

# SUM Observer Cities

Terms of Reference



## Introduction to Seamless Shared Urban Mobility (SUM)

The objective of SUM is to transform current mobility networks towards innovative and novel shared mobility systems (NSM) integrated with public transport (PT) in more than 15 European Cities by 2026 reaching 30 by 2030. Intermodality, interconnectivity, sustainability, safety, and resilience are at the core of this innovation.

The outcomes of the project offer affordable and reliable solutions considering the needs of all stakeholders such as end users, private companies, and public urban authorities.

To improve the competitiveness of NSM and increase their modal share, SUM addresses key barriers to the adoption of solutions, including personal vehicle preference, integration issues with public transport, cost concerns, uncertainty of availability, and limited parking. SUM will develop five pillars consisting of technological, co-creation, and policy tools to tackle the identified NSM barriers for a typical, car-focused family. These pillars are:

1. **Prediction of passenger demand and shared vehicles:** SUM is developing prediction tools for the availability of shared modes to reduce the insecurity of travelers who might wish to use shared modes.
2. **Managing shared mobility on demand:** SUM applies a framework for the management of shared on-demand fleets consisting of mode choice, simulation, and optimization.
3. **Integrated timetables and ticketing:** SUM is designing a Scheduling Integration Tool and metamodels that integrate the schedules of public transport and the schedules of shared mobility services with high accuracy.
4. **Co-creation of mobility hubs and streetscape:** SUM carries out co-creation activities to advance Mobility Hubs and the Streetspace to improve the accessibility of travelers, reduce the risk of accidents, increase the appeal of NSM, and mitigate the inability to leave shared vehicles where the user wishes.
5. **Mobility management and pricing:** SUM aims at the issue of demand prediction of innovative mobility by producing tailored pricing schemes and building pricing algorithms integrating users' behavior of users to obtain the optimal pricing setting.

Over the course of the project, SUM will implement a series of new measures in 9 Living Labs across Europe i.e., **Munich, Geneva, Jerusalem, Athens, Rotterdam, Krakow, Frederikstad, Larnaca, and Coimbra**, which have been carefully selected to address a variety of circumstances and challenges that will be relevant to a large range of cities on the continent. SUM Living Labs cover a balanced set of cities in terms of population size, geographical development as well as public transport governance and maturity between public transport and NSM services.

**To expand the positive effects of the project to other cities in Europe and so cities can benefit from first-hand experience, SUM is looking to engage with additional European cities.**

The project commenced in June 2023 and is expected to conclude in May 2026. For further information about SUM, you can visit the [website](#) and follow SUM on social media ([LinkedIn](#), [X](#))



## Why is SUM looking for Observer Cities?

SUM is currently looking for cities to join the City Observer Board. By integrating them into SUM, we aim to achieve the next strategic objectives:

- **Transferability and Replication of Business Models:** To evaluate and promote the transferability of scalable and efficient business models developed within the project, allowing observer cities to replicate these models effectively and adapt them to their specific urban contexts.
- **Enhanced Local Capacity:** To enhance the governance and innovation capacity of urban mobility and logistics in observer cities by providing them with valuable experience, lessons learned, and best practices from the project's living labs.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** To actively engage stakeholders within observer cities, facilitating their participation and support in the integration of project outcomes into the cities' operational frameworks.
- **Sustainable Impact:** to ensure the lasting impact of the project's resources and innovations beyond its completion, thereby creating a sustained positive effect on urban mobility and logistics within the observer cities and their networks.
- **Increased Impact:** To amplify the project's impact by raising awareness and understanding of NSM initiatives, thereby fostering broader and more widespread adoption of sustainable mobility practices.
- **Integration and Data Sharing:** To promote the integration of clean NSM and public transportation services in observer cities, making these services more accessible and interconnected. Additionally, to facilitate data sharing among observer cities, enabling the creation of comprehensive datasets for informed decision-making and improved mobility services.

## Which cities are eligible?

Cities that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for participation as Observer Cities in the SUM project:

- **Be a member of the [CIVITAS Network](#).**
- **Have a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP).**
- **Commitment to Sustainability:** Eligible cities should demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and a willingness to integrate NSM initiatives into their urban mobility and logistics strategies.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Cities should express a genuine interest in actively engaging stakeholders and fostering innovation within their urban mobility practices.
- **Business Model Evaluation:** Eligible cities must be interested in assessing and potentially adopting successful business models developed within the project.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Cities should be open to learning from the experiences and best practices of the project's living labs and be willing to contribute to the project's objectives.
- **Replication Intent:** Cities should express an intention to replicate and scale project outcomes within their communities, thereby extending the project's impact.



## Benefits for Observer Cities

The SUM project offers several valuable benefits:

- **Cutting-Edge Insights:** Access the latest research on seamless urban mobility, shared mobility, and public transport, enhancing informed decision-making by participating in SUM annual project meetings and workshops (June 2024, June 2025, June 2026) where the project results will be shared and discussed. (Please note that travel costs for joining these meetings are not covered by the SUM Project).
- **Innovative Solutions:** Learn from SUM Living Labs, gaining practical and innovative approaches to address urban mobility challenges by having the opportunity to visit 2 of our 9 Living Labs. (Please note that travel costs for these visits are not covered by the SUM Project).
- **ERTICO Academy:** possibility to attend ERTICO Academy course free of charge with one of the Living Lab and its stakeholders, in person or online (between June 2025 and June 2026). The course will focus on SUM project's relevant topics engaging with EU decision-makers, but please note that travel costs for these courses are not covered by the SUM Project.
- **Policy Enhancement:** Receive policy recommendations and guidelines for sustainable urban mobility.
- **Data-Driven Decisions:** Utilise comprehensive data sets for evidence-based policy formulation and improved governance.
- **Scaling Success:** Explore strategies to replicate successful project outcomes and enhance your city's sustainability by participating in SUM's expert sessions to be hosted every 2 months, where SUM Living Labs present successful case studies of NSM Implementation.
- **Collaborative networking ecosystem:** Connect with a diverse network of urban mobility innovators across Europe for collaborations and knowledge sharing.

## Expectations

As part of their involvement in the SUM Project, Observer Cities are expected to:

- Contribute to raising the profile of the SUM project by acting as Ambassadors towards non-engaged cities from spring 2024 to spring 2026
- Provide data to support the development of SUM PanEuropean Open Data platform regarding push and pull interventions in your city to support the implementation of NSM.

## Contacts

For any questions, please contact, [dherrera@polisnetwork.eu](mailto:dherrera@polisnetwork.eu)

The application form to become a SUM Observer City can be found [here](#).

