

LOW-CARB Mobility Planning - Press Release 1

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A Declaration Low in Carbon

With its first three signatories having recently committed to push forth low-carbon mobility planning for functional urban areas, the LOW-CARB project now invites more interested parties to join and sign its Declaration.



Between December 2017 and March 2018, Antonio Rizzi, President of **Tranvie Elettriche Parmensi (TEP)**, in Parma, Italy; Ronald Juhrs, Managing Director of Technology and Operations at **Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe**, in Leipzig, Germany; and Zoltán Majó-Petri, Managing Director at **Szegedi Közlekedési Kft**, in Szeged, Hungary, formalised the commitment of their institutions to embrace the LOW-CARB project's objectives. The importance of this commitment recognised the fact that **CO₂ emissions from private motorised modes account for 90% of the total urban transport emissions.**

Thus, with the need to pursue measures and come up with initiatives to reduce those carbon emissions being critical, the signatures stamped upon the LOW-CARB Declaration by the three public transport operators imply an understanding of the urgency of this issue and their willingness to:

- Introduce and advocate low-carbon mobility planning for functional urban areas;
- Organise or participate in the LOW-CARB project's capacity building programme; and
- Initiate and follow the project's pilot actions.

The **LOW-CARB** mobility planning project, funded by the INTERREG Central Europe programme, **seeks** to pursue the aforementioned CO₂ goals encapsulated in the Declaration by promoting **an increase of the use of public transport, fostering multimodal mobility and reducing CO₂ emissions from private motorized modes.** But, most certainly, **we cannot do so alone.**

That is why, just as with the transport organizations of Parma, Leipzig and Szeged, **we are now inviting more public transport companies, local authorities, city associations, NGOs, 'low-carb' consultancies, the media, and related low-carb and planning projects** to come and join our initiative, and to start by **[signing the LOW-CARB Declaration](#)**.

[Antonio Rizzi of TEP stated](#) that "the project gathers institutions from eight countries, all committed to finding new ways to reduce the environmental impacts of transportation in their cities and to shifting to more

sustainable modes to reduce pollution. The most important thing is that we are working together, networking and sharing best practices.”

*It is, therefore, crucial to move in this direction: the EU’s transport sector will increase its emissions — while already accounting for 25% of the total. **Planning integrated low-carbon mobility for functional areas** — home to 72% of the EU’s population — **will be a key factor to achieve sustainable transport**, even more so in the Interreg Central Europe programme area countries (i.e. Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). Among them, growth in transport demand and vehicle size can well be expected.*

*So, **come and join the LOW-CARB initiative**, and let’s do something about it together!*

ABOUT LOW-CARB

LOW-CARB is one of the nine cooperation projects currently funded by the Interreg CE Programme that encourages cooperation on low-carbon strategies in functional urban areas to lower CO₂ emissions. The goal of the project is to increase investment in low-carbon mass transit, with a focus on putting public transport at the heart of the solutions, for public transportation is the backbone to reach low-carbon mobility in functional urban areas (FUAs).

Thus, its main objective is to reduce transport related greenhouse gas emissions in Central Europe’s

FUAs. This shall be reached by building capacity for low-carbon mobility planning, undertaking pilot actions and developing sustainable regional mobility plans, action plans, tools and strategies.

Eleven partners support seven towns and cities who take part as demonstration sites over three years. This means the project has high potential to contribute to the EU’s ‘White Paper’ goals to cut transport emissions by 60 percent by 2050 and to halve the use of ‘conventionally fuelled’ cars in urban transport by 2030.

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