

SURF – Sustainable URban Freight

Call for Instant Projects to support development of Zero-Emission Zones for Freight

[POLIS](#) is launching a new project, [SURF \(Sustainable URban Freight\)](#), that will guide city planners, business leaders and other freight decision-makers to develop a vision and strategy pathway for sustainable urban freight.

The project is a collaboration with [Environmental Defense Fund Europe](#), one of the world's leading non-profit organizations that is working to turn environmental solutions into action. Taking place between April and December 2021, the project will focus specifically on the design and implementation of **zero-emission zones for freight (ZEZ-Fs)**, which can dramatically reduce carbon emissions and contribute to healthier cities.

Through this Call, POLIS and Environmental Defense Fund Europe are looking for innovative projects contributing to the design and implementation of ZEZ-Fs in European cities and regions.

We are offering local public authorities the opportunity to improve the knowledge and envision solutions on how to tackle the environmental challenges of decarbonisation and improving air quality while also allowing for efficient city logistics.

Instant projects

Local authorities need guidance and tools for understanding their unique air pollution challenges, and for integrating and implementing innovative measures in their urban transport policies. The SURF project will select three local public authorities to develop tangible and tailored 'instant projects,' which will consist of small-scale projects and studies that help cities take a step toward adopting a roadmap for zero-emission zones for freight.

The instant projects will either replicate best practices from other cities or propose innovative ideas. They should:

- be feasible in a short time (3-5 months)
- have relevance to ZEZ-Fs
- bring benefits to the project community, in terms of knowledge and lessons learned

The selected projects will each receive a **budget of € 10.000**, through a subcontracting agreement that will be concluded with the project coordinator POLIS.

The SURF project will offer additional support through the project team and paid external experts (selected through a dedicated call, accessible at <https://www.polisnetwork.eu/surf>). These experts will be available to carry out training, studies, on-demand technical assistance and to organise tailored technical meetings for city planners, business leaders and other freight decision-makers.

Potential project topics

Instant projects should generate immediate impact this year to tip the scale in favour of ZEZ-Fs. Lessons learned will inform the wider sustainable freight community. A non-exhaustive list of examples includes:

- Stakeholder mapping and segmentation
- Surveys of businesses and local logistics companies
- Simulations and modelling
- Charging and refuelling infrastructure mapping
- Financial requirements for zero-emission vehicles to meet demand, returns on investment, etc.

Project support provided

To carry out the Instant Projects, selected local authorities will be supported by the SURF project team and other experts. This will include:

- Thematic support from experienced knowledge partners, who will help local authorities shape the project and guide them through the process
- Peer support from other cities
- Access to external experts on the chosen activity
- Expertise and practical support from POLIS and Environmental Defense Fund Europe
- Visibility in the SURF project communications

Participants will present and disseminate the projects at the [annual POLIS Conference](#), which will take place on 1-2 December 2021 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The application form for Instant Projects can be found on Page 4

Process and timeline

- The selection of cities / regions will be based on the outcome of a competitive call for proposals, launched on 15 April 2021.
- The process will make use of transparent decision criteria that are communicated in this document.
- A valid application consists of the completed application form.
- The application forms must be returned by e-mail no later than **14 May 2021, 23.59 CET** to Giacomo Lozzi, at glozzi@polisnetwork.eu. Applicants will receive a confirmation.
- The final selection of projects on the basis of the identified parameters and criteria will be done by the SURF project team in May 2021, with involvement of an external Advisory Committee, and communicated to the applicants.
- After selection, a subcontract including a work plan will be negotiated between the selected local authorities and the SURF consortium, detailing the mutual responsibilities and financial conditions within the framework of the project.
- The work on the Instant Projects is scheduled to start in June 2021 and last until October 2021.

Parameters and criteria for selection

A number of parameters and criteria will be taken into account in order to ensure a proper and justified selection of the projects. While they relate more to the appropriate selection of a balanced and complementary group of cities, the criteria refer more to the quality of the applications themselves, in terms of inherent characteristics of the proposed projects or studies.

1. Geographic and spatial parameters
 - o Geographic location: to ensure the widest possible representation.
 - o Size of the city / region: to ensure a good spread between large, medium, and small cities.
 - o Spatial scope: to ensure a good mix of different governance levels (city district, urban/ metropolitan area, functional urban area, region).
2. Local context
 - o Presence of existing strategy and level of commitment towards actual implementation of ZEZ-F.

- Level of stakeholder involvement, existing community: significance and actual likelihood of the involvement of local community and business partners.
 - Presence of a SUMP (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan) / SULP (Sustainable Urban Logistics Plan) / Urban freight strategy.
3. Originality and functionality
- Choice of innovative project: the proposal must be innovative or improve / add a piece to an existing project or study which is considered good practice.
 - Complementarity: the project represents a promising complement for other existing initiatives, measures and plans.
 - Expected impact and results: the application should identify the positive social, economic and/or environmental strategic impacts explored by the project.
4. Replicability:
- The project should bring benefits to the project community, in terms of knowledge and lessons learned that are replicable and scalable.

Eligible entities who may apply

Only local authorities are eligible to apply. Applicants can be any public authority with a competence in local transport (regions, public transport authorities or agencies). Parties from EU27 are eligible.

Timeline recap

- 14 May 2021: deadline for applications.
- End of May 2021: evaluation process completed.
- June 2021: notification of evaluation results, contract negotiations with selected applicants and project kick-offs.

For all questions turn to Sandra Rothbard, SURF Project Manager sandra@freightmatters.org, or Giacomo Lozzi, Urban Freight Coordinator at Polis, glozzi@polisnetwork.eu

6. Complementarity: How does the project / study represent a promising complement for existing measures and plans?

7. What kind of support would you like to receive from the SURF project and external experts to further develop your plans for implementing this project?

8. Dissemination: in addition to the channels made available by the SURF project, what other channels, groups and fora do you plan to exploit to disseminate the results of the project and share the knowledge and lessons learned?

9. *Optional: use this space to provide any additional information to the above questions.*