Szombathely: two providers, four rounds of market research and a silent vehicle

At a glance	
Place	Szombathely, Hungary. About 75,000 residents, near the Austrian border. The area with the highest number of motor vehicles per household in the country
Services	FÉHE, a municipal company that drives people with disabilities (about 100 users a week); Pálos Károly Social Service and Child Welfare Centre, home assistance (about 140 users)
Vehicles	A Citroën ë-Berlingo (2022) and a compact electric car (2018), bought used, in service since November 2025
Result	Pilot indicators: CO_2 down 75% at FÉHE (116 to 29 kg) and 85% at Pálos (93 to 14 kg)

In Szombathely the pilot involved two very different services. Pálos carers visit older people at home, shop for them and bring supplies, but do not carry passengers. FÉHE drives people with disabilities, so it needs room, accessibility and silence.

Finding suitable used electric vehicles was the biggest practical challenge of the whole project. It took exactly four rounds of market research. A small car was enough for Pálos. For FÉHE the municipality found a larger vehicle that could carry wheelchairs. And an effect that no indicator foresaw came to light: for people with autism, a quiet vehicle can make the difference between a hard ride and an easy one.

The yearly figures for 2025 show the vehicles only in part, because they arrived late in the year. The pilot indicators, which compare the new vehicles with those they replaced, show CO_2 down by 75% at FÉHE, while trips grew by 29% and kilometres by 50%, and down by 85% at Pálos, with kilometres down by 25%. A cold winter brought another lesson: one vehicle's battery drained faster than expected and only slow charging was available.

The vehicles remain the property of the Municipality and available to the services, and the urban mobility plan will be reviewed with stronger expectations on electric mobility.

Szombathely's own conclusion: the needs, the safety and the wellbeing of the people who use social services come first, and cleaner vehicles and better routes are there to support them.

Read the whole story and download the tools: https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/green-lamis/

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