation options and enhancing connectivity within the region. This increased funding would empower the team to allocate more resources to their action plan.

Large scale events and mobility: Ed Sheeran's Concerts

Our Czech partners are currently tackling the challenge of coordinating transportation for the anticipated largest concert at **Hradec Králové** Airport in the Park 360 area. With up to 50,000 visitors expected daily for Ed Sheeran's concerts on July 27th and 28th, 2024, this event places immense demands on local infrastructure and experienced organizers. As part of their Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) initiatives, they are also required to adjust signal plans for selected traffic lights in connection with these events. This experience will serve as a valuable test of the ITS's capabilities in managing mobility on a scale previously unexplored.

Challenges the partners are facing

To understand in a methodical way how on-demand and flexible transport could be implemented in the municipality of **Santa Maria da Feira**. To this end, it will be necessary to collect, interpret and analyze data on public transport and the new transport network being implemented, known as "UNIR". In particular, to assess areas of the territory where there is low demand for and supply of regular public transport, or where this type of public service does not meet citizens' travel needs. The big challenge is therefore to develop flexible passenger transport that can overcome the limitations of conventional public transport, not replace it.

Bram's primary challenge at the beginning of 2024 revolves around mobilizing the necessary resources to execute the project, primarily due to the limited size of our municipality and the absence of dedicated staff.

The foremost challenge in **Treviso** at this juncture of the journey is effectively managing the project and its economic and managerial aspects to ensure the active participation and involvement of all stakeholders, including ULG members and municipal offices.

As the Hungarian railway and bus company is owned by the state and has its headquarters in Budapest, **Szabolcs 05** itself has a limited power to influence the public transport within the region. Involving this company into the ULG on a regular basis can be interpreted as a challenge; however, Szabolcs 05 can achieve its goals (preferring non-motorized transport) with promoting pedestrian and bike transport in the 44 settlements of the region.

In **Osona** they are working hard on engaging upper governance administrations in the project. Given that the County Council, the primary affiliate in this project, has limited competencies in mobility policies, it is essential to involve technicians from the Autonomous Government of Catalonia, the Provincial Government of Barcelona, and the Barcelona Transport Authority. Their inclusion would enhance the success and applicability of the future Integrated Action Plan.

In **Bucharest-Ilfov**, they are facing the challenge of engaging stakeholders of the Bucharest - Ilfov region. This challenge arises due to the varied backgrounds and objectives of the stakeholders, including urban and rural municipalities, civil society organizations, universities, and the private sector. Balancing these diverse interests and ensuring that all stakeholders feel adequately represented and their concerns addressed can be a significant hurdle in effective engagement and decision-making processes.

The main obstacle the team in **Machico** encounters is the stakeholders' expectation to achieve practical results in the short term. Therefore, both the technical team and the politicians face the challenge of conveying the importance of studying the state of the art in the local territory, collecting necessary information and data, and planning effectively.

Involving more entities, particularly those from the educational community, is another significant challenge our partner is facing.

The biggest challenge associated with the **Hradec Králové** city office is creating and ensuring the full operation of the new transport department of the mobility concept and strategy at the city development department. This future systemic change of the Building Act, which will affect several departments of the municipal authority. The new Building Act will change the building permit process, which brings with it a number of novelties for both the builder and the authority.

A constant challenge in **Hradec Králové** is also the required integration of urban and regional transport and the related quantification of financial compensations. On the part of the city, the Transport Company of the city of Hradec Králové is now ready for integration with the help of a new check-in terminal.

As mentioned in the former section, the biggest challenge **Kocani** is facing is not having enough data gathered in the past regarding mobility within the territory. Therefore, they are dedicating significant efforts to gathering data and analyzing existing datasets to better understand and diagnose mobility within the region.

Several mobility developments are currently underway in Estonia, including developments that strongly affect public transport. For our partners in **Tartu** Municipality it is especially challenging to actively participate in these processes in order to acquire the best knowledge, to avoid duplication and, if possible, to be a pilot beam in testing new solutions.

PARTNERS LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

In this section, we highlight the diverse local activities undertaken by our partners. Explore their innovative initiatives and noteworthy accomplishments, offering insight into their achievements.

Bram

Activities realized

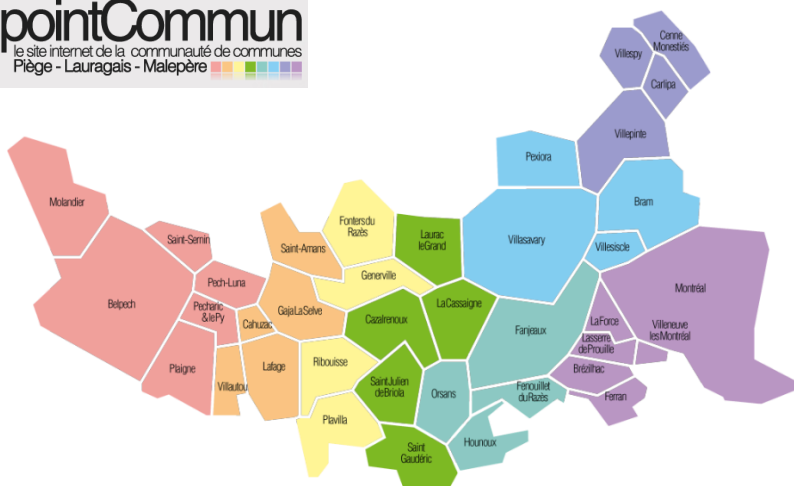
10th January '24	PP participation in the Regional Management Committee “Bourg Center Occitanie”.
25th March '24	PP Seminar on mobility in the territory (“Ideal mobility” and “Regional obstacles and incentives” workshops)
26th March '24	PP Seminar on Regional Mobility

Our partners in Bram have been working hard this quarter on their enrollment in the initiative 'Mai à vélo', preparing their program with a focus on fostering a change in the culture and behavior of their citizens. You'll learn more about it in the next journal.

MAIN HIGHLIGHT: Intercommunal “My Mobility” policy

Bram succeeded in the establishment of a network that laid the foundation for an intermunicipal mobility policy. The Communauté de communes of Bram (CCPLM) has facilitated collaboration among municipalities, fostering the development of comprehensive strategies to address mobility challenges across the region.

During this quarter, the team in Bram has collaborated with CCPLM to be able to apply to several national calls for mobility projects. The aim of this integration of territories is promoting an inter-communal mobility policy, specifically by creating the necessary facilities and resources to implement it.



Bucharest-Ilfov

Activities realized

10th January '24	PP meeting with EIT Urban Mobility regarding innovative actions in the Bucharest-Ilfov region.
14th February '24	PP one-to-one online meeting with LE about Baseline report actions to implement.
7th March '24	PP meeting with the main actors in the region for defining integrated projects for Bucharest-Ilfov territory.

MAIN HIGHLIGHT: updating the SUMP

The Bucharest – Ilfov Intercommunity Development Association for Public Transport (TPBI) continues its efforts to update the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP).



Representatives of TPBI held several working meetings with specialists from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, the Bucharest City Hall, and the district city halls, Ilfov County Council as well as with local public authorities from Ilfov County to finalize the portfolio of projects that will form the basis of the updated SUMP.



The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that all strategic investments by stakeholders involved in public transport in the Bucharest - Ilfov region are included and prioritized in the action plan of the SUMP, facilitating the subsequent process of accessing non-reimbursable funds.

TPBI held discussions with:

- The Bucharest City Hall through its specialized departments, the Intercommunity Development Association Bucharest Metropolitan Area;
- The Ministry of Transport and its coordinating structures (Metrorex, CFR SA, Bucharest National Airports Company, Railway Reform Authority, National Company for Road Infrastructure Management);
- The city halls of the six sectors of the Municipality of Bucharest;
- Ilfov County Council, and ATUs from Ilfov County.

Hradec Králové

Activities realized

24th January '24	Workshop on the URBACT program and other international programs and funds for Hradec Kralove Region organized by Ministry for Regional Development.
14th February '24	Project team meeting – report for the first reporting period, ongoing activities, next steps
Feb & March '24	Preparation of the report for the first reporting period, collection of necessary documents, consultation with FLC.
11th March '24	Project team meeting – discussing the next steps and the ongoing activities, getting ready for the online BtU coordination meeting.
13th March '24	Project team members attended the webinar “Data Baselines: Ensuring you have the data you need”. Attendance at the Beyond the Urban online coordination meeting.
25th MArch '24	Approval of the FLC certificate for the first reporting period.

HIGHLIGHT: Cooperation with Czech Technical University

As part of the cooperation with the Czech Technical University, Department of Transport, the team continuously collaborates on the document Parking Policy of the City of Hradec Králové. The next output should be a technical specification for issuing a study on the expansion of parking zones in the territory of the city of Hradec Králové.

HIGHLIGHT: Shared micro mobility projects

Hradec Králové is preparing for the return of shared mobility operators, with whom the city of Hradec Králové is ready to sign an agreement on the operation of shared scooters. The city is finalizing a tender for 220 mechanical bikes and 30 electric bikes over 3.5 years, including unique requirements like city color identity and rear carriers for special cycling bags. These bags will be provided free to promote sustainable mobility.

Furthermore, the city plans to offer 15 minutes of free bike use to all users, with city cardholders receiving up to 30 minutes free. Additionally, Hradec Králové's management is committed to further supporting shared bikes in the city, with initiatives aimed at enhancing user incentives and promoting sustainable transportation...



Kocani

Activities realized

18th January '24	Opening of Youth Center in Kocani (2 representatives for PP team)
18th February '24	Participation (ULG member) in the panel discussion on the topic “Mobility in the region” organized by Center of East planning region of North Macedonia
13th March '24	1 ULG member and 2 members of the project team attended the webinar “Data Baselines: Ensuring you have the data you need”

MAIN HIGHLIGHT: engaging young people

On January 18th, the Youth Center was opened in the Multicultural Center of Kocani. A large number of young people from Kocani, but also from neighboring municipalities participated in this event. Two representatives from the project team and one ULG member attended this event.

One of the topics of discussion, among the ones that concern young people, was about the inclusion of citizens and young people in the processes of planning and drafting of strategic documents, as well as the fact that their voice, as young people, is not sufficiently heard in the policy shaping process. Moreover, both mobility and traffic congestion were recognized by young people as a problem facing citizens.

PP and ULG representatives used this opportunity to introduce young people to the activities of our Beyond the Urban network, as well as to the URBACT method, which is based on the participation of all stakeholders in municipal processes. With this, they tried to motivate young people to join the activities within the project in the future, so that their voice would be heard when finding a solution and shaping police for the problem of mobility, which was also recognized by them.



Machico

Activities realized

31th January '24	3rd meeting of the European Rural Mobility Network – mobility and tourism cross synergies, stakeholder involvement and planning.
23rd February '24	2nd module of ERMN training - Sustainable Rural Mobility and Tourism.
25th March '24	2nd ULG meeting

HIGHLIGHT: SMARTA-NET participation

Machico participates in the European Commission's SMARTA-NET initiative, which focuses on sustainable mobility in rural areas. They are experiencing benefits from exchanging knowledge between both networks, as several members of the ULG also participate in SMARTA-NET.



HIGHLIGHT: Secondary School Bottom-Up Initiative

The team in Machico received a spontaneous initiative from the local secondary school, where students expressed their desire to have bicycle access to certain parts of the city.

This provided the team with an additional dose of motivation to continue working intensively on the Beyond the Urban project.



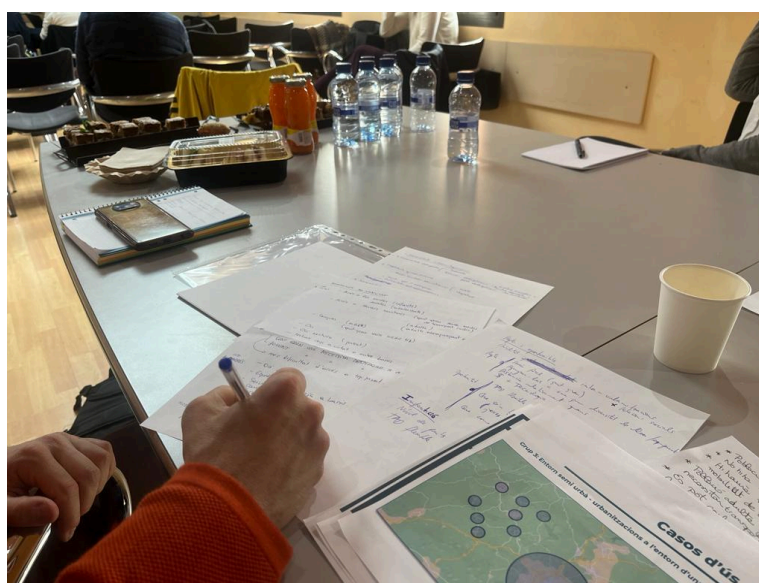
Activities realized

30th January '24	1st ULG meeting in the County Council
26th February '24	Information session specifically targeted at elected members from all 50 municipalities
7th March '24	Attendance (LP) to the Interreg Webinar “Green and Inclusive regional mobility solutions”
22nd March '24	Participation (LP+ULG coordinator) in the 1st meeting of the Rural Mobility Working Group of the Rural Initiatives Association of Catalonia
13th March '24	Attendance (ULG member) to the P.U.M.A. Webinar “Micro Mobility”
20th March '24	(2 ULG members) Attended the 1st Module of the SMARTA-NET course on Sustainable Mobility in Rural Areas (Public Transport and shared mobility in rural areas)

MAIN HIGHLIGHT: SMARTA-NET participation

Two members of Beyond the Urban Osona ULG were invited as representatives to a training session organized by the Provincial Government of Barcelona. This session was held in the context of the European Commission initiative SMARTA-NET and focused on Sustainable Mobility in Rural Areas.

Four individuals from Osona are taking advantage of this opportunity to acquire knowledge. Among them are Joana Rodríguez, a mobility technician at Vic City Council and a member of our Urbact core team, and Albert Trabal, responsible for the strategic plan for cycle paths in Osona at the County Council and a member of our ULG.



Santa Maria da Feira

Activities realized

14th February '24 One-to-one online meeting with the Lead Expert to discuss strategies for managing the chaotic situation in transport and establishing suitable conditions for the 1st ULG meeting.

13th March '24 Attendance at the webinar “Data Baselines: ensuring you have the data you need”.

MAIN HIGHLIGHT: Overcoming the mobility crisis of new service implementation

The implementation of the new public transport network faced significant challenges, including a complete restructuring of lines and services, resulting in drastic changes to high-traffic daily commuting routes, and in some cases, their elimination. Additionally, the service company, not native to the region, required an adaptation period to understand the local dynamics and user preferences.

In Santa Maria da Feira, users lost direct control over bus services, which are now managed by a consortium. Despite this, the Municipal Council has been closely monitoring the implementation of the UNIR operation in the territory, having analyzed all the concerns raised by residents. Having identified the main problems, the municipality advocated to make the necessary changes, meeting the real needs of citizens and users of this public road transport. This endeavor, although resource-intensive and time-consuming, was crucial in establishing trust and forming an effective URBACT Local Group focused on collaborative strategy development rather than merely addressing complaints.



The restructuring of the public transport network resulted from a public tender for the acquisition of the Public Road Passenger Transport Service, leading to the creation of the "UNIR" network. This initiative, driven by the 17 municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of Porto (AMP), aims to streamline public transport operations across the region, ensuring quality service, improved mobility, and environmental sustainability through new fleet, routes, schedules, coverage, and comfort. The team in Santa Maria da Feira remains optimistic that with initial adjustments and collaborative efforts among the 17 municipalities, the changes will ultimately lead to a stronger public transport infrastructure.

Szabolcs 05

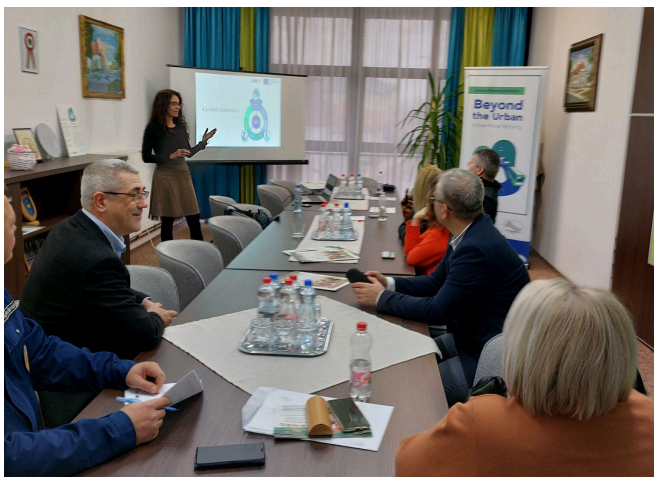
Activities realized

11th January '24	Submitting the 1st financial report to Hungarian FLC
18th January '24	Attendance (project manager) at online URBACT seminar of financial matters
13th March '24	Attendance to the webinar “Data Baselines: ensuring you have the data you need” and Network coordination meeting.
18th March '24	Sending certification documents for the lead partner regarding the 1st financial report
26th March '24	Connecting lead partner and lead expert with the lead expert of FEMACT-Cities project (other URBACT IV project of Szabolcs 05) for a future webinar presentation regarding the theme of gender and mobility

MAIN HIGHLIGHT: Dynamic Scheduling of ULG Meetings

Although no ULG meetings were held in Szabolcs 05 this quarter, it's worth noting that they had already held two on 9th November and 11th December 2023.

Additionally, the 3rd ULG meeting occurred during the drafting of this report. Further details will be available in the next quarterly Network Journal.



Activities realized

29th January '24	1st ULG meeting took place
13th March '24	Attendance to the webinar “Data Baselines: ensuring you have the data you need”

MAIN HIGHLIGHT: 1st ULG Meeting in Treviso

The first meeting of the ULG took place on January 29th. Comprising various institutions and associations from the city, such as the Treviso municipality, school representatives, MOM (Public Transport Company), local health institutions, traders' associations, and the Province of Treviso, the aim was to introduce the project and its objectives, allowing members to acquaint themselves and briefly discuss the mobility-related needs of their respective institutions.

Participants demonstrated keen interest in mobility issues and expressed enthusiasm for exploring useful tools in-depth. Their engagement serves as a promising foundation for future ULG meetings, slated to occur after the Tartu meeting in May.



Activities realized

23rd January '24 1st ULG meeting took place

13th March '24 Attendance to the webinar "Data Baselines: ensuring you have the data you need"

MAIN HIGHLIGHT: 1st ULG Meeting in Tartu

The first ULG meeting was held on January 24, 2024 in the premises of the Tartu Municipal Government. 14 people participated. Tartu Municipal Council, Tartu Municipal Government, Tartu City Transport, Tartumaa Public Transport Center, State Transport Board were involved. All participants are also residents of different regions of Tartu municipality, which is why they also represent the local view on mobility.

URBACT and the "Beyond the Urban" network were introduced to the assistants, followed by a discussion about the goals of the project and the URBACT tools. As part of the meeting's workshop, the team prepared a problem tree related to the mobility of Tartu Municipality. The attendees agreed that ULG meetings will take place once a quarter if some important topic does not require more frequent meetings.



Where does the Network stand at this point?

Network challenges and critical thematic inputs

3

NETWORK CHALLENGES

It's imminent to start discussing Pilots and recognize where we need support from other Ad Hoc Experts. Additionally, we are planning the next TNM in Tartu with the added challenge of covering the absence of our Lead Expert due to the coinciding dates with the Secretariat meeting in Paris.

2nd TNM in Tartu

Transnational meetings hold immense significance within our network, as they serve as platforms for intense exchange of experiences and knowledge building. These gatherings recharge our batteries and provide us with extra motivation for the project upon returning home.

The upcoming TNM in Tartu, Estonia, titled "Citizens Journey," promises to be particularly enriching. We will delve deeper into data reflections (following the 1st network webinar), examining how Tartu utilizes data to organize public and school transport. Additionally, we'll have the opportunity to explore data and mobility management through the University of Tartu Transport department experts.

Moreover, this TNM marks the beginning of sharing experiences and reflections on on-demand transport, focusing on the most effective strategies for implementation in suitable territories.

Armed with a clearer understanding of our challenges and objectives, we will put together partners to brainstorm about pilot projects and small scale actions.

Our partners in **Tartu Municipality** are taking the lead in organizing the upcoming TNM. They're deeply engaged in regular meetings with the LE and LP, meticulously coordinating every detail to ensure a successful event in their municipality.

Pilots

We have identified several hot interest points, and our primary objective is to discuss the corresponding pilots at our next TNM in Tartu, Estonia. To ensure a productive discussion, partners are requested to present preliminary ideas they have brainstormed in their respective territories beforehand.

The main focus will be on pairing and adjusting these pilot ideas to align and complement those of other partners, thereby maximizing the learning outcomes.

Shared URBACT Webinars

We have initiated bilateral contacts to achieve thematic exchange, capitalisation and dissemination within other networks in the URBACT ecosystem.

We are in contact with FEMACT CITIES, with which we have a partner in common, to organize a shared webinar on the topic of Gender and Mobility. Since Econnecting made a similar proposal to the expert Mary Dellenbaugh, we are working together to plan it for November 2024. We informed S.M.ALL, which also focuses on wider inclusivity and mobility, to see if they have interest.

We are also in contact with SCHOOL HOODS to delve into planning school transport which facilitates safe environments.

1st Webinar: Data Baselines

Ensuring you have the data you
need



#BTU WEBINAR: DATA BASELINES

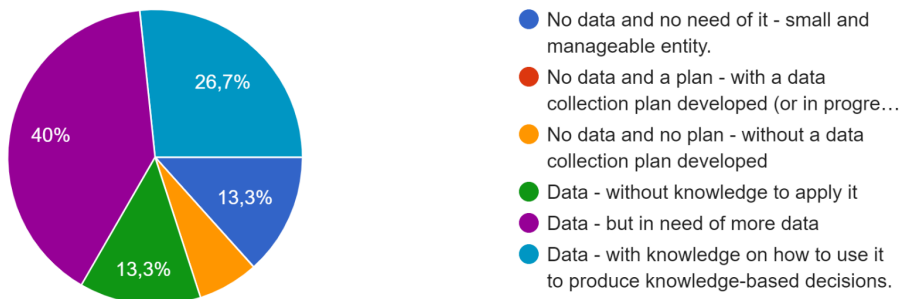
On March 13th, 2024, the Network Beyond the Urban hosted its inaugural webinar, "Data Baselines: Ensuring You Have the Data You Need," featuring Mar Santamaria Varas, an expert in strategic urban planning and data analytics for public policies. The webinar emphasized the importance of data analysis in informing decision-making and urban policies.

Session preparation

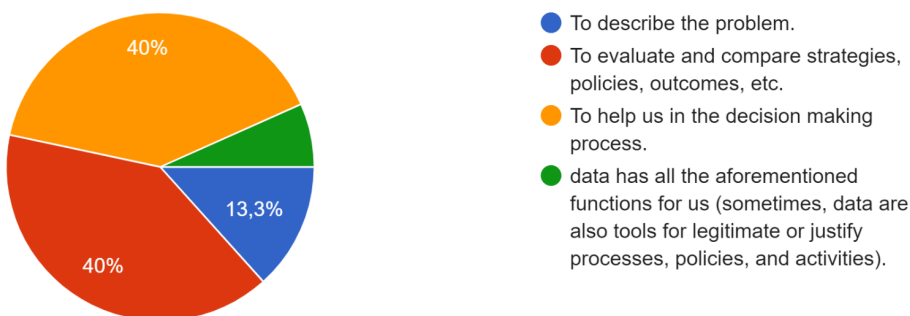
Before the webinar, 15 of the participants completed a questionnaire to assess their familiarity with data analysis.

When asked about categorizing their territory, 40% of the participants indicated that they have data but need more, while 26.7% stated they have data and knowledge on how to use it. This means that 66.7% of the participants were initiated in the data world.

On the other hand, 20.0% of participants classified their territories in the "no data" group, either because they are a small entity and believe they don't need data to make decisions, or because they lack a plan to collect it. Additionally, 13.3% were categorized as having data but lacking the knowledge to apply it in decision-making.

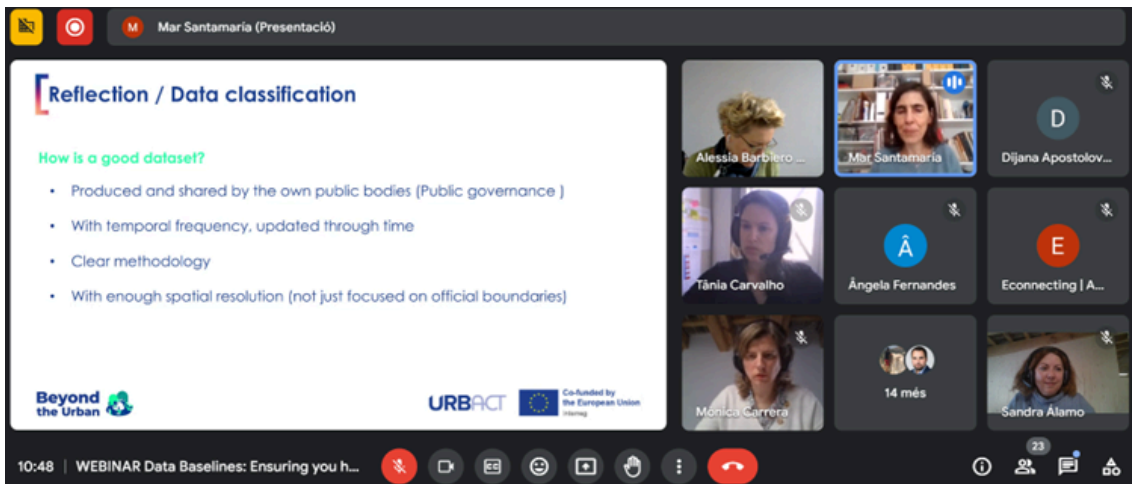


When asked about the uses they give to data, the participants mainly answered that it serves to help decision-making and to evaluate and compare strategies, accounting for 80% of the uses our partners give to data.

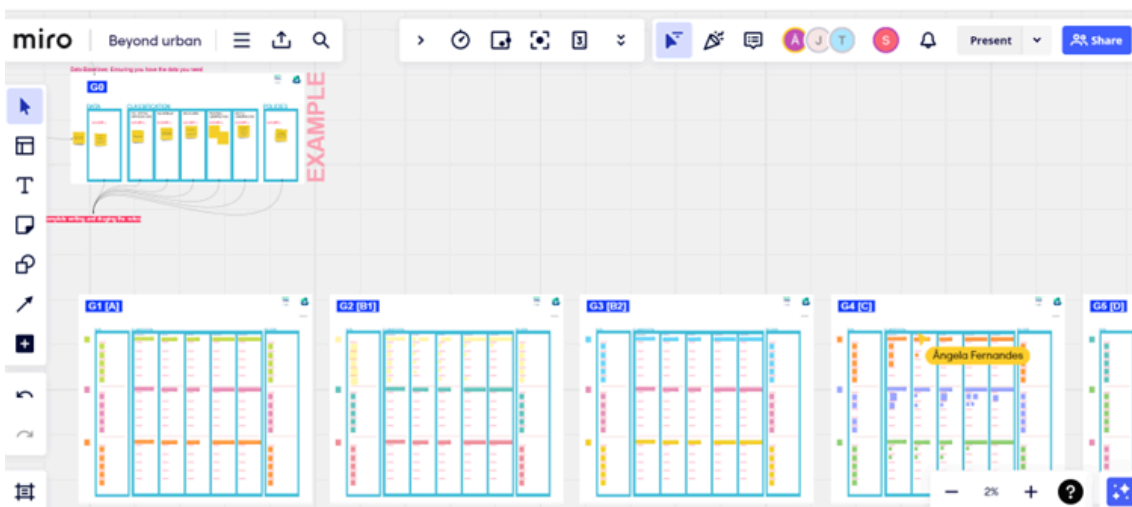


Development of the session

The session began by acknowledging the diverse expertise, data access, needs, and skills among participants, emphasizing the necessity to tailor strategies to individual territories.



The discussion then explored how data can empower decision-making, covering topics such as data technologies, the revolution of open and massive data, data storage, data computation, and understanding the decision-making cycle. Various case studies were presented to illustrate how different questions require different approaches.



Later in the webinar, participants collaborated in small groups to share the types of data they collected, collection methods, and purposes on a Miro board. By exchanging experiences with similar territories, participants identified potential data gaps. Each group presented their findings, fostering an interactive approach aimed at refining data strategies and improving decision-making processes.

More information, in our website:

<https://urbact.eu/webinar-data-baselines-ensuring-you-have-data-you-need>

You can retrieve the entire webinar on Youtube below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NzeUkbcN4>

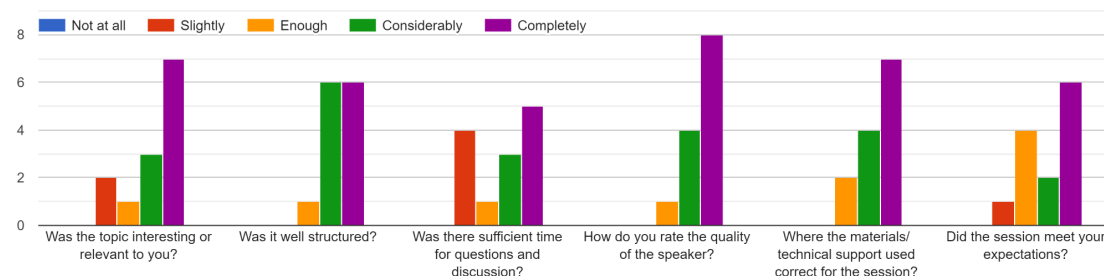
Attendees profile

In the webinar hosted by Mar Santamaria Varas, there were 43 participants. Among them, 70% were part of the Beyond the Urban Network (30 participants, including the LE and LP). Additionally, 14% were part of the "mobility hub" Networks (3 from Econnecting and 3 from S.M.ALL; P.U.M.A had a webinar on the same date), 9% were attendees from other Urbact Networks (Breaking Isolation, Cities After Dark, Cities@Heart, and Let's Go Circular), and the remaining 7% included an attendee from the Urbact Secretariat, one from Urbact III (Tourism Friendly Cities), and a participant not affiliated with Urbact.

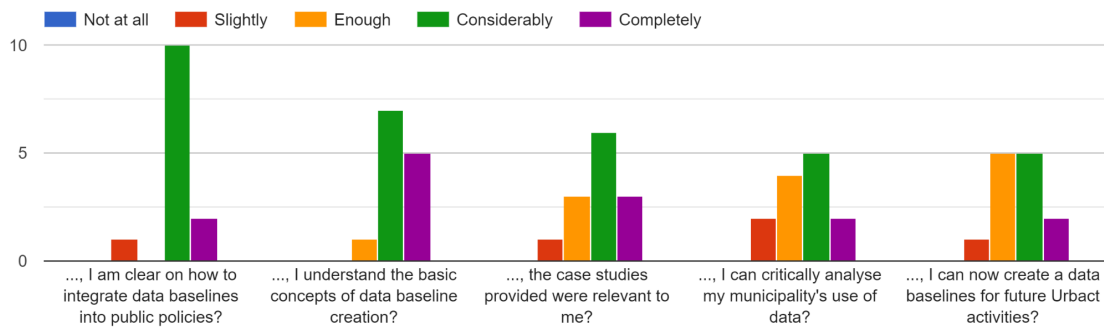
Feedback from the participants

Only 13 out of the 42 participants took the time to respond to the evaluation questionnaire. Therefore, the interpretation of these results should be approached with caution.

The evaluation shows, on one hand, that the quality of the expert AdHoc and the presented material and topics have been highly valued. Regarding the alignment of the theme with the interests and expectations, it is generally positive, but some attendees who do not regularly work with data or represent small entities where decision-making can be done without them may have felt that the session did not fully meet their needs.



What definitely fell short was the time for discussing and working in small groups on the Miro platform. The complexity of separate rooms and the unfamiliarity with the Miro platform by some participants caused discussion groups to take longer to activate, and in some of them, it felt like time ran out just as things were getting interesting. Surely, the session should have been planned for two hours, but we thought limiting it to 90 minutes would be an incentive for our partners who typically have very busy schedules.



If we consider the objectives we had set for the webinar, it is worth noting that the vast majority of participants are clear on how to integrate data baselines into public policies and understand the basic concepts of data baseline creation, after attending the webinar. On the other hand, 6 out of 13 of those surveyed can just slightly or enough critically analyze their municipality's use of data after the webinar.

After the webinar, three of the partners requested a one-to-one meeting to further explore the possibilities of data in their territories with the AdHoc expert Mar Santamaria.

