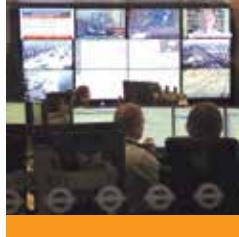




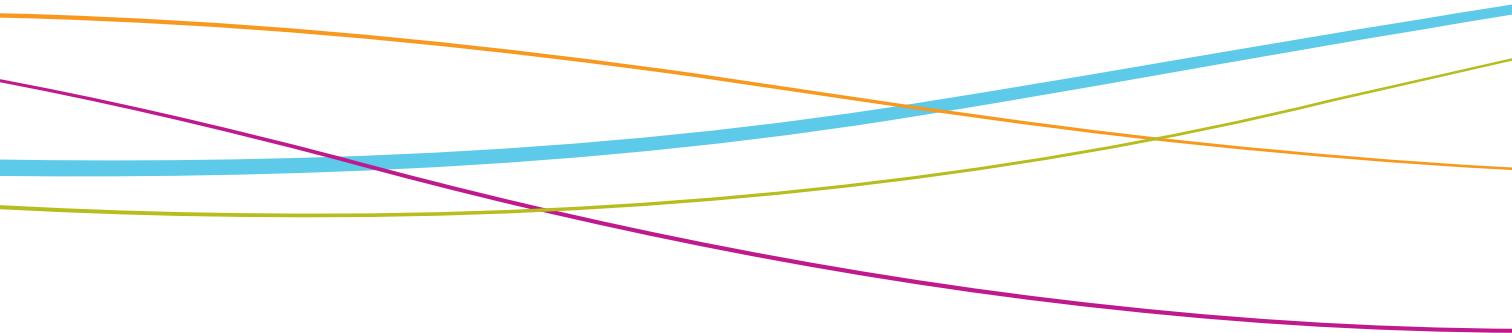
EUROPEAN CITIES AND REGIONS NETWORKING  
FOR INNOVATIVE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

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# POLIS

European cities and regions working  
together for a more sustainable mobility



“ For Perugia, Polis offers the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue with the European institutions to ensure that the European Union is taking the right steps forward: helping us to achieve objectives, while not replacing local authorities in defining the policies to implement. Hosting the 2012 Polis Conference has also been an important achievement. It gave Perugia international visibility and provided attendees from across Europe a valuable opportunity to exchange experience. ”

*Wladimiro Boccali, Mayor, City of Perugia, and president of Polis 2012 and 2013*



## **Polis is a network of European cities and regions working together to deploy innovative solutions for a more sustainable mobility.**

Since 1989, European local and regional authorities have been working together within Polis to promote sustainable mobility. With the secretariat based in Brussels, Polis fosters cooperation and partnerships across Europe with the aim of making transport research and innovation accessible to cities and regions. In Polis, decision makers are provided with the necessary information and tools for making sustainable mobility a reality.

“ Budapest has been a member of the Polis network since 1997. BKK continues to strengthen cooperation and knowledge exchange at a European level, especially in connection with the recent transport governance reform resulting in the full integration of transport services, the ongoing automated fare collection system and on sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMP). As a direct result of Polis membership, BKK has become involved in several European R&D projects on urban mobility. BKK is now well-known as an urban transport knowledge centre, thanks to the support of Polis. ”

*Dávid Vitézy, CEO Centre for Budapest Transport (BKK) and vice-president of Polis 2013*



“ Dresden has been a member of Polis since 2004 and highly appreciates the network’s services. Together with Polis, Dresden can face the challenges of demographic development and climate change. Especially during our presidency in 2010 and 2011, we intensified our activities and exchange at European level, and we have made Dresden internationally known as a centre of excellence for transport planning and research. ”

*Helma Orosz, Mayor, City of Dresden, and president of Polis 2010 and 2011*



## Welcome to Polis



Polis strives to support its member cities and regions in achieving their policy objectives and in implementing innovative solutions for a more sustainable mobility.

I am proud to say that cities and regions in Europe have become an important player for the European institutions on transport policy.

Through our activities, we are committed to providing insight and practical support to make urban and regional transport more efficient, safer and accessible. Additionally, we aim to help reduce the adverse impact of transport on the environment and health and to support its contribution to the economic competitiveness of our cities and regions.

**Sylvain Haon**  
*Secretary General*

## Missions

Facilitating the exchange of experience and the transfer of knowledge between our members, and between our members and other actors of the sector such as the research community, industry and NGOs.

1

Supporting our members in taking part in European initiatives and facilitating their participation in European funded projects.

2

Maintaining a constant dialogue with the European institutions to represent the interests of European cities and regions on initiatives related to regional and urban transport.

3

## All our activities are organised around four main themes:

- Environment and Health in Transport
- Mobility and Traffic Efficiency
- Transport Safety and Security
- Social and Economic Challenges of Transport



## ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IN TRANSPORT

A growing number of European cities use bike sharing schemes to help promote cycling in their cities.



### *Clean & Healthy Mobility*

**This pillar looks at understanding and decreasing the negative impact that urban and regional mobility has on the environment and on health.**

Topics considered under this pillar include air and noise pollution from transport; cleaner vehicles and alternative fuels, including electromobility; climate change; walking and cycling as mainstream urban transport modes, and mobility management.

Polis highlights the links between mobility and the environment and health through its Working Group gathering multi-disciplinary experts exchanging on best practices from Europe and beyond. Our active cooperation with the World Health Organization and the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP, [www.thepep.org](http://www.thepep.org)) aims at developing tools for decision makers for cleaner air and more liveable communities through generally healthier transport.

### **Electrification of transport**

Integrating electromobility services in a multimodal urban mobility system can help to achieve cleaner and healthier urban environments. Polis is actively supporting its members in moving towards the electrification of the transport system. The TIDE project for instance, coordinated by Polis, is developing guidelines on financing schemes for charging stations.



Marco Filippeschi, mayor of Pisa, presents the new electric freight vehicles in Pisa. (Photo: ClickUtility)

### **Health in mobility planning**

Increased walking and cycling not only contributes to a more efficient transport system, but also brings significant benefits to citizens' health. Our policy work, including our position paper on active modes, calls for more support from the European Institutions for active travel. Resulting from the 2011 Polis Conference Round Table session, the PASTA project promotes active mobility.



Berlin has increased the cycle mode share from 7% in 1992 to 13% in 2008, with 31% of trips by foot. (Photo: Bernd Decker)



# TRAFFIC EFFICIENCY AND MOBILITY

Traffic control centre in London



## Efficient Mobility

**The Traffic Efficiency and Mobility pillar addresses issues related to network management and innovative services, in particular those enabled by intelligent transport systems (ITS).**

The working group meetings have focused, for instance, on open ITS systems; ITS impact assessment; cost-effective communications; proactive traffic management (data gathering, information services, decision support); cooperative systems and research and cooperation needs for network management and ITS.

### Open standards and specifications in ITS

Many local authorities around Europe are tied into their system supplier. To overcome vendor lock-in, the POSSE project is promoting the principle of open system frameworks, building on the experiences of UTMC in the UK and OCIT/OTS in the German-speaking part of Europe.



Real-time passenger information in Reading

### Tools to assess impacts of ITS

One of the main barriers to the deployment of ITS is the lack of knowledge about impacts and benefits for local authorities. Within the CONDUITS initiative, tools have been developed to both predict and assess the wider policy impacts of ITS and traffic management measures.



Real time variable message sign in Burgos



## TRANSPORT SAFETY AND SECURITY

Paris information campaign on blind spots and urban freight delivery vehicles. (Photo: Mairie de Paris/Bernard Pedretti)



### *Safe Mobility*

#### **This pillar addresses road safety and the security of transport systems.**

Polis activities cover policies addressing all categories of road users (children, pedestrians, two-wheelers, drivers, etc.), from education and campaigns to technological innovations contributing to the improvement of road safety.

Through this thematic pillar, Polis aims to provide tools and knowledge, enabling local authorities to contribute to the achievement of a 'zero-vision' as defined in the White Paper on European Transport Policy.

#### **ERTRAC road safety**

As a member of the European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC), Polis is actively contributing to the definition of research priorities for a more sustainable urban transport system. This includes topics such as road safety or traffic management strategies for incident management and rapid response of the emergency services in the event of an accident.



*Illustration of road safety measures for the introduction of Bicing in Barcelona*



## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF TRANSPORT

Interchange in Dresden (Photo: DVB AG)



### *Mobility for Urban Economic Development and Social Cohesion*

#### **This pillar covers the social and economic challenges of transport.**

Polis members jointly work on how to best address challenges such as financing, regulation, planning and governance. Cities and regions look to increase levels of self-financing and internalisation of external costs.

They consider the social impact of transport measures, in particular accessibility, which includes accessibility to transport services for people with reduced mobility and accessibility to jobs, education and other services.

The activities in this pillar help cities to manage the movement of goods and people through better planning. Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans are an important tool in this regard. Specific measures for urban freight help to complete the local planning framework.



#### **Sharing experience on parking policies**

Annual parking seminars in cooperation with the European Parking Association for Polis members have created a greater understanding between parking operators and transport planners.

*The parking guidance system in Toulouse (Photo: www.eltis.org)*

#### **Improving Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning**

The city of Ghent is working with Polis on sharing its good experience in Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning. For instance, Ghent is developing guidelines on citizens' involvement in SUMP within the CH4LLenge project, and has engaged in a process of self-assessment of the quality of their mobility plan in the QUEST project. Ghent had developed parts of its plan in the framework of CIVITAS.



*Ghent in Belgium is known for its Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning. (Photo: City of Ghent)*

## Cities and regions are stronger in the Polis network

- A unified and strong voice of cities and regions towards the European institutions
- Networking with peers and strategic players in the transport sector
- Support to join European initiatives and European funded projects



“ The Polis network has been very valuable to Dublin especially in terms of technical exchange and development of new ideas. For instance, through Polis, we invited Dutch Rijkswaterstaat colleagues to Dublin to present their approach to “Sustainable Traffic Management” as a kick-off to Dublin’s process to develop regional traffic management. ”

Michael Aherne, *National Transport Authority, Ireland*

## Connect now with Polis!

The screenshot shows the Polis website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Polis logo and the tagline 'Cooperation and exchange between cities and regions for better transport'. Below the navigation bar, there is a main banner with a background image of a bicycle rack and the text 'SUSTAINABLE AND SMART IN TRANSPORT'. Below the banner, there are four colored buttons: 'EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH IN TRANSPORT', 'SECURITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY', 'SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF TRANSPORT', and 'TRANSPORT SAFETY AND SECURITY'. Below these buttons, there is a section titled 'Cities and Regions for Better Transport' with a sub-headline 'Polis is a network of European cities and regions working together to deploy innovative technologies and processes for a more sustainable mobility'. Below this, there are three columns of content: 'What's new' with a sub-headline '2013-2014', 'Upcoming Events' with a sub-headline '2013-2014', and 'Recent Updates' with a sub-headline '2013-2014'. The 'What's new' section includes a link to 'SUMP (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan) Exchange Working Group' and a link to 'Inclusion in the 2013 COP19-2014 Paris Conference on Climate Change'. The 'Upcoming Events' section includes a link to 'International Transport Forum 2013 Annual Event' and a link to '100 European Future Cities Network'. The 'Recent Updates' section includes a link to '2013 Polis Conference' and a link to 'Become a Member'.

[www.polisnetwork.eu](http://www.polisnetwork.eu)

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