



European Integrated Projects

Mobility Forum

Planning for sustainable urban mobility represents a new paradigm in transportation that puts the focus on people rather than traffic. In conjunction with this paradigm, citizens and other stakeholders are also included in the mobility planning process, which is transparent and participatory.

What is it?

The establishment of a Mobility Forum in a city attempts to improve institutional collaboration and participation in transport planning. This is done by promoting communication between stakeholders from the public sector, business, and civil society on mobility concerns. Cities could use the Mobility Forum to identify their priority mobility needs, focus their efforts, and build consensus on what is needed to be done at a certain moment. The practical results of the Mobility Forum is a list of recommendations for the local authority to be implemented. These recommendations could be the basis for new rules, regulations and of strategies at local level, approved by local Councils.

Stakeholders in the transport planning process, such as municipal departments, regional authorities, public transportation companies, city or district council members, various users' associations, management authorities for relevant funding programs, businesses, NGOs, citizen groups, and other stakeholders, could come together in the context of a Mobility Forum to discuss solutions to specific transport issues. This approach can facilitate the implementation process by fostering ownership and responsibility sharing, streamlining funding, increasing the impact of specific actions, or a better acceptance of certain mobility solutions.

Practical suggestions for a successful Mobility Forum

- **Establish a Mobility Forum manager** or a department that takes responsibility for its organisation. It is important to know whom to contact regarding operational aspects of the Forum.
- **Carefully identify** and analyse all relevant stakeholders that are invited to the Mobility Forum.
- **Think** of an appropriate regularity for the plenary meetings to ensure continuity; specific work meetings can be convened in a more flexible manner in between.
- **Send invitations** at least well in advance to ensure good participation.
- **Make the final agenda available** well in advance, to allow participants can participate, and prepare their interventions for the meeting.
- **Design the meeting** in such a way that each stakeholder can express their opinion.
- **Send a follow-up note** to all participants after each meeting. It should contain a full list of participants and the institutions they represent, problems discussed, a clear outcome of the discussions, decisions are taken, issues that need input from high-level decision makers, and proposed topics for future meetings.
- **Write an internal report** at the end. Besides the aspects mentioned above, include information about identified barriers, actual or potential, and try to record qualitative aspects about the reactions of various core stakeholders in relation to the discussed proposals.

Key Points:

Who?

- municipality departments, regional authorities, public transport companies/ authorities, city or district councillors, various users' associations, management authorities for relevant funding programmes, businesses, NGOs, citizen groups

What?

- provide solutions to specific transport problems

How?

- understanding the mobility priorities
- concentrating the efforts
- creating consensus on what is needed to be done at a certain moment

When?

- It goes beyond the traditional stakeholder's engagement steps in SUMP (05 and 08), having an advisory role throughout SUMP implementation. Moreover, when necessary, it may suggest the revision of SUMP, considering the new regulatory framework, new technological advances and new mobility trends.

