



With insights from:



Working party chaired by:



PRESS RELEASE

Local and regional authorities networks call for greater support for Urban Nodes to ensure the success of the TEN-T.

At the occasion of the Connecting Europe Days 2024, the **Urban Nodes Alliance**, a collaboration between leading European networks of cities and regions and Territorial groupings, has published the position paper **'Urban Nodes: Empowering cities and regions to build the TEN-T'**. The paper outlines recommendations for the necessary governance and funding requirements to ensure Urban Nodes can perform the vital role assigned to them within the network.

Karen Vancluysen, Secretary General, POLIS:

'POLIS welcomes the increased focus on urban mobility in the Trans-European Transport Network. We are ready to support Urban Nodes towards becoming effective building blocks for the TEN-T. Urban Nodes can play an essential role in building a truly multi-modal mobility system, which links international transport networks to regional and local mobility systems. However, not all Urban Nodes are ready and equipped to play that role today. Together with a group of other leading organisations, we have written down what the EU and Member States need to address to increase the readiness and agency of our Urban Nodes. Governance, with the local level in charge, and appropriate funding mechanisms are the two key enablers. **Local must lead, also in the TEN-T!**

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The European Union's updated Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) regulation marks a significant milestone in enhancing mobility and sustainability across Europe. With the identification of 431 Urban Nodes, up from 88, the EU underscores the pivotal role of local levels in transportation infrastructure.

Urban Nodes serve as crucial intersections where different transport modes converge, improving connectivity, resilience, and mobility across regions. By 2027, each node will have a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) in place, prioritizing sustainability, safety, and accessibility.

Efforts include the development of multimodal passenger hubs by 2030 and at least one multimodal freight terminal per Urban Node by 2040, addressing first and last-mile challenges and enhancing freight transportation.

The networks provide recommendations for effective governance to achieve Urban Nodes' success, ensuring coordinated efforts and alignment with corridor objectives. All involved stakeholders emphasise that adequate financial resources, including **the continuation of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)** or similar alternative funding schemes, are vital to meet TEN-T requirements.

Capacity building, research, and innovation play a crucial role in optimizing Urban Nodes' efficiency and effectiveness, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders. The Urban Nodes Alliance presents itself as a constructive partner for EU institutions, corridors and member states to make the most of the new Urban Nodes approach.

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Note to editors

The Urban Nodes Alliance is made up of the following networks and organisations: the Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC, EMTA, ERRIN, Eurocities, POLIS Network, and the Scandria Alliance. The Urban Nodes Alliance benefits from insights from the Horizon Europe Projects: MOVE 21 and SCALE-UP. The working party was chaired by Île de France.

POLIS is a registered international non-profit association under Belgian law with its secretariat based in Brussels. POLIS is the leading European network of cities and regions on urban transport innovation, where European local and regional authorities have been working together since 1998 to promote sustainable mobility through the deployment of innovative transport solutions. Its aim is to improve local transport through integrated strategies that address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport. To this end, POLIS supports the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge between its members and facilitates the dialogue with mobility stakeholders from the industry and research sector, as well as other levels of government. POLIS also acts as the voice of its members towards the European institutions to help shape EU mobility policy.

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