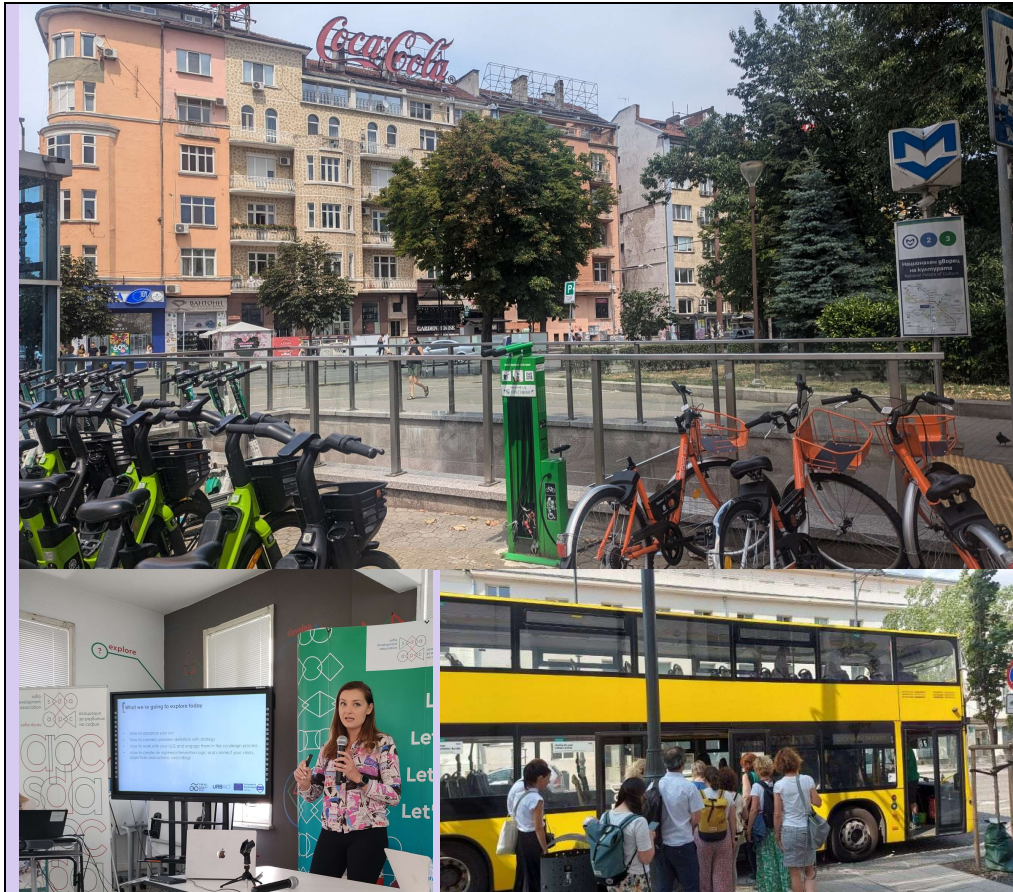


# S.M.ALL THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT

3° | JULY-SEPTEMBER | 2024



## 01 INSIDE THE IAP: STRATEGIES, CHALLENGES, AND BEST PRACTICES

Focus on practical strategies for crafting the IAPs, such as focusing on shared visions and aligning objectives with real-world needs. Looking at successful practices that cities can adopt to improve their planning outcomes.

## 02 SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSIVE MOBILITY: TOWARDS SHARED SOLUTIONS AND PILOT PROJECTS

From improving transport infrastructure to piloting innovative solutions, partners are working collaboratively to address pressing issues like traffic congestion and accessibility gaps.

## A SUMMER ON THE GO!

The summer meetings of the S.M.ALL URBACT Network, held in **Sofia** and **Druskininkai**, showcased significant strides in fostering sustainable mobility and inclusivity. In Sofia, discussions emphasized integrated action planning, stakeholder collaboration, and prioritizing accessibility through strategic frameworks such as the scenario planning exercises. Practical outputs included the formulation of pilot actions and strategies addressing urban challenges like mobility for disabled individuals and stakeholder engagement

In Druskininkai was highlighted the importance of local sustainability, with its innovative focus on accessibility, public engagement, and integrated development within its forested landscape. Key outcomes included advancing plans for mobility aids, awareness campaigns, and enhancing public spaces through universal design. **The European Mobility Week activities** further underscored the integration of physical activity into daily urban life, fostering community cohesion.

## 03 CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATION IN URBAN PLANNING

By involving residents through co-creation processes, partners foster stronger connections between stakeholders and local authorities in shaping innovative solutions for getting more inclusiveness and sustainable solutions in mobility related issues..

## 01 INSIDE THE INTEGRATED ACTION PLANS

In Sofia, the work on Integrated Action Plans (IAPs) centred on enhancing urban accessibility and addressing governance challenges, with a focus on improving specialised transport services for disabled individuals. Efforts were directed at developing strategic frameworks to prioritise objectives and integrate policies effectively. The masterclasses (Ed Thorpe, keynote speaker) provided insights into designing adaptable and sustainable action plans, ensuring solutions were tailored to local needs while supporting long-term scalability. This collaborative work advanced the shared vision of creating inclusive and accessible urban environments, reinforcing the commitment to practical, impactful urban mobility initiatives.



The two meetings advanced work on Integrated Action Plans (IAPs), fostering collaboration, inclusivity, and sustainability while defining concrete actions to address local and transnational urban challenges.

In Druskininkai, work on Integrated Action Plans (IAPs) prioritised accessibility, sustainability, and universal design (Rasa Rudaitienė key note speaker). Key outcomes included plans for mobility aids, public space enhancements, and awareness campaigns, fostering inclusive, practical solutions to address local urban challenges effectively

## IAP'S S.M.ALL SUMMER TAKEAWYS

### 01

Prioritised accessibility and inclusivity in urban mobility solutions.

### 02

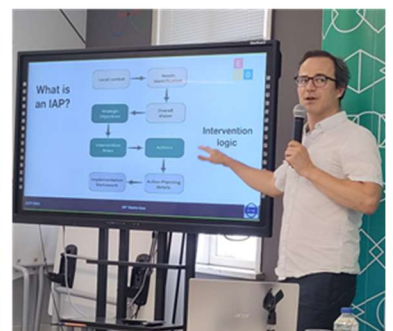
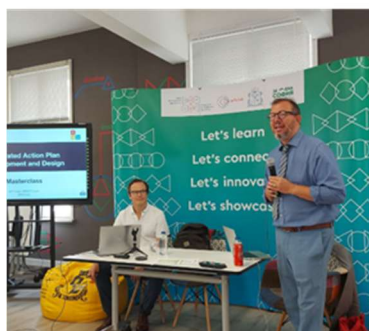
Developed scalable, strategic frameworks for sustainable urban planning.

### 03

Advanced local and transnational collaboration for actionable outcomes.

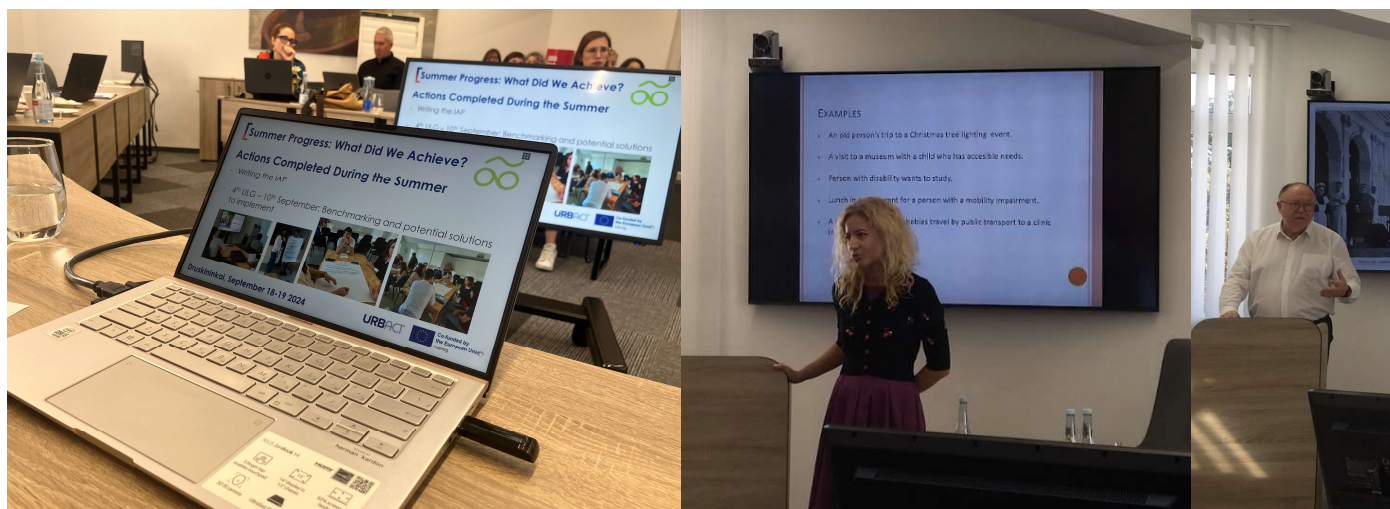
### 04

Fostered innovative approaches to governance and integrated policies.





The development of Integrated Action Plans (IAPs) is a cornerstone of sustainable urban mobility initiatives within the S.M.ALL framework. The recent transnational meetings held in Sofia and Druskininkai provided significant insights into the practical methodologies, strategic approaches, and collaborative efforts underpinning the IAP processes in each partner city. By addressing diverse local contexts and challenges, these meetings showcased how IAPs serve as powerful tools to advance inclusive, sustainable, and adaptive urban solutions. The current IAPs, in drafting phase, integrate strategic objectives, actionable steps, and collaborative mechanisms to deliver transformative outcomes tailored to local needs. At the **Sofia** meeting, the emphasis was on building cohesive governance structures and enhancing accessibility, particularly for disabled individuals. Meanwhile, in Druskininkai, the focus shifted to universal design principles and the promotion of public space accessibility, reflecting the city's unique socio-economic and geographic context. These meetings reinforced the value of IAPs as dynamic, evolving instruments. They are not static documents but rather iterative frameworks that adapt to stakeholder input, emerging challenges, and ongoing evaluation. This adaptability ensures that IAPs remain relevant and impactful throughout their lifecycle. In Sofia, the work on IAPs centred on improving governance and addressing urban mobility challenges with an emphasis on accessibility. A significant outcome was the prioritisation of short-term and long-term measures to improve specialised transport services for individuals with disabilities. Challenges such as the lack of legal frameworks, denied service requests, and coordination issues among service operators were identified and addressed within the IAP framework. The Sofia meeting also highlighted the importance of stakeholder involvement. While discussions emphasised co-creation processes, practical steps such as defining clear governance rules and designing scalable solutions were prioritised. For example, participants discussed integrating technology into service delivery to enhance resource planning and efficiency. Masterclasses held during the meeting provided critical insights into the design and implementation of IAPs. This focus on governance and technical integration demonstrates how IAPs can address systemic issues while fostering sustainable and inclusive solutions.



Masterclasses held during the meeting provided critical insights into the design and implementation of IAPs. Experts guided participants through strategic frameworks, emphasising the need for actionable objectives and long-term scalability. This approach underscored the dual role of IAPs as both strategic and operational tools, enabling cities to address immediate challenges while laying the groundwork for future improvements. **Druskininkai's** approach to IAPs reflected its unique context as a forested resort city with a strong focus on wellness and accessibility. The meeting concentrated on developing practical interventions that align with universal design principles. Plans for mobility aids, such as the establishment of a pilot library, were discussed alongside broader strategies to enhance public awareness and stakeholder engagement. The meeting coincided with European Mobility Week, providing an opportunity to integrate public engagement activities into the IAP framework. Events such as guided walking routes and interactive community activities highlighted the importance of daily movement and inclusivity in public spaces. These initiatives demonstrated how IAPs can extend beyond policy frameworks to actively engage communities and foster behavioural change. Druskininkai's efforts also underscored the importance of cross-sector collaboration. Stakeholders from diverse backgrounds contributed to shaping the IAP, ensuring that the plan addresses the needs of both primary and secondary stakeholders. For instance, while individuals with special needs were the primary focus, the involvement of caregivers, local businesses, and tourists ensured a holistic approach to urban accessibility. strategies to enhance public awareness and stakeholder engagement.



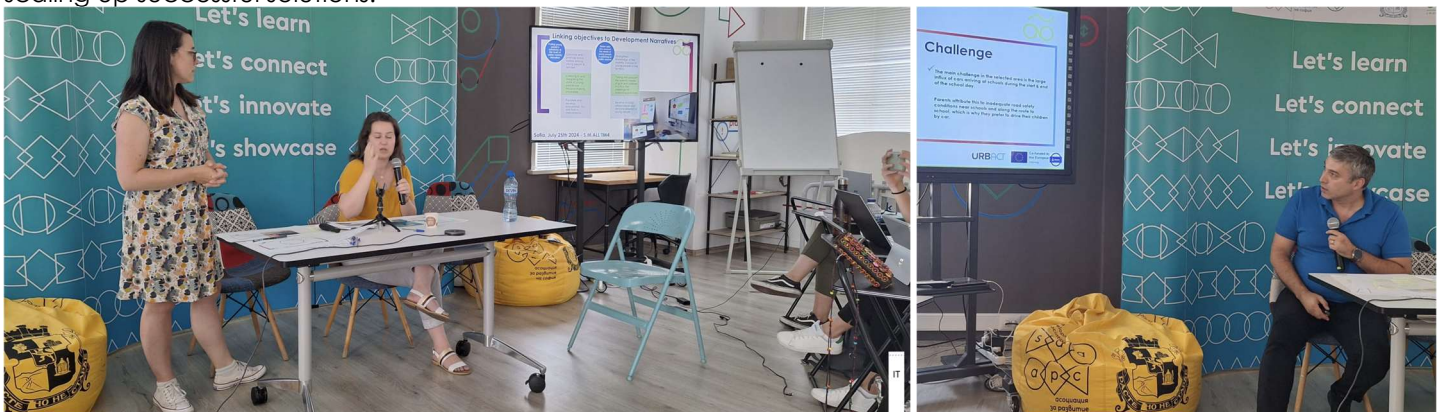
## 02 SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSIVE MOBILITY: TOWARDS SHARED SOLUTIONS AND PILOT PROJECTS

The search of sustainability and inclusive mobility remains a cornerstone of urban planning, determining the dialogue among partners at the recent URBACT transnational meetings held in Sofia and Druskininkai. These meetings underscored the importance of collaborative frameworks and innovative pilot projects in addressing contemporary urban challenges. The discussions, workshops, and activities carried out during these sessions illustrated how cities can advance shared solutions to achieve long-term goals. Sustainability is no longer a supplementary goal but an integral part of urban mobility strategies. In Sofia, the emphasis was on improving accessibility and governance frameworks for transport systems, particularly for individuals with disabilities. The city's efforts to bridge gaps in governance, enhance the legal framework, and optimise resources highlight the need to interlink environmental, social, and economic sustainability in urban mobility planning. The great ambition of the Sofia Integrated Plan is precisely to establish a process that will lead to the definition of a new policy at local and then national level to better address the situation of mobility and accessibility of the city for people with disabilities. Druskininkai, a resort city surrounded and framed by an astonishing landscape, presented a unique perspective on sustainability. Here, 84% of the territory is forested, and mobility initiatives are shaped by this ecological context. The meeting put in evidence efforts to balance environmental preservation with the development of accessible public spaces and infrastructure. Druskininkai's work towards universal design, coupled with pilot projects like mobility aid libraries, underscores the critical role of sustainability in mobility frameworks. Both meetings emphasised the importance of shared solutions facilitated by collaboration among stakeholders. In Sofia, discussions around governance structures and co-creation processes stressed the need for clear communication and active engagement. The integration of technology into service planning was identified as a critical tool for improving resource allocation and ensuring scalability. Druskininkai showcased how cross-sectoral collaboration can lead to innovative outcomes.



By involving caregivers, local businesses, and tourists in the planning process, the city ensured that mobility solutions addressed a broad spectrum of needs. The European Mobility Week activities, which engaged local communities in physical activities, served as a practical example of how shared solutions can foster behavioural change and community integration. Both meetings discussed structured methodologies to advance the network's objectives. Scenario planning was a key tool used

to identify challenges and opportunities, enabling cities to tailor their Integrated Action Plans (IAPs) to specific contexts. For example, as noted above, Sofia's scenario planning exercise prioritised technical and governance improvements, while Druskininkai focused on public awareness and universal design. Masterclasses held during the meetings provided valuable guidance on the development of IAPs. Experts shared insights on how to align strategic goals with practical actions, ensuring that plans are adaptable and scalable. This methodological consistency ensures that sustainability and inclusivity are embedded at the core of local urban mobility contexts. Pilot projects emerged as a central theme, providing a testing ground for innovative solutions. In Sofia, pilot actions were linked to improving the efficiency and inclusivity of transport services. These small-scale actions serve as proof of concept, demonstrating the feasibility of larger systemic changes. Druskininkai's pilots included the establishment of a mobility assistance library and public awareness campaigns. These initiatives not only addressed immediate challenges, but also created opportunities for scaling up successful solutions.





### 03 CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATION IN URBAN PLANNING

Citizen engagement and innovation are decisive in reshaping urban planning to meet the demands of modern cities. The recent transnational meetings held in Sofia and Druskininkai within the URBACT network explained the transformative potential of participatory approaches and innovative methodologies in crafting sustainable and inclusive urban solutions. The Sofia meeting stressed participatory governance as a key component of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) process. By involving citizens in discussions around mobility and accessibility, the city fostered a sense of ownership and accountability among its residents. Druskininkai's approach to citizen engagement highlighted the importance of inclusivity. Efforts to involve primary and secondary stakeholders, including people with disabilities, caregivers, and local businesses, ensured that urban planning processes were comprehensive and responsive. During European Mobility Week, the city organised community-centric activities, such as guided walking routes and interactive games, which demonstrated how active participation could enhance public awareness and foster behavioural change. Both meetings showcased the value of Urban Local Groups (ULGs) as platforms for citizen participation. ULGs provided a structured mechanism for dialogue between local authorities, residents, and other stakeholders, enabling the co-creation of solutions that address everyday life challenges. This model of engagement exemplifies how urban planning can move beyond top-down, or just technicians driven, approaches to embrace collaborative, community-driven strategies.



The integration of citizen engagement and innovation creates a powerful synergy that drives impactful urban planning. In Sofia, this synergy was evident in the collaborative design of specialised transport services for people with disabilities. Druskininkai's efforts to balance environmental sustainability with accessibility further demonstrated the potential of this synergy. The both meetings underscored that advancing innovation does not mean sidelining community voices. Instead, it involves leveraging citizen visions to inform creative solutions, ensuring that innovations align with the needs and priorities of the community. This collaborative approach ensures that urban planning initiatives are grounded in reality while remaining aspirational.



