



PUMA Project Quarterly Report

June - September 2024

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg



A Season of Reflection, Strategy, and Momentum: PUMA's Summer Highlights!

About the PUMA Project

PUMA (Plans for Urban Mobility Actions) is a European network under the URBACT program, dedicated to fostering sustainable urban mobility across diverse cities. The project brings together partners from various European countries to develop and implement Integrated Action Plans (IAPs) tailored to local mobility challenges.



Summer may traditionally be a time for relaxation, but for the PUMA (Plans for Urban Mobility Actions) network, it was all about keeping up the pace. While the sun shone and holidays were enjoyed, the PUMA partners continued to build momentum for their ambitious mobility projects.

From the dynamic 3rd Transnational Meeting in Zagreb to significant local events during European Mobility Week, PUMA demonstrated that even in quieter months, impactful progress can be made.



Zagreb's Energetic Welcome – The 3rd Transnational Meeting

The 3rd Transnational Meeting – Zagreb, Croatia (11th–12th September)

In early September, the PUMA partners converged in Zagreb for the 3rd Transnational Project Meeting, hosted by the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences. This two-day gathering was a mix of presentations, workshops, and hands-on learning, with a clear focus on turning strategies into SMART goals and refining mobility plans for each partner city.



Highlights from the Zagreb Meeting

From tackling urban transport challenges in Gdańsk to promoting cross-border mobility between Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Gorizia (Italy), partners shared insightful presentations on their progress. The diversity of experiences provided a rich tapestry of ideas, with some cities focusing on electrifying their public transport fleets, while others explored pedestrian-friendly urban redesigns.





- **Workshops with Impact:** Led by Karolina Orcholska and, the workshop sessions weren't just theoretical—they were action-packed! Partners were divided into smaller working groups to refine their long-term mobility strategies, turning bold ideas into SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals. Discussions were lively, with partners providing peer-to-peer feedback, ensuring that everyone left with practical tools to apply in their local contexts.
- **Hands-On Learning in Zagreb:** The final session included a walking tour of the city's sustainable mobility projects, allowing partners to experience first-hand how Zagreb is integrating innovative transport solutions. From the city's revamped tram system to its pedestrianized zones, the tour highlighted the tangible benefits of sustainable mobility and how it can transform urban living. The day ended with partners more motivated than ever to bring these ideas back to their own cities.



European Mobility Week: Shining a Spotlight on Sustainability

September also brought the energy and excitement of European Mobility Week (16th – 22nd September), where PUMA partners took center stage in their cities. This year's theme, "Shared public space" aligned perfectly with the PUMA network's mission of promoting greener, more efficient urban transport solutions. Across Europe, partners organized a range of creative and engaging events to promote sustainable mobility.



European Mobility Week in Latvia: Embracing the Power of Cycling

During European Mobility Week (16th–22nd September), the city of Liepaja, alongside Dienvidkurzeme Municipality, played an active role in promoting sustainable mobility. With a focus on cycling, they organized a variety of events aimed at encouraging residents to adopt greener transportation methods and rely less on cars.

- **Cycling Events:** On 23rd September, there was a 13 km guided tour from Liepaja city to Grobina Castle Hill. This year, nearly 400 participants joined the trip, and most of them made it to the end, where hot soup, entertaining activities, and questionnaires about mobility were prepared. The aim of the event was not only to reduce carbon emissions but also to foster a sense of community around healthy and active mobility.
- **Public Engagement:** Latvian project's partners together with local schools and businesses hosted cycling awareness campaigns, ensuring that people of all ages were involved. These events highlighted the importance of cycling as a sustainable and accessible mode of transport.

Latvia's efforts during Mobility Week were a reminder that small, community-driven initiatives can have a big impact on urban mobility and the environment.



Viladecans: A Beacon of Community-Led Mobility Initiative

Viladecans, a charming city in Spain, continued to be a shining example of how local communities can take the lead in shaping urban mobility. During this quarter, Viladecans hosted several community-driven events that reflected their commitment to sustainable mobility and the power of local action.

- **Community Cycling Projects:** Much like Latvia, Viladecans put cycling at the forefront, but with a unique twist. Their “bici-bus” project, aimed at getting schoolchildren to cycle to school in groups with an adult supervision, proved to be a creative and effective way to promote cycling safety and reduce car use around schools.
- **Public Space Revitalization:** A key approach involves transforming busy streets into safer, greener spaces through the pedestrianization process. By engaging residents, local authorities, and mobility experts in workshops and brainstorming sessions, cities gather ideas and feedback to reshape urban areas, prioritizing sustainable mobility and improving the overall quality of public spaces.
- **Mobility Plans for the Future:** Viladecans also shared significant progress on their Integrated Action Plan (IAP), which aims to align their mobility goals with their broader urban development strategy. Their IAP is a “plan of plans,” with ambitious milestones set for 2027, 2030, and 2050, making Viladecans a leader in long-term, sustainable urban planning.

Viladecans' focus on community engagement and practical, family-friendly mobility solutions has made it a model for other PUMA cities to follow.



Strategic Reflections: Moving Forward with Confidence

While the summer months brought some natural pauses, PUMA partners used the time wisely to reflect and refine their strategies. With a series of one-on-one consultations between the Lead Expert and each city, partners were able to focus on their unique challenges and fine-tune their long-term mobility goals.

Looking Ahead:

- **October/November 2024 Coordination Meeting:** Partners will present their draft mobility visions and stakeholder engagement strategies, building on the progress made during the quieter summer months.
- **Beginning of 2025 Milestone:** The submission of draft Integrated Action Plans will mark a major milestone for the PUMA network. Partners are on track to meet this deadline, with each city developing innovative strategies that reflect their local needs and long-term sustainability goals.

The summer season may have been quieter for some, but for PUMA, it was a time of steady progress, creative events, and strategic development. From the collaborative energy of the Zagreb meeting to the community-led initiatives in Viladecans and Latvia, the PUMA network continues to lead the charge for sustainable urban mobility across Europe. With a strong foundation in place, the network is well-positioned to achieve its ambitious goals in the months and years to come.

Stay tuned for more updates, and don't forget to follow us on [URBACT](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for the latest news!

AKULTET PROMETNIH ZNANOSTI



Contact:

Lead Partner: aksels.ruperts@liepaja.lv

Lead Expert: wisinska.karolina@gmail.com

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg