

***Regional Action Plan [CENTRAL
MACEDONIA]***

***REFORM:
Integrated Regional Action Plan for Innovative, Sustainable and
Low Carbon Mobility***

General information

Project:

Partner organisation:

Partner organisations involved:

Country:

NUTS2 region:

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REFORM

Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia on behalf of the Region of Central Macedonia

Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia (RDFCM), Region of Central Macedonia (RCM)

Greece

Central Macedonia

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the early stages of the REFORM project, PP2 (Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia on behalf of the Region of Central Macedonia) has set as a key objective of the Action Plan the creation of a central mechanism for the supporting and the coordination of local Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) aiming to increase their efficiency and effectiveness (23 Municipalities have received funding from the Green Fund of the Ministry of Environment and Energy for the development of SUMP). Through consultation actions (First plenary stakeholders meeting, Authorities survey, Scientific café) this objective has been investigated, studied and formulated by taking into account the views of the RCM's Municipalities, the scientific community, institutional and social actors and organizations involved in the transportations.

Representatives of Municipalities have highlighted their need for technical support concerning the SUMP development to be covered the lack of specific national legislation framework and transferred the relevance know-how to the Municipal Services. The transport organizations emphasized the importance of a high level planning and of permanent structures for supporting the cooperation and communication between stakeholders. The scientific community focused on the integrated approach that SUMPs should have in all spatial systems. They also noted that a permanent institutional mechanism to support local SUMPs could overcome the problems caused by individual planning, especially among neighbouring municipalities.

The knowledge gained through the exchange of experiences and good practices among the partners gave to the mechanism the form of a scheme inside the current operational structure of RCM, which will operate on two levels:

- At Regional level as a "*Competence Center*", which will provide technical support to the Municipalities concerning SUMP development and at the same time will act as a communication channel between the stakeholders for exchanging experiences and good practices.
- At Metropolitan level as an "*Urban Mobility Observatory*" which will collect, analyze and set up data of the local SUMPs for developing accessible and up-to-date databases, including monitoring indicators, to assess the impact and effectiveness of existing measures that will support the redesigning of the sustainable mobility strategies.

The Action Plan has been inspired from four good practices:

GP11 - SUMP Evidence Base and Information Gathering (Manchester, UK): provides methodology for collecting and organizing local data in thematic areas of six sectoral policies and for setting standards for assessing their influence on future planning. By collecting and organizing data from the Municipalities, the Observatory will create standards in the form of indicators to monitor the design and implementation of local SUMPs. The knowledge generated through the analysis and modeling of data can be further exploited to define investment priorities and integrated planning at a regional level.

GP5 - LTP & Integration with Environmental Policy Sector (Low Emission Zone) (York, UK): proposes the establishment of a common set of indicators for SUMPs and SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plans) to monitor the measures taken to tackling emissions in transport, thus integrating SUMPs into a wider spatial planning and promoting intersectoral policies on the environment and climate.

GP18 - Regional funding scheme via Regional Operating Programme funds for SUMP development (Region Emilia - Romagna, IT): the scheme offers technical advice to the Municipalities and at the same time binds the stakeholders to cooperate for the promotion of a broader regional policy, as RCM aims to do through the "Competence Center".

GP22 - Set-up of a special section within the Region Emilia-Romagna of an In-house company for managing traffic and mobility data (Emilia-Romagna, IT): refers to an internal structure, similar to this that RCM intends to do, that manages the available data for transport and sustainable mobility and the related collecting and analysis tools. As in the case of GP11, the database management can significantly optimize regional planning and prioritize the measures to be funded.

The improvement of the policy tool was achieved through the specialization of Sustainable Urban Development actions of the Axis A06 "Preservation and protection of the environment and promotion of resources' efficiency" of the Regional Operational Programme of Central Macedonia 2014-2020 (ROP-CM), in order to make specific reference to structures for Sustainable Urban Mobility.

In March 2018, a call for proposals was launched by the ROP within the context of the Action 6e7 - "Strengthening monitoring networks and urban challenges observatories in the intervention area of the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Metropolitan Unit of Thessaloniki" that includes interventions aiming to the "strengthening of structures and networks towards monitoring urban-related phenomena" with special reference to the Urban Transport and Mobility Observatories.

The Region of Central Macedonia submitted a proposal for the creation of a “Sustainable Urban Development Observatory of the urban area of Thessaloniki” with a total budget of 848.825 Euro, which was approved in October 2018. The Observatory has four directions (Spatial Planning Surveying and Siting, Urban Transports and Mobility Monitoring, Combination and qualification of Data of other Observatories, Scientific and Technical Support and Networking), to provide compound information for the development of integrated policies.

The Action Plan was warmly and widely accepted by the stakeholders during the second phase of consultation actions. (Focus group, “Walk & talk” with local Authorities, 2nd plenary stakeholder meeting) where the key actors stated that they intend to provide on a permanent basis available data according to the indicators which will be created by the Observatory. In this context a “Declaration of Intention for Cooperation for the “Sustainable Urban Development Observatory of the urban area of Thessaloniki”” was signed by the RCM and the eight Municipalities of the Metropolitan area of Thessaloniki. Through this collaboration a communication channel on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) will be created with key objective the promotion of unified plans for mobility projects at metropolitan level.

Regarding the start of the implementation of the Action Plan, a *Memorandum of Cooperation* (MoC) will be signed between the Region of Central Macedonia (RCM) and the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) for the “Competence Centre” in the first trimester of 2019 which will set up the establishment procedures. The “Sustainable Urban Development Observatory of the urban area of Thessaloniki” will start its operation during the first semester of 2019 by the feeding the database in specific thematic fields and defining the relevant indicators for the inventory of the current situation.

The “Competence Centre” will be supported by the RCM and HIT / CERTH thus there is no required financial resources. Any costs incurred will be covered by own resources. The “Sustainable Urban Development Observatory of the Thessaloniki Urban Area” will be financed by the co-financed Public Investment Program.

Date:

28 12 2018

Signature:

Apostolos Tzitzikostas

Stamp of the organisation (if available):

