



Success story

Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning



Initiative type: Policy / systems approach

Sector: Transport | Urban planning | Environment | Workplace | Community

Target group: All citizens and businesses

Implementation stage: Early implementation

Transferability: Partly

► About the initiative

Cyprus is adopting and implementing Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) as a national policy instrument aimed at creating healthier, more sustainable and accessible ways of moving around urban areas.

The initiative is supported by the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Public Works and municipalities, with financial support from EU cohesion and structural funds.

Although implementation is still at an early stage, SUMP represent an important shift away from dependence on private cars towards active and sustainable mobility.

Measures include:

- Interconnected cycling networks
- Improved pedestrian infrastructure
- Traffic-calming measures
- Improved public transport
- Better integration of active mobility into urban planning

► What is making it successful?

Cyprus is still in the early stages of implementation, but SUMP represent a significant policy transition towards reducing car dependency and supporting active mobility.

The approach benefits from the involvement of national government, public works authorities and municipalities, as well as European funding.

It also creates an opportunity to address several challenges simultaneously: increasing everyday physical activity, improving public health, reducing congestion and supporting environmental sustainability.



► What could other countries learn?

Countries that are already more advanced in sustainable urban mobility can offer useful experience for Cyprus. At the same time, countries facing similar levels of car dependency and comparable urban mobility challenges may be able to adapt elements of the approach to their own local circumstances.

Transfer should take account of differences in infrastructure, governance, urban form, transport systems and local travel behaviour.



Key challenges to promote HEPA

► Cyprus's wider challenge for physical activity promotion

Despite favourable weather and relatively short travel distances in many urban areas, Cyprus remains highly dependent on private motor vehicles.

A major challenge is creating continuous, safe and interconnected cycling and pedestrian networks across municipalities. Infrastructure alone, however, is unlikely to be sufficient. Long-term success also depends on changing travel behaviour and social norms so that walking and cycling become normal choices for everyday journeys.

► Country-level barriers to advancing HEPA

The following barriers are most persistent to advancing HEPA policy in the country.



BARRIER	IMPACT
Weak intersectoral coordination	MAJOR
Political prioritisation	MAJOR
Regional/local implementation gaps	MAJOR
Public engagement challenges	MAJOR
Other	MAJOR
Limited funding/resources	MODERATE
Insufficient monitoring/data	MODERATE
Lack of workforce capacity	MINOR
Limited research translation into policy	MINOR
Inequities in participation/access	MINOR

► What is needed?

Cyprus identified several priorities:

- Build connected active-mobility networks across municipalities.
- Make active transport the easiest and most attractive option for short journeys.
- Support changes in behaviour and social norms.
- Strengthen multisectoral cooperation between transport, urban planning, health and other relevant sectors.
- Establish continuous monitoring and demonstrate the impact of interventions.



► How can the HEPA Europe Network help?

HEPA Europe can provide opportunities for peer learning and knowledge exchange with countries that are further advanced in sustainable and active mobility.

Sharing practical experience could help Cyprus identify approaches that have already been tested elsewhere, understand how other countries have addressed similar implementation barriers, and adapt relevant solutions to the Cypriot context.



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