

News from the PUMA Network

January - June 2024





"It was truly inspiring to witness individuals from diverse backgrounds coming together, sharing their expertise, and actively contributing to the dialogue on integrated action planning. From thought-provoking discussions to hands-on workshops, every moment was infused with energy and dedication."

Karolina Orcholska about 2nd transnational meeting

PUMA Network Roars Across Europe: A Thrilling Start to 2024!

The first half of 2024 was anything but quiet for the PUMA (Plans for Urban Mobility Actions) Network, which kicked off the year with a flurry of dynamic and engaging activities across Europe.

Viladecans: Where the Action Began

In April, the charming city of Viladecans hosted the 2nd Transnational Project Meeting. The event was a blend of serious urban planning and spirited exploration, with participants indulging in workshops, lectures, and site visits that were both enlightening and exhausting. Mayor Carles Ruiz and Deputy Mayor Jordi Mazon welcomed everyone with the warmth and hospitality that only a Spanish city can offer—complete with enthusiastic speeches about the city's sustainable mobility projects and the occasional impromptu dance lesson (or so we heard).



The first day was a whirlwind of presentations and discussions. The Viladecans Mobility Team dazzled attendees with their ambitious plans, from CO2 reduction initiatives to the creation of cyclist-friendly streets. The highlight was undoubtedly the “bici-bus” project, a quirky yet effective scheme to get kids biking to school, proving that sometimes the best ideas are the simplest ones.

The second day featured a walking tour that doubled as a workout session. Participants were treated to the city's public transport hub and the intricate cycling network. However, the real challenge lay in brainstorming solutions for the pedestrianization of El Prat Street, a task that had everyone scratching their heads and maybe a few contemplating a career change.



Micromobility Mania: A Webinar to Remember

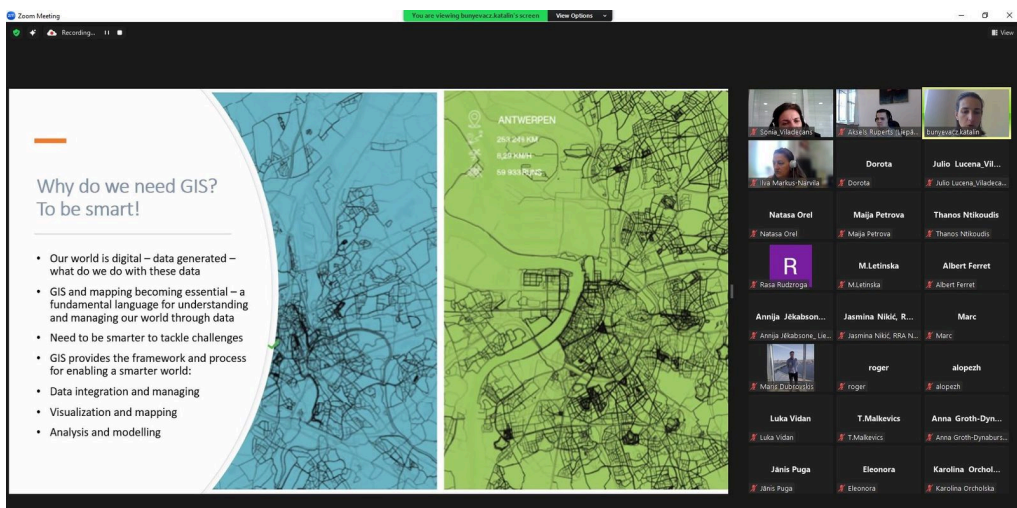
March saw the PUMA network diving into the world of micromobility with an online workshop aptly titled "Exploring Micromobility: An Online Workshop on Walking, Cycling, and Active Mobility."

Jointly with mobility experts, PUMA team members and their ULG members explored multiple topics from micromobility like walking, cycling, overview of current trends and challenges, and ending with sustainable transportation topics – exploring other forms of active mobility, opportunities, and challenges in integrating these modes into urban transportation systems.

GIS Webinar: Mapping the Future

In late May, the PUMA network hosted a highly anticipated online training session titled "Application Areas of GIS for Mobility Planning." Over two days, participants delved into the fascinating world of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and how these tools can revolutionize urban mobility planning.

The training featured insightful presentations from experts like Katalin Bunyevácz and Johanna Schmitt, who shared real-world case studies from cities like Milan and Salzburg. Interactive exercises, quizzes, and lively discussions kept everyone engaged. Jim Lam's session on TransCAD was a standout, offering a hands-on look at this powerful GIS software. The event wrapped up with an evaluation and plenty of new ideas for using GIS to create smarter, more sustainable cities (More information in LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7204759874654638081>)



Overview of Current Trends and Challenges part 1

- Micromobility has experienced rapid growth in recent years, driven by advancements in technology, changing consumer preferences, and increasing awareness of sustainability issues.
- Bike-sharing programs have expanded globally, providing affordable and convenient access to bicycles for short trips.
- Electric scooters have emerged as a popular mode of transportation in many urban areas, offering an alternative to cars and public transit for short-distance travel.
- Despite the benefits of micromobility, there are several challenges that need to be addressed



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Environmental Benefits of Cycling Based on Science

Environmental Benefits of Cycling




- **Reduces Global Warming :**
Cycling for about 10 km, helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions to about 1500 kg and in turn reduces global warming





- **Saves Energy :**
Manufacturing a bicycle consumes less energy as

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One-on-One with the Lead Expert and Lead Partner

June was a busy month for the PUMA network's Lead Expert and Lead Partner, who conducted individual meetings with all partners. These personalized sessions were designed to offer tailored advice and support, ensuring that each city's unique challenges and opportunities were addressed. It was a month of deep dives, strategic discussions, and a lot of virtual coffee.

Guiding the Way Forward

To cap it all, the LE prepared comprehensive IAP (Integrated Action Plan) guidelines for the PUMA network. These guidelines are a treasure trove of good practices, tools, and strategies to help cities develop robust action plans for sustainable urban mobility. Covering everything from stakeholder involvement to the integration of economic, social, and environmental challenges, the guidelines are set to be a help for the network's work.





News from Partners: The Inside Scoope

As the PUMA network marches forward, it's clear that their efforts are not just about improving urban mobility but also about fostering a sense of community and shared purpose across borders. Whether it's through high-energy meetings, innovative webinars, or collaborative workshops, PUMA is proving that sustainable urban living is not just achievable—it's inevitable.



Viladecans (Spain) has been hard at work on their Integrated Action Plan (IAP) and how it integrates with the city's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP). With the help of an external consultancy, they have created a comprehensive document that outlines a "plan of plans" strategy, with concrete actions set for 2027, 2030, and an ambitious vision for 2050. Their efforts culminated in the successful organization of the PUMA Transnational Meeting in April, marking a significant milestone in their journey.

Cento (Italy) made headlines with their dedicated focus on mobility for immigrant women. They conducted detailed analyses on local mobility issues and launched a survey to gather insights from the community. By engaging directly with migrant women and other vulnerable groups, Cento is working towards more inclusive and accessible mobility solutions. Their activities are a testament to how mobility initiatives can foster social integration and community well-being.



Amidst all the technical talk, the town of Cento captured hearts with its inspiring efforts to involve immigrant women in the life of the local community. Cento's innovative approach includes enabling these women to travel freely and confidently, fostering social integration and empowerment. By providing accessible transport solutions and organizing community activities, Cento is not just moving people but transforming lives.

Gdansk (Poland) showcased an impressive range of activities, from preparing detailed reports and engaging with local Urbact Local Groups (ULGs) to participating in various webinars on sustainable urban mobility. A study was also carried out on transport behavior and needs in this respect among the inhabitants of the Oliwa district. The next stages of the study will take place in autumn - this will allow for better preparation of actions to improve sustainable mobility in this part of the city. Their proactive approach in networking and learning from other cities is helping them craft innovative solutions tailored to their unique urban challenges.

Liepāja (Latvia) was the coordination hub, overseeing the PUMA Baseline study and Network Roadmap development. They also prepared for the public procurement of their Integrated Mobility Action Plans for Liepāja and Dienvidkurzeme municipalities, a critical step towards sustainable urban mobility in their region. Their behind-the-scenes efforts ensure that the PUMA network runs smoothly and effectively.

Dienvidkurzeme (Latvia) focused on laying the groundwork for future mobility plans by preparing necessary documentation and engaging in multiple webinars to gather insights from other rural cities. They also began efforts to involve local students in mobility projects, aiming to foster a culture of active participation and innovative thinking among the younger generation.

University of Zagreb (Croatia) took a scholarly approach, organizing the insightful "Exploring Micromobility" webinar and preparing for future events focused on sustainable urban mobility indicators. Their efforts to align local goals with national strategic objectives demonstrate a commitment to integrating academic expertise with practical urban planning.

Green Region (Lithuania) made strides in enhancing public transport by introducing new electric buses and improving safety features. Their initiatives reflect a strong focus on communication strategies and expanding public transport routes to better serve the community.

Nova Gorica (Slovenia) actively involved stakeholders and held the first Urban Local Group (ULG) meeting in January. They worked on revising and upgrading their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) to include a cross-border mobility plan, ensuring comprehensive and inclusive development for the region.



Stay tuned for more updates as the PUMA network continues to transform urban mobility, one city at a time. Until then, happy cycling, walking, and everything in between!

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PARTNER EUROPEI

- Liepaja (Lettonia)
- Dienvidkurzeme (Lettonia)
- Taurage (Lituania)
- Larissa (Grecia)
- "Facoltà di Ingegneria dei Trasporti e del Traffico di Zagabria (Croazia)
- Gdansk (Polonia)
- Cento (Italia)
- Villadecans (Spagna)
- Nova Gorica (Slovenia)

OBIETTIVO

Il progetto PUMA intende sviluppare piani di azione integrati per la mobilità, mirando a raggiungere una mobilità climaticamente neutrale e sostenibile nelle piccole e medie città.

Lo scopo del progetto è rendere protagonisti i cittadini, promuovendo alternative efficienti, moderne, sicure e convenienti rispetto all'utilizzo di auto private, fornendo soluzioni a portata di ogni cittadino, indipendentemente dall'età, genere, nazionalità, condizioni fisiche e livello di reddito.

DURATA

01/06/2023 - 31/12/2025

BUDGET TOTALE: € 850.000,00

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