



CALL FOR
SPEAKERS

POLIS26
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2 - 3 December 2026
Brussels, Belgium

ABOUT POLIS

*A network for cities,
regions, and more.*

Since 1989, POLIS has brought together **European cities, regions,** and related **organisations** committed to advancing innovative and sustainable transport solutions.

As **Europe's leading network for sustainable urban mobility and innovation**, POLIS advocates for a **stronger role for local and regional authorities** in shaping national and international mobility policies.

The network promotes **knowledge exchange among its members** and fosters **dialogue** and **cooperation** with industry, research centres, universities, and NGOs.

POLIS strengthens collaboration across Europe by supporting **access to research and innovation funding**, sharing results, and equipping decision-makers with practical tools and insights through its **Political Group** and engagement with **European institutions**.



127
MEMBERS

28
COUNTRIES



ACCESS



**ENVIRONMENT
& HEALTH**



**GOVERNANCE
& INTEGRATION**



**ROAD SAFETY
& SECURITY**



SMART MOBILITY

OUR CONFERENCE

#POLIS26: A mobility event like no other!

The **Annual POLIS Conference** is **Europe's leading sustainable urban mobility event**, bringing together cities, regions, and key stakeholders to showcase transport achievements to a large audience of mobility experts and decision-makers from the public and private sectors.

Following a record-breaking 2025 edition in Utrecht with over 1,000 participants, the next conference will be hosted in **Brussels, Belgium**, on **2-3 December 2026**.

The event will take place at **THE EGG**, a former warehouse turned conference centre, within walking distance of the Brussels South railway and metro station.

The venue offers **5,000 m² of modular exhibition space**, flexible break-out rooms, two large halls for social activities, and an Auditorium with state-of-the-art audiovisual technology.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM #POLIS26



Networking opportunities

Connect with over 1,000 transport professionals from cities, regions, and the public and private sectors across Europe and beyond.



High-profile speakers

Hear from ministers, (deputy) mayors, EU representatives, and leaders from academia, industry, and international organisations.



Focus on sustainable transport

Discuss transport challenges and explore innovative, sustainable mobility solutions across European, urban, and regional contexts.



Rich and varied programme

Enjoy inspiring plenaries and in-depth technical sessions presenting innovative approaches and best practices in sustainable transport.



OUR PARTICIPANTS

TOP 20 COUNTRIES AT #POLIS25



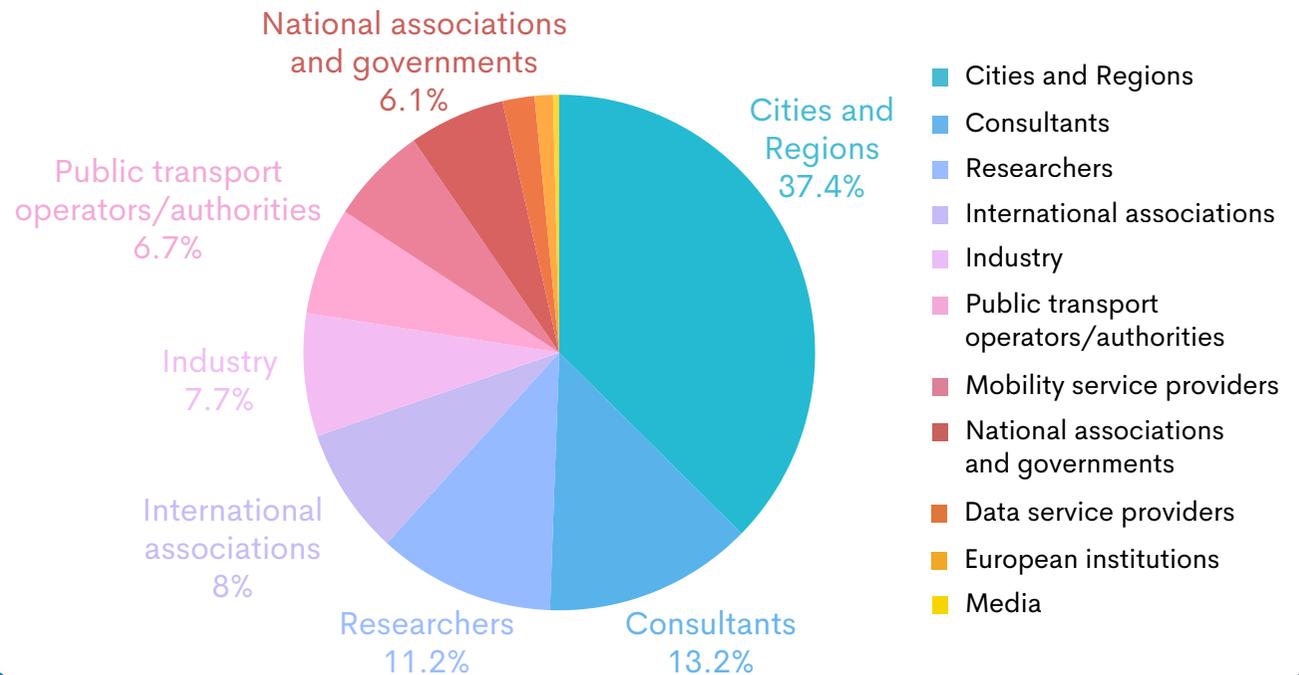
“ The Annual POLIS Conference is where governments, researchers, and civil society meet to shape the future of urban mobility.

“ By far my favourite conference of the year; excellent speakers and a highly engaged, high-level audience.

“ What a network—lots of interesting people and talks.

“ A very nice opportunity to get new insights, network, and promote own activities!

PARTICIPANTS AT #POLIS25:



OUR SPEAKERS

What does it mean to be a speaker at #POLIS26?

Our speakers **contribute directly to Europe's leading dialogue on sustainable mobility in cities and regions**: become one of them and present your work to a highly qualified audience of city and regional representatives, European institutions, researchers, and industry leaders.

Submit an **abstract proposal** for the technical parallel sessions across the **37 listed topics** in the following pages. Please note that **only individual abstract proposals** focused on **one topic** will be accepted (full session proposals will not be considered).

Abstracts should highlight the innovative aspects of the solution presented, including **concrete results** and **key lessons** learned.

Sessions will be delivered in **different formats**, including workshops with traditional presentations, roundtable discussions, and shorter pitch presentations. Suggestions for other presentation formats are welcome!

HOW DOES IT WORK?



Prepare the full **contact information** of all authors

Select **one** of the **37 topics** listed in the following pages



Pick a clear abstract **title** and write a **600-word abstract**

Highlight the **innovative aspects**, using 200 words max



List the **results** and **lessons learned** (200 words each)



Active Travel & Health

- 1 Full on walking:** Enabling walking in all its forms, from policy and design to everyday experience, to ensure safe, inclusive, and attractive spaces for everyone
- 2 Resilience and adaptation:** Strengthening climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience to ensure safe and comfortable active travel in extreme weather conditions
- 3 Streets, places, spaces:** Redesigning streets and public spaces to enhance active mobility, social connection, safety, and overall liveability
- 4 Smart active modes:** Using ITS, data, digital routing, monitoring sensors, and AI to support walking and cycling as part of integrated multimodal mobility systems

Clean Vehicles & Air Quality

- 1 Zero pollution cities:** Measuring vehicle emissions and detecting high emitters via innovative measurement methods; ensuring 'bullet-proof' Low and Zero-Emission Zones
- 2 Procuring of zero-emission fleets:** Main barriers and opportunities *in*, as well as best practices and support mechanisms *for* zero-emission vehicle procurement by cities and regions
- 3 Upscaling electric charging infrastructure:** Ensuring the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure leaves no territories behind, and the role of public-private partnerships
- 4 Integrating electric vehicles in the urban mobility ecosystem:** Successfully integrating electromobility with parking policies, energy management, SUMP and SULPs

PRIORITY TOPICS

Here listed:
Active Travel & Health
Clean Vehicles & Air Quality



Smart Mobility

- 1 Governing multimodal mobility in real time - From traffic management to network orchestration:** AI-supported traffic and network management; dynamic societal routing and traffic circulation plans; prioritising sustainable modes through signal control and C-ITS; linking traffic management with SUMP, SULP and climate targets; multimodal optimisation beyond the private car
- 2 Aligning digital services with public goals:** Governance of MaaS and digital mobility platforms; platform regulation and standards; behavioural impacts and nudging; fair market conditions and public-private collaboration; digital tools shaping mobility choices and accessibility
- 3 Becoming data-driven cities & regions:** Creating a data culture through cross-departmental and cross-sectoral coordination and organisational transformation; data-driven decision-making in operations and planning; interoperability and mobility data spaces; data quality, trust and accountability; AI and advanced analytics in practice
- 4 Dealing with an increasingly complex ITS and data ecosystem:** Digitalisation of infrastructure and asset management; real-world urban C-ITS deployment; integration of public and private data streams; digital twins and operational platforms; regulatory adaptation to evolving ITS ecosystems; scaling ITS beyond pilots; interoperability, resilience and environmental performance of ITS
- 5 Steering Connected, Cooperative, and Automated Mobility (CCAM) for public value:** CCAM readiness of cities and regions; governance and regulatory frameworks; infrastructure preparedness; integration with public transport systems; interaction with active modes; inclusion and decarbonisation impacts; public perception and trust; workforce implications, reskilling and transition strategies

PRIORITY TOPICS

Here listed:
Smart Mobility

Safety & Security

- 1 Crashes, crimes, and crises:** Frameworks, methods, tools, and practices to help map key risk factors, estimate probabilities, assess direct and cascading effects, plan crisis mitigation and management, communicate risk to the public, increase political commitment and professional know-how, and mobilise public and private investment
- 2 Hands-on action for road safety:** Methods, tools & measures, practical examples & advice to enhance and accelerate the roll-out of speed limit reductions, school streets, and low-traffic neighbourhoods
- 3 Heads-up action on climate and military crises:** Learning from past crises, and how to forecast, plan, and prepare, knowing that local and regional transport infrastructures and services can be strongly affected by extreme climate events or military aggression, but also play a critical role in supporting affected populations

- 4 Heads-on approaches to crime in public transport:** Preventing crime and fostering the perception of security in PT settings and the public spaces serving them

PRIORITY TOPICS

Here listed:
Safety & Security

ZONE

30

Access

- 1 Managing curbside access:** European and global best practices in the dynamic use and management of the curbside
- 2 Strategic parking management:** Urban and regional parking policies supporting sustainable mobility, access for all, economic & urban development; parking in relation to electromobility uptake and infrastructure; communicating parking policies; dynamic parking and curb space management; dual use of parking infrastructure for civil and military purposes
- 3 Public transport:** The role of government versus private sector in public transport, including steering private investment; demand-responsive transport for specific target groups and areas; user satisfaction; modernised and integrated public transport networks
- 4 Urban vehicle access regulations (UVARs):** Best practice in design, enforcement, acceptance, technologies & digitalisation, communication strategies, and governance; impacts and results, social implications
- 5 Sustainable tourism:** Sustainable mobility for travellers and visitors to promote a resilient and competitive tourism sector
- 6 TEN-T and Urban Nodes:** Monitoring the implementation of SUMP; management and use of UMI data covering the fields of sustainability, safety and accessibility; accessibility within urban and regional transport networks and multimodal hub infrastructures; innovative solutions such as urban air mobility for urban and regional transport networks' integration
- 7 Housing and transport planning:** The integration of housing with transport planning to support sustainable, inclusive, self-catered communities and Transit-Oriented Developments; parking management in new housing developments; integration of shared mobility with housing
- 8 Just Transition:** Affordable mobility; inclusive design; access to essential services; intersectional planning; diverse, inclusive, and future-ready transport workforces

PRIORITY TOPICS

Here listed:
Access



Governance & Integration

- 1 Climate-Neutral Cities and Regions:** Climate Action Plans- from planning to delivery at scale; public-private cooperation in climate action; aligning EU, national and local funding cycles for the effective implementation of CCCs; multilevel governance and institutional alignment; net-zero mobility visions for rural areas and regions
- 2 SUMPs:** Regional SUMPs, participatory governance models in SUMPs; transport and land-use planning integration; public-private cooperation in SUMP implementation; governance strategies for polycentric regions
- 3 The citizen factor:** Public participation and co-creation in transport planning; effective behavioural change approaches; communicating sustainable mobility policies and overcoming backlash
- 4 Small and Medium-Sized Cities:** New housing needs and sustainable mobility-oriented urban planning; leisure and tourism mobility; transport poverty; population degrowth & urban/rural divide; updated SUMPs for SMCs as Urban Nodes in the TEN-T regulation

- 5 Regions:** Innovative regional mobility services from high to low-density areas; land use, regional planning and the resilience of regions and their mobility systems; mobility governance and cooperation across different levels
- 6 Capital Cities and Regions:** Transport challenges of capital cities and regions as main tourist destinations and hosts of large events

Shared Mobility Services

- 1 Enablers for shared mobility:** Regulatory frameworks, space management, data sharing use cases and standards, integration with public transport
- 2 Regional roll-out of shared mobility:** Successful use cases and examples, innovative funding mechanisms, public-private partnerships

PRIORITY TOPICS

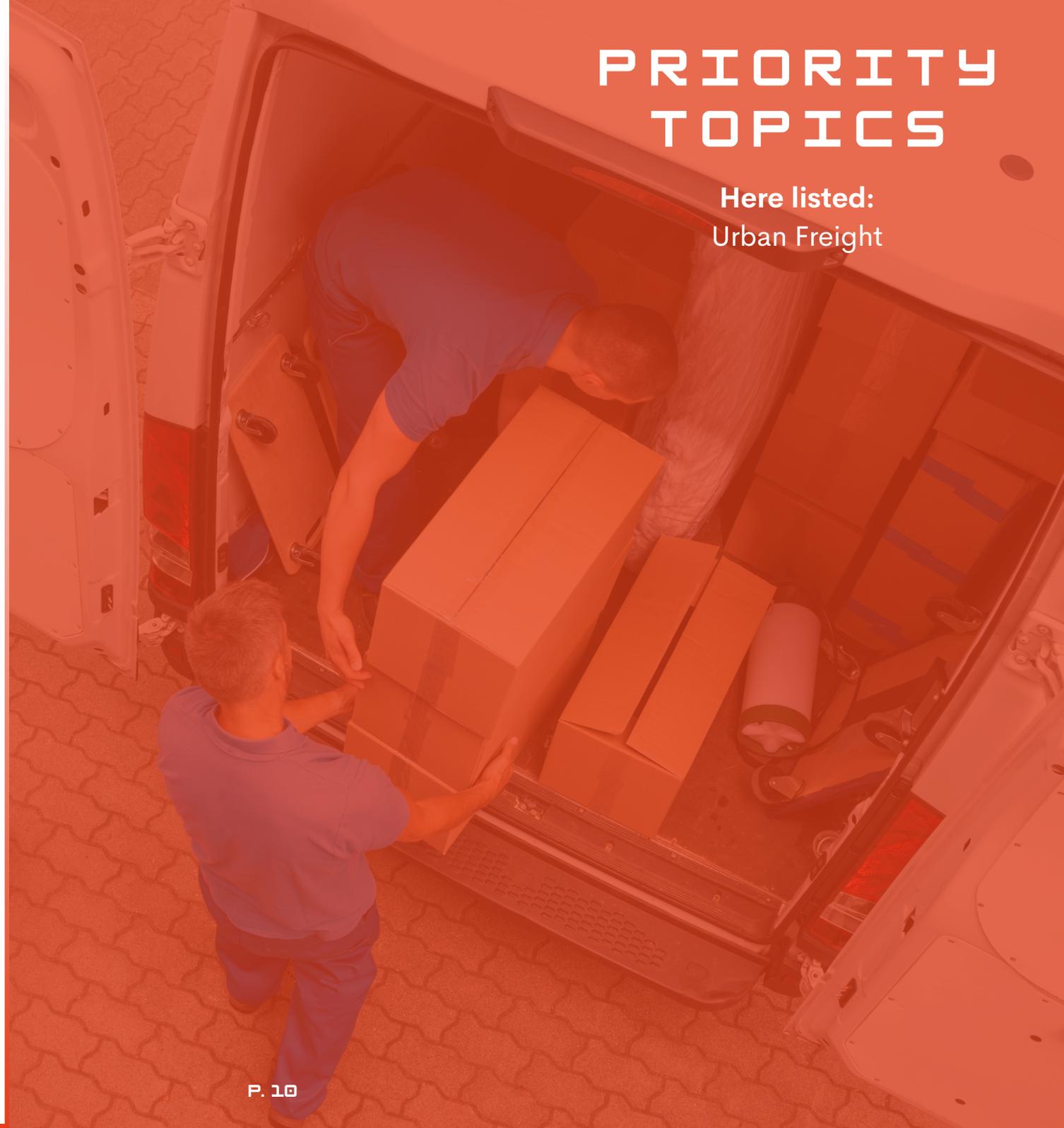
Here listed:
Governance & Integration
Shared Mobility Services

Urban Freight

- 1 Making Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans (SULPs) work:** Governance models, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring tools that bridge the gap between Sulp strategy and real-world implementation
- 2 Data-Driven Freight:** Digital twins, AI-enabled logistics management, and data-sharing frameworks that improve planning, reduce congestion, and optimise logistics flows
- 3 Managing competing urban space demands:** Dynamic curbside allocation and policy tools to balance freight access with liveability goals
- 4 When innovation does not deliver:** Honest reflections on what did not work in EU-funded pilots, highlighting barriers, unintended consequences, and the practical lessons cities and projects can carry forward

PRIORITY TOPICS

Here listed:
Urban Freight



SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT BY 24 APRIL 2026



CLICK
HERE

You will be informed about the **selection of abstracts in June 2026** —the draft Conference programme will be available shortly after, when registrations will also open.

One speaker per presentation benefits from a **reduced conference fee of € 100 (excl. VAT)** (conference dinner not included)

POLIS members who are speakers participate for **free** in the Conference (next to the **three free tickets** for **full members** and **two free tickets** for **associate members**), with a limit of **one free attendance per presentation**.

For questions about submissions, please contact Alexia Collignon at acollignon@polisnetwork.eu.



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