



Connecting the Gaps: How Cities and Regions Can Use Shared Mobility to Improve Access

Date and Time: 27,28 August: 10:00-11:00

Link to registration

Concept Note

The Shared Mobility Action Programmes Exchange (SMAPE) project aims to improve shared mobility policies by fostering cooperation among different regional and local authorities in Europe. More specifically, the project focuses on key aspects such as the integration of shared mobility with public transport and Mobility as a Service (MaaS), the use of data (dashboards) for monitoring and policy adjustments, data sharing, influencing travel behaviour, optimising the mix of mobility modes, regulatory frameworks, public-private partnerships, and contributions to Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP).

Building on this work, this webinar will explore a fundamental question for cities and regions: **how can shared mobility help close gaps in access and connect more people to jobs, services and opportunities?**

Across Europe, mobility needs are becoming increasingly diverse. Public transport remains the backbone of sustainable mobility, but it cannot always provide the level of connectivity, flexibility or territorial coverage needed by everyone. The nature of these gaps also differs considerably between dense urban areas, peri-urban zones and more dispersed regional contexts.

Shared mobility can help address some of these gaps by complementing public transport, extending the range of available mobility options and providing more flexible connections. However, achieving this potential depends on more than simply making shared vehicles available. It requires public policies that determine how shared mobility is integrated into the wider transport system, where and for whom services are available, how public and private actors cooperate, and how their contribution to accessibility is understood and measured.

The webinar will examine how SMAPE partners are translating these questions into practice through two different territorial perspectives:

- **A city-level example (Bergen)**, showing how shared mobility contributes to accessibility and modal shift in dense urban areas
- **A regional approach (Wallonia)**, demonstrating how coordinated frameworks can enhance accessibility and ensure more balanced territorial coverage

Comment

Local and regional authorities are increasingly recognised as key actors in shaping mobility systems that are not only sustainable, but also **economically and socially effective**. In this context, competitiveness is no longer understood solely in terms of infrastructure provision or economic output, but also in terms of **access**, the ability of people and businesses to reach opportunities, services, and networks efficiently.

Reducing private car dependency and shifting travel behaviour remain important objectives, but they must be accompanied by solutions that ensure **reliable and inclusive access across**



different territories. This is particularly relevant in peri-urban and regional areas, where traditional public transport alone may not be sufficient to meet mobility needs.

The discussion also connects to a wider European debate. Access to employment, education, services and economic and social networks shapes people's ability to participate fully in society and the economy. Improving accessibility therefore contributes not only to sustainable mobility and inclusion, but also to enabling people and businesses to participate, cooperate and thrive. In this context, particular attention is also needed to transport poverty, as many people across Europe still face limited or unaffordable mobility options that restrict their access to essential opportunities.

Participants will gain practical insights into different approaches to shared mobility policy, identify lessons that can be transferred to their own contexts, and reflect on where shared mobility can add value to existing transport systems. The webinar will combine the experiences of SMAPE partners with a broader discussion on how local and regional authorities can use shared mobility to close mobility gaps, address transport poverty, and improve access to opportunities.

Agenda

10:00–10:05 | Welcome and Introduction: The SMAPE Project

- Welcome and introduction to the webinar
- Brief introduction to SMAPE and its work on shared mobility policies
- Setting the scene: connecting mobility gaps and improving access

10:05–10:20 | Setting the Scene: Access, Public Transport and Combined Mobility Lidia Signor, UITP

10:20–10:35 | Bergen: Using Shared Mobility to Improve Access in the City City of Bergen

10:35–10:50 | Wallonia: Connecting the Gaps through a Regional Approach Wallonia

10:50–11:00 | Discussion and Q&A: What Can Cities and Regions Do?

Contact Information

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