

POLIS

CITIES AND REGIONS FOR TRANSPORT INNOVATION

Small and Medium-sized Cities Platform Meeting

LA ROCHELLE | 15-16 JUNE, 2023

Draft program

This 2-day event will take place in La Rochelle, France, where attendees will have the chance to network with fellow POLIS members, examine the leading issues for sustainable mobility for Small and Medium-sized Cities (SMCs) and see the implementation of successful projects.



What's on:

Data & digitalisation workshop

This session will take a 'bottom-up approach', identifying how data and digitisation can serve SMCs and what they may need to capitalise on the opportunities available, exploring questions and challenges for practitioners, and examining what useful examples, strategies and services can support SMCs going forward. This highly interactive session will be coordinated in collaboration with POLIS Associate members Open Mobility Foundation and MobilityData

Project capacity building workshop

Why R&I projects are important for cities and regions, how project consortia are established, and what makes a potentially great proposal, how you can locally prepare for project involvement, and how you can make the most of project participation, and the further use of project results. This workshop will provide hands on advice and training.

Cultural excursion

Dinner & entertainment

What's on:

Cycle tour of La Rochelle

An excursion around La Rochelle's cycle lanes. Through the site visit, it will be possible to see how La Rochelle's active mode strategy translates into the urban environment

Active travel workshop

Kick-starting and advancing active travel infrastructure and services is a key priority for SMCs. Cities are all at different phases of cycling and pedestrian planning and implementation. This workshop will bring together cities at all stages of the active travel journey to learn, share and examine successful initiatives and how to translate them to different contexts.

Lunch and departure

Travel advice

La Rochelle airport

Easily accessible thanks to the regular shuttle buses available to travellers:

- Illico line 1B, from Monday to Saturday to the city centre
- Line D5 every Sunday and public holiday
- Throughout the year, line 3/3E "La Rochelle-Ile de Ré", operated by Transdev, serves the 10 villages of Ile de Ré from the airport.



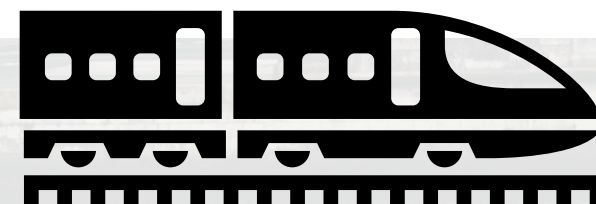
Train station : La Rochelle Ville

TGV (high-speed) from Paris-Montparnasse – La Rochelle
Duration : 2h35 (direct) to 3h30

TGV from Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport – La Rochelle
Compulsory change of train in Poitiers, direct connection

FROM / TO NANTES or BORDEAUX
Trains Intercités : 2h to 3h30

More information on tickets [here](#)



Car

You can easily park your car in the city center : Parking Encan, Parking Vieux Port Sud, Parking Saint Jean d'Acre.



Accommodation options

Hôtel de Paris, 2* (rue Gargoulleau)

Hôtel de l'Océan, 2* (Cours des Dames)

Hotel La Marine, Vieux Port 2* (Quai Duperré)

Cit'Hotel le Bord'O Vieux Port 2* (rue St Nicolas)

Un Hôtel En Ville, 2* (Place du Maréchal Foch)

Un Hotel sur le Port, 3* (rue de la Fabrique)

Le Champlain, 4* (rue Rambaud)

Best Western Premier Masqhotel, 4* (close to the
train station)

**As June is a busy period, we recommend you book as
soon as possible**

SMC Platform mission

POLIS has long championed the central role of SMCs in Europe's sustainable mobility transition, supporting their capacity as test beds for innovation.

How we work

The SMC platform, chaired by Emmen, provides a unique forum for exchange on the specific challenges these cities face and explore common solutions, while raising political awareness at international level.

